

The helicopter cowboys



THE deer comes out of the deep green depths of the State forest into golden light. Ahead is open land, and a living salad of tender grass and turnip tops.

Lake waters sparkle from a distant fold in the hills. The deer timidly enters the open pasture. Its leg catches on something in the grass — a taut nylon thread. The far end of this yanks on a rusty saw file, which is stuck in an old door latch, which releases a small wire loop.

A sofa spring attached to a gatepost goes spring-g-g! And a wire gate swings slowly in a wide arc, to snick shut behind the deer.

That's another in the bag. Some Rotorua farmer is now richer by about \$4000 — the market price for a hind trapped from the wild. For a big antlered stag it could be \$10,000 or more.

As herds are built up, prices as high as \$35,000 have been paid for a breeding stag.

The deer just captured is still the property of the Crown. Once earmarked or branded, it legally belongs to the farmer in question to add to his breeding herd.

The farmer — let's call him John Doe — runs mainly sheep and cattle, but catches deer as

Deer are big money. And they're there in the wild ready for the taking ... by one means or another.

a sideline. He has an 80-strong herd mostly trapped from the State forest adjoining his farm.

He tells us: "I've just caught five at \$4000 each. I've built up my herd by steady capture and letting them breed. Hind fauns born last Christmas are now worth \$3000.

"When you're paying 23% on your bank overdraft, it's maybe a good idea to cash them up.

"A friend across the lake has caught 200 in traps, and that is a lot of money.

"There are all sorts of mechanisms, including one where a net goes whoosh down a valley, and traps a whole lot at a time. For the money, guys will try anything."

That means from the electronic to the Heath Robinson — trip gates, ground snares, magic-eye beams and spring-loaded devices.

These are used by farmers lucky enough to share a boundary with a state forest. They can simply put a gate in the fence and coax the deer through.

Building a trap on his own land may cost the farmer \$3000, but that is fine if he catches

even one deer worth \$4000.

Farmer Doe points to a paddock with about 20 hinds in it. "There's at least \$60,000 worth there," he says. "That's racehorse money."

Farm-bred venison, usually from unwanted stags, has been returning the producer as much as \$7 a kilo, with a meat animal weighing 150 to 180kg. Prices are likely to tighten, but it still beats prime beef for which the comparable local price is about \$2.30. (Feral deer is about \$3 a kilo.) But comparatively little venison is being killed as breeding herds are built up.

In Robin Hood's day it was pure villainy to take the Crown's deer. Here and now, two factors govern the situation — the need for control of the wild deer population, and the development of a promising export industry in venison.

The Government allows the one and encourages the other. In fact it is the big depreciation allowed for tax purposes on the cost of deer that has made such large investment possible.

The deer being farmed throughout the country have gone from 104,000 in 1980 to

259,000 last year, and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries estimates are for about a million breeding hinds by 1993-94.

A Forest Service spokesman believes licensed deer farmers in New Zealand number around 3000, most of whom farm other stock as well. A Rotorua office spokesman says: "I get 30 to 40 inquiries a week from new farmers wanting to get into the industry."

Venison exports in the year to June 30, 1984, were 1380 tonnes but production could increase 30-fold by 1994, Agriculture Minister Colin Moyle has been reported as saying.

The big question is how the industry will handle the eventual avalanche of meat on to the market; and it is obvious quality and presentation will have to meet high overseas standards. A lot will be riding on our selling skills.

It is said that meat from the

ABOVE: Homestead, deer farm and State forest, Rotorua.

ABOVE LEFT: Valuable capture — a 10-point stag worth \$10,000.

RIGHT: Farmer Graham Thomas, and captive red deer hinds.

red deer, the species mainly farmed, is not as attractive as that from the smaller fallow deer which make up only 14% of the national herd. There has been a shortage of fallow breeding stock in most areas.

So the red deer remains the backbone of the industry, and the farmer who can stock a few paddocks with captured game is saving a lot of money.

True, the high wire netting for deer is \$350 a roll for five chains. But if he started from scratch it might cost \$500,000 to buy and fence land and purchase 50 breeding hinds. Some deer farmers value their stock alone at over \$1 million.

Let's return to that captured animal grazing peacefully among the turnips in Farmer Doe's ingenious trap.

A helicopter — a whirlybird of prey — could come buzzing over the treetops and snatch it before the farmer gets to it, and while it still belongs to the Crown.

That is why John Doe says: "The fewer who know this trap is here the better."

Helicopter cowboys have already done a swoop on his property.

"About seven wild deer came on to my farm. A helicopter got one of them, I know."

He says a net was fired over the animal. When the pilot realised he was seen, he turned the aircraft so its number could not be read and flew away. The deer was left struggling in the net, out of sight. The helicopter came back later to pick it up.

Farmer Doe shows us around his bush-edge trap, the one with the turnips. He has caught three in this one, he says, but feels there should be more.

He has found fresh tracks in the forest, near the open gate into his farm.

"They're over by the ferns here," he says, and sure enough there they are, crisply printed into the dark loam. It was a hind, with a faun at heel.

"Walking in the open gateway is the worst thing we can do. But never mind. Our scent will fade in a day or two."

Says Farmer Doe: "All over this area guys operate choppers, and they will pinch a deer if they see one. There's been a lot of strife — for the money. Shots have been fired."

These have been mainly ritual exchanges, with no injuries.

The daredevil exploits of the airborne cowboys have made them modern heroes — but not without death, injury, damage.



GRAHAM Thomas with part of a deer trap, on his bush-edge farm. Pictures: Jenny Scown.

Feelings ran high between helicopter operators themselves in Fiordland a few years ago because there were too many helicopters chasing a diminished resource. A Government moratorium was then imposed on licences.

Helicopter poaching off farms is "not common," according to senior ranger Harry Vipond, of the Forest Service in Rotorua, though he admits some of the helicopter pilots are "the last of the Kiwi do-what-you-like" breed.

If they take an unbranded deer from someone's farm it is a carry-over from the days "of enjoying the neighbour's fruit even when they have plenty of their own."

The tradition of the helicopter hunters is "work hard, live hard and spend up large," he says.

The daredevil exploits of these airborne cowboys in manoeuvring the aircraft, shooting, netting, bulldogging and dangling from a hoist with the recovered animal, have made them modern heroes — but not without death, injury and material loss.

They tell of one operator who wrote off three helicopters in 12 months — and the right kind of helicopter costs from about \$300,000 second-hand to around \$800,000 for a new one.

Stories buzz around these fellows like the choppers themselves; about the ones who have died, or fallen out of

aircraft and lived, or who can pick off a running animal with an impossible shot.

"Hard-case characters" some of the operators may be, but catching deer from helicopters is as legitimate as it is lucrative. Harry Vipond reckons about 20 licensed operators in his conservancy, which takes in Tauranga, Taupo and Mahia Peninsula, turned over about \$7m worth of stock in the last 12 months.

The number of licences nationwide is about 70, with 30 new applications being held by the Forest Service.

Licences are currently hard to get because, Harry Vipond says, "the Forest Service which controls the helicopter industry must be seen to promote the work only to the extent that it is carrying out effective control, and not to promote competition ... so we are in an unenviable position."

The farmer does not need a licence to trap deer on his own land. For traps on Crown land — often served by helicopters — the Forest Service may insist on a bond in case it is put to the expense of removing a disused one.

Helicopter hunters are catching from 12,000 to 15,000 hinds a year for placement on deer farms. An estimated 98% of helicopter captures are by net gun. The other two methods are with ground traps and pens (10,000-15,000) and by tranquilliser darts (about 200).

Deer hunted from the air may also be sold as export venison.

The impact of the aerial industry on the deer population in New Zealand has been "quite dramatic," says Harry Vipond.

Elsewhere in the Rotorua district we visit the farm of Graham Thomas who greets us with the news that a wild 10-point stag and a spiker (young stag) were there that morning, attracted by the fresh green grass and his captive hinds.

His farm is alongside State forest, and he tells about his early technique for capturing deer once they had come on to his property.

"First I bought about 80yds of trawler net. I would run them around at night with a spotlight, get them into the net, wrestle them and tie them up."

"I have refined that a fair bit and have raceways and sheds, and run them up and shut the door, and sometimes they're not even puffing."

The captive deer are taken to the main farm area and put in a darkened shed for 48 hours.

Soft transistor radio music will divert the attention of these alert and highly-strung animals, to the extent that they may soon be stroked and patted.

On the other hand, they could suddenly die of shock.

Newly-caught deer cannot be put in with the older hinds which will injure and even kill them.

A captured stag can panic to the extent that it will hurl itself at the wire and somersault right over it.

The future of the deer industry is in venison, whereas once it was thought that antler velvet was the main objective. New Zealand is already supplying a big percentage of this 55 to 60-tonne trade, the velvet being in demand in the Far East for its supposed aphrodisiac qualities.

A whole variety of by-products has been traded in the past.

However the deer industry develops, it seems that culling them out of the State forests to save the native vegetation will be a perpetual task.

Says Harry Vipond: "We accept that the deer will be in New Zealand forests for ever..."

— JACK LEIGH

N.Z.W.W. SEPTEMBER 23, 1985

Alpine Helicopters Will Not Be Prosecuted

The New Zealand Forest Service has decided not to prosecute Alpine Helicopters Ltd for operating an alleged illegal wildlife recovery scheme, because "it just isn't worth the effort."

The Southland Times reported last month that two Alpine employees were involved in an unreported airborne accident while carrying out a wild animal recovery scheme that Government officials said they were not licensed to perform.

After an investigation sparked by the news report, Forest Service officials are convinced a violation has occurred.

But they have decided not to prosecute because they expect the offence to be treated as only a "technical breach" of the law.

Also, a conviction, if one is returned, brings such small fines that officials say pursuing the matter in court is not a prudent use of taxpayer funds.

Slapped Wrists

The Forest Service's principal ranger for wild animal control, Mr Peter Logan, said yesterday from Wellington that the fines imposed were "just slaps on the wrists."

"It's a great problem," he said. "The fines laid down by the judges

are ridiculous in terms of the rewards the operators have been getting."

Typical fines were often less than \$400 and Mr Logan said convictions without any penalties were not unusual.

At the time of the accident, the market price for a live hind was about \$6000.

Lost Toe

On November 14 a net gun went off accidentally in an Alpine helicopter (registration ZKHNS) smashing the bubble of the machine and causing the gun's shooter, Mr G. S. Newlands, of Mossburn, to lose a toe.

Alpine officials said that if the machine was not licensed for live recovery, it was an "honest mistake."

The senior ranger (environmental) in Invercargill, Mr J. A. Mawhinney, said yesterday he had carried out the investigation locally.

He recommended not to proceed with a prosecution because he

considered the licensing violation an oversight of a minor nature.

Another employee involved in the investigation, who asked not to be identified, said the Forest Service was confident that a violation of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 had occurred.

But the costs of a prosecution, he said, far outweighed the type of fine to be expected.

Not Realistic

In fact, he said the Forest Service often chose not to prosecute "cut and dry cases," because of a failure to impose realistic penalties.

A typical prosecution costs several thousand dollars, Mr Logan said.

The judiciary still appeared to treat deer as noxious animals, he said, in spite of the enactment of the Wild Animal Control Act which recognized that deer had significant commercial value.

Mr Logan said he had petitioned past Ministers of Forests to have the penalties increased, but had been largely unsuccessful.

A spokesman for the present Minister, Mr Wetere, said yesterday from Wellington the Minister's office had received submissions on the issue over the years but that "no great campaign" had been waged.

The Minister was unlikely to comment on the interpretation of the act by the judiciary, he added.

The act is expected to be amended this year.

Acted Properly

Meanwhile, the civil aviation division of the Ministry of Transport is satisfied Alpine acted properly when not reporting the accident.

After the news report was published, the inspector of air accidents at the Christchurch Airport, Mr David Graham, said he began his own investigation.

But he reported that after speaking to the firm, he is satisfied the accident was not notifiable.

Alpine declined to comment on the investigations.

Warning To Hunters

Hunters who shoot without a permit in the recreational hunting areas of the Rankleburn, Beaumont and Conical Hills forests will be liable for prosecution and a \$500 fine.

Senior Sergeant Don Boyd, of Gore, said yesterday there had been three prosecutions in the past six months for illegal night-shooting in the forest areas.

Hunting wild animals on forestry land without a permit was an offence and night-shooting was illegal, he said.

A senior ranger at the Pomahaka forest, Mr R. S. Williams, said staff were concerned at the increasing number of shooters operating in the recreational areas without a permit.

"They are any age from 16 to 72," he said.

"There are signs up throughout the forests which say shooting is by permit only, so there is no excuse for not knowing," he said.

Poachers

Legal shooters were complaining because poachers

were entering their blocks.

When a hunter requested a permit it was normally for a period of up to five days in a designated block and applied to daytime shooting only, Mr Williams said.

Deer were the main animal hunters wanted and dogs were allowed only between May and November to assist with the shooting of wild pigs.

Forestry officers were now patrolling the areas every weekend.

"We are not policemen," Mr Williams said, "but we are doing our best to protect the rights of the legal shooters."

Rangers were appealing to the public to contact forestry staff in office hours to get their permits and to ensure the regulations were adhered to, he said.

Red Deer Hinds Worth \$3000

The value of red deer hinds, which has been under a cloud lately, is \$3000, according to a new analysis.

The vice-chairman of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr Ian Speirs, of Hawkes Bay, said last night the commercial value of hinds was more than some of the present cautious market indications.

To establish a verifiable value, Mr Speirs asked independent experts to put a market value on hinds based on production potential.

He said Wellington share-brokers Jarden and Co and a Lincoln College economist, Dr Ron Sandrey, combined to produce the analysis.

The \$3000 price tag was arrived at by subtracting the cost of farming the animal from the value of a lifetime of returns for venison and velvet using present prices.

It also took account of the profitability of deer compared with other farming options.

"This includes the animal's efficiency at converting grass into meat and velvet at high stocking rates, its long breeding life and the relatively low labour input, required to farm deer," Mr Speirs said.

But the analysis did not give a premium for scarcity of hinds during the industry's growth phase and assumed no tax benefits from buying deer, he said.

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A two-year-old red deer hind and her hybrid twins pictured recently at Mr Jock Murdoch's Gillespie road property, near The Key.

Twin Fawns Bred By Farmer

By DON WRIGHT

Mr Jock Murdoch, a deer farmer from Gillespie road, The Key, has been chasing deer for more than 40 years, but only recently has encountered a notable first — twin fawns.

One of his red hinds, a two-year-old first calver, gave birth to twin fawns at his farm in early November. They are one of each sex and were sired by a wapiti bull.

Mr Murdoch, a respected authority on red deer habits, has had vast experience as a Government culler, private hunter on foot, shooter from helicopters and a breeder in more recent years.

"However, I have never struck twin fawns before... the odd mate reckons he has heard of it, without being able to produce photographic evidence," Mr Murdoch said yesterday.

Once Before

One of his colleagues, Mr Jim Kane, of Manapouri, maintains he has only struck twin fawns once before from the many thousands of deer he has shot from helicopters.

Mr Murdoch bred the mother of the fawns and her mother in turn before that. He said both fawns were doing particularly well. Their mother has a plentiful supply of milk.

"The hind is very quiet and an ideal mother. There is no stress at all about her. Her fawns are almost as well-grown as single ones, but naturally are a shade smaller."

Retained

The female twin will probably be retained by Mr Murdoch for breeding purposes, as there is some evidence, genetically speaking, to suggest she too may be capable of producing twins.

Twin rams are prized for their ability to consistently sire twins.

Several experienced deer-stalkers and high-country men whose opinions were

sought yesterday agreed that the incidence of twin fawns was "extremely rare."

"To say it is rare would be an understatement," one prominent Western Southland hunter said yesterday. "I've shot deer all my life and never come across it."

"Yes, it is very, very rare indeed," was the reaction of Mr Mike Brown, a Myross Bush veterinary surgeon, who has had several years' experience working with deer. "I haven't struck a set in my time."

Basically, he said, the rarity of twin fawns could be attributed to the structure and development of placenta. There is rarely enough room in the uterus for it to develop.

More Sets

Advanced husbandry and better feeding, together with better control of the breeding cycle, might result in more sets of twins in the future, especially with the upsurge in deer farming, he said.

"You're certainly on the right track if you claim twin fawns are extremely rare," was the comment of Mr John Dennis, of Taramoa, one of the pioneer deer farmers, who has taken in and bred more than 10,500 beasts in captivity.

Mr Dennis, widely acknowledged for his astute observations and understanding of deer, said he had no sets of twins this season, but did have one last year.

"A few claim they have had twin fawns, but they have been fooled in many

cases," Mr Dennis said.

A dominant hind, he said, could "steal" a fawn from a less dominant hind in a paddock. A situation was then created whereby it seemed a hind had produced twins.

"At a time when fawns are staggering about all confused at time of birth, it can easily happen," he said.

At Wyndham Station four years ago, Mr Dennis encountered another instance of twin fawns — both stages — inside a hind who died before birth.

Amazingly, Mr Dennis has literature which reveals that in North America, the home of the Olympic Elk (wapiti) and Virginian deer, up to 68 per cent of live births are twins.

At his Taramoa property, he has an imported North American wapiti bull, who is a twin, and both of whose grandparents are twins.

Expectations

The bull will soon begin his first covering season and the results next summer will be awaited with some expectation.

More palatable and essential food plants had been eaten out of country inhabited by deer and wapiti, Mr Dennis said. However, there were signs of the bush covering in that respect and, together with the effects of more domesticated farming and husbandry, twin fawns might become more common.

"There are already signs of heavier dressed beasts to suggest that the food supply is recovering in the back country," he said.

Fears Catlins Deer Will Spread Tb

Concern is growing at the high incidence of tuberculosis in wild deer recovered from the Catlins Forest area.

Half the deer herds in Southland identified as having bovine tuberculosis — which can be passed to humans — have sourced at least one animal to the Catlins Forest.

While the Catlins area is not the only such source in the region, it is the only area where feral deer are known to have Tb.

Both the Southland branch of the Deer Farmers' Association and the Catlins Forest Park advisory committee have recently expressed concern that Catlins deer might spread Tb in herds right through the country.

Some Southland deer farmers maintain the cost of having Catlins deer freely entering herds while they try to eradicate the disease from farms at great expense, is unacceptable.

Any deer which react positively to a Tb test are destroyed and since August last year no compensation has been paid for any such animals.

Until then compensation, at less than market value, was paid by the Government.

The chairman of the Southland branch of the Deer Farmers' Association, Mr Doug Cooper, said last night most farmers had been aware of the risks of buying deer from the Catlins for at least five years.

Tb is endemic in the Catlins Forest and attempts to eliminate wild cattle, possums and deer have met with only moderate success.

Mr Cooper said there had been no cases in New Zealand where feral populations carrying Tb had been brought under control.

The density of the Catlins bush and the extreme shyness of the wild cattle were two reasons why control programmes were limited in their effectiveness.

Mr Cooper said prudent deer farmers had long since refused to become involved in any deal which wasn't "squeaky clean."

He said the problem had arisen because some farmers had taken the risk of buying deer which had not been tested for Tb.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries veterinarian in Invercargill, Mr Gavin Struthers, agreed it was largely a case of "buyer beware."

He urged farmers to follow the recommended practice for introducing new deer to their herds.

Buyers should demand to see veterinarian's certificate showing the animal had been tested and cleared for Tb.

After purchase, the animal should be kept isolated for 60 to 90 days before second test was passed, he said.

Only then would it be safe to run the animal with the rest of the herd.

100 Last Year

About 100 deer have been recovered from the Catlins Forest in the past year.

One Te Anau-based helicopter pilot has licence to take deer from the area.

As well, about 20 farmers, who adjoin the Forest Park, have built deer catchpens at a cost of \$2000 to \$8000 each, with the Forest Service's blessing.

Mr Struthers said deer from the Catlins had been passed off as deer from other free areas in an attempt to get good price.

For this reason and the fact that ear tags could be tampered with, he said it was advisable for a buyer to find out about the character of the person selling the deer.

The MAF had no legal authority to put a ban on the capture or sale of Catlins deer even though it had been mooted in some circles, Mr Struthers said.

The senior environmental ranger with the Forest Service in Invercargill, Mr Kerry Mawhinney said that, while the service was anxious to keep the Catlins deer population down, it also wanted to maintain a balance of interests between adjoining owners, recreational hunters and helicopter operators.

Mr Mawhinney said the most cost efficient way of controlling deer would be to use 1080 cut-bait poisoning.

"But poisoning brings with it a number of complications, including an emotional response from the public," he said.

"It is Forest Service policy to use poisoning only when a situation is serious, and we don't consider the Catlins Forest warrants this."

Deer Fetch Total Of \$500,000

WANAKA

An assortment of breeding deer fetched a total of nearly \$500,000 at the Criffel Deer Park no-reserve auction yesterday, with top price of \$30,000 being paid for a three-year-old New Zealand-bred elk bull.

A total of 106 buyers registered for the sale, 18 of whom bought stock. Most were from the Invercargill area, but North Island breeders took some lots, including Mr Rob Fogarty, of Whakatane, who got the 301kg elk bull.

Mr Ray Jennings, of Invercargill, paid \$11,000 for a six-year-old wapiti bull of 352kg, bred at Criffel, while a three-year-old New Zealand-born wapiti bull sired by a Canadian elk went to Mr Frank Mee, of Queenstown, for \$8000.

Another top six-year-old New Zealand wapiti fetched \$5500 and went to Mr R. E. McMillan and Son, of Oamaru.

Average prices for breeding females were: Five elk-wapiti cross yearling cows, \$5100; 40 red-wapiti cross yearling hinds, \$2816; 10 red yearling hinds from Criffel stock mated with warrimur stag imported from Britain, \$3180; 60 red yearling hinds \$2562; 40 red yearling hinds, captured by helicopter and on Criffel before November 30, \$2312.

Market Deer Prices Reflect True Value

7/2/86

by MIKE HARBORD
Deer Consultant Invercargill

There has been much talk recently about market prices for deer and the effects taxation deferral incentives were having on them. Recently announced taxation changes, due to be introduced from April 1, have added to confusion.

With auction deer sales about to re-commence in the region inquiries are being made if \$3,000 for hinds is a fair price to pay. This was the average price a few days ago for a forward sale of several hundred red deer hinds outside the province.

The correct price to pay for a young hind will depend on the calves she will have and their value at weaning in future years.

The "cost of waiting" for her to produce the calves must be considered, along with the effects that increasing numbers of deer for sale might have on prices generally.

These factors are included in the example, using discounting procedures to permit income from future years to be converted to present day values.

Case Study

The case studied is that of an established deer farmer contemplating buying additional hinds before balance date 1986.

He wanted to know, if, with impending tax changes, and future deer values, it would be prudent to pay \$3,000 for 15 month hinds.

The farmer has a simple deer farming system, selling all calves except herd replacements at weaning.

The "purchased hinds" have an assumed 12 calvings at 84 per cent survival to sale at weaning.

Death rate of hinds is 3 per cent annually.

Cast-for-age hinds consist of 2 per cent annually for five years, then rise gradually to 10 per cent by 1994.

Weaner hinds are priced at \$2,100 for five years, then decline \$369 yearly, to a "meat based" value of \$624 in 1994.

Weaner stags sell for \$244 throughout, reflecting a 58kg carcass, or 97kg on liveweight at 15 months,

and venison at \$6 per kilogram.

Aged hinds sell from the herd for \$2,200 in 1986, but decline steadily to \$228 "meat only" value in 1994.

The prices chosen, reflect opinions given at the venison marketing seminar last August, where Dr Ken Drew summarized that live sale prices could persist for some years, but by 1993-94, with about one million hinds being farmed, growth in deer numbers would level out.

Costs included in estimating yearly income are animal health, winter feed, mating fee, herd replacements, maintenance fertilizer and minor fencing repairs. It is considered, no extra deer fences or yards are needed for deer purchased before balance date this year.

Validity

In reviewing the validity of paying \$3,000 for hinds at present, taxation effects, including the impact of proposed tax changes were considered.

The farmer realized that if deer were purchased before balance date 1986, they could still be written down to "old" standard values, assumed at \$150.

At balance date 1987, he will select the "trading stock" option under the new taxation proposals.

His hinds will be re-valued to 70 per cent of market value (assumed \$3,000), to give a new standard value of \$2,100.

He makes a paper profit of \$2,100 less \$150, or \$1,950. Of this, \$600 is written off, leaving an amount \$1,350 on which tax is payable.

Following introduction of new tax rates from October 1, 1986, his tax rate is assumed at 30 per cent.

Hence, on the \$1,350, \$405 tax is owing for repayment over the following 13 years.

If existing attitudes to spreading of income are



followed in new legislation, it is likely the spread of tax payments could be managed to taxpayers advantage.

In calculating the example, it has simply been assumed the farmer repays \$31 per hind per year.

Forecast

Based on the above assumptions of deer prices, taxation changes and yearly tax-paid income produced per hind, the following results are forecast:

- Returns are \$3,000 more than those based on investing the initial capital of \$3,000 at 10 per cent compound interest for 12 years.

- Returns are \$2,100 more than those based on investing the initial capital of \$3,000 at 20 per cent for 12 years.

- The estimated value of a 15 month red deer hind from year 10, based on meat value only and with nil growth in the industry, is estimated at \$865. In the example, this value is based on pricing deer at weaning, and hence is lower than some other estimates.

These conclusions must be interpreted with reservation, given the many assumptions made in their calculation.

However, they suggest present market values for hinds indicated at recent sales, can be justified from production parameters and growth predictions for the deer industry that informed commentators have made.

The above calculations have made no allowance

for utilizing the capital available from write-down to \$150 standard values in year one. Also more profitable on-farm production systems, alternative to selling all calves at weaning could be found.



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1 NZ Wapiti 8 year stag (Wgts 310kg, 5.85kg Velvet)
1 NZ Wapiti 8 year stag (Wgts 291kg, 6.75kg Velvet)
6 NZ Red 5 year/6 year stags (Wgts 170kg-210kg, Velvet 2.90kg-3.50kg)

HINDS:

1 NZ Wapiti MA cow, 161kg, with Elk x Stag Fawn at foot (42kg)

YEARLINGS:

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10 Red Wapiti x Hinds (Av Wgt 90kg)
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— 25 at 78kg
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— 15 at 74kg
— 30 at 70kg)

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Big Crowd At Deer Auction

4/2/86

The first public auction of deer in the province for the season attracted a near-capacity crowd to the Lorneville deer selling centre yesterday.

A total of 174 top bred animals — ranging from yearling hinds to aged stags — were offered for sale on account of Mr H. T. Whyte, of Ryal Bush.

The stock was considered to have been of the best-ever quality offered at a Southland sale.

The sale was the first to be held in the south since the Government announced its taxation changes to the standard livestock values, and much interest centered on the effect such measures were likely to have on live deer sales.

The northern contingent attracted to the sale featured often in the bidding being successful on many occasions.

Slow and Cautious

Bidding was for the most part slow and cautious and gave the impression that buyers were sounding the market.

However, values were consistent throughout for each class of stock, and

were quoted by a spokesman for the auctioneering company, Wrightson NMA Ltd, as close to being on a par with early sales last season.

While values were down a few hundred dollars on what might have been expected for the quality of deer offered, a firm market resulted.

The second of the major deer sales for the season in the south, at Criffel Park, Wanaka, is being held today, and this auction will also be watched with interest by those involved in the farm deer industry.

A range of prices received by Mr Whyte at yesterday's sale was:

Canadian Elk-New Zealand Wapiti cross yearling bulls, \$2750 and \$3500; two and three-year-old bulls \$3000 to \$5000; eight-year-old New Zealand Wapiti bulls \$6000 to \$7400; five and six-year-old red stags \$2500 to \$3000; Canadian Elk-New Zealand yearling Wapiti cross yearling hinds \$5000; Wapiti cross and red yearling hinds \$2600 to \$3000.

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25/1/86

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Changes of Concern To Deer Farmers

Deer farmers, like others in agriculture, have to accept change.

The president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr John Burrowes, who addressed a large gathering of deer farmers in Mossburn yesterday, said the association's council was "more than happy to co-operate" with the Government's economic measures.

However, there were some aspects of those measures, especially those associated with the new standard value scheme for livestock, that the council was not happy with, he added.

Since the announcement in December by the Minister of Finance, Mr Douglas, of the intention to abolish the long-established standard value system and replace it with a market-related valuation system, there has been widespread confusion over both the interpretation and implications of the scheme for livestock farmers.

Also since December, auction values for deer, goats and sheep have dropped substantially from 1985 levels and an air of pessimism hangs over the livestock industry.

Besides affecting the market value of livestock, farmers seem likely to be saddled with what amounts to a virtual clawback tax on a paper-profit under the new system.

The Government has been accused of imposing an assets tax on the farming industry.

Needs Modifying

Mr Burrowes said the NZDFA council had given the matter considerable thought and deliberation in recent weeks.

"We believe the scheme needs some modification and we're concerned that the terms of reference given to the Brash Committee (set up to further investigate the Government's proposal) are too restrictive."

In addition to submissions being prepared by the council for the review committee, Mr Burrowes urged deer farmers to consult their own accountants and lawyers and put forward their individual submissions on how the new scheme would affect their own financial situations.

Mr Douglas has said the

Government's position on the standard value scheme is non-negotiable. Mr Burrowes expressed concern that, because of that attitude, any recommendations that might come forward from the Brash committee might not be accepted by the Government.

"The main issues that concern us, as deer farmers, are that the new system is a departure from principles of good taxation, those of certainty, equity and non-retrospectivity."

Unfair

To force farmers to write-up their livestock values for taxation assessment and requiring payment before those livestock were sold, was unfair and appeared to be an asset or capital gains tax, Mr Burrowes said.

He believed that farmers should have the option of either accepting the new write-up to market value provision, or to remain on the present standard value system.

Those farmers who continued with the status quo would then have to meet the tax burden should they

choose to sell their property at some future date.

"The new law may be attractive to sheep farmers who wish to leave the industry but they are not so to the deer industry which is still trying to expand," he said.

The new taxation provision did not treat deer and goat farmers on the same basis as sheep farmers. "It appears to make an arbitrary distinction against deer and goat farmers and that should be removed."

Over-reacted

Mr Burrowes said the Government had stated that the change in the method of valuing livestock for taxation purposes was intended to take the tax drive out of the deer industry.

"However, it appears the Government has totally over-reacted."

"We have pointed out that the deer industry is a market-driven, unsubsidized and innovative industry. Not all deer farmers are tax dodgers."

Mr Burrowes said it was

his opinion that animals should be brought into a herd for taxation purposes at cost, in the same way as plant or machinery and depreciated over a number of years.

Any resulting progeny that were retained should be valued at the cost of their production, he said, not on a market value that might never be realized.

"By writing up to market value, farmers are being taxed on an unrealized profit."

Disincentive

Mr Burrowes was concerned that would result in a total disincentive to the future development of the deer industry just at the time when it was still attempting to expand and develop.

In spite of the anomalies and problems the new standard value system had, Mr Burrowes said the NZDFA was prepared to accept change and to work with the Government — provided the final shape of the new legislation was simple to understand, was workable and fair to all livestock farmers.

16 The Southland Times, Saturday, February 8, 1986

Wapiti Hunting Balloted

Ballots for hunting blocks in the wapiti area of the Fiordland National Park during the "roar" or "bugling" season were drawn at Te Anau yesterday.

Applications for hunting blocks were called by the Department of Lands and Survey during December with a limit of six rifles a block.

Within the period of the ballot, three separate fortnightly hunting periods were allocated between March 15 and April 20.

The park's chief ranger, Mr Paul Green, said 105 hunting parties had applied for blocks and of those, 25 had been unsuccessful.

"The unsuccessful parties missed out because they limited themselves to either one block or one period," he said.

There are 24 hunting blocks within the wapiti area and party sizes had varied between one and six people, Mr Green said.

Throughout the period as a whole, some blocks had not been taken up, and others have fewer than the six rifles allowed.

The only surprise, Mr Green said, was that there were fewer applications than he expected.

The ballot was supervised by Senior Constable, Lloyd Matheson, of the Te Anau police.

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B2
B3
B4
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C2
C3
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D2
D3
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29/1/86

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A1	120.5	C3
A2 long	110.5	D1
A2 short	97.0	D2
A3 long	105.5	D3
A3 short	118.0	R/S
A4	115.8	Skull On
B1	86.0	Hard antler
B2	86.5	Overgrown
B3	84.5	
B4	110.8	
C1	78.0	
C2	53.0	

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(English weaners sired by stags ex Normanby, Lowthe Studley Royal)

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109798v2

Deer Farmers Tb Scheme For Discussion

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association seminar and road show should attract the province's deer farmers to Mossburn tomorrow in their hundreds.

The road show is part of a series of meetings being held around the country, originally intended to bring deer farmers up to date on progress to implement the association's Tb herd accreditation scheme.

The first meeting was held in Nelson on Monday, with other meetings held in Christchurch and Dunedin.

A similar round of meetings begins in the North Island on February 24.

In addition to the accreditation scheme, a full discussion is now expected to take place on the present economic situation facing farmers and the effects of the proposed changes to the standard livestock valuation scheme as announced by the Minister of Finance, Mr Douglas, on December 12.

Confusion

Since then there has been considerable confusion and concern over its introduction and the effect it will have on livestock farming.

Even taxation experts appear to be at odds as to how the new scheme will operate.

A Government White Paper, due to be released towards the end of the month, may provide further details and explanations.

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association council has taken considerable steps to ensure that the best assembled advice on the new standard values will be available for discussion.

All Farmers

Such information will be of interest to all livestock farmers, not only those with deer, and all farmers are invited to attend.

Speakers on the Tb accreditation scheme will be Dr Peter Wilson, of Massey University and council member Mr Kevin Corrin.

The association president, Mr John Burrowes, will speak on the livestock scheme and ample time will be given for question and answers.

Mr Ian Spiers, the association's North Island vice-president, will chair the afternoon's programme.

The road show will be

held in the Mossburn Community Centre starting at 1pm, not in Lumsden as previously advertised.

Lunch and afternoon tea will be available.



DEERPAK[®] NEW ZEALAND PREMIER DEER AUCTIONS TIANUI DEER FARMS SECOND MAJOR TWO DAY ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

State Highway 5, 6km North of Wairakei
FRIDAY, MARCH 7

and

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

STARTING 12.30pm
BOTH DAYS

COMPRISING:

700 — Red Deer

FIRST DAY, FRIDAY 7, WE OFFER:

250 — Weaner Red Hinds

250 — Weaner Red Stags

SECOND DAY, SATURDAY 8, WE OFFER:

200 — MA Hinds

Auctioneers Note:

The weaners are production stock from Tianuis Herd which were Wairapa foundation bloodlines. Sires used include selected stags from M. Matuschka, (Taupo), G. Branson, (Kaharoa), and N. Hogg, (Te Puke), with hard antler weights up to 6.1 kilograms and velvet weights up to 4.7 kilograms. Weaners will be drafted for size and numbers to suit all purchasers. The 200 MA Hinds consist of top quality, young farm bred farm hinds, including 20 dry, 20 CFA plus a number of helicopter caught hinds. These will be drafted and sold in lots of 5. We fully recommend these deer to discerning purchasers of quality stock. To date Tianui have never had a TB Reactor and all deer will be TB tested by sale day. A one per cent overriding commission will be paid to any outside company, introducing buyers, in writing to the Auctioneers, prior to the sale. (Light luncheon available). For inquiries and pre-sale inspection please contact.

Mr Ken Tye, Farm Manager, Taupo, (074) 48-190

Mr Gibb, Luxton, (Dalgety Crown), Rotorua (073) 80-759

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Ticks Causing Deer Deaths

Deer are being killed in the northern North Island by the common cattle tick as chemical treatment of the victims fails to control the problem.

Red deer fawns are most susceptible to the blood-sucking parasite and researchers consider a predicted 15-fold increase in deer numbers by the 1990s could be threatened.

The problem is serious in the intensive deer farming operations on south Kaipara Head despite some success with pasture spraying for ticks.

Although the tick is regarded by sheep and cattle farmers as more of a nuisance than a threat, one deer farmer lost 54 fawns from septicaemia brought on by tick bites.

"Pour-on treatments and sprays have just not controlled the ticks," Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries scientist Dr Peter Pottinger said.

More frequent spraying or dipping of the deer was not a solution, he said.

Apart from the difficulty in handling deer, tick infestations are worst in summer when deer are fawning.

Reluctant

Farmers are reluctant to move their stock then, despite the risk to fawns from ticks.

Deer normally hid fawns in long, rank grass or other cover, ideal tick habitats, Dr Pottinger said.

Ticks suck blood from their hosts which decreases milk yields and leads to weight loss, anaemia, paralysis and, in many cases, the ultimate death of the host animal.

The coincidence of the deer's natural fawning period and the tick's life cycle meant control methods would have to combine chemical treatment and grazing management techniques, Dr Pottinger said.

Grazing management

would have to ensure pasture was as unsuitable for ticks as possible — short and open, rather than long and dense.

Ticks thrive in warmer, northern regions but their range can extend to areas as far south as Gisborne and Te Kuiti. Outbreaks occur further south on rare occasions.

The cattle tick attaches itself to three separate hosts during its life.

Blood-engorged adult ticks lay eggs in compact masses (2,000 to 3,000 a time) which hatch into six-legged larvae during late autumn.

Dr Pottinger said tick survival was dependent on moisture, and long, dry summers markedly reduced their numbers. In areas of high humidity, such as Northland, the number of cycles could increase to as many as three a year.

Ticks spend up to 80 per cent of their lives on pasture, and pasture control and spraying may lead to

effective control of the pest, he said.

Further research will aim to find an effective control, probably a pasture spray, which will persist on paddocks, kill emerging larvae and so reduce the number of spraying operations to a minimum.

More research is needed on a range of possible insecticides, in both liquid and granular forms, to determine field toxicity and residues.

He said granules might be more effective in densely wooded areas because they penetrated the undergrowth and reached the pasture more effectively than sprays.



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20/2/86



The spectacular antlers on this Roosevelt Canadian elk is an uncommon sight on New Zealand deer farms. They were allowed to grow so the stag could be photographed as part of its breeding records, but, with the approach of the roaring season, he is starting to challenge, and to have the occasional crack at the fences, so the antlers will soon have to come off. Imported from Saskatchewan, in Canada, in 1981, he is co-owned by Mr John Matheson, of Kennington, and Mr Alan Bradley, of Te Anau, and is pictured at Mr Matheson's Kennington deer farm.

Virus Kills Deer

14/3/86

A new virus has killed 15 deer on a Mackenzie Country farm.

The virus infected deer in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato late last year, and was originally thought to be orf virus or scabby mouth.

It had a unique new DNA "fingerprint" and could be a mutation of orf virus, since it was of the same family, according to Mr Gary Horner of the Ruakura Animal Health Laboratory.

Alternatively it could be a strain which has been dormant in wild deer but has come to light only because they are being farmed.

The antlers and mouths of the deer were affected by the northern outbreak, but in the mob of 50 captured wild deer in the Mackenzie Country it caused severe dermatitis over the whole body.

The Medical Research Council Virus unit in Dunedin has tested samples from affected antlers, and the virus is unknown to them.

Further experimental work will be conducted at Ruakura, and molecular studies of the new virus will be carried out in Dunedin.

Spontaneously

"It is strange that it is the same virus occurring more or less spontaneously in two different parts of the country," according to Mr Brian Cox the ministry veterinary officer investigating the outbreak.

"Although 15 of the 50 died, the rest recovered and are now doing well. It was a sudden outbreak, only lasting a fortnight."

Tissue samples from deer analysed at the virus research unit contained a virus which matched those from the antlers of the affected North Island animals.

Although new, the virus would not necessarily be a problem for the deer industry, Mr Cox said.

When tests were conducted and more information gathered, proper management techniques or vaccines could be developed, he said.

That opinion was shared by the executive director of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, Mr David Hickman.

"Deer farmers should not worry too much about this. The ability and competence of deer researchers in this country is beyond question."

He said farmers were bound to strike animal health problems from time to time, especially as deer had been farmed intensively in New Zealand for only 12 or 13 years.

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Northern Southland Selling Centre

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NORTHERN SOUTHLAND SELLING
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DEER SALE AT
CASTLEROCK SALEYARDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1986

COMMENCING 12 noon

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20 — Weaner Hinds
2 — 15mth Stags

15/3/86

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140 — 15mth Red and Hybrid Hinds
20 — Weaner Hinds
2 — Hybrid 15mth Stags

TB Reactors Suspected In Southland Deer Herds

Several Southland farmers who accepted deer from quarantine in December have since been advised to place the animals in isolation as a precaution against passing on suspected TB to their herds.

Twenty-four deer out of a consignment of 237 imported from Britain in November were found to be reactors to the standard test for TB while in quarantine at the Trentham Quarantine Station near Wellington.

Before the reactors were slaughtered and post-mortemed, the remaining 213 deer were released to deer farmers throughout the country.

Those farmers were not aware that their deer had been in contact with TB reactors.

Although TB is not yet a major deer disease here, it has the potential to threaten venison exports.

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association has approved a voluntary TB testing and eradication scheme to encourage deer farmers to make an all-out effort to get rid of the disease.

Following the slaughter of any farm deer reactors, the animals are first post-mortemed and inspected for lesions. If any are found, specimens are taken for laboratory culture to confirm that they are either bovine TB or the avian strain, which is of no commercial significance.

A veterinary staff officer with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Wellington, Mr G. Shwarz, said yesterday the consignment of deer had been tested for several diseases, including TB, before going into a 30-day quarantine period in Britain.

All had been cleared.

Before being released to New Zealand importing firms for delivery to farmers, the animals were held for a further 30 days at Trentham and retested for TB towards the end of that period.

Mr Shwarz confirmed that 24 animals had returned a positive test and in accordance with standard procedure had been slaughtered just before Christmas.

The remaining animals were considered to be clear and were released.

At least 10 of these deer are known to have come to Southland.

Mr Shwarz said not all the reactor deer had been slaughtered when the decision was made to release the other deer out of quarantine.

"We did find lesions in two of the slaughtered animals, but only after

the other deer had been released," he said.

Samples of the tissue were taken and cultures made, but as yet those tests were not completed.

One local deer farmer, who took delivery of a deer from the consignment, said because the animal had arrived on his property without any qualifying conditions it had immediately been put in with the rest of his stags.

It was not until he received a letter from his stock firm, dated January 28, that he was informed of the TB outbreak at the quarantine station.

It appears the firm had only received advice from the MAF in a letter dated January 17 that there had been a problem, that farmers should be advised to isolate their imported deer and that a further TB test should be carried out.

"But the animal had been in contact with my herd for four weeks before I received that notice," he said.

"The MAF knew before they released the deer that there was a problem."

Mr Shwarz said the decision to release the deer had been taken

because past experience had shown there was only a remote chance that the animals might be infected, and that information suggested it did not warrant holding the deer for a further quarantine period.

"We advised the importing companies just as a precautionary measure so their clients could satisfy themselves that the deer were safe and that their herds would not become infected.

"It was then up to the owners as to whether they retested or not," he said.

Mr Shwarz said a similar situation happened about two years ago when deer were released from quarantine. No further reactors had been found.

The executive director of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr David Hickman, when contacted yesterday, confirmed that the association's council was aware of the situation and was making further investigations.

"In my personal opinion, although I have yet to discuss the matter with MAF, there appears to be some deficiencies in the Ministry's quarantine procedures," he said.

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177 selected yearling Red Deer Hinds

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Top weaners were carefully selected from some of the leading herds in New Zealand.

The yearlings offered are the total line of annual draft and have been faithfully farmed and can be described as probably the best line of yearlings to be offered in New Zealand in 1986. They are extremely quiet and used to electric break fencing. Their weight gains have been intensively recorded on computer and these are available for any individual animal.

The yearlings were purchased as fawns.

Ex Frizzell. Originated from hinds ex Whyte Southland. The hinds were the top draught from 720 and were mated to top stags.

Ex Ngawaka. (A/c Ian Woolsey). From Griffell and Forest Park hinds by Makgill stags. These are the top weight gain yearlings.

Ex Longwood Deer Farm. From South Island hinds and were purchased at 40kg in March 1985.

All properties had a clear TB history at time weaners were purchased.

Catalogues will have up to date weights and individual weight gains will be available.

The farm has no history of TB. The stock will be subject to a test within 30 days of sale date.

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AT CASTLEROCK SALEYARDS
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1986

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140 Red Yearling HINDS

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on Account of M/S Wilson & Jennings, Invercargill

AT LORNEVILLE SELLING CENTRE
FRIDAY, MARCH 21
COMMENCING AT 1.30pm

30 — H/B HINDS (approx)
200 — Red HINDS (approx)

AUCTIONEERS NOTE:

The above Hinds have a Tb free status. Have been selected on temperament and weight. The vendors are prepared to tag the animals back on the property if the purchaser wishes to do so and grazing will be available after the sale. Generous share farming agreements will be available on the above property. Inspection prior to sale most welcome. 2% over-riding commission will be paid to non participating companies by contacting:

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121623v3

18/4/86

Helicopter Operators Worried

Fears For Deer Recovery

Helicopter operators are worried the once-thriving live deer recovery industry may no longer exist in six months to a year.

The Government's proposed changes to livestock taxation have created tremendous uncertainty in deer farming.

Helicopter pilots explain that it simply is no longer economically viable for them to catch deer.

Flying hours have been cut back about 70 per cent on average, many operators have put their machines up for sale and almost no one is buying captured deer.

Meanwhile, both the New Zealand Forest Service and the Fiordland National park staff are worried about increasing deer numbers in the park causing damage to vegetation.

The park's chief ranger, Mr P. Green, said yesterday if private operators did not cull the deer, the Government would have to assume the costs of what he termed "a very expensive operation."

"The people who write the tax laws

are not necessarily concerned with vegetation," he said.

Mr Green was not concerned about the situation in the short term, but said the park might have to budget for deer culling in two or three years at the expense of standard park services.

One Te Anau operator, Mr Dick Deaker, of Central Western Helicopters, explained: "It took 15 years to bring the deer numbers under control and now they are going to bring it back again."

A local forest service spokesman, Mr K. Mawhinney, said the service was watching the deer numbers, but planned "to wait and see how things settle out."

High Costs

Helicopter pilots say the high costs of running a helicopter require each live deer to be sold for \$1600 to \$1800 to make it worth their while to fly.

Live hinds that were fetching \$2800 last year are selling for roughly \$1200 today.

One Queenstown-based operator, Mr Peter Saxton, estimated it costs about \$380 an hour to fly a chopper, plus the costs of the pilot.

With today's depressed prices, pilots say a lot of helicopters are just sitting in hangars most of the time.

"The problem is people lack confidence to buy deer when they don't know what the rules are going to be," the South Island vice-president and Southland councillor on the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr Peter Ryan, said.

One independent operator from Te Anau said he logged 300 flying hours last season from December through March. He barely flew 170 hours in the same period this season because, as he explained, "the buyers are just that scarce."

Forecast Deer Profit Cut

(PA)

18/2/86

WELLINGTON

Eastern Deer Corp Ltd, which listed on the Stock Exchange last year, yesterday reported a net loss of \$460,000 for the period from March 8 to November 30.

Income during the period was \$474,000, but the directors said no progeny had been available for sale.

Management were planning to sell the company's 1985 progeny in April and May this year, which would constitute its major revenue source.

Last August the directors reported to shareholders that demand for progeny was expected to be very strong and forecast a maiden profit for the period ended next May 31 at about double the prospectus forecast.

"The directors now anticipate that the maiden profit will be substantially better than the prospectus forecast of \$455,000,000, but lower than the previous forecast," the directors said.

"This is primarily due to

the uncertainty created by the recent Government announcement of major changes to the method of determining taxation for livestock farming."

The directors believe that, irrespective of tax incentives, prices of deer would stabilize at current levels. These equate to an assessment of the underlying economic value of venison and velvet production.

The company was diversifying by farming angora goats in Australia, with 30 Australian angora does bought on "favourable terms."

The Southland Times, Friday, March 21, 1986 9

Castlerock Deer Sale Collapses

The collapse of the Northern Southland Selling Centre's deer sale at Castlerock yesterday clearly showed how the Government's economic policies have shattered the confidence of the province's deer farmers.

Of the 150 deer put up for sale, only three lots, or 15 animals, were sold.

The auction was the first open sale of deer for the season and the result will be of great concern to deer farmers.

The auctioneers for all selling companies worked hard throughout the sale, without success, to extract some interest in the good-quality offering.

The sale was conducted in an unusually quiet atmosphere and many lots failed to attract even a first bid.

A large crowd attended the sale, but few buyers seemed prepared or game enough to make a purchase.

The failure of yesterday's sale could only be attributed to the general economic depression affecting the country and farmers' deepening uncertainty of the livestock market, resulting from the Government's stated policy of introducing a non-productive tax on all livestock.

Until the Government finalizes its policy on livestock taxation, it now seems certain that a market

level for deer will be impossible to set.

The collapse will have left many vendors and intending buyers despondent and disillusioned as to the future viability of livestock farming in general and deer farming in particular.

The failure of yesterday's sale will also give added

weight to the arguments of critics of the Government over its handling of the economy.

The sales concluded yesterday were: Five 15-month-old hinds (average liveweight 81kg) \$2000, five 15-month-old hinds (average 86kg) \$1650, five weaner hinds (average 57kg) \$1100.



POSTPONEMENT NOTICE

SELECTED 15 MONTH HIND SALE 15/3/86

ON ACCOUNT OF M/S WILSON & JENNINGS, INVERCARGILL
LORNEVILLE SELLING CENTRE,
INVERCARGILL
FRIDAY MARCH 21

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances the above auction sale has been postponed until May.

100061v2



SOUTHLAND FARMERS

DEER DIVISION

ROSEDALE DEER SALE

TUSOCK CREEK

26/3/86 Thursday, March 27, 1986
12 noon

The SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN LTD will offer on behalf of clients, the following:

- 100 — Red Deer Weaner Hinds
- 10 — Hybrid Weaner Hinds
- 100 — Red Deer 15 month Hinds
- 28 — Hybrid 15 month Hinds
- 15 — Red Deer MA Hinds
- 6 — Wapiti MA Cows with Calves at Foot
- 60 — Red Deer Weaner Stags

All deer TB tested and are from properties clear of movement control.

Invercargill Phone

Evan Mackie

59-364

John Duncan

358-563

Geoff Erskine

78-097

Alexandra Phone

Sandy Anderson

6388

105211v2



SOUTHLAND FARMERS

DEER DIVISION

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

ROSEDALE SALE

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1986

Wapiti Cows and Calves, on account of Whitestone De Farm, to be offered at Rosedale Sale on Thursday, March 27, 1986, have been withdrawn.

13249

Deer Hunting

Sir, — I found the article on helicopter operators' fears for survival most interesting.

The helicopter operators have enjoyed a false economy of propped up prices for far too long.

There are far too many operators and consequently because of an over kill they now find it difficult to survive by either dead or live capture.

For the recreational ground shooter the odds of obtaining an

animal have become stacked heavily against him because of the low numbers. But we are not complaining we are adaptable, genuine hunters who in the long run will be pleased to see the choppers out of the sky.

Mr Green, the chief park ranger states that if the helicopters do not cull the animals out then the Government will have to do the job.

He has never approached the Southland Recreational Hunting Club about assisting to cull out high density deer or other animal areas, for example goats, thar, chamois. Has he ever thought about offering the chance for the young and older enthusiastic hunters to assist him in his park management?

It is very difficult to get permission from the farmers to get access into likely areas because if they have a deer pen or two they think every wild deer has their name on it. In reality the ground shooter can only carry one animal at a time.

So with the demise of the aerial armchair hunting things are looking much better for hundreds of hunters who can now get better odds of some meat on the table.

J. Bennett

President

Southland Recreational
Hunting Club

Invercargill



NEW ZEALAND FOREST SERVICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LAY POISON

The public is advised that on and from May 27, 1986, chopped carrot baits impregnated with 1080 poison will be laid by aircraft in:

1. The Copland-Karangarua River Catchment of Westland National Park (the total forested area of the Copland River catchment and extending up the True Right Karangarua river bank to and including the Douglas River Catchment).
2. Abut Head, Whataroa River Mouth. (All that forested area contained in the peninsula between the Whataroa River and Saltwater Lagoon).

On completion of these areas chopped carrot bait impregnated with 1080 will be laid by aircraft in:

3. Taramakau Settlement Area. (All that forested area on the True Right Bank of the Taramakau River from approximately opposite the Taipo River confluence downstream to approximately Three Mile Hill containing part State Forest 30 and private lands).

The public is warned of the hazard in handling poison baits or poisoned animal carcasses in the area, and of the danger to dogs of secondary poisoning by eating poisoned animal carcasses.

As specified in the Game (Packing and Export) Regulations 1967 — Clause 49 (1), the recovery of game meat will not be permitted in or within 8km of the areas where poison is laid. The prohibition will continue for a period of four (4) weeks following completion of the poison operations.

For any further particulars contact the Conservator of Forests, PO Box 138, Hokitika.
E. R. Kearns
CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS

126398v3

Busy Year For Game Industry Board

A vigorous schedule of market development activities was outlined to deer farmers at last month's annual conference of the New Zealand Deer Farmer's Association.

The 450 deer farmers at the Palmerston North conference heard the marketing arm of the business, the New Zealand Game Industry Board, report on a year of intense activity.

The board chairman, Mr Tom Williams, said the two prime export venison markets, the US and West Germany, had been investigated by the board and marketing consultants appointed to conduct detailed research.

Kommunikation was appointed in West Germany to study the traditional market there. In the US, the San Francisco based RAM Group was chosen to investigate the US food service market and advise on opportunities for increased consumption of venison.

Market promotion assistance to exporters for promotional activities was also undertaken. Five exporters were given grants for trade fairs in Chicago,

Los Angeles and Melbourne.

A restaurant promotion in Malaysia and a taste testing in San Francisco were also given financial help.

Hosted

During the year the board hosted the Korean Pharmaceutical Traders Association, the most influential velvet lobby in Korea; Mr Rudolph Genske, the deputy secretary of the West German MAF and a group of American food writers and editors.

A Canadian chef, in New Zealand to produce two programmes for his television show, was also hosted by the board as part of its role in developing overseas markets.

"We also see the local market as an important shop window for promotion of quality venison to the growing number of overseas tourists," Mr Williams said.

Funds have been earmarked for research into chilled venison exports, probably by Invermay Agricultural Research Centre with MIRINZ and Massey University food technology centre.

Invermay has also been commissioned by the board to conduct nutrient analysis in venison, an important factor in New Zealand's diet conscious overseas markets.

Specifications

Standardized written specifications and identification codes are being developed for venison cuts.

Mr Williams dismissed claims of a venison glut by 1995, saying that the assumptions on which they were based were unsupportable.

He said with marketing

strategies in place and with the lead time available to the industry before increased tonnages could be produced, the market place would absorb all the product needed in the near future.

Researching Quality Of Venison

Ongoing research at the Invermay Agricultural Research Centre near Mosgiel, will further help New Zealand venison into the world's best restaurants.

Scientists are investigating the processing and storage of venison and aim to establish the optimum slaughter processing and packaging conditions to produce the highest quality, most tender and hygienic product.

The use of rapid chilling and low voltage electrical stimulation of the carcass immediately after slaughter, has greatly improved the meat's tenderness.

In storage tests it was found that vacuum-packed, chilled venison can last for 14 weeks without any bacterial infections.

It is estimated that last year, 1800 tonnes of venison were produced by New Zealand deer farmers, worth about \$19 million in export receipts.

If current trends continue, the 1994 production is likely to be 17,300 tonnes. It could be as high as 30,000 tonnes.

Most of this venison will be bound for the world's gourmet restaurant and hotel markets where consistently high quality will command premium prices.



BLUE MOUNTAIN RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA

Owing to organizational changes within Beaumont and Pomahaka Forest, all hunting permits for the Rankleburn subdivision of Pomahaka Forest will now be issued from the Beaumont office. Phone 475 Lawrence.
Postal Address: Beaumont Forest, No 1 RD, Lawrence. Rankleburn permits will be collected from the old office building as per usual.

Dalgety Crown



DEERPAK®

SELECTED WEANER HIND SALE

To be held on the property of Mr G. Harding, Haumoana, Hawkes Bay on Thursday, May 15, 1986 at 1pm.

300 SELECTED WEANER HINDS

(including English Cross, Rakaia and South Island Bloodlines) minimum 48kg liveweight.

Including entries from —
Ben Nevis Station, Marakeke Land Co, Group Farming Partnership, L. W. Stokes, Wairoa, A. F. Gunn, W. P. Nelson

Further inquiries please phone

Dalgety Crown: Office

Merryn Herrick

Russell Black

David Ward

Wrightson NMA: Office

Philip Irwin

86-009 Hastings

6815 Waipukurau

84-834 Hastings

750-161 Hastings

66-169 Hastings

449-439 Napier

120199v4



NEW ZEALAND FOREST SERVICE

TAHR MANAGEMENT POLICY

Last year public comment was invited on the Forest Service's draft Management Policy for Himalayan Tahr in New Zealand.

The advertised closing date for comments was end of November 1985. However, at the request of some organisations this date was twice extended; finally to March 31, 1986.

Would both organisations and individuals please note that the last date for acceptance was definitely March 31, 1986 and comments received later than this will not be considered.

10/5/86

108961v2

10/5/86 GAME RECOVERY LTD

As from May 7, 1986, Game Recovery Limited, will cease buying killing game at all its depots in Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson, Buller, Reefton, Dobson, Ngahere, Kumara.

We will advise re-opening dates in the spring. The game will be continued to be bought at depots from Hokitika to Haast.

104718v3

Foveran

17/5/86 FOVERAN DEER AUCTION



1:30 PM WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 1986
FOVERAN DEER PARK SELLING COMPLEX
HAKATARAMEA VALLEY, KUROW, NORTH OTAGO

Phone: Bob Robertson 680 Kurow. Dave Harroway 758 Kurow.
STOCK: Only top breeding stock on offer, selected for quiet nature and good temperament. All breeding female stock has been positive (unless indicated) pregnancy tested by Aspiring Animal Services Ltd Ultra Sonic Scanner. Video records of each pregnancy scan are available. Most sire animals will be in hard antler and on view on sale day. Some dams will also be on view on sale day. All fawns will have been weaned 2 months, 4 in 1 vaccinated, drenched every 3 weeks and pasture fed.

INSPECTION: Viewing of deer in natural state at any time by prior arrangement or on day of sale from 11.30 am.

T.B. STATUS: FOVERAN is on the national accreditation scheme and regularly whole herd tests. Only one remaining test before becoming accredited as a Registered T.B. Free Herd. All deer on offer T.B. tested within 30 days prior to sale. All results negative. Certificates are available to purchasers.

THE YARDING COMPRISES

(Over 200 Top Quality Deer on Auction.
(All weights available on day of sale) (Elk represents Pure Canadian Elk)

Weaners for Sale			Adults for Sale
Dam	Sire	Progeny	All breeding adults positive pregnancy tested.
Red	x Red	Hinds	35 M.A. Red Hinds in calf to German Stag.
Red	x Red	Stags	35 M.A. Wapiti Cows in calf to Elk Bull.
Red	x Elk/Wap	Cows	5 2 1/2 yrs. Elk/Wap Cross Cows in calf to Elk Bull.
Red	x Elk/Wap	Bulls	6 2 yrs. Elk Cows in calf to Elk Bull.
Wapiti	x Wapiti	Cows	5 Newly imported yearling Elk Cows.
Wapiti	x Wapiti	Bulls	1 Mature Pure Elk Bull (A/C John Barber)
Wapiti	x Elk	Cows	1 Excellent Breeding Wapiti Bull.
Wapiti	x Elk	Bulls	Antlers left on. Approx Velvet weight 6 kg.
Elk/Wap	x Elk	Cows	1 Mature Breeding Stag. Antlers left on. Approx Velvet weight over 4 kg.
Elk/Wap	x Elk	Bull	1 Hybrid Mature Breeding Stag. Velvet cut 4.5 kg.
Elk	x Elk	Cows	
Elk	x Elk	Bulls	

INVESTORS: Any purchaser may leave any of above stock on FOVERAN on very favourable investor terms. If interested in Share Farming phone Foveran Deer Park for details.

SURROUNDING DEER SALES
Criffel Game Park 17th June
Foveran Deer Park 18th June
Rosedale (Southland)
Open Sale 19th June



For further enquiries contact Auctioneers:

PYNE, GOULD, GUINNESS LTD.

P.O. BOX 112, CHRISTCHURCH. PH (03) 798600 After hours: Ron Schroeder (03) 528949
P.O. BOX 521, TIMARU. PH (056) 86159 After hours: Max Bensemann (056) 89473

11483003

Dalgety Crown



DEERPAK®
DEER FOR SALE

MA Hinds RWS, Weaner Stags, 18mth Hinds RWS.
Phone 88-449 or 64-870.

17/5/86

109013v3

Saturday, May 17, 1986 29

Livestock for Sale

STAGS good weaner stags, 4 for sale. Phone 8288
Otautau. 118152v1

31/5/86

PAPAWAI DEER STUD

Selected International Bloodlines
Superior Progeny
TRIAD FARMING PARTNERSHIP

POSTPONEMENT NOTICE

Due to the unclear Government policies regarding Livestock Taxation we have postponed our 1st Annual Weaner Deer Sale on Thursday June 5, 1986, the Sale will now be held at the Koputaroa (Miltchpine Products) Deer Farmers Complex, Levin at 12 noon on Wednesday, July 30, 1986.

Full details of sale to be published at a later date.
Triad Farming Partnership
116522v6

7/6/86



SPECIAL ENTRY LORNEVILLE DEER SALE JUNE 20, 1986

Account of Rata Hill, C/- W. Payne, Hokonui
5 — Top 2nd Calver Red HINDS
Average weight 99kg mated Pure German Stag
Tb Free Status
Inquiries to:

B. Duggan
358-189 Invercargill

131393v3

More For Venison

(PA) CHRISTCHURCH
Two deer slaughtering companies in the South Island have raised their venison price schedules to farmers from next week.

The Fortex Group, operating at the Canterbury Venison plant at Ashburton, and Mair Foods NZ Ltd, operating at Hokitika and Ashburton, will be paying \$6.25 a kilogram, for the top grade, AP2. AP1 will be \$5.75, AP3 \$5.50, AF \$4, AD \$2.50, AM \$1.50, reactor \$2.

For the start of the winter schedule, venison prices have been lifted about 50c a kilogram.

SOUTHLAND FARMERS

DEER

The only dealer

31/5/86 CRIFFEL DEER PARK DEER AUCTION

Under the hammer at 12 noon at the Criffel Selling Centre Wanaka, on Tuesday, June 17, 1986.

Criffel is one of New Zealand's largest established breeding units. Stock from Criffel's herd is renowned New Zealand wide for their top performance, superior quality and ease of management.

DEER TO BE OFFERED LISTED BELOW:

- 5 18 mth ELK/NZ WAPITI x BULLS — Progeny of top imported Canadian Elk Bulls.
- 5 18 mth ELK/NZ WAPITI x COWS — Mated to top imported Canadian Elk Bulls.
- 10 ELK/NZ WAPITI WEANER BULLS — Progeny of top imported Canadian Elk Bulls.
- 10 ELK/NZ WAPITI WEANER COWS — Progeny of top imported Canadian Elk Bulls.
- 5 Four 3 year PERE DAVID FEMALES and one 3 year PERE DAVID STAG.
- 5 Four 3 year PERE DAVID FEMALES and one 3 year PERE DAVID STAG.
- Pere Davids to be sold with transit and 50 days insurance included in purchase price.
- 20 18 mth RED/NZ WAPITI x HINDS — Mated to top Criffel N.Z. Red Stags.
- 10 18mth ENGLISH/NZ x RED HINDS — Mated to top Criffel N.Z. Red Stags.
- 20 18 mth NZ RED HINDS — Mated to top Criffel N.Z. Red Stags.
- 15 ENGLISH/NZ RED x WEANER HINDS.
- 60 NZ RED WEANER HINDS.
- 100 NZ RED WEANER STAGS.
- 30 MIXED SEX WHITE & BLACK WEANER FALLOWS DEER.

AUCTIONEERS COMMENT: Having viewed the entire offering at Criffel, the quality, condition and weights will better any similar yarding in New Zealand today.

CRIFFEL GAME PARK

FIRST KNOWN AUCTION OF PERE DAVID DEER IN THE WORLD

10 two year old Pere David Deer arrived at Criffel from the English Waldhurst Park Stud in early April 1985. This group has successfully adapted to Criffel and have been mated with a mature Pere David stag in January/February of this year. They are quiet and well settled and have proved to be successful importation. They are offered with a transit plus 50 days insurance cover which will be inclusive of the price. Details of this policy can be viewed prior to the sale.

Weights available on Sale Day. 2% Commission paid to non-participating companies.

LIGHT LUNCHEON AVAILABLE

For further details contact:-

G. DEAKER
WRIGHTSON NMA
CROMWELL

PHONE 51-148, A.H. 50-424

G. ERSKINE
SOUTHLAND FARMERS CO-OP
INVERCARGILL
PHONE 81929, A.H. 78-097

INVERCARGILL STOCK AGENTS

LORNEVILLE DEER SALE

FRIDAY MAY 23,

1986

Commencing at 12 noon

Associated Auctioneers will offer 200 Deer comprising of: Weaner Hinds, Weaner Stags, MA Hinds (RWS), 18mth Hinds (RWS)

116433v3

OTAGO STOCK AGENTS & WOOL BROKERS ASSN.

OPEN DEER SALE BALCLUTHA DEER SELLING COMPLEX

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Commencing 1pm
Entries Invited

Contact Representatives of:
WRIGHTSON NMA LIMITED
REID FARMERS LIMITED
DALGETY CROWN LIMITED
ELDERS PASTORAL LIMITED

120876v2

31/5/86



DEERPAK[®] LOCHIEL DEER FARMS (H. J. WHYTE)

**SPECIAL IMPORTED
DEER AUCTION SALE**
1pm, JUNE 16, 1986
**AT LORNEVILLE
DEER SELLING CENTRE**

GERMAN RED DEER
Imported over the last 3 years from Josef Festl, Count Bossenlanger, Theo Grabowski and Heinrich Hatlapa.
9 Pure German Stags
5 Pure German Hinds
8 English-German x Weaner Stags
6 English-German x Yearling Stags
3 English-German x Yearling Stags
30 New Zealand Red-German x Weaner Hinds and Stags
16 New Zealand Red-German x Yearling Hinds and Stags
27 New Zealand Red-Hinds in Fawn to the German Stag
All Hinds mated to German Stags
ELK
2 Five year old Elk Bulls ex Rick Alsager in Canada
2 Four year old Elk Bulls
2 Yearling Bulls
3 two year old Elk x Bulls
2 Pure Elk Cows
16 Two and Three year old Elk x Cows
All cows mated to the Elk Bull
The property has a TB free status.
Full detailed catalogues complete with breeding history and weights available now.
Inspection on property prior to sale most welcome.
Contact:
B. Duggan Wrightson NMA 358-189 Invercargill
M. Mills Dalgety Crown 88-449 Invercargill
Skip Holmes Farm Manager 397-068 Invercargill

101164v5



Wrightson

ROB BROOKES

AND

**HINDLEY PARTNERSHIP
QUEENSTOWN**

GERMAN/N.Z. RED x WEANER

DEER AUCTION

To be held on the property at Queenstown on Wednesday, June 18, 1986, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

LISTED BELOW STOCK TO BE OFFERED

60 GERMAN/N.Z. RED x WEANER HINDS
60 GERMAN/N.Z. RED x WEANER STAGS.

AUCTIONEERS COMMENT: These Weaners are direct progeny of sons of King Richard, who is reputed to be the worlds best Stag in captivity. This stag is owned by the vendor and stands at his stud farm in England. Hard Antler from King Richard weighs 14 kg's and will be on display at the sale.

**ALL DEER WILL BE TB TESTED AND
VETERINARY INSPECTED**

**OVER-RIDING COMMISSION OF 2% TO BE PAID TO ALL
NON-PARTICIPATING COMPANIES.**

For further details contact:

**G. DEAKER
WRIGHTSON NMA
CROMWELL
PHONE 51-148, A.H. 50-424**

106278v3

Deer Park Sold

31/5/86

(PA)

DUNEDIN

The Angora Corporation has acquired Wilson Neill Ltd's deer and goat farming operation, directors of both companies said yesterday.

The agreement gives Wilson Neill a 30 per cent stake in Angora, making it the biggest shareholder.

At Angora's first annual meeting in Dunedin, yesterday its chairman, Mr Farquahar McKenzie, and the chairman of Wilson Neill, Mr Jim Valentine, said the agreement would require 3.5 million 40c shares to be issued at 50c.

The consideration would increase Angora's investment in goats and deer by more than 50 per cent, Mr McKenzie said.

The Angora Corporation would also manage on behalf of Wilson Neill about 300 hinds and 1400 feral goats.

"The association with Wilson Neill is seen by the directors of Angora Corporation as a major move to increase participation in the deer and goat industry, and the expertise available from Wilson Neill will be complementary to the objectives of the Angora corporation," he said.

The approval of Angora shareholders would be sought at an extraordinary general meeting to issue the necessary shares to cover the purchase, and for the appointment of two directors to the Angora board representing Wilson Neill.

The acquisition involves the 283ha Wilson Neill deer park at Mossburn in Southland, which the company bought in 1983.



Dalgety Crown



DEERPAK[®]

**MIXED DEER AUCTION
LORNEVILLE SALEYARDS
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1986
ENTRIES INVITED**

Contact:

B. Duggan Wrightson NMA
M. Mills Dalgety Crown

358-189 Invercargill
88-449 Invercargill

126639v2



REID FARMERS

**DEER 7/6/86 DEER DEER
SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY**

150 Mixed Aged Red Hinds, RW Red Stags
100 Yearling Red Hinds, RW Red Stags
3 Yearling Elk Cross Cows, RW Wapiti Stag
3 Yearling Wapiti Hinds, RW Wapiti Stag
6 Weaner Elk Cross Hinds
1 First Cross Elk Weaner
1 Second Cross Elk Weaner

For these and many more deer on offer
Consult the Reid Farmers Deer Officers
Phone G. Alderson, 7434 Alexandra, and
G. Caldwell, 710-734 Dunedin

117825v3

16/5/86

MARANOVA

(I.B. & J. W. Spiers
and
Associates)

4th

**ANNUAL
DEER FAWN
AUCTION**

To be held on the property, Maranovia,
Ormondville Road, Takapau

Thursday May 15, 1986 at 1.30pm

AUCTION SUMMARY

385 Red Weaner Deer Comprising

160 Red Weaner Hinds
50 Selected Red Weaner Stags
175 Red Weaner Stags

All deer TB tested,
light refreshments available.

For further information please phone after hours:

Merryn Herrick,
John Ford,
John Spiers,
Russell Greville,

Waipukerau
Waipukerau
Waipukerau
Waipukerau

(0728) 66-815
(0728) 87-098
(0728) 58-007
(0728) 88-427



Dalgety Crown



DEERPAK

DEER WANTED

Wanted large number of Red
Weaner Hinds. Phone 88-449
or 64-870.

108875v2

WANTED TO BUY

Red Deer Weaner Hinds
\$950 — \$1,200



**SOUTHLAND
FARMERS**

DEER DIVISION

PHONE 81-929

After Hours
Evan Mackie
John Duncan

17/5/86

59-364
358-563

116113v2

Notice to Farmers

**GAME FOODS NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
KENNINGTON — SOUTHLAND**

**ATTENTION
ALL FALLOW DEER FARMERS**

We are currently organizing a kill week for Fallow Stags.
For full information contact:

G. Dowdall (Plant Manager)
or After Hours
Tic Paulin
Duncan Robertson
Tim Armstrong

Invercargill (021) 394-481
Invercargill (021) 75-302
7870 Te Anau
540 Arrowtown
(024) 851-516 Palmerston

Your Local PPCS Drafter

113318v3

ROSEDALE DEER SALE
6TH ANNUAL SELECTED SALE
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1986
TUSSOCK CREEK
12 NOON

The SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN LTD will offer on behalf of various clients, the following selected lines of top deer:

- 120 — Weaner HINDS
- 100 — 18 Month HINDS
- 40 — M. A. HINDS
- 20 — C. F. A. HINDS (Rosedale A. D).

All stock TB tested and from properties free of movement control.

SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN LTD

John Duncan (021) 358-563
 Evan Mackie (021) 59-364
 Sandy Anderson (0294) 6388
 Alexandra (0294) 6388
 Geoff Erskine (021) 78-097



109275v3



SPECIAL IMPORTED DEER AUCTION

ON ACCOUNT OF LOCHIEL DEER FARM
 MR H. J. WHYTE, BRANXHOLME SOUTHLAND

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 1986
LORNEVILLE SELLING CENTRE
COMMENCING AT 1PM

Pure German Red Deer
 English/German X Red Deer
 NZ/German X Red Deer
 NZ Red Hinds Mated Pure German Stag
 English Red Hind Mated Pure German Stag
 Elk X Cows Mated Pure Elk Bull
 Pure Elk Cows Mated Pure Elk Bull
 Pure Elk Bulls
 Elk X Bulls

17/5/86

(Full Particulars will be advertised later)

Inquiries:-

WRIGHTSON NMA — INVERCARGILL
 Brian Duggan
 Phone 358-189
DALGETY CROWN — INVERCARGILL
 Murray Mills
 Phone 88-449

114758v3

Sold Stag Meat

Alan James Carr, an Otautau deer farmer, was ordered to pay solicitor's fee of \$150 and \$35 court costs for selling red deer

stag meat for human consumption which had not derived from licensed deer slaughtering premises.

A charge of selling for human consumption a dressed red deer stag which was defective was dismissed.

23/7/86

MOSSBURN
VENISON SCHEDULE
FOR WEEK BEGINNING
JULY 7, 1986
RED, WAPITI AND
HYBRID

AP1 (70.5kg and over) \$5.75
 AP2 (50kg-70kg) \$6.25
 AP3 (49.5kg and under) \$5.50
 AD (1 Primal Damaged) \$2.50
 AF (Overfat) \$4.00
 AM (Manufacturing) \$1.50
 NB: TB Carcasses \$2.50

Southland Farmers Co-op
 Assn Ltd
 Wrightson NMA Ltd
 Wilson Neill Ltd

4/7/86

109845v1

Deer Prices Firm

Prices at yesterday's Lorneville deer sale were quoted as fully firm on previous sales.

The offering consisted of about 200 animals, mainly medium to good quality weaner hinds and weaner stags, supported by a few pens of mated hinds.

Bidding was generally slow on all lines. However, apart from light condition 18-month-old and mixed-age hinds, all lots attracted bids, with the better weaner hinds selling well.

A complete clearance of weaner hinds and weaner stags resulted.

Although only six lots of mated hinds were offered, they were followed with a certain amount of interest.

However, only two of the six lots were sold, with the lighter condition hinds failing to reach realistic values.

Only an average gallery of buyers attended yesterday's sale, which was conducted at times in an

unusually quiet atmosphere.

After an unfortunate malfunction at last month's deer sale, the recently installed Donald micropower electronic weighing system proved successful.

The visual display gave buyers an accurate average liveweight calculation of each lot offered as the deer entered the selling ring.

The weighing system, costing the Invercargill Saleyards Company around \$10,000 is the first of its kind in the South Island and only the second to be installed in a livestock selling facility in New Zealand.

The top price for weaner hinds at yesterday's sale, \$1225, was received for three animals, sold on account of Mr T. J. May, Thompsons Crossing.

A range of prices was:

Weaner hinds: Best \$1025 to \$1225, good to medium \$800 to \$975, smaller to \$550.
 Weaner stags: \$160 to \$270.
 Eighteen-month-old hinds: \$1900 and \$1950.



MARAROA DEER AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1986

1pm

Mararoa Station (1976) Ltd, The Key, will offer for sale the following:

60 WEANER HINDS
 200 WEANER STAGS

Auctioneers Note:

All animals have been drenched and have been weaned for one month. Weaners are a selection of Red and Hybrid progeny from top Mararoa hinds. All deer TB tested and veterinary inspected.

SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN LTD
 81-929 INVERCARGILL
 Geoff Erskine
 78-097 Invercargill

WRIGHTSON NMA LTD
 81-696 INVERCARGILL
 Bob Steel
 7840 Te Anau

10475

Researching Deer Stress

A \$1 million, three year research programme into deer stress is to be undertaken at the University of Otago.

Funding includes \$600,000 from private companies and \$50,000 from the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association.

The immunity of deer to infection is drastically affected by stress, and the programme, led by Dr Frank Griffin, should identify management practices which reduce resistance to infection.

Stress depressed the immune system and in extreme cases caused its complete failure, Dr Griffin said.

Stress had a "huge" impact on how the body functioned, he said, making

deer more susceptible to infection.

"The shock of capture leaves an animal totally incapable of responding to any infection for up to a week," he said.

Stress can also be caused by transportation, poor weather, inadequate nutrition and weaning.

The deer capture method used by Helicorp New Zealand has contributed to funding and will provide capture deer for study.

Situations

Animals will be studied under different situations to find which are most stressful. The immune system will be tested immediately after capture and during the first months of activity.

The programme should identify when deer are most at risk and help farmers predict which animals are most likely to contract tuberculosis.

That disease will be used as a basis to develop procedures for diagnosis and treatment of other conditions which affect deer under stress.

Tuberculosis is significant because of the risk to human health from infected venison.

It causes lesions throughout the body of deer, but there is little obvious effect on health except during terminal stages of the disease.

Other research deer farmers have decided to contribute to include \$10,000 for research into cattle at Massey and Ruakura Animal Research Station and \$10,000 for research at Lincoln College into deficiencies.

Wallaceville Animal Health Research Centre will be supplied with valued at \$4,000 for research on malignant catarrhal fever and the University received \$10,000 for research into alternative feeds.

Prices For Weaner Hinds Firm

Prices for weaner hinds at yesterday's Lorneville deer sale maintained levels fully firm on those of sales earlier this season.

The yarding consisted of 120 deer, mainly weaner hinds and stags, supported by 18-month-old and adult breeding hinds.

A reasonable bench of buyers showed most interest in weaner hinds. Weaner stags sold at prices based on schedule rates.

From the prices paid for the 18-month-old hinds, it appears that the market level for this class of stock will not be set until the main breeding hind sales towards the end of the month.

The best price for weaner hinds, \$1125, was received for four hinds sold on account of Cattle Flat station, Gore. Other notable sales were recorded by Springburn Farm, Wyndham, four at \$1000, and Mr R. B. Dore, Thornbury, six at \$1100.

A range of prices was:

Weaner hinds: Top 50kg to 55kg \$1000 to \$1125, medium \$900 to \$950, smaller to 37kg, \$650.
 Weaner stags: Medium \$215 to \$250.

Eighteen-month-old mated red hinds: Top \$1300 to \$1600, medium \$1200 to \$1300, smaller to \$1125.

Eighteen-month-old and mixed-age New Zealand red hinds: Mated to a purebred German stag, \$2000 to \$2900.

INVERCARGILL STOCK AGENTS

LORNEVILLE DEER SALE

SPECIAL 18 MONTH HIND SALE

at
LORNEVILLE SALEYARDS

Friday, July 25, 1986
 Commencing at 12 noon

THE INVERCARGILL STOCK AGENTS will conduct the above sale and invite entries.

4/7/86

133156v3

FIRST ANNUAL WEANER DEER SALE



PAPAWAI DEER STUD

*Selected International Bloodlines
Superior Progeny*

TRIAD FARMING PARTNERSHIP

Comprising:

- 60 English NZ Cross Weaner Stags & Weaner Hinds.
Representing bloodlines from:
NORMANBY, LOWTHER, STUDLEY
ROYAL, WARNHAM.
- 21 Swedish NZ Cross Weaner Stags & Weaner Hinds.

To be followed by:

- 40 selected NZ RedWeaner Hinds.

SALE TO BE HELD AT THE
**KOPUTAROA (MITCHPINE PRODUCTS)
FARMERS COMPLEX, LEVIN**
AT
12 NOON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1986

Auctioneer's Note:

Dalgety Crown are pleased to present Papawai Deer Studs (Triad Farming Partnership) first offering of English and Swedish Cross Weaners.

We as auctioneers can recommend this top offering to discerning purchasers.

- All progeny from selected 1st Fawning Red Hinds.
- Whole herd TB tested (two clear tests).
- Weaners to be tested — certificate available day of sale.
- All Weaners have been inoculated and drenched.
- Weights available day of sale.
- Light lunch available.

An overriding commission of 2% will be paid to non participating companies provided the buyer is nominated prior to the date of sale.

CONTACT:

DALGETY CROWN LEVIN

PH. (069) 88-319 OR

JOHN INKSTER DEER OFFICER A/H PH: (069) 83-056

TRIAD FARMING PARTNERSHIP

DONALD J. EVANS (069) 87-713 OR

GRAHAME A. WALKER (069) 43-122

104765V1

About 1000 Deer Recaptured

(PA)

About 1000 deer of the \$6 million herd that escaped from a Taupo deer farm have been recaptured and returned to the farm.

The herd escaped into extensive forest terrain after internal fences on the farm were deliberately cut earlier this week.

As far as the rest go, it is a waiting game, the herd's owner Taupo deer farmer, Mr Robbie Oldeman, said yesterday.

He said he was reluctant to say much more and that the publicity so far had not helped his cause.

Spook

His greatest fear was that the deer would be spooked

if they were chased. Already they had scattered with groups on either side of the road.

"If they get spooked we have got troubles," he said.

The 70,000ha Mararoa forest, into which the deer had fled, is a large area. Mr Oldeman said he did not expect to see all his stock back.

Asked what percentage of the herd he would be satisfied with recapturing, Mr Oldeman said: "I want them all back."

ROTORUA

The deer, he said, were reasonably quiet but if they were chased they would scatter even more than they already had.

Feed was being left out in an attempt to lure the deer back but the cold nights were not helping.

Licence Fee

Favoured

For Hunters

(PA) CHRISTCHURCH

A licence fee payable by all recreational hunters was approved in principle by the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association at its annual conference in Christchurch yesterday.

An observer at the conference described the move as a "momentous" one for the NZDA.

Delegates at the 38th annual meeting were told the association was trying to influence a government that was in the middle of making big changes regarding the environment and conservation.

"If you want to be still in charge of your sport in five or 10 years' time, a user pays-system is the only way," one speaker said.

Members passed the remit: "That this conference support payment of a licence-hunting fee for recreational hunting if the administration, fee collection and expenditure is carried out in a manner similar to the present acclimatization societies system."

The director of the New Zealand Acclimatization Societies' national executive, Mr Bryce Johnson, an observer at the conference, described the approval of a "user pays" system as a momentous decision for the NZDA.

He said that he was "rapt" about the conference decision also because it reaffirmed that the present acclimatization societies' licence fee system was a good one that worked.

DEER SALE

Entries are invited for the

FIRST ANNUAL WEANER HIND and WEANER STAG SALE on the property of the ANGORA CORPORATION (Mr G. K. Swann, Morven) THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1986 commencing 1pm

ENTRIES INCLUDE
95 — Weaner Hinds
70 — Weaner Stags

Entries to:

Murray Alexander
Oamaru 46-043 AH
or Lewis Pagan
Dunedin 730-203 AH
or

your local Wrightson NMA Agent
WRIGHTSON NMA LIMITED
AUCTIONEERS

1096



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
& SURVEY
INVERCARGILL

FIORDLAND NATIONAL
PARK

HELICOPTER ANIMAL RECOVERY

The Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Southland Land District is at present undertaking the annual review of helicopter animal recovery within the Fiordland National Park and invites helicopter operators to make submissions.

Submissions from Southland and Otago operators may, if desired, include an application to operate within the Fiordland National Park, including the Wapiti block, during the next 12 month period.

Submissions will be received up to and including August 8, 1986 and should be addressed to:

The Commissioner of Crown
Lands
Department of Lands and
Survey
PO Box 826
Invercargill

106086V2

Pilot To Face Charges

(PA) CHRISTCHURCH

A pilot, charged with sitting examination papers for four other pilots was an "imposter," police told a depositions hearing in the Christchurch District Court yesterday.

Stephen James Keenan, aged 27, a manager, of Hokitika is to face trial in the District Court on 19 charges of forgery relating to the examination papers.

He was remanded on bail pending a date for his trial by Mr R. C. Holland and Mrs O. M. Franks, Justices of the Peace.

Keenan was charged with forging examination papers for various subjects for the commercial pilots' licence in helicopters for the four pilots at Timaru, Invercargill and Queenstown between, November, 1981 and November, 1984.

The examination papers included meteorology, flight navigation, aviation law and principles, general aircraft technical knowledge (helicopters), and principles of flight and aircraft performance (helicopters).

The names of the four pilots were suppressed.

One previously has been dealt with by the court and the other three have charges pending.

ONE of the most prominent and enduring names in the field of helicopter deer recovery has been phased out.

Alpine Helicopters and its subsidiaries — Worldwide and Wishart Helicopters — have sold their tourism, commercial lifting and agriculture operations to a newly floated public company — The Helicopter Line. All this has left Alpine (now known as Alpine Deer Group) is a very much scaled down deer recovery operation — possibly only one Hughes 500C plus two deer farms.

Ironically the whole empire now transferred to The Helicopter Line was originally built from a base of helicopter deer recovery. Alpine Helicopters has for many years been a conspicuous pioneer in aerial shooting and live capture techniques, farming, research and marketing development. It has also provided a training ground for a virtual "who's who" of independent deer recovery operations around the country.

Recent changes in livestock tax legislation along with general hard times in the farming sector have triggered a severe downturn in live deer prices. There has been a resultant winding down of deer recovery operations. This and other challenges faced by the helicopter industry can be seen as significant factors leading up to the changed structure of the Alpine Group.

The story began in April 1963 when Tim Wallis, Robert Wilson and Wattie Cameron successfully tested the theory of using a helicopter to recover deer. They pooled their resources to hire a Bell 47D1 from Helicopters (NZ) for a day. Groundshooters had climbed up to the tops above the Matukituki Valley and in the course of the day shot 210 deer. Unfortunately due to deteriorating weather and the limitations of carrying the carcasses on racks over the skids (prior to the innovation of cargo hooks) only 110 of these could be carried off the hill.

The theory was proved, but the techniques needed to be refined. Thus began 23 years of refining and, initially under the banner of Luggate Game Packers, Tim Wallis' operation developed rapidly. Before long the arrangement of hiring helicopters was found to be unsatisfactory so he learned to fly and purchased his first helicopter.

To use Tim's own words it was "wrapped in a ball 10 hours later". Some of the early teething troubles are glossed over in a classic Tim Wallis understatement: "The experience in this new field as a helicopter pilot operating in mountain and bush terrain created the biggest variable in this new operation, and the odd mishap was not uncommon".

Experience was gained the hard way as flying ability developed alongside the processing and marketing side of the business. Bill Black was taken on as the first of many employee pilots as the main area of operations became Fiordland National Park. Luggate Game Packers (became Alpine Helicopters from 1971 on) held sole rights for hunting in the park until 1976 when lobbying pressure from other operators brought about the block rotation system.

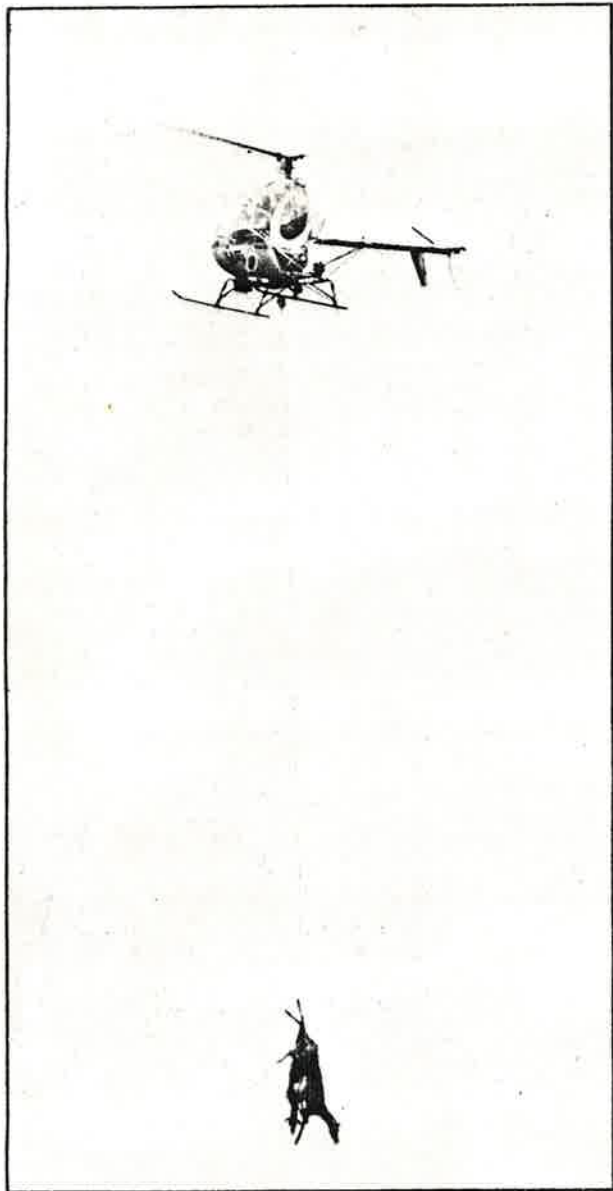
To hunt Fiordland efficiently, the company utilized a number of support vessels. Notably the coastal trader T.S.M.C. 'Ranginui', operated as a helicopter base ship with refrigerated hold capacity for 600 deer carcasses. A



ALPINE HELICOPTERS

THE END OF AN ERA

by David Comer



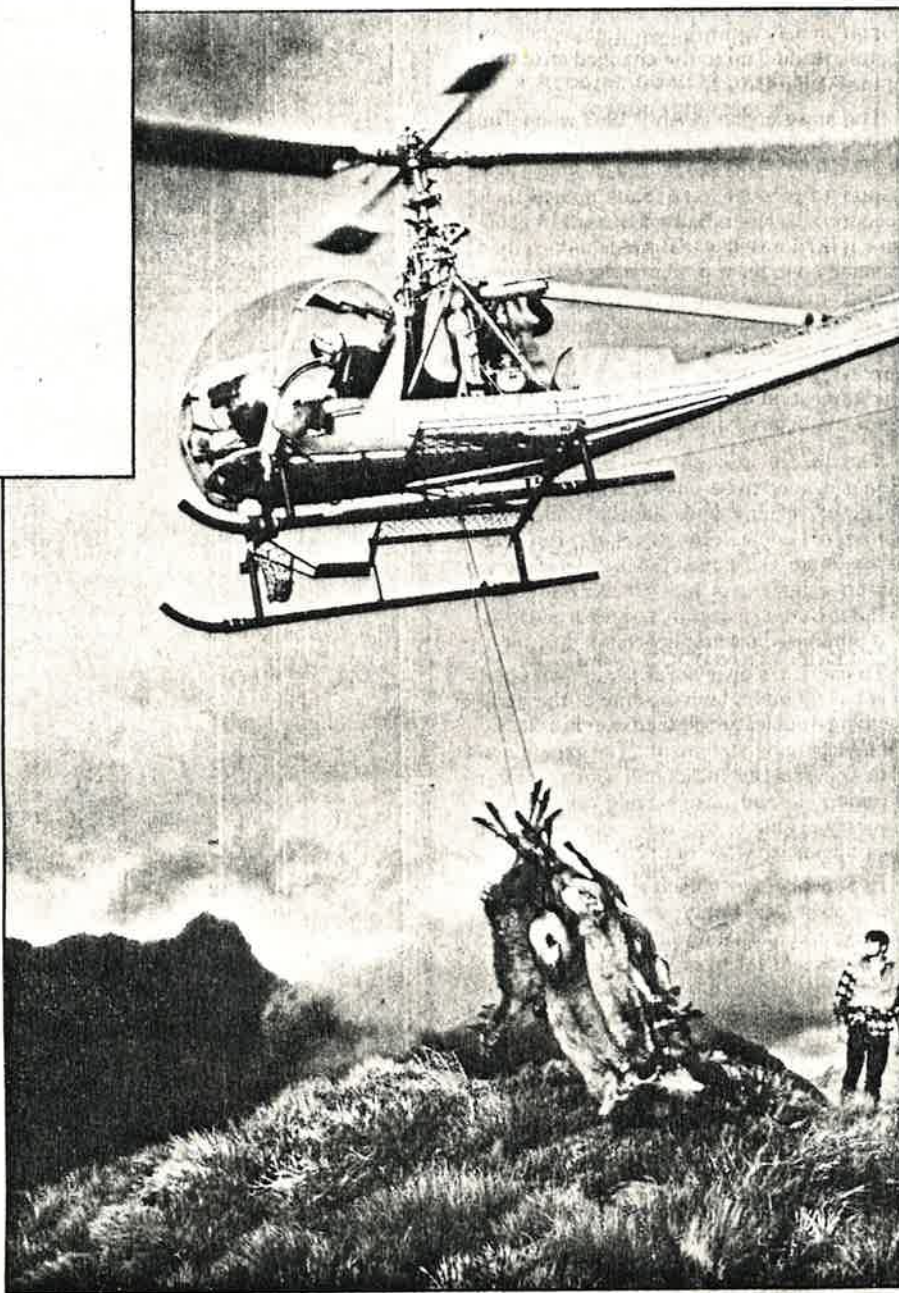
Previous page: Hughes 500D ZK-HPF piloted by Mark Hollows, lifting netted deer from a steep slip in Fiordland National Park. Left: Pilot Dave Kershaw long stropping dead deer in Hughes 300 ZK-HHE. Above: Tim Wallis, pictured during DC-3 "Stagliner" operations in 1979. Below: Back in the days of Luggate Game Packers and the Hiller UH12E — Bill Black and Peter Brown recover deer from above Caswell Sound in 1970. Ken Tustin photograph.

larger ship, the M.V. 'Hotunui', was even fitted out as a fully licensed Game Packing House but for various reasons this was not kept for long.

In the late 1960's interest in farming deer arose as the price of venison climbed. At this point the company began experimenting with aerial live capture and was also prominent in the initiation of deer farming research.

The boom in venison prices due to demand for meat, led to considerable pressure on wild animal numbers. The aerial shooting industry faced a decline until the earlier experiments with live capture and farming developed into a major priority. The fascinating story of the evolution of live capture techniques began to unfold. Primitive bulldogging and bamboo poles tipped with tranquilizer darts gave way to the high technology of electrical immobilization darts and radio locator beacon/tranquilizer darts. They all had their pitfalls and progress was frustrating if not hazardous. Even the most successful system of all — in its various forms the net gun — claimed more than its fair share of helicopters.

By necessity the flying techniques adapted just as rapidly as the equipment. While deer became both more cunning and more scarce, pilots built up a repertoire of highly evolved and specialised flying skills. In recent years,



helicopter crews in Fiordland have been regularly capturing deer in places where a few years earlier, they wouldn't have even attempted to shoot them.

Accompanying the advancement of recovery methods came research and development of deer farming. This in turn required attention to the overseas marketing of venison and velvet. Tim Wallis, at the helm of Alpine Helicopters, has been a pioneer in all of these fields.

After Luggate Game Packers was formed into Alpine Helicopters in 1971 the company moved into other commercial helicopter operations. The emphasis however was still very firmly on deer recovery throughout the 1970's. The peak of venison shooting in the early 70's gave way to the peak of live capture in 1979 when Alpine Group machines captured over 7000 deer in one season.

By this time the machinery consisted of mostly Hughes 500's but the company still used a few Hughes 300's. The more manoeuvrable Hughes models had taken over from the cumbersome Hiller UH12E of the Luggate Game Packers era. A DC3 even spent its twilight hours as a long range deer transporter for Alpine before ending up as a movie prop in Queenstown when the hours ran out.

The diversification of Alpine Helicopters became more significant as the heyday of deer recovery passed. The potential of helicopter utilization was becoming more widely appreciated in New Zealand — as a time and labour saving skycrane; for its efficiency in agricultural spraying; carrying freight and passengers into otherwise inaccessible locations as well as the more hedonistic appeal of helicopter sightseeing or heliskiing in untracked snow.

When Whirlwind and Wishart helicopters were brought in as subsidiaries this gave the group an unequalled geographic coverage. Machines belonging to the group were then based throughout the South Island and much of the North.

The Helicopter Line name originally appeared as a marketing identity to unify the tourist activities of the three related companies. In hindsight the directors may at that stage have already had one eye on going public.

Launched in a fanfare of press attention with a classy prospectus the share float created a lot of interest and was reportedly heavily oversubscribed.

While the long term outlook for helicopter utilization seems optimistic, The Helicopter Line share float comes at a time when the industry faces some serious challenges, namely: widespread decline of deer recovery forcing dependence on activities previously considered to be diversification areas

- * Downturn in agricultural work
- * Halt of oil exploration due to low price of oil
- * Predicted downturn in tourist traffic as a consequence of the stronger \$NZ
- * Surplus of helicopters on the market coupled with lack of demand worldwide
- * The Helicopter Line in particular is facing an increasing force of competitors (many of whom are ex-Alpine employees) in all spheres of operation

Since going public The Helicopter Line has begun to cut back in response to these chal-



Bill Black with Alpine's first Bell JetRanger circa 1977.

lenges. A number of staff have been laid off, while others have taken salary reductions. The loss of servicing the deer recovery operation has been cited as the reason for this "downsizing".

And what about the now entirely separate Alpine Deer Group? In 1985 Tim Wallis tempered his glowing projections for the future of the deer industry with one proviso: "These predictions can be drastically altered if Government intervention takes place". Less than a year after that prophetic comment, Alpine's deer recovery operation is barely a skeleton — smaller than at any time in its history. While the long term prospects for deer farming can only be good, the shock waves of recent boom/bust instability must affect buyer confidence for some time.

There will always be a place for aerial deer recovery. Wild animal population levels will soon build up relative to a lesser degree of helicopter pressure, thus higher tallies will make the fewer operators more viable. Nobody can deny however that the honeymoon is really over this time and, while the Alpine Deer Group will be one of the survivors, it will be with a considerably reduced operation over a shorter season.

The Helicopter Line will meanwhile maintain a high profile in its areas of operation, but one cannot help wondering if it is doing a disservice to its public image by so publicly putting aside its deer recovery heritage. So often, particularly in the South, commercial patronage is based on the performance, personality and flying background of the pilot, regardless of corporate identity.

Helicopter deer recovery undoubtedly involves some of the most demanding light helicopter flying in the world. An operation with a grounding in this industry, from pilots through to maintenance staff, can surely be seen by the public as having a sound base of skills and experience from which to branch out into general operations.

No other corporate identities have had such a long and distinguished history in helicopter deer recovery than Alpine Helicopters. Credit for this belongs to the scores of people who have been a part of Alpine over the years, particularly those who risked the most — the pilots and shooters, but not excluding the executives and support staff.

The name Alpine Helicopters may be gone from the letterhead, but it will always remain a part of New Zealand folklore. □

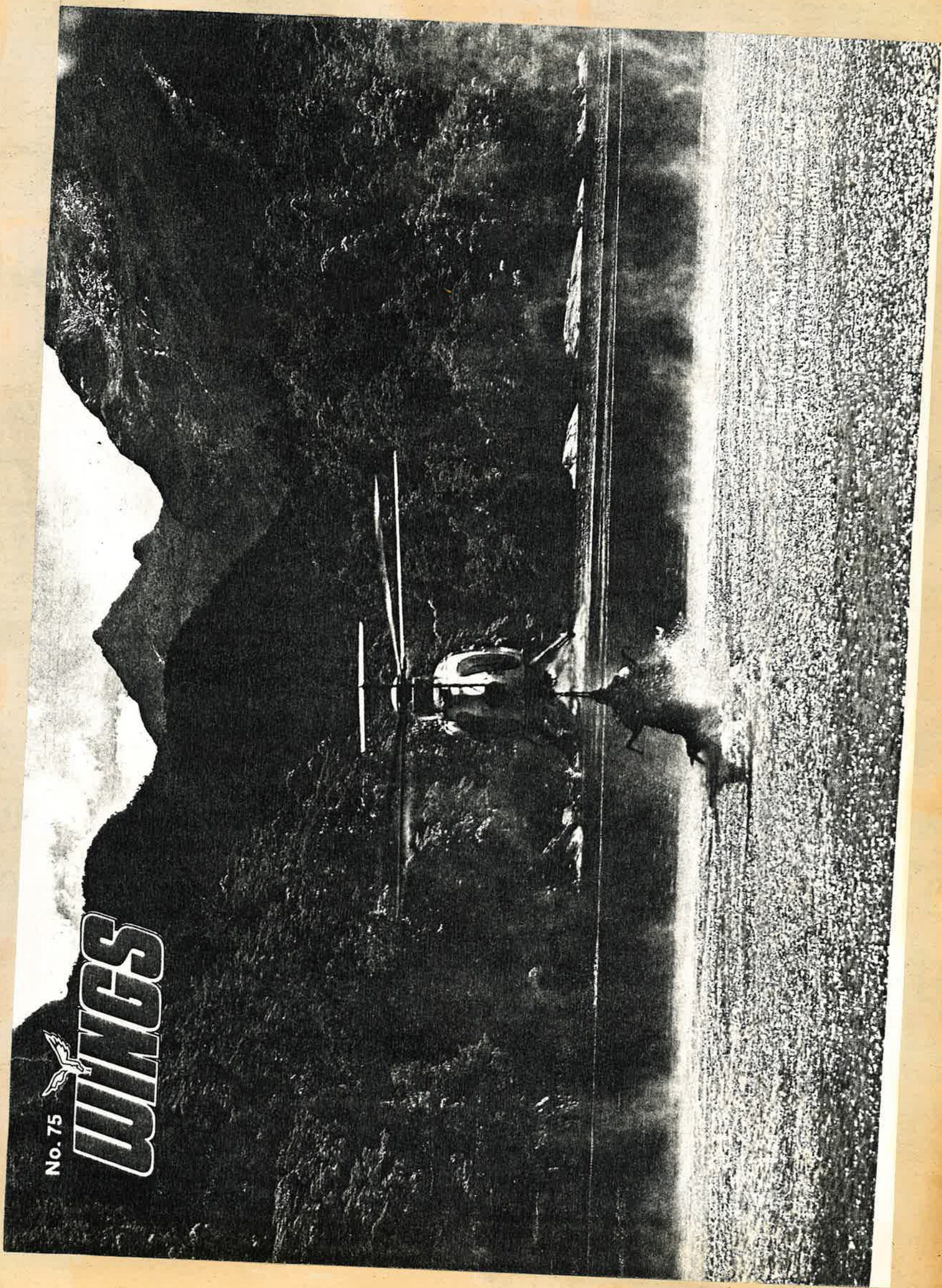
Pilot Kim Hollows and shooter Graham Deaker in Hughes 500C, 1984.



No. 75



WINGS



11 Game Foods Staff Face Redundancy

Eleven employees at the Game Foods (NZ) Ltd Kennington plant have the threat of redundancies hanging over them because of marketing difficulties.

It is understood staff at the plant have been given four weeks notice which could be withdrawn if markets for the plants special lamb cuts can be found in time.

Because of the seasonal drop in the number of stags for slaughter recently, Game Foods staff have been boning and cutting 300 lamb carcasses a day to keep the plant running un-

til deer numbers pick up in spring.

The company, which began export killing of farmed deer in February, 1985, sells all its product — both venison and lamb — through the marketing arm of PPCS, a major shareholder.

The chairman of Game Foods, Mr John Matheson, last night had "no comment whatsoever" to make on the plant's operation.

When the plant opened it killed 40 deer every second day with boning and packing taking place on alternative days.

But this year it started killing 40 deer a day with boning and packing taking

place simultaneously.

The other deer killing facility in Southland, Southern Lakes Venison Packers Ltd's Mossburn plant, is still operating normally

and processing 80 animals a day, three days a week.

The eight staff at the plant, who began killing farmed deer four years ago, also process feral deer.

TENDERS FOR HUGHES 500 HELICOPTERS AND SPARES

Parties interested in tendering for Hughes 500cc Helicopters, spares and Allison C20 engine models and parts are invited to register their interest.

The helicopters are all in flying condition and a full specification of these machines with all parts time lifted is available. The spares offered include a complete section of all Allison C20 and Hughes 500 parts. All of these parts are fully described in the specification.

For details of the tender arrangements and particulars as to where the helicopters and the parts may be inspected, please write to:

Helicopter Tender
PO Box 5546
Moray Place
DUNEDIN

It should be noted that the tender documents will be arranged in such a way that tenders will be receivable for the whole package or various parts of it.

110199/2

October Deadline To Join Tb Scheme

Deer farmers intending to join the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association voluntary Tb accreditation scheme have only until October 31 to do so if they wish whole herd tests before that date counting towards accreditation.

Although the national incidence of Tb in farmed deer, of around 0.6 per cent, may seem small and perhaps to some people even insignificant, if not controlled the disease has the potential to spread quickly through the country's deer herds and risk the development of venison markets.

The NZDFA has been actively promoting its voluntary accreditation scheme as one way of controlling or even eliminating the disease.

However, such a target is only achievable if all deer farmers give the scheme their full support.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' veterinarian in Invercargill, Mr Gavin Struthers, said so far only two of Southland's more than 500

deer farms were fully accredited as free of Tb.

"Considering it takes two years for accreditation, we're not unhappy about that," he said.

Three Clear

Accreditation requires three consecutive Tb-clear whole herd tests over a minimum period of two years.

Mr Struthers said, so far, 32 Southland deer farmers had applied to join the scheme.

And that would seem to be a disappointing response.

"Many farmers have only been pre-sale testing but we hope for a lot more applications before the end of October."

Mr Struthers said while a few Southland deer farms had reactor rates as high as 40 per cent, the average for the province was just over 1 per cent, with a true Tb incidence rate of about 0.6 per cent.

"That's about the same as the average for the rest of the country."

The MAF role in the Tb accreditation scheme is to keep all records of testing, whether pre-sale or whole herd, and, where necessary, to apply disease control place restrictions which limit the movement of animals from Tb reactor properties.

DCP

As at the beginning of August, 32 Southland deer farms were under DCP no-



Mr Struthers said, compared with 43 at the same time last year.

Mr Struthers explained that where a property was subject to DCP, animals could be sent to slaughter without a Tb clear test provided they were accompanied by a movement permit.

If animals from a DCP property were sold to another farm, they must have had a clear test within 30 days before movement off the vendor's property and must also have a movement permit from the MAF.

"To get off DCP, if a farm has Tb, it must have achieved at least two consecutive clear whole herd tests conducted at least six months apart," Mr Struthers said.

"For herds where tests have indicated a non-specific reactor problem, at least one clear whole herd test must be attained before a farm will be taken off DCP."

NZDFA executive officer, Mr David Hickman said at the end of May, 174 deer farms throughout the country were undergoing accreditation. He estimated 300 farms would have ap-

plied for accreditation by the beginning of August.

"We've only really been pushing the scheme since the end of February," he said.

The association's president, Mr Ian Spiers, believed now that the comparative test procedure had become available, farmers were beginning to have greater confidence in the scheme.

Until that test became available earlier this year, the previous testing procedure and the requirement for reactors to be slaughtered and post-mortemed, more often than not for a negative result, had caused deer farmers to distrust the scheme, he said.

"Farmers are now becoming more aware of the benefits of the accreditation scheme."

The achievement of Tb-free deer herds is in the hands of individual farmers.

Details of the accreditation scheme and application forms are available from any office of MAF or the head office of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association in Wellington.

To Form NZDFA Branch Tonight

A Fiordland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association will be formed in Te Anau tonight.

The commitment by Te Anau Basin deer farmers, all members of a deer discussion group, was made in early June.

A spokesman for the new branch, Mr Owen Buckingham, said the discussion group members had resolved unanimously that deer farmers in the area would benefit by forming an official branch of the NZDFA.

About 70 prospective

members had been invited to tonight's inaugural meeting in The Village Inn, Mr Buckingham said.

The president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr Ian Spiers; the association's executive director, Mr David Hickman; the chairman of the Game Industry Board, Mr Tom Williams; and the board's general manager, Mr Mike Pattison will also attend the meeting.

Scheme to Combat Stock Thefts

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association has developed a national stock theft information scheme, designed to establish the extent of stock thefts and methods of dealing with them.

The idea behind the national information service is to have all victims of stock theft report their losses — not only to the police, but also to a central registry to be kept at the NZDFA office in Wellington.

The association's executive director, Mr David Hickman, said the scheme was intended to be a simple method of gathering and disseminating information to reduce the negotiability of deer and assist in the apprehension of offenders.

Deer farmers are being encouraged to report all thefts, attempted thefts, frauds, suspects and suspect vehicles to the association's office in Wellington, as well as to the police.

As soon as the office is notified of the description of the stolen animals they will be notified to stock and station firms throughout the country with the request that all deer agents be informed of the details of the missing animals.

Details of the theft and descriptions of the deer will also be sent to deer transport operators.

In the case of carcass theft, the NZDFA will advise all dealers in wild game and ask that they immediately pass the information on to their depot operators.

In both cases of theft of live animals and carcasses, full details will be published in the association's Stagline publication and in the New Zealand Deer Farmer magazine.

Mr Hickman said the success of the scheme would depend on the number of farmers who made use of it.

"Publicity for the scheme will act as a deterrent in itself, as offenders are likely to become aware that deer farmers are active in security measures and that the likelihood of apprehension is increased and the ability to sell the animal is reduced."

Pilot Walks, Crawls For Help

"You learn to keep a smile on your face," Queenstown helicopter pilot Dave Saxton said last night when reflecting on his Hughes 500C helicopter crash in a rocky gully at Matakanui on Saturday in which both his passengers were injured.

Suffering minor injuries himself Mr Saxton left his shooter, 27-year-old Craig McNab, of Haast, and another passenger, Jim Linwood, aged 32, of Omakau, propped up on the side of a hill while he made off on foot for help.

To Mr Saxton helicopter accidents are "just one of those mishaps" you expect when flying on animal recovery missions. On Saturday the three had been capturing feral goats.

"All I really thought about was the two boys lying on the hill," he said of his hour and a-half long trek to find help after the accident, in a remote area north of Omakau about midway.

His own leg was "pretty twisted" but it was something I had to do. I was the only one that could walk. If I stopped I wouldn't

have got going," he said last night.

From the air earlier in the day he recalled seeing some pine trees clustered in the distance where he thought there might be a house.

After a short while he followed a four-wheel-drive track and in the latter stages had to crawl. Mr Saxton crawled out on to a road fortunately in time to catch a passing vehicle who took him to alert the authorities.

Yesterday Mr Saxton's leg had swollen up to the groin and he could not walk.

To a man who admits to being a "bit of a veteran" when it comes to helicopter accidents the whole incident was "no great deal" and he and his passengers were just fortunate to have escaped more serious injury.

A doctor from Queenstown was flown to the scene by Mr Saxton's brother, Peter, who is his partner in Queenstown Helicopters' Heliventures. Another helicopter also flew in from Alexandra.

Messrs Linwood and McNab were flown to a waiting ambulance at the Matakanui station and after being taken to the Dunstan Hospital were transferred to Dunedin.

Mr Linwood has a fractured pelvis and Mr McNab a fractured ankle and knee, and back injuries. Both were last night progressing favourably.

Mr Saxton is still at a loss as to what happened but believes nothing malfunctioned aboard his machine.

At the time of the accident he had Mr Linwood on board and was hovering to pick Mr McNab up from a ledge.

"I don't even remember him getting in, we shot up the gully 50 to 80 yards and the shooter (McNab) must have still been hanging out the door.

"I tried to turn up the gully to pick up air speed and level up but ran out of time.

"We didn't have a show. I saw the hill coming as clear as hell and although it seemed to take a lifetime it was only about two seconds and we hit it," Mr Saxton said.

Looking back yesterday Mr Saxton feels that the accident may have been caused by two things.

With the weight of the shooter on the skids the centre of gravity was wrong and he had no rearward cyclic control.

Mr Saxton's seat had slipped earlier and he landed and adjusted it forward again. The seat may have jammed the cyclic control, he now believes.

No Control

With no control over the forward and backward movement, the helicopter was pitched precariously forward and he could not get the tail down.

He was trying to combat this by getting up some air speed and using the rudders when the crash occurred.

Peter Saxton had earlier told The Southland Times that the accident was his elder brother's sixth or seventh in his 14 years flying helicopters in animal recovery.

To Dave Saxton it was his first for eight years although he admits to a few in his earlier years.

He "hadn't got around to counting them," but recalls a few incidents including the time a deer decided to

jump in his door with disastrous results.

Asked if he was thinking of giving up flying Dave Saxton said he would bounce back.

"It's just another incident in life. You've got to accept them and look on the bright side."

Aged 40-ish, Mr Saxton said: "I'm still young enough to do another 10 years. There's a bit of life left in me yet," he said.

His wife is expecting a child in about three weeks' time and he may sit back for a week or so while the books are sorted out.

[The helicopter was insured but with the in-

surance premiums for the company's two machines exceeding \$70,000 and large excesses to be paid the accident will come as a bit of a blow.]

But on the other hand he said people were relying on him and he does not want to let them down.

Deer prices had dropped a lot and he believes the Government had let down private enterprise so a lot more work was needed to meet his commitments.

"It's a tough world and I'm in a tough game," he said remembering that he had a job to do on Wednesday. "I'll be back up all right!"

Trappers Object To Deer Pens Policy

Southern deer trappers are unhappy with a recently announced policy on deer pen licences, saying they were not consulted before the announcement.

The Southern Deer Trappers' Society, in a submission to the Southland National Parks and Reserves Board meeting yesterday, said the imposition of new policy "was in clear breach of an undertaking" given at a meeting in November last year.

The society was assured after the meeting that submissions it had made then would be considered before the final release of the policy.

"Further, we were advised that there would be consultation with the executive of our association in compiling the schedule

of undesirable pens — there has been no such consultation," the society said.

The society was also unhappy with the new fee of \$10 a month per pen, up from \$4.

"In these times of high interest rates and with GST payable soon, payment in advance is unreasonable and we propose that the fee should be two and a-half per cent of the gross revenue, in line with charges similar to other concessionaires in the park."

The board had also failed to consult the society on the deer trappers' offer to bond

its members to guarantee their performance, the society said.

"We propose that our alternative be implemented for a trial period of 12 months to enable us to demonstrate our ability to control the operators."

The parks and reserves board decided that the sub-committee formed last year to hear the submissions on the deer pen policy, should reconvene to consider the society's proposals.

The sub-committee would also consider the implications of departing from the newly-established policy.

Forced Landing By Helicopter

Two Te Anau men escaped injury after their helicopter had to make a forced landing in southern Fiordland yesterday afternoon.

Gordon Brian James Kane, the pilot, and his shooter, Nelson James Thompson, both of Te Anau, were on a deer recovery flight when the accident occurred about 12.30pm.

Constable Tim Henderson, of Te Anau, said last night it appeared the tail rotor of the Hughes 500D may have struck a tree.

A forced landing was made at the headwaters of the Cavendish river, which is in the valley west of Big River, between Port Craig and Puysegur Point.

The men walked out to the mouth of Big River, arriving about 4.30pm.

Soon after, a Southland Aero Club plane was spotted by the two, and they fired two flares, which caught the attention of the pilot.

Constable Henderson said it was a coincidence that the plane was in the area at the time.

The men had also made a message in the sand on the beach, which was relayed to police.

Constable Henderson was flown to the area by Te Anau helicopter pilot Mr Bill Black and the two men were picked up.

Because of darkness and cloudy conditions, the helicopter had to land at Tuatapere. The men returned to Te Anau by road.

Constable Henderson said an attempt will be made today to repair the damaged helicopter and fly it out.

Copter Recovered

A helicopter which made a forced landing near Big River in southern Fiordland on Friday was recovered from the area on Saturday morning.

The Hughes 500D was flown back to Te Anau suspended from another machine piloted by Mr Bill Black, of Te Anau, Con-

stable Tim Henderson, of Te Anau, said last night.

Two occupants of the helicopter, Gordon Brian James Kane and Nelson James Thompson, both of Te Anau, escaped injury when the machine went down on Friday. It was thought the tail rotor had struck a tree.

Hunting Opossums Illegally

The illegal hunting of opossums and deer in the Whisky Gully scenic reserve, near Tapanui, is causing concern to the Lands and Survey Department, which administers the area.

A spokesman for the department, Mr Greg Lynd, of Owaka, said 11 opossum carcasses were found in the area near the Tapanui water treatment plant late last week.

Two of these had obviously been trapped, but as the others had no markings it was assumed they were poisoned with cyanide.

As the area is part of the Tapanui water catchment and also a public reserve, this was a matter of some concern, he said.

It is understood two Tapanui men have permits to trap opossums in Whisky Gully, Brandy Gully and the school woodlot, but there had been little trapp-

ing recently because of bad weather.

Mr Lynd said the poaching of deer in the area was also under investigation.

"When we took over the area three years ago hunting was apparently fairly haphazard."

"We now have a system of permits and each permit holder is given a map of where they are not allowed to shoot," he said.

"This is basically 400 to 500 metres away from the stream itself and no shooting is permitted within 50 metres of the water walking track."

Mr Lynd said this was not an absolute guarantee of safety to the public, but the department recognized few people used the area in the winter while at the height of the summer it was closed to all shooting.

"However, permit-holders are reporting hear-

ing shots while in the area and occasionally meeting other hunting parties."

Mr Lynd said it was a totally unsatisfactory situation.

"We've been pretty tolerant in the past, but our patience is now at an end and we've put the situation in the hands of the police."

Deer Industry 8/8/86 Healthy

There is now a need to promote the deer industry and restore the loss of confidence brought about by the Government's changes to livestock taxation, the president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr Ian Spiers, said this week.

Mr Spiers was in the province for a brief visit with the council of the Southland branch of the NZDFA and to address the inaugural meeting of the Fiordland branch.

The Government's consultative process, regarding the changes to livestock taxation, had worked he said, and he was confident that farmers could live with the new set of rules.

However, the complicated nature of the tax provisions meant farmers would be well advised to discuss their positions with their accountants.

The deer industry was in a healthy state, in spite of the lower prices being paid for live deer he said.

"Venison is still selling well and the prospects for velvet look promising.

Profitability

"Apart from goats, deer farming offers farmers the opportunity for better profitability than other present livestock options," Mr Spiers said.

He considered now that live deer prices were down, farmers would in future have to farm for profit and not "tax breaks."

Mr Spiers listed the advantages of deer farming as:

- Versatility.
- Deer can be run on any type of country.
- High carrying capacity compared with other livestock.
- Low labour input costs.
- Tremendous conversion rate of grass to meat.
- Long breeding life.

Example

As an example of the income potential offered by deer, Mr Spiers said the venison schedule for a 55kg stag of \$6.25 would gross \$505.

After deducting all the costs for killing and processing, totalling \$177, the farmer would receive \$328, or 63 per cent of the CIF value of the carcass, compared with only 21 per cent for lamb on the Smithfield market.

"We have to continue promoting the deer industry, and the fact that it is highly organized and well researched," he said.

"Both the industry and producers are being market led and we have a determination to respond to market demands."

Six Win Ballots For 12/1/86 Deer Blocks

Six deer recovery operators have won ballots to 10 blocks in the Fiordland National Park during the 1986-87 season.

The blocks were balloted at the Lands and Survey Department by the Southland Parks and Reserves Board yesterday.

The successful operators were:

Alpine Helicopters Ltd, three blocks; M. J. and W. R. Thompson, one and a-half; Mr C. R. Deaker, one and a-half; Mr G. B. Kane, one; Mr Derek Cook, one and a-half; and Mr Jim Kane, one and a-half.

The four operators allocated an extra half block were paired to share one whole block.

The Wapiti block was excluded from the allocation of helicopter hunting blocks. Deer recovery in this area will be done by Mr Richard Hayes under a separate agreement with the department. He will work the area for 12 months.

Recovery operations will begin on October 1.

Each operator will work the block for a month and then move on to another block on a roll over basis. This will apply until April when operators can go "open slather."

"The Southland National

Parks and Reserves Board was pleased commercial helicopter operators recovered 3961 deer from Fiordland National Park in the year ending March 1, 1986. This was a 9 per cent rise on the previous year," the chairman of the board, Mr J. McFarlane, said.

With live deer prices stabilizing at one third to one half of those 12 months ago the board was pleased with the core of helicopter operators prepared to trim costs and hang on despite the economic downturn, he said.

Attempt Fails 7/10/86 To Void Deer Contract

(PA) CHRISTCHURCH

An attempt to void two contracts for sale of deer valued at \$294,750 has failed, Mr Justice Williamson has decided in a reserved judgment given in the High Court.

Ground for the attempt was that two of the animals gave positive reactions to the standard Tb inoculation.

Deer contracts involving millions of dollars may be determined on the outcome of the case.

The two deer which appeared to return the positive Tb test were slaughtered and the autopsy showed no sign of the disease, according to the evidence.

Veterinarians called by the plaintiffs said that both herds, the subject of the two contracts, were free of Tb.

Much of the argument centred on the meaning of "stock return a clear Tb test" as applying to information obtained as a result of an examination of the stock, rather than just a physical reaction to an injection.

Judgment was given for Simon Augustine Lindsay, a company employee, and Robyn Judith Lindsay, of Ohoka against Rex J. Smillie, a company director.

The case was heard over five days in July and August.

Meaning of Clause

In his judgment, Justice Williamson said the meaning of a clause relating to Tb testing in contracts for forward purchase of deer

was at the centre of the dispute.

Each contract contained a clause which stated that the vendor had to provide the purchaser with a certificate from a qualified veterinarian that the stock was Tb-tested.

The certificate had to be dated no earlier than 30 days before delivery.

Should any of the stock not return a clear test, then the agreement shall be voidable, either entirely or only as to the stock which returned a positive test.

Justice Williamson held that "a clear Tb test" must have meant a test for Tb which involved all the diagnostic procedures then available to a qualified veterinarian.

Reference to a "positive test" must involve more than a reaction to the inoculation.

Justice Williamson declared that Mr Smillie wrongfully refused to accept and pay for the deer in the three contracts which were in good quality and condition.

He ordered an inquiry as to damages, including special damages and losses sustained by the Lindsays as a result of the wrongful refusal of Mr Smillie to accept the deer.

The Lindsays were also awarded costs.

Hunt Guides 2/10/86 Form Association

(PA) WELLINGTON Registered professional hunting guides formed a national association at a meeting in Wellington yesterday.

The Professional Hunting Guides' Association will set standards of conduct for registered guides and advise the national professional hunting guides registration committee, which was established by the Minister of Forests under the Wild Animal Control Act, 1977, earlier this year.

The association elected Mr Gary Joll of Lake Tekapo as its first president.

The Forest Service director of environmental forestry, Mr Murray Hosking, said yesterday 32 professional guides were now registered.

"It is now the task of the association to set and maintain high standards in what is proving to be a fast growing tourist industry," he said.



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to be held on the property at Queenstown on Wednesday, September 17, 1986 commencing at 1.30pm

Listed below stock to be offered:

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- 7 - Danish/English x Weaner STAGS
- 44 - German/NZ x Weaner STAGS
- 17 - German/NZ x Weaner HINDS
- 10 - Danish/English x Weaner HINDS
- 60 - 3rd and 4th Calving Red HINDS

(Running with pure German stag)
AUCTIONEERS COMMENT: The dams of the German x stock are from the Count Bosenlager and Festl herds. The sire is Colin, our best Festl stag who cut 5.2kg of velvet at 3½ years. The Danish sire is from the Danish Royal Park. This is a great opportunity to purchase top continental stock.

All deer will be Tb tested and veterinary inspected. Over-riding commission of 2% to be paid to all non-participating companies.

For further details contact:

G. Deaker
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CROMWELL

Phone 51-148

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WILSON NEIL EXPORT 30/8/86 FARM DEER DIVISION WANTED

- 300 - Red Weaner Hinds, 50kg, minimum weight.
- 300 - Red First Calver Hinds
- 300 - Red MA Hinds

Large number red or hybrid weaner stags required. Must be from TB free properties.

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Impressed by Hungarian Deer Management

7/11/86

July is mid summer in Hungary and on the warmer afternoons temperatures rise to more than (30C).

This warmth, and the site of huge fields of sunflowers in full bloom, as we drove from Budapest to the major deer regions of south-west Hungary, quickly dissipated my pre-judged idea of what an Eastern Bloc country would probably look like.

My visit was on contract to Hungarian Government departments to assist them develop facilities to hold captured deer, then test and evaluate deer prior to their possible export from Hungary to countries hopefully including New Zealand.

During the two week visit, I was based in southern Hungary near the Yugoslavian border about the towns of Nagyatad, Labod and Vizvar.

South-west Hungary is reputed to have the best deer in the country. These deer, and those from just across the border in northern Yugoslavia were considered genetically similar and certainly amongst the finest red deer in Europe.

Their background includes Bohemian, Czechoslovakian and Austrian bloodlines together with those from the Carpathian mountains to the east of Hungary.

Antlers of Hungarian red deer have different shape and numbers of antler points compared with Scottish, English or German red deer.

Valued

The Hungarian heads are long and "clean" with heavy beam, valued by huntsmen as trophy heads and I would imagine by New Zealanders for their velvet yield potential.

In 1985 a red deer stag with world record weight trophy antlers of 17.4kg was shot in southern Hungary. Stags with hard antlers of 10kg are regularly obtained.

The deer also have the larger body size associated with European red deer.

Weight of stags shot during the September roar was quoted as often 185kg to 220kg (carcass less head, legs and gut), with one superior stag shot September 1985 reported at 248kg (carcass less head, legs and gut).

The best hinds also have large body size frequently of 130kg to 140kg liveweight, sometimes reaching 150kg.

These weights are an upper selection from Hungarian deer, but they illustrate both the potential to upgrade New Zealand red deer, and the class of European stock we should be seeking to import to do that job.

In Hungary, there is no deer farming as we know it but hunting wild game like duck, pheasant, fallow deer, roe deer, moufflon, wild boar and especially red deer is together a major "industry" to the country's economy.

Superb Standard

Throughout south-west Hungary the standard of management of the wild game resource is superb. All hunting is controlled and set against a well developed hunting culture and stringent hunting society ethics.

It costs hunters in the vicinity of \$NZ20,000 to shoot trophy quality rutting stags.

In Somogy county, that included the towns of Nagyatad, Labod and Vizvar, one forestry organization was responsible for an area of 104,000ha. This included some 80,000ha forestry, 60 to 70 per cent of which was oak forest of a high standard.

Whilst lush undergrowth often masked the fact, all forests were hand planted. There was a 120 year perpetual rotation so both milling and replanting progressed together.

Generally there were no fences and across large tracts of land, wild game were free to roam.

Partly to improve feeding, and sometimes to attract deer away from newly planted forests, large areas of crops are grown upon which the wild animals are free to graze.

Crops

Predominant crops were maize, sunflowers, barley and rye-corn. When ripe, the crops were machine harvested, but in the game management areas, any damage done before-hand by grazing wild animals was accepted.

Quite a different attitude was applied by state farm managers should the wild game roam out of their selected areas onto the cash-cropping co-operative farms. Hence an incentive for the game managers to

Invercargill deer consultant, Mr MIKE HARBORD, spent two weeks in July in Hungary as an adviser to the Hungarian government. In this article he reviews some of his experiences and impressions.

be efficient at their job and provide good feed to keep the free roaming wild animals within their specified "game" areas.

Like the feeding, all hunting of wild game is carefully managed. First class trophy stags are shot only during the roar. From then onwards, shooting of stags and hinds is for culling. It is mandatory to shoot weak animals or those with deformities.

The feral carcasses are retained by the Hungarian Co-operative Enterprise for Game Trading. A significant quantity of venison is exported.

Foreign hunters are always accompanied by a qualified gamekeeper who specifies which animals can be shot. Elite stags are not usually shot before their eighth year, hence they are "managed" for breeding.

Selected

From time to time, selected areas may be closed for hunting. The skills and attitudes of the gamekeepers to their hunting, and conservation of the game resource impressed me.

All hunters and most gamekeepers hated the concept of deer farming. The depth of this feeling was intense, much more so than what I had perceived before leaving New Zealand.

The Hungarians viewed their best deer as a "genetic treasure" and were keen to ensure that if some of the animals were exported, they should move to countries where the deer would be managed efficiently in herd upgrading programmes.

In this way the reputation of Hungarian deer would be enhanced. It was pleasing that in this regard the New Zealand deer industry was held in high regard by Hungarian authorities.

The temperament of Hungarian deer specifically, but of all European strains in general, has been queried by some. Some silly and

wrong statements have been made.

Flighty

The Hungarian deer were flighty but no more so than I remember recently captured deer in the early days of New Zealand deer farming. The Hungarian deer have free-range throughout their lives and are shot at frequently.

During the visit I had opportunity to enter pens of recently captured deer. By taking the usual steps of approaching quietly, talking in a soothing way and not rushing things, both stags and hinds did settle in their pens and could be handled quite well. I for one hold no qualms about their temperament or their ability to adapt to a farm situation.

It was difficult to get close up views of the free-roaming wild deer. Best views came during evenings whilst sitting high in huntsmen's "hides" located all around the deer areas.

On one evening, a mob of 58 adult stags emerged from surrounding bush to graze a 10ha maize crop. On another, some 15 hinds plus several wild boar came very close to our "hide" overlooking a barley crop.

This latter experience intrigued me. A tarsealed road passed along one edge of the barley and as dusk approached the "wild deer" came from the bush to graze, apparently undisturbed by the buses, trucks and cars that not infrequently passed nearby.

SUCCESSFUL WAPITI 20/10/86 FIELD DAY

Deer farmers have earned a reputation for professionalism when it comes to promotion, and yesterday's wapiti field day at Winton was no exception.

In fact, the success of the programme, organized by the recently established New Zealand Wapiti Society, and the size of the crowd which attended, may have even surprised the organizing committee.

More than 200 deer farmers, many of them from throughout the South and North Islands, were attracted to Mr Jack Pullar's property for the event, the first to be held by the wapiti group.

Bus Tours

The afternoon's programme began with a series of bus tours which enabled the public to view a selection of the wapiti, Canadian elk and hybrid deer being farmed by Mr Pullar.

This was followed with talks by farmers and scientists from Invermay who presented papers on many aspects of the deer farming industry and the larger deer breeds in particular.

In cognizance of the vagaries of Southland weather, the crowd was comfortably accommodated in a large marquee.

A range of trade displays, including a carcass cutting demonstration by Game Foods (NZ) Ltd, helped to give a well-balanced overview of the deer industry.

The size of Canadian elk and wapiti is impressive — perhaps even intimidating to some people. But, Mr Pullar said: "Don't associate size with aggression. Some of the largest animals are the quietest in the shed."

"Historic" Event

Mr Piers Hunt, the North Island vice-president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, described the wapiti field day as an historic event.

The deer industry was still in its infancy and changes were continually taking place, he said, citing as examples the marketing activities of the Game Industry Board and the rise of special interest groups, each with its own aims and objectives.

The setting up of the New Zealand Wapiti Society and moves to establish a fallow deer society were two such special interest groups which "quite rightly" were promoting their breeds, Mr Hunt said.

He believed such groups would be good for the deer industry.

"However, it would be a pity if separate breed societies were to weaken the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association," he added.

As part of the association, special interest groups could give it depth and strength to deal with issues affecting the total deer industry including tackling political matters, Mr Hunt said.

The New Zealand Wapiti Society chairman, Mr Tim Wallis, said the society had been founded by deer farmers who believed that the breed should be identified and promoted.

"There are many farmers throughout New Zealand who are farming elk and wapiti type animals," he said.

The society meant they could now meet as a group and discuss matters specifically relating to the larger breeds and work towards promoting both the wapiti-type venison and velvet products.

"The venison needs to be marketed and identified as being wapiti-type.

"The velvet also needs to be specially marketed so that farmers can receive a better price," he said.

Congratulated

Mr Wallis congratulated the local organizing committee on the format and success of the society's inaugural field day.

"I am very encouraged by the large number of people who attended especially to see people here from the North Island," he said.

Promoting Deer Farming

(PA) WELLINGTON
Investment in deer farming for good financial returns is being promoted in a book launched yesterday, aimed at both Queen street farmers and the rural kind.

The book, "Deer Farming — A Profitable Alternative," would be distributed to the financial community throughout New Zealand, the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association said.

Deer farming was better than ever before, due to substantially lower live-stock prices and healthy returns from both venison and velvet, the president of the association, Mr Ian Spiers, said.

Accountants, investment analysts and farm consultants have researched and identified the potential returns of deer farming for the publication, Mr Spiers said.

Farmers could expect a return of 37 per cent, before taking investment in land and facilities into account, a chartered accountant, Mrs Alison Dinsdale, has calculated in the book.

In a separate calculation Mrs Dinsdale came up with a 20.1 per cent return for the off-farm investor.



Southland deer farmers have begun one of their major annual tasks, velvetting, or harvesting, soft antlers. The antlers are exported to eastern countries, such as Korea, where they are processed into pharmaceutical products. This impressive line-up of three to four-year-old New Zealand red stags was photographed on Mr Herby Whyte's Ryal Bush property yesterday.

Copter Pilot Fined

(PA) CHRISTCHURCH
A Nelson helicopter pilot who used an imposter to sit examinations for his commercial pilot's licence two years ago was fined a total of \$7500 in the Christchurch District Court yesterday.

Judge Colin Fraser sentenced Gary Michael Hollows, of Upper Moutere, who had been convicted on five charges associated with the sitting of examinations in Invercargill in 1984 for his commercial helicopter pilot's licence.

He was charged in the Nelson District Court with forging examination papers in

aviation law and publications, flight navigation, meteorology, principles of flight and aircraft performance and general aircraft technical knowledge.

At the Nelson hearing, it was said that Hollows was the last of four people who used an imposter to sit a total of 19 papers at various South Island venues.

Because a commercial licence entitled a holder to fly commercially in any country in the world, the implication that unqualified pilots had used fraudulent means to gain licences was of "immense" concern to the police and the civil aviation authorities, the police prosecutor said.

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FROM NOVEMBER 17, 1986 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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AP1	-14mm	+70.0	5.50
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	6.00
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	6.00
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	5.00
AF	Overfat		4.00
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22/11/86 TENDER STAGS

Central Southland Deer Farmer wishes to Tender 250 Red
Deer Yearling Stags for sale or slaughter.

PRICE: The tender price will be per kg liveweight at mid
December 1986 weighing.

PAYMENT: 25% of tender price at time of weighing, balance
at time of killing but no later than April 30, 1987.

Free grazing until April 30, 1987.

Tenders to be marked "Red Deer Tender," close with
Southland Farmers' Co-operative Association Ltd, PO Box
814, Invercargill, Friday, December 12, 1987.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

116329v3



FIRST ANNUAL ELITE DEER SALE

A/C Ngapahu Deer Co Limited
Hamilton

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INSIGNIS DEER SALES COMPLEX
CHRISTCHURCH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1986
COMMENCING AT 1.30pm

PYNE, GOULD, GUINNESS LIMITED has much pleasure in
announcing his the First Annual Elite Deer Sale on account
Ngapahu Deer Company Limited

The Offering Will Comprise:

10 — Two Year Red Breeding Stags
— Rakaia Bloodlines

150 — One Year Red Hinds

— These hinds have been selected from many top South
Island Bloodlines

All animals will be weighed on the day of sale

All animals will be TB tested

And from a TB free property

A 2% over-riding commission will be offered to all
participating companies which are members of the Stock
and Station Agent Association, introducing purchasers
prior to the sale.

Catalogues will be available from the vendors agents, or on
the day of sale.

Inquiries: RON SCHROEDER
Business: (03) 798-600

A/Hours (03) 327-316

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CHRISTCHURCH

115419v2

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all grades of velvet. Purchases can be
negotiated on your property or at our
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Friday 2pm until 4pm.

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1st ANNUAL SELECTED MASTER STAG SALE

To be held at Mr Garry Harding's Deer Complex, Haumoana,
Hastings.

**Thursday 11 December
at 1p.m.**

30 PERFORMANCE RECORDED SELECTED 3YR OLD STAGS
— PLUS —

— 1 x 4 yr old English Stag Ex: Wentworth; — 1 x 3 yr old
English Stag Ex: J.C.B.; — 1 x 3 yr old English Cross sired by
Whitley Otways - "Charles"; — 1 x 5 yr old Stag Ex: Bob Swan
(Sire: "Big Dad"); — 1 x 5 yr old Stag Ex: Mt Hutt Station; —
1 x 6 yr old Stag Ex: Dunrobin

VENDORS:

Central Game Partnership; Taniwha Game (Mr B.E. & Mrs
R.D. Mabin); Haunui Farm (Mr D.C. Maling); Deer
Enterprises (R.J. & J.M. Herrick); Porangahau Deer Farm (Mr
J.S. Tully); Wentworth (Alison and John Kerr).

Records and Velvet available for inspection on Sale Day.
Pre-Sale inspection available by appointment. For further
information contact:
Merryn Herrick (0728) 66-815; Philip Irwin (070) 449-439;
Russell Black (070) 775-058



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1st

PRODUCTION SELECTED BREEDING STAG SALE

To be held on the property, Takapau
DECEMBER 12TH 1986
at 1.00 pm.

Light lunch available.

25 SELECTED BREEDING STAGS

Rakaia and Southland bloodlines, selected
on Temperament, Body Size and Velvet
Production.

SIRES: 1st and 2nd National Velvet
Competition 1985.

100 RED YEARLING HINDS

Stock can be inspected prior to sale day by
appointment. Records and Velvet available
for inspection on sale day.

T.B. STATUS: Whole herd testing since
1980. Two whole herd tests completed.
Final test for accreditation March 1987.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: The Auctioneers will offer a
rebate commission to non-participating
companies and to independent agents
subject to arrangements prior to sale.

For further details please contact:
Ian Spiers Ph: (0728) 58-010; John Spiers
Ph: (0728) 58-007; Merryn Herrick Ph:
(0728) 66-815; Philip Irwin Ph: (070) 449-
439; John Ford Ph: (0728) 87-098; Russell
Greville Ph: (0728) 88-427.

**AUCTIONEERS: WRIGHTSON DALGETY LTD
& WILLIAMS & KETTLE LTD**



SELLING

24

TOP MASTER STAGS

Rakaia Bloodlines

SKAGEN BORN AND BRED

by **AUCTION** at

SKAGEN Paget Road, Takapau,
Hawke's Bay

**Saturday Dec. 13 1986
11 am.**

(Light refreshments served before & after sale)

Viewing by arrangement
week prior to sale

Merryn Herrick PH: (0728) 66-815
Colin Young PH: (0653) 28-881
Philip Irwin PH: (070) 449-439
Russell Black PH: (070) 775-058

OR

Bruce C. Thomsen PH: (0728) 58-345
Clinton J. Thomsen PH: (0728) 58-404

Wrightson Dalgety



Deer Services

A Division of Wrightson NMA Limited

134737v2

Sat Pilot Examinations For Friends

3/12/86

(Special)

A Hokitika company manager and holder of a commercial pilot's licence for helicopters, and who helped two pilot friends to obtain their commercial licences by sitting their examination papers, was fined a total of \$15,000 and sentenced to six months' periodic detention when he appeared for sentence in the Christchurch District Court yesterday.

The defendant, Stephen James Keenan, aged 28, had pleaded guilty, before a scheduled trial by jury was to have taken place, to 19 charges of forgery relating to the examination papers.

The charges were that Keenan forged examination papers for various subjects for the commercial pilot's licence in helicopters, for the four pilots, at Timaru, Invercargill and Queenstown between November 1981, and November 1984.

Two men have already been convicted and fined in the Christchurch District Court on charges of forgery by getting Keenan to sit examination papers on their behalf, in Invercargill and Timaru.

One was fined \$1500 on each of eight charges and the other \$1500 on each of five charges.

The two other pilots for whom Keenan admitted sitting examination papers still have to be dealt with.

Altruism

Defence counsel, Mr Kelvin Marks, of Dunedin, submitted before Judge Colin Fraser imposed his sentence that the defendant, had committed the offences out of a misguided sense of altruism for his personal friends.

The four men concerned had a good working knowledge of the subjects involved in the examinations, but simply did not have the ability to pass the examinations.

His Honour said he accepted from the number of testimonials produced, and counsel's submissions, that Keenan was a responsible and reputable citizen, and highly regarded in the community in which he lived.

He said these attributes "consort rather uncomfortably on the course of cheating and fraud he embarked on over several years," in sitting the other pilots' examinations.

The senior probation officer, Mr Adrian Ramsay, said in a verbal probation report on Keenan that he owned a deer and cattle farm near Hokitika, and was a partner in a sphagnum moss processing company, which employed 15 staff.

He came from a good family and had no previous convictions.

Mr Marks, in submissions lasting more than half an hour, sought "a degree of leniency" in sentencing because of the mitigating factors which he detailed.

Waste

He submitted that it would be a waste of Keenan's ability to assist in the community, if a prison sentence was imposed.

Keenan was a first offender, with an otherwise impeccable character, Mr Marks said.

He said the four pilot friends for whom he sat examinations were all experienced and competent private pilots, particularly

in the areas in which they sought to operate commercially, in the deer recovery industry on the West Coast.

The two friends who obtained their commercial licences as a result of Keenan passing their examinations had maintained excellent records in their flying and one had been involved in search and rescue work and had received police and other authorities commendations, and had been responsible for rescuing six persons.

Mr Marks said Keenan was initially asked by one friend to sit an examination in meteorology for him, as he had failed it previously.

Reluctant

These things had a habit of getting around, Mr Marks said, and he had the other requests from friends. He was reluctant to assist, and had decided that the fourth incident would be the last.

He had gone into the offences in a totally misguided sense of friendship, co-operation and altruism.

Mr Marks said Keenan had not comprehended the enormity of his offending, and that what he was doing was forgery. He had believed cheating at examinations to be a much less serious matter.

CHRISTCHURCH

Counsel submitted that the safety aspect was not a predominant factor. The four candidates already had private licences and could carry passengers and engage in deer recovery.

The only change from what they were already doing was that the commercial licence entitled them to operate for hire or reward.

Deliberate Deceit

Mr David Saunders, for the Crown, said the offences were not isolated, and had occurred over three years, and involved a deliberate course of deceit over three years.

Seeking a deterrent sentence, he said such offences could undermine the integrity of such qualifications, if persons were able to become imposters and sit examinations on behalf of others.

His Honour said one of the serious features of this case was the number of offences.

He said he regarded Keenan's part in the offences as much more culpable than that of the other offenders.

The fines imposed on Keenan were \$1500 for one offence and \$750 on each of the others.



Wrightson Dalgety

A Division of Wrightson NMA Ltd

FIRST NORTH ISLAND VELVET POOL RESULTS

Prices achieved for 1986/87 No 1 North Island Velvet Pool were:

GRADE	PRICE PER KG
SA1	126.00
SA2	126.00
A1	120.80
A2	113.00
A3	115.45
A4	104.00
B1	103.00
B2	103.50
B3	101.00
B4	96.00
C1	88.50
C2	85.70
C3	83.00
C4	82.00
D1	45.00
D2	41.00
D3	65.00
D4	55.00
TW1	96.00
TW2	96.00
TW3	91.00
TW4	91.00
SPIKER	16.00
R/S	11.50
OG	33.00
KILLED	73.00
SKULL ON	56.00

First South Island Pool closes Monday, December 8 at 5pm. Please contact your local Wrightson Dalgety Deer Representative.

104779v3

13/12/86 VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM DECEMBER 1, 1986 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	5.50
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	6.00
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	6.00
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	5.00
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



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FIORDLAND DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION

BOX 175
TE ANAU

FIORDLAND BRANCH
OF THE DEER
FARMERS
ASSOCIATION

First Annual Velvet
Offering

Will provide a venue for velvet producers to offer their product for sale. The main velvet purchasing agents will be in attendance.

December 11 1986
Time 10am onwards

Venue
Industrial Building, cnr Sandy Brown Road and Milford Road.

Conditions
Producers under no obligation to sell, small registration fee to display velvet. Luncheon refreshments available on site. Short term freezing space available.

DON'T MISS THIS
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
TO OFFER YOUR VELVET
AND ACHIEVE
TOP RETURNS.

Inquiries Box 175, Te Anau or phone Secretary Tick Paulin, 7870 Te Anau.

120656v2

Deer Farming Forging Ahead

8/12/86

By Walter Sommerville

Deer farming in Southland looks to be forging ahead again with renewed confidence now everyone knows the implications of the new livestock tax laws.

After the ill-timed and disastrous livestock tax changes announced by the Government in December last year, the whole farming industry has settled down and can now plan ahead.

For now, there is virtually no way a Government can radically alter the value of stock (downwards) by introducing new tax laws. They have bottomed out because there is no "tax incentive" left as such, the whole livestock industry now is tax neutral.

Now farmers and their advisers can do budgets knowing that they are working from the floor and cannot fall.

With this background it is now a good time for farmers to look at alternative types of livestock and, to this end, deer farming is certainly a good investment.

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Assn have just published a booklet called "Deer Farming — a Profitable Alternative." This booklet explains the returns of several types of deer farming and investment in that industry.

The authors of the various articles are well respected in their fields and the booklet has a host of other useful information besides.

The highlight for deer farmers at this year's Southland A & P Summer Show is the national velvet competition run by the Southland Branch NZDA. The velvet competition now has world status. The Korean delegation from

their Pharmaceutical Traders Assn who were at last year's Show and also helped judge the velvet were amazed at the quality.

In fact, one even remarked that they did not know that there was so much good velvet available let alone to see it all in one place.

Velvet, of course, has for centuries been used for Oriental health medicines.

The West has, up until recently, been very sceptical of these claims, but recent research being carried out by the Hong Kong and Seoul Universities into Oriental medicines is proving that deer velvet does in

fact have a real place in preventative medicine.

The Western world it would seem could benefit a lot from the use of "natural" medicines and move away from some of the synthetics with their side-effects.

The velvet competition has of course had a real "local" spin-off (if you can call New Zealand wide local), and, that is, past winners have had a terrific demand for progeny of the stag that has won.

So to this end with farmers looking for better and better herd sires, the competition is one way of identifying these outstanding animals.

The Southland Branch of the NZ Deer Farmers' Assn are proud of their Deer Court and members have put in a real effort in organizing this year's display.

A microwave venison cooking display will be running in the Deer Court on both days, along with a stag weight-guessing competition and the prize for the correct entry is a microwave oven.

This has of course a wider appeal than just to farmers because the cooking of meat by New Zealanders is a tradition but the cooking of venison by microwave is a fairly new development, but both are here to stay.



In their efforts to improve the velvet yield deer farmers have looked to Europe and have imported some outstanding animals. The above herd is from a 2½ year old German stag.

Elders PASTORAL

ELDERS PASTORAL LTD

PREMIER RED DEER SALE STANFIELD PARK IMPORTED DEER STUD FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1987 1pm

Stanfield is proud to offer its second annual draft of genuine capital stock from world famous Warnham Park and Rossegg Park Austria.

Sires up to 8.2kg hard antler 5 years and 5.5kg hard antler 3 years.

13/12/86

FEATURING ACCOUNT STANFIELD PARK

- 14 2 year Warnham x New Zealand stags expected sale liveweight 145 to 180kg presented in full antlers
- 5 yearling Warnham x New Zealand stags November 20. 103 to 123 kg liveweight. These are our best 1 year males without exception.
- 2 yearling hinds by Sam our heaviest Warnham sire.

INVITED ENTRIES

- OTUITI LODGE OHAUPO 13 year Woburn stag in full head 170kg at 2 years
- 2 — 2 year old Warnham x New Zealand stags

M. & D. ROSS, HELENSVILLE

- 1 — 2 year Woburn x New Zealand stag October 14 135kg
- 1 — 1 year Woburn x New Zealand Hind October 14 79kg
- * Sire of above stag cut 5kg Super A this year at 6 years old

SPRINGHILL DEER FARM, TAUPŌ

- 2 — 2 year Warnham x New Zealand stags
- 2 — 2 year Woburn x New Zealand stags

UNIQUE FIRST OFFERING IN NEW ZEALAND

- Account Stanfield Park and Otuiti Lodge
- 2 Yugoslavian Yearlings by son of Leopold Stag "Baron" November 20 116kg liveweight
- Hind November 20 87kg liveweight
- Plus "Herman" 19 month Austrian x Woburn Stag 92kg at 9 months, in 1st head.

NOTE:

These are the first Eastern Bloc deer to be offered in New Zealand and the first descendants of Leopold to be offered. "Stanfield Park is accredited TB free."

For further details contact Clive Jermy Maungatautari (071272) 843

R. B. Nolan, Hamilton (071) 496-245

Colin Bolton, Elders, Hamilton (071) 64-717

Elders Hamilton (071) 80-959 and All Elders Branches

OVERRIDING COMMISSION WILL BE PAID TO NON PARTICIPATING COMPANIES 2.5%
ELDERS PASTORAL, HAMILTON

ATTENTION

PPCS

SHAREHOLDERS

13/12/86



- To avoid a monopoly in the meat industry our producer owned co-operatives must work together
- Past performance in commodity trading will not ensure a future in consumer marketing
- Venison marketing must avoid the pitfalls of past sheep meat marketing disasters
- It is essential we embark on a producer owned and directed marketing thrust into North America and Japan
- A rapidly changing meat industry requires new people with new initiatives
- Allow me to represent you on the Board of Directors by voting NOW

OWEN BUCKINGHAM
2RD TE ANAU
Voting closes December 16.

126768v2

Hungarian

16/12/86 Deer Admitted

(PA) WELLINGTON

The first of a series of importations of top class Hungarian red deer left quarantine in Wellington yesterday having passed all required tests, Wrightson Dalgety Ltd said yesterday.

The deer were imported by the Hungarian deer syndicate made up of three leading New Zealand deer farms, Dunrobin station, Tasman Forestry Ltd and Wilson Neill Ltd.

Negotiations which began in 1983 have culminated in several substantial consignments from south west Hungary to Britain.

The consignments were put together by Wrightson NMA Ltd, the New Zealand agent.

Wrightson Dalgety said the red deer involved came from the Somogy region in the south-west of Hungary, an area known in particular for the production of world record trophy heads.

EASTERN DEER CORPORATION LIMITED

OUTSTANDING DEER AGENTS

17/12/86 REQUIRED

As part of its development in the Deer Industry Eastern Deer Corporation is establishing a nationwide live deer marketing agency.

We invite applications from proven performers who:

★ Are recognised stock judges

★ Currently display a high degree of professionalism

★ Want to earn above market remuneration directly related to their input
Agents are required for locations in both Islands. The feature of this independent agency will be its professionalism and speed of communication, with the support of New Zealand's only publicly listed deer company. For further information contact Eastern Deer Corporation, PO Box 50, Waipawa or phone (0728) 78-040.

101271v2

Prize-winning Velvet

Stag Fetches

\$24,000

(PA) ^{23/12/86} TAURANGA
A Te Puke-bred master stag fetched top price of \$24,000 at auction at Rangiora on Saturday.

Offered by Te Ranga Deer Farm Ltd, the animal was bought by Mr Graeme Shirley, of Manawahe.

Other leading prices included \$5250 paid for another Te Ranga five-year-old animal, \$4250 for a Matawai stag and \$4800 for a third Te Ranga sire.

A total of 20 breeding stags was offered and according to the Wrightson Dalgety Ltd deer officer, Mr Jack James, there was a strong interest in older, mature animals with prices higher than last year. Demand for two-year-old animals was down.

He attributed this to the greater stud breeding capacity of older stags.

The range of prices was: two-year-olds \$1300 to \$1950; three-year-olds \$3100 to \$4000; four and five-year-olds \$4250 to \$24,000.

Velvet

National velvet competition — Wilson Neill New Zealand Red Deer Trophy: C. L. Cox (Canterbury) 1, J. and W. Gregory (Nelson) 2, N. Hall (Waikato) 3, N. S. Beatson (Timaru) 4.

Deer and Game Services Invitation Cup for imported red deer: D. R. Deadman (Bay of Plenty) 1, D. R. Deadman 2, P. Fraser (Rotorua) 3, M. Ross (Kaipara) 4.

KPTA Trophy for maiden New Zealand red deer: C. L. Cox (Canterbury) 1, J. and W. Gregory (Nelson) 2, N. S. Beatson (Timaru) 3, P. Fraser (Rotorua) 4.

Wrightson Dalgety All Comers Trophy, open class: C. L. Cox and D. R. Deadman equal 1, D. R. Deadman and Foveron Deer Park Kurow equal 3, J. and W. Gregory (Nelson) 5.

Alpine Helicopters Challenge Trophy for Wapiti-elk cross: Foveron Deer Park (Kurow) 1, Criffel Deer Farm (Wanaka) 2, J. G. Munro (Winton) 3, W. A. Hamilton (Queenstown) 4.

Wrightson Dalgety Southern Trophy for Southland red deer: J. A. Cowie (Winton) 1, J. A. Cowie 2, H. J. Whyte (Ryal Bush) 3, W. Payne (Winton) 4.



One of the most successful exhibitors in the national velvet competition at this year's Southland A and P summer show, Mr D. R. Deadman, of the Bay of Plenty, displays his entry of imported red deer velvet. Mr Deadman won the Deer and Game Services Invitation Cup and the Wrightson Dalgety All Comers Trophy in conjunction with Mr C. L. Cox, of Canterbury.

MONARCH STAG GROUP



Coringa Park
Heatherlea Deer Park
High Peak Station
Mt Hutt Station
Mt Peel Station
Mt Somers Station

The combining of these prominent Canterbury Deer Farming Properties provides an outstanding resource of superior RAKAIA RED STAGS. From a large combined genetic base of 10,000 deer using proven methods of recording and selection, the Monarch Stag Group produces deer of superior genetic merit, selected for:

- GOOD TEMPERAMENT
- SUPERIOR LEAN BODY WEIGHTS
- OPTIMAL WEIGHT OF VELVET
- TOP FAWNING PERCENTAGES UNDER NATURAL CONDITIONS

Second Annual Sale of Unreserved Elite Stags

SELECTED RAKAIA RED STAG AUCTION

Insignis Park, Ryans Road, Christchurch
Monday 15th December, 1986
Commencing 2pm

INSPECTION

Stags can be inspected on the vendors' properties as from Dec 1st by prior arrangement with the vendors' agents, or at Insignis Park from 11am on the day of sale. This season's velvet production from each sale stag may be viewed on the vendors' properties by prior arrangement.

AUCTIONEERS

PYNE GOULD GUINNESS LTD
(in association with The Deer Force)

P.O. Box 112, Christchurch. Telephone (03) 798-600
After hours: Ron Schroeder (03) 327-316

WRIGHTSON DALGETY

P.O. Box 292, Christchurch. Telephone (03) 796-460
After hours: John MacDonald (03) 584-299

Stag Prices 16/12/86 Erratic

(PA)

CHRISTCHURCH

Prices fluctuated widely for Rakaia-bred red stags at the second annual sale in Christchurch yesterday of performance recorded progeny from the Monarch Stag Group.

The top price was \$11,500, paid for a three-year-old animal, but several other stags with similar or even better body-weight and velvet production records failed to arouse enthusiasm from buyers.

Eight stags were passed in and eight others ranged from \$2700 (little more than the value of a breeding hind) to \$4400. Other sales were between \$7600 and \$9500.

The average price for 16 stags was \$5075, down almost \$900 on last year's sale, when 33 stags were sold.

Six large Canterbury deer farms make up the Monarch group, which has a combined genetic base of 10,000 deer.

Selection criteria include temperament, lean body

weights, velvet weight and fawning percentages under natural conditions.

Vendors yesterday were generally disappointed at the subdued interest in their selected sires, although prices were better than those received at some recent sales in the North Island.

The top price was received by Mt Peel station, which sold three other stags at \$8000 and \$4000 (twice).

Mt Somers station had sales at \$3000 and \$2700. Heatherlea Deer Park sold stags at \$7800, \$7600 and \$4000 and Mt Hutt station received prices of \$9500, \$8000 (twice), and \$6800.

Two stags from High Peak station made \$3400 and \$2900 and Coringa Park had one sale at \$4400.



BLUE MOUNTAINS RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA

Permit issue in the Blue Mountain's Recreational Hunting Area will be centralised to the New Zealand Forest Service District Office in Tapanui as of February 2, 1987.

Hunters are requested to comply with the following requirements when applying for hunting permits in the future:

1. All weekend hunting block bookings must be made in writing one full calendar month before the intended month of hunting eg: a weekend application to hunt in June must be in before the end of April.

2. Weekday applications must be in by 12.00 noon Thursday of this week before intended hunting.

3. Day to day hunting applications can still be made by calling into the District Office during office hours to pick up a permit for any free blocks still available. (Corner of Northumberland and Norfolk Streets, Tapanui). Phone bookings will not be accepted.

All applications and for further details please write to the.

Environmental Forest Officer
PO Box 7
Tapanui

VENISON SCHEDULE

3/1/87 FROM 05/01/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	5.00
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	5.50
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	5.50
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	4.50
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



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123 188x3

Te Anau Velvet Sale Success



ALL OF THE 1150kg of velvet offered at the first velvet sale day held in Te Anau was sold on Thursday.

The sale was organized by the Fiordland branch committee of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association and both buyers and producers said the sale was

a well-organized and worthwhile affair.

Producers were under no obligation to sell, and the sale operated on a closed tender system.

Buyers who attended were Pyne Gould Guinness in association with Southland Farmers' Co-op, Taimex Trading and L. R. McLean and Company.

There was some disappointment that one of the largest buyers of velvet in New Zealand, Wrightson Dalgety, did not attend the sale.

Speaking for Pynes, Mr Ron Schroeder said he was happy with the quality of the offering and the firm would be back next year.

"The sale was a good idea as it gave buyers the opportunity of viewing and buying a quantity of velvet without having to go from farm to farm," he said.

From the producers' viewpoint Te Anau deer farmer Mr Richard Hayes said the sale was a worthwhile exercise as it catered for both small and large producers of velvet.

He hoped the sale would be held again next year.

Pictured: Mr Ron Schroeder from Pyne Gould Guinness weighs velvet watched by Mr John Duncan from Southland Farmers' Co-op.

10/1/87 VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 12/01/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	4.50
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	5.00
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	5.00
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	4.00
AF	Overfat		3.50
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.00
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.00

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Your Local PPCS Ltd Drafter

Deer Embryo Transplants Success

30/12/86

By Agricultural Editor
JOHN CUTT

A possible world first in the survival of Canadian elk progeny from embryo transplants has been achieved by the combined efforts of two deer farmers and a Winton veterinary team.

Embryo transplanting, a recognized technique for rapidly increasing the numbers of superior livestock, has assumed considerable prominence in the developing goat industry.

However previous attempts, both in New Zealand and overseas, to use the method on deer have been unsuccessful.

A similar programme at Taupo to that undertaken by the Winton veterinary team resulted in a number of Canadian elk calves being born last year, but failing to survive.

This month, the first of four embryo transplanted elk calves were delivered by Caesarean birth on Mr Gordon McDonald's Dipton deer farm.

The veterinarian principally responsible for the programme, Mr Mike Bringans, said there were not many superior purebred Canadian elk in the country and embryo transplanting seemed the best method of achieving a rapid increase in numbers.

"We can import animals from other countries by importing frozen embryos and implanting them into recipients, rather than importing the live animals," Mr Bringans said.

Hassles

Live animal imports involved many hassles, he said, including the cost of buying the animals, quarantine and freight charges and the ever present fear of importing diseases.

Embryo importation eliminated such problems, he said.

Mr Bringans had originally intended to import Canadian elk embryos, but a trip to Canada last year failed to produce a worthwhile number of viable embryos.

So the decision was taken to test the procedure on purebred elk already in New Zealand.

Rangiora deer farmer Mr John Barber, formerly of Winton, and Mr McDonald

agreed to co-operate in the trial by each donating one purebred elk and Mr McDonald supplying five recipient red deer, in which the embryos were implanted.

The two purebred elk cows were taken to Mr Bringans's farm, at Oreti, where they were programmed with superovulating drugs to produce more eggs than they would normally.

They were then mated to purebred Canadian elk bulls. The fertilized eggs were flushed and collected on April 4 and surgically implanted in the recipient red hinds.

A Canadian veterinarian, Mr Martin Wenkoff, who has been involved in similar research, assisted Mr Bringans and his associate, Mr Dave Lawrence, in the transfer operation.

"We got two fertilized

eggs from John Barber's cow and three good fertilized eggs from Mr McDonald's animal," Mr Bringans said.

Proved

"So we proved that elk eggs can be viable and probably more viable than goats in terms of survivability."

After the eggs were flushed from the donor elk cows the animals were again treated with fertility drugs and left to mate naturally.

"The important thing is that you can flush the animals at the start of the season and then they can get into calf again themselves 10 to 12 days later."

"So that way you don't end up with late calves and you are increasing the progeny from your top stock," Mr Bringans said.

That feature of the programme was highlighted in the case of Mr McDonald's elk cow which had had a dead calf in each of the previous two seasons. This year through the embryo transplanting the cow has produced two live calves and also carried her own.

As soon as the fertilized eggs had been flushed from the donor animals they were collected and taken to the Winton veterinary surgery and held in an incubator for about five hours until the recipient red deer were ready for implanting at 7 o'clock the same night.

"We did them all in the one night finishing about 3am in the morning," Mr Bringans said.

Monitored

After the eggs were implanted the recipient animals were returned to Mr McDonald's Dipton farm where they were closely

monitored during the gestation period.

"There have been a lot of elk flushed in Canada but with very limited success in finding fertilized eggs," Mr Bringans said.

He thought the reason for the success of the local programme had been earlier trials which had determined the correct formulation of the superovulating drugs and the good condition of both the donor and recipient animals.

"The interesting thing was the eggs were all the same age but the first hind started calving at 254 days and the last one at 262 days."

"That proves that it is the fawn which dictates how long the hind will carry it, because a red hind usually carries for 233 days and these hinds carried the elk calves for around 260 days."

Another run of 12 elk cows is being planned for next year to prove the success of this year's programme.

The next step would be to bring in frozen Canadian elk embryos, Mr Bringans said.

Exciting

Mr McDonald described the experience as "quite exciting and far beyond anything we've ever done in farming."

"When you become involved in something that has been tried elsewhere and failed, and it turns out a success, then you've got to be thrilled about it."

Both he and Mrs McDonald described the technique as "mind-boggling," but Mr Bringans proved it can be done under excellent veterinary techniques practice.

"There was nothing in it that would stop us from trying it again."



This vigorous Canadian elk calf, born this month on Mr Gordon McDonald's Dipton property, was the first of four embryos transferred from elk cows into red deer hinds by a Winton veterinary team in April.

RSPCA Critical Of Hunting Ranches

30/12/86

(PA)

The RSPCA has criticized safari hunting ranches where tourists hunt and kill deer trapped in an enclosure.

National director of the society, Mr Neil Wells, said safari hunting conducted at places such as Mt Hutt station's Guaranteed Trophy Ranch was not sport.

"Sport is a hunter putting his expertise against an animal, but to enclose an animal ... that's only a gimmick," he said yesterday.

Mt Hutt station has an enclosure of about 121ha in which it keeps 80 to 100 fallow deer and about 30 red deer, the station manager, Mr Keith Hood, said.

For \$1500 a tourist can shoot a fallow deer and for \$2000 a red deer. A trophy is guaranteed because the deer cannot escape.

Mr Hood said the scheme was designed for tourists 60 to 70 years old and not capable of walking very far. About 30 people had used the enclosure.

Mr Wells said that if the tourists were "too infirm to hunt in the real outback then they are too infirm to carry a rifle." They should use a camera if they wanted the thrill of the hunt in those conditions.

Few People

Mr Hood said tourists were brought to the station to hunt by Wildlife Safaris, a Christchurch firm. How-

ever, few people had been coming lately.

Most of the deer used were old farm deer — "they are just animals that we have farmed out. Instead of them going into Canterbury venison for \$300 we can get the extra."

He said the deer were getting an extended life by being in the enclosure.

"What is the difference between farming them and keeping them for ranch hunting?" he asked. In England, deer were still hunted by hounds.

"Running deer to the ground with dogs must be a darn sight crueller than what we are doing."

He said the average New Zealander had everything at the back door. Most tourists gave themselves only a few days to hunt.

Enclosure hunting allowed them to get a trophy in the limited time.

Six Years

Mr Hood said Mt Hutt station had been running safari hunting for about six

years and the enclosure had plenty of scrub for deer to hide in.

Mr Wells said the argument that the deer were only going to the venison factory was "rather specious."

"It is the same argument that some farmers use for the live-sheep situation — that the sheep are going to the slaughter house anyway so they are getting a free sea trip," he said.

Hygiene regulations meant the humane aspect of animal slaughter in a factory were tighter. And while guaranteed trophy hunting probably encouraged tourist dollars, people had to draw a line.

"We are opposed to bullfights here, but they would attract tourist dollars. If that is to be the criterion then the public would have to say bullfights are acceptable," Mr Wells said.

Executive director of the Deer Farmers' Association, Mr David Hickman, said the association did not have a policy on guaranteed tro-

phy hunting but it would probably support it.

There was cruelty in all forms of sport.

"Thousands of amateur hunters go into State

forests and shoot, trap and poison all manner of animals. The cruelty angle only arises over how good a shot they are," he said.

The type of person who would pay \$2000 to shoot a deer would probably be a good shot.

Safari hunting was a good diversification for farmers, he said, and he thought there was a good future for such safaris.

ASHBURTON

Technical Supervisor Venison 17/12/86

With the growth of the deer farming industry and the need to develop advanced venison cutting and packaging techniques the company wishes to appoint a new senior staff member as above.

The company, with a long history in the venison industry, is jointly owned by Wrightson Dalgety, Southland Farmers Co-op Association, Wilson Neill Ltd and Luggate Game Packers Ltd.

Close linkage between the company and the marketing staff of the shareholder companies determines processing and packaging requirements for a wide range of international markets, and an expansion of these markets is now a priority. The successful candidate will be responsible to the General Manager and the job specification effectively encompasses total technical management of the plant's venison processing and packaging procedure.

The position, which would suit those with work experience in the advanced processing of export meat, offers the opportunity to work in a growth industry and live in an attractive rural area where a wide range of recreational activities are readily available.

An attractive package, including reimbursement of relocation expenses, is offered.

Please reply in writing, giving former employment details to:

"Technical Supervisor"

**Southern Lakes
Venison Packers
Limited**

P.O. Box 958
DUNEDIN

Deer Killing Plant At Kennington Closed

22/1/87

Game Foods (NZ) Ltd's Kennington processing plant closed yesterday, following several months of industrial problems.

The 11 staff at the two-year-old deer slaughter facility would be paid off today, the company chairman, Mr John Matheson, said last night.

Mr Matheson was reluctant to talk about specific reasons for the closure, but said the company had been unable to operate a viable processing division under the present economic conditions.

"The directors have reached the decision in the shareholders' interest that this division will close," he said.

It was fair to say the the plant had had serious problems for the past 12

months, the secretary of the Otago-Southland branch of the Meat Workers' Union, Mr Ken Anderson, said last night.

He had received a brief message that the plant was closing yesterday, "but I haven't got anything like the full picture yet."

Mr Anderson will be meeting an Employers' Association advocate in Dunedin today to discuss the matter. Facing redundancy is nothing new for Game Foods staff.

Last August, a threat by the directors to close the plant because of

processing and marketing difficulties was not fulfilled.

Because of seasonal drops in stag numbers for slaughter, staff at the plant began cutting and boning 300 lamb carcasses a day from the middle of last year to keep the facility running.

The province's only other deer slaughtering facility, Southern Lakes Venison Packers Ltd's Mossburn plant, continues to operate year round, with the eight staff killing and packing up to 300 farmed and feral deer a week.

Southern Deer Need \$1500 Fine For Pilot

26/2/87 Promoting

By MIKE HARBORD Deer Consultant, Invercargill

Deer farming is poised for another period of rapid expansion. This season, velvet prices have been very good and prospects for venison markets remain excellent.

Factors which earlier gave concern, have largely been resolved. In particular, taxation changes announced in December 1985 that caused so much debate, have been modified. While the new livestock taxation regime can still be criticized, it leaves intact the relative higher profitability of deer compared with other livestock farming options.

With regards investment in deer and attracting investor dollars to our southern regions, some new features have emerged.

Investor dollars are available, but competition for them is intense. Southern deer farmers must lobby the large investment centres much stronger and in a better organized way than they have ever done in the past. Generally we have been far too "laid back" in promoting our own region and the excellent features it has for farming deer. Complacency has no future.

The Southland and West Otago regions, with their top pastures and freedom from summer drought and scourages like facial eczema, must rank with the best places to run breeding hinds.

Local farmers are renowned for their expertise and care of stock, yet in deer farming terms our "sin" has been to let too much deer investment be placed on the sand-hills at Kaipara Heads or at other north island locations

where conditions for deer would be a distant second to the natural features present here in the south.

We also have not been strong enough in promoting a brand name or image for deer sold from our region. Brand names, properly marketed focus buyer attention. Our region is relatively isolated, in that prospective buyers or investors from further north must go past many deer farms before they get here.

So we must develop a reason for them to pay the extra costs to come south to buy their sire stags, replacement breeding hinds or whatever. At least in part, the answer is to create some image, a feeling in the minds of buyers that our southern deer are something special.

As an example, a majority of Canterbury deer are traded under the name of Rakaia stock. An image of excellence has been developed with this name and this has without question brought thousands of extra dollars over the years to the pockets of Canterbury deer farmers.

Our southern shyness, conservatism or whatever, has let our near neighbours steal a very real marketing advantage from right under our noses.

Missed Opportunities

The two original liberations on which the image of Rakaia deer was founded were Stoke Park and Thorndon Hall.

What opportunities have we missed to realize now that Thorndon Hall deer were also liberated in the Lillburn valley and that the relative images of Lillburn-Hauroko deer and Rakaia deer as they exist today could very likely be due to the different environments in which the deer have had to live.

Obviously the open tussock grassland areas of Canterbury would favour deer, but genetically the Lillburn deer could be quite similar.

At least in the context of letting others away with a marketing advantage, the comparison is interesting.

An impression that Southland is too far away from the majority of deer farming regions further north and that transport costs alone make us uncompetitive, is nonsense.

Long distance deer transport is a well proven success story nowadays and costs are reasonable. For

example, weaner hinds can be transported from Invercargill to Palmerston North for some \$45 per head, or to Hamilton for about \$55. Sire stags at one per pen to the same destinations could be \$200 to \$300.

Off-Set

For the weaner hinds, even with stock worth only \$25 per kilogramme, long distance transport costs are off-set by an extra two kilogrammes liveweight.

For quality sire stags, the transport costs as an overhead to successful marketing really are quite minimal. "Distance from market" attitudes can be more imagined than real, especially if quality deer are being offered.

Quality livestock is a natural forte of southern farmers. But once again, unless this image is sold to the customer those extra sales and income dollars are easily attracted elsewhere. The answer is to advertise effectively.

More southern deer farmers should break away from the idea that the chief market for their deer is the few other deer farmers just down the road. The market should be the whole country and even overseas if opportunities exist.

If we say we have the country's best deer farming region and our farmers are the best stockmen, we are really saying we grow the best deer and therefore we can compete in any livestock market anywhere. But we have to sell that message to our customers and in one form or another — that means promotion and advertising.

The conservative approach is to do nothing in the belief that fairness will prevail and some time in the future all correct things will be acknowledged and our good deer will sell themselves.

Proof

I wonder how "Rakaia" deer from the Lillburn valley fit into that way of thinking!

If further proof is needed that southern farmers must promote their region and their deer vigorously then a recent issue of a leading financial magazine gives it. An article on deer investment written by a leading agricultural journalist, and featuring an Auckland based deer farmer and member of the Game Industry Board, stated ... "If you have invested in a deer

syndicate at the bottom of the South Island and cannot afford to make regular visits, you are mad!"

The writer overlooks the point that deer probably grow best here in the south, and that in this age of rapid communications through Fax machines and the like, investors can be kept quickly and comprehensively informed from anywhere in the country. And always, consultants are available to act as a go-between between investor and farmer to protect both parties' interests.

The southern deer farming areas should be promoting themselves nationally much harder so that biased statements as that illustrated above are seen as the falsehoods they are.

In short, the southern regions have all the necessary deer farming attributes, except perhaps the fired-up drive to accept nothing but "first" more often.

(PA) 26/1/87 GREYMOUTH

A pilot, aged 28, who procured another to sit the meteorology section of his pilot's licence in November, 1981, has been fined \$1500 by Judge Erber in the District Court at Greymouth.

Matthew Martin Nolan, of Hokitika, had previously pleaded guilty to a charge of forgery in that he procured Stephen James Keenan to sit the examination in his name at Queenstown. He was convicted of the charge.

Mr S. J. Hembrow, who appeared for Nolan, said that Nolan and Keenan had been life-long friends, had lived in the same area, and had the same interest in flying.

Shooter

Nolan had been a shooter from a helicopter, and had saved enough to go to a helicopter-flying school in Murchison, to gain his commercial pilot's licence. He passed four of the five papers needed for the licence, but failed in meteorology.

He tried to study for the paper again, but was told by his employer that having been allowed three months off work, he would have to do it in his own time.

He had discussed the situation with Keenan, and the scheme had been "cooked up between boyhood mates."

Now, as a result of the investigations into Keenan, who had sat papers for other pilots, Nolan's licence had been revoked.

In the interim he had flown 3500 hours on deer-recovery operations and had been engaged in 12 search-and-rescue missions as a pilot, including lifting five seamen from a trawler off the port of Greymouth and lifting an American tourist out of a blowhole at Punakaki.

"Great Regret"

Judge Erber said, "It is a matter of great regret that a person of your skills should have resorted to taking a short cut, but having successfully sat four out of five papers, you became a party to forgery."

"You have references not many people in this area will have received."

"However, forgery is a serious crime, and a pass in

the examination is a currency to international acceptance as a pilot.

"If it became thought in other countries that it was easy to get a licence in New Zealand, the image of this country's examinations and its pilots would be downgraded."

Though there was a suggestion in the probation report of a possible sentence of community service, it was obvious that Nolan had already served the community well in the past in search exercises, he said.



MASONS BAY STEWART ISLAND HUNTING

The Department of Lands and Survey wishes to advise that bookings for hunting at Masons Bay — Stewart Island are now being taken for the three new blocks recently created there.

Due to anticipated interest, balloting may be necessary to fairly allocate blocks. A maximum of four hunters/rifles is permitted per block with an initial maximum of five days per party.

The new blocks have been centred on Cavalier Creek, Martin's Creek and Tolson's River.

Specific conditions of entry apply to these blocks. Hunters must ensure familiarity with these conditions.

Applications are invited for hunting commencing Monday March 23, 1987 and should be directed in the first instance to Department of Lands and Survey, PO Box 18, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island. Telephone HMB 99.

Applications close at 4pm, Monday March 16, 1987.

R. Thomas
Senior Reserves Ranger.

114004v2

DEER CAPTURE. Maori land owners, if you have land in Alton or Rowallan Maori Land areas and want a return off this land Phone 6370 Tuatapere or write to "Deer Capture" 91 Half Mile Road, Tuatapere. 103016v1

WRIGHTSON DALGETY SOUTH ISLAND VELVET REPORT

There was strong support from New Zealand Companies representing Korean and Taiwanese interests as well as direct interest from traditional Korean and Asian buyers who were most impressed with the presentation, quality of product on offer.

This was the first time that Elk and Wapiti Velvet was put in a special section. The Korean and Asian buyers were most impressed with this product.

Prices achieved at the 2nd South Island Velvet Pool.

GRADE	PRICE/KG	GRADE	PRICE/KG	GRADE	PRICE/KG
Elk 1	126.00	A3	123.20	D2	57.00
Elk 2	118.70	B1	113.70	D3	70.10
Elk 3	105.70	B2	110.70	D4	85.70
Wapiti 1	125.70	B3	114.70	TW2	102.00
Wapiti 2	118.70	B4	110.70	TW3	104.90
Wapiti 3	110.70	C1	105.70	TW4	101.90
SA1	118.70	C2	104.90	R/S	15.50
SA2	118.70	C3	106.70	SPIKER	28.40
A1	123.20	C4	105.70	O/G	38.50
A2	118.70	D1	82.70	SKL	57.70

The Third South Island Velvet Pool closes on Monday, February 23, 1987 at 5 p.m.

Please contact your local Wrightson Dalgety Representative regarding consigning your velvet to the third South Island Pool.



A Division of Wrightson NMA Limited

114792v1

VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 02/03/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	5.00
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	5.50
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	5.50
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	5.00
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



Your key to innovation and bigger returns is a telephone telephone call to:

Game Foods New Zealand Ltd

Kennington (021-394) 481 or 741

Don Andrew — Arrowtown (0294-20) 401

Tic Paulin — Te Anau (0229) 7870

Tim Armstrong — Palmerston (024) 851-516

Your Local PPCS Ltd Drafter

121822v3



FORTEX GROUP VENISON-SEAFIELD

SCHEDULE: Week commencing March 9, 1987.

MAIN GRADES	PRICE/KG
AP1	70.1kg and over \$4.25
AP2	50.1kg to 70.0kg \$5.00
AP3	Up to 50.0kg \$4.25
AF	\$3.00

BOOKINGS: PHONE WORKS: WAKANUI (05323) 890

Nelson, Marlborough: Contact

Norm Parkes, Wakefield 28-227

FORT EXPORT LAMB

ALL LAMBS A/C FORT EXPORT POOL OR FULL SCHEDULE: Week Commencing March 9, 1987

FOR PREMIUM INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT AREA CO-ORDINATOR GREG BOLEYN OAMARU (0297) 47-205

Inquiries (03) 793-244



FORTEX GROUP VENISON-SEAFIELD

SCHEDULE: Week commencing March 2, 1987.

MAIN GRADES	PRICE/KG
AP1	70.1kg and over \$4.75
AP2	50.1kg to 70.0kg \$5.50
AP3	Up to 50.0kg \$4.75
AF	\$3.50

BOOKINGS: PHONE WORKS: WAKANUI (05323) 890

Nelson, Marlborough: Contact

Norm Parkes, Wakefield 28-227

FORT EXPORT LAMB

ALL LAMBS A/C FORT EXPORT POOL OR FULL SCHEDULE: Week Commencing March 2, 1987.

FOR PREMIUM INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT AREA CO-ORDINATOR GREG BOLEYN OAMARU (0297) 47-205

Inquiries (03) 793-244

Meat Plant To Reopen

Game Foods (NZ) Ltd's Kennington processing plant will resume deer slaughtering on Monday — just five weeks after it closed.

Announcing the reopening last night, the company chairman, Mr John Matheson, said the development of a complementary product would enable venison processing to continue.

When the demand for venison processing slows down, the plant will undertake lamb cutting. Previously, it has done lamb boning.

Mr Matheson said the 11 staff who were laid off in

January would all be given the opportunity to return.

The closure of the plant followed several months of industrial problems. At that time the company said it had been unable to operate a viable processing division under the economic conditions.

The secretary of the Otago-Southland branch of the Meat Workers' Union, Mr Ken Anderson, of Dunedin, could not be contacted for comment last night.

VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 09/03/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	4.50
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	5.00
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	5.00
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	4.50
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



Your key to innovation and bigger returns is a telephone telephone call to:

Game Foods New Zealand Ltd

Kennington (021-394) 481 or 741

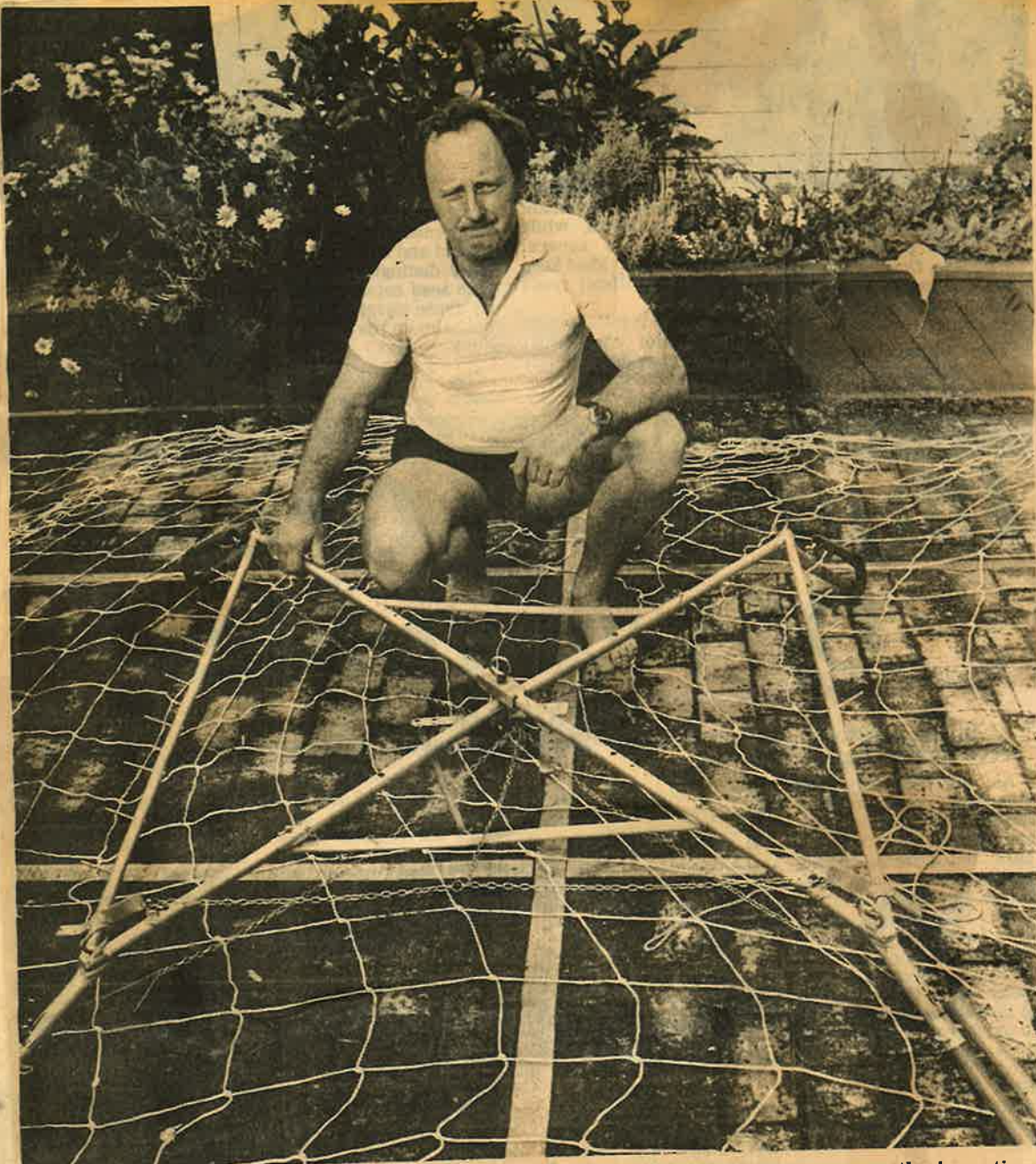
Don Andrew — Arrowtown (0294-20) 401

Tic Paulin — Te Anau (0229) 7870

Tim Armstrong — Palmerston (024) 851-516

Your Local PPCS Ltd Drafter

121822v3



Mr Jim Lumsden with his lightweight deer trap . . . the marketing is not as easy as the inventing.

Little Interest In Deer Trap

An Invercargill man is not finding many takers for a lightweight deer trap he has invented.

Mr Jim Lumsden feels, he may be five years too late with the trap, which could revolutionize the capture of feral deer.

The aluminium trap, which took a year to develop, has spring-loaded PVC arms which fire a nylon net over the unsuspecting animal when a copper wire is tripped.

Weighing less than 2kg, the trap is easy to disassemble and would fit into a back-pack for easy transportation, Mr Lumsden said.

The idea is to suspend the trap and net from a tree and put bait under it.

Goats, pigs, cows and even birds could be caught simply by changing the type of net, he said.

And, being quiet, the trap does not scare other game in the area.

At a retail price of about \$900, few people have been willing to tangle with the invention.

This was probably because the live capture phase of the deer industry

was much less common now, Mr Lumsden said.

An Invercargill sheet metal manufacturer has agreed to make the trap on a commercial basis, and wants a decent run before they start.

So Mr Lumsden, who describes himself as a truck driver, fisherman and jack of all trades, is keen to continue promoting his invention because he is confident there is a market for it.

Venison Prices 20/3/87 Tumble

New Zealand venison prices in West Germany have plummeted as consumers cut back game meat consumption because of fears of nuclear contamination from last year's Chernobyl disaster.

Wrightson Dalgety export division marketing executive, Mr John Sadler, says hind legs are now selling for between \$4.50 and \$5, a kilogram, compared with \$10 a kilo last season.

He said that manufactured venison which sold for \$8 a kilo last season was now fetching only \$3.

The Chernobyl accident had seriously affected exporters who relied on the West German market for most of their sales. Exports to West Germany had fallen from 52 per cent of the total last season to 44 per cent this season, he said.

Mr Sadler said that while initially attempts were made to identify New Zealand venison as free from nuclear fallout, this had stopped because of fears of consumer backlash.

There was no indication the poor prices would improve, he said.

"We will not know anything until next season."

However, his company was now developing markets for venison in both Japan and the United States.

ROSEDALE DEER SALE

TUSSOCK CREEK 18/3/87

THURSDAY MARCH 26, 1987

12 NOON

The Southland Farmers Co-op Assn will offer on behalf of clients the following:-

- 130 — Weaner Hinds
- 50 — Weaner Stags
- 80 — 15 mths Hinds
- 15 — MA Hinds

SOUTHLAND FARMERS

DEER

The only choice

104483v2

Wrightson Dalgety



Deer Services

A Division of Wrightson NMA Limited

VELVET POOL

3RD SOUTH ISLAND RESULTS

A1	115.50	D1	80.70
A2	119.20	D2	68.75
B1	109.99	D3	69.99
B2	110.99	D4	82.70
B3	115.20	TW2	106.20
B4	110.99	TW3	105.80
C1	107.10	TW4	101.25
C2	105.99	R/S	17.65
C3	106.99	Spiker	26.99
C4	104.99	O/Grown	39.95
		H/A	7.50

Market remained very strong, with most velvet in lower grades.

123205v2

Stock Sales

INVERCARGILL STOCK AGENTS

MIXED DEER SALE LORNEVILLE SALEYARDS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1987
COMMENCING 12 NOON

Offer comprising:

- Weaner Hinds
- Weaner Stags
- Rising 18 Month Hinds
- M/A Hinds

108583v2

Ranger Sceptical Moose Still in Fiordland

31/3/87

TE ANAU

The chief ranger of the Fiordland National Park is sceptical that moose still survive in Fiordland.

Mr Terry Pellett said yesterday moose were large animals and as there had been human and helicopter activity in the park for many years, he found it difficult to believe a positive sighting had not occurred if the animals survived.

"Until there's a positive

identification in one form or another that moose exist I'm a little reluctant to believe they are there," Mr Pellett said after The Southland Times reported yesterday that animal droppings found by an Operation Raleigh tramping party near Dusky Sound had been sent to the

Smithsonian institute in Washington DC for analysis.

The party believed the droppings may have come from moose which were liberated near Dusky Sound in 1910.

Mr Pellett said park staff had received one or two inquiries from the public

interested in the animals and one or two applications for hunting permits which included requests to shoot moose, since the Operation Raleigh tramping party find in January.

Although moose were classified as a noxious animal in terms of the Wildlife Control Act, Mr Pellett said he would be reluctant to see the animal hunted if they were located.

Valuable

If moose existed, Mr Pellett said it would be valuable to know how many survived and where they were, with some consideration given to the future.

If the droppings sent to the institute were positively identified as moose droppings, Mr Pellett said the park would have to make an effort to try and locate the animals and find out more about them in terms of herd size, sex, what they are doing, and where they are.

While Mr Pellett was sceptical that moose still survived, he said it would be interesting to be proved wrong.

Crashed Copter Soon Found

(PA)

18/3/87

GREYMOUTH

A helicopter pilot and a deer shooter had a lucky escape when the helicopter they were in crashed in rugged country north of Harihari on Monday.

The pair, in a Hughes 300, took off on a deer recovery mission about 6pm. It is believed the accident happened about an hour later police said yesterday.

The pilot, Mr Howard Smith, received injuries in the accident but he and Mr Anthony (Sam) Velenski managed to make their way to the Pollock creek hut.

Greymouth police were alerted at 6.45 yesterday morning and organized a search of the area by two local helicopter pilots, Messrs Colin Tuck and Patrick Nolan.

Mr Tuck had been in the air for just on half an hour

when he found the crashed machine.

"I picked it up fairly quickly on the emergency location beacon and it only took a short time before I found the chopper.

"Really, it is an affinity that pilots get as to where to look. We sort of know each other's habits and where they would be shooting, so in that respect it is quite fortunate," Mr Tuck said.

After landing and switching off the emergency signal, Mr Tuck then flew down to the Pollock Hut where he found Mr Smith waving.

"I stopped and picked him up and he had suffered facial injuries and looked to have a broken arm.

"Mr Velenski had begun to walk out in search of help and Patrick picked him up later on," he said.

Mr Smith was taken to Greymouth Hospital by Mr Tuck.

The two men had walked the six miles from the crash site to the hut in the dark on Monday evening.

The crash site was at the head of the Kakapohi river.

It is understood the machine suffered severe damage in the accident.

The Inspector of Air Accidents in the South Island, Mr David Graham, said yesterday he would not be going to the site to investigate the crash.

"Generally there are certain criteria which determine whether or not we go into crash sites. This happens to be one where I will not attend, however I will have to receive a report from the pilot," he said.

Decision On Wapiti Next Week

1/4/87

The Minister of Lands and Forests, Mr Wetere, is expected to announce the fate of the Crown relocation herd of wapiti next week.

Concern has been mounting among some deer farmers in Southland that the Government was deciding the future of the Te Anau herd with minimal public consultation.

Because the herd is regarded as a national asset owned by all New Zealanders, some feel the Government could have made more effort in involving the public.

Until now, the herd has been under the control of the environmental section of the Forest Service.

The major contenders for control of the herd from today appear to be Landcorp and the Department of Conservation.

Mr Wetere's press secretary, Mr Peter Gordon, said yesterday the Minister was considering the matter and would make an announcement next week.

Trust

The Wallace County Council has written to Mr Wetere urging him to consider setting up a trust to manage the herd.

County members also suggested the animals should be shifted to a heritage park on Crown land in the Eglington Valley.

But as yet there had been no response from the Minister, the county chairman, Mr Peter Wilding, said.

"We believe the herd should be farmed in an environment which is as natural as possible where they could become a tourist attraction as well," he said.

"I'm very concerned that decisions are apparently being made without consultation. But I hope I'm wrong."

However, the president of the New Zealand Deer Stalkers' Association, Mr John Bamford, was satisfied with the Minister's level of consultation on the herd's future.

"We've discussed it at length with the Minister and we believe we know his thinking," he said.

The association's proposal was "similar" to the Wallace county's, but Mr Bamford would not elaborate.

Establishment of the herd, which at present numbers more than 220, began in 1981.

Captured

Until 1983, a consortium of Te Anau helicopter pilots captured the wapiti from Fiordland National Park.

Capturing went ahead on the basis that the pilots were able to keep all the animals rejected by the Crown as unsuitable to enter the relocation herd.

The Crown herd has been farmed since 1981 at Fiordland Wapiti Park, a property 8km from Te Anau, owned by Mr Evan Meredith.

For managing the herd during the past six years, Mr Meredith has had an arrangement with the Government to keep 50 per cent of the wapiti calves for his own herd.

Because of the poor state of many of the animals when captured, Canadian wapiti bulls were imported to improve the herd.

Mr Meredith said yesterday he was anxious to hear what was to become of the herd because the lack of information was making farm planning "extremely difficult" for him.

Police warn aerial deer thieves

Hunters in helicopters are poaching deer on private property in south Westland.

A Whataroa police spokesman said a number of complaints had been received from landowners about spotlighting activities from helicopters over their properties at dawn and dusk.

It appears to be fairly widespread, and some of it was occurring in rather remote areas — which made it hard to police.

"But the offence of helicopter poaching carries a hefty fine and there is always a possibility that lives could be lost," the spokesman added.

"The warning is there. I am sure the offending helicopter personnel are quite aware of what could happen if they are caught."

7, March 10, 1987 7

Deer Prices Firm

28/3/87

Prices were firm at yesterday's Lorneville deer sale and there was almost a complete clearance of the 51 lots on offer.

Although the quality of the stock was not as good as the previous offering and the sale drew a small group of buyers, prices held up well.

While most of the buyers were local, a few lots went to buyers from Otago.

Prices ranged:
Weaner hinds: Tops \$900 to \$1100, medium \$600 to \$850, lighter \$400 to \$500.

Good hybrid hinds, \$1600 to \$1775. Red hinds, good \$1400 to \$1600, medium \$1200 to \$1400, smaller down to \$1000.

Weaner stags: Tops, \$180 to \$205, medium \$150 to \$175, smaller down to \$120.

Mixed-aged hinds: \$100 to \$1200.

VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 30/03/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	4.25
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	4.85
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	4.85
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	4.25
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



28/3/87

Your key to innovation and bigger returns is a telephone telephone call to:

Game Foods New Zealand Ltd

Kennington (021-394) 481 or 741

Don Andrew — Arrowtown (0294-20) 401

Tic Paulin — Te Anau (0229) 7870

Tim Armstrong — Palmerston (024) 851-516

Your Local PPCS Ltd Drafter

221822v7

VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 16/03/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	4.25
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	5.00
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	5.00
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	4.25
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



14/3/87

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121822v5

Scepticism About Wapiti

The decision to allow the new Land Corporation to manage the Southland Wapiti herd, removed from Fiordland to a property south of Te Anau in 1982-83, has met with a lukewarm response from the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association.

The Minister of Lands, Mr Wetere, announced on Tuesday night that the basic herd would remain in Southland with Landcorp managing it on a profit sharing basis.

All surplus progeny from the herd would become the property of Landcorp and funds would be held in trust for recreational hunting purposes.

The Deerstalkers Association national president, Mr J. Bamford, of Balclutha, said last night that while he was pleased the herd was remaining the property of the Crown, he was sceptical about Landcorp's involvement.

"Originally we did not want to see Landcorp involved at all but the Minister has seen fit to ensure they are," he said.

"I suppose someone has to provide land, feed and supplies for the herd, but the question is how Landcorp will be paid for it."

Mr Bamford said Mr Wetere's reference to surplus progeny becoming Landcorp property was vague and he challenged the Minister to define what surplus stock was.

Previously the deerstalkers had pushed to have the herd released for recreational hunting, or failing that, for the animals to be placed in a farm park administered by groups representing

the Southland community and recreational hunters.

"It seems as if part of our request has been taken notice of by Mr Wetere in that a trust be set up for recreational hunting. I'm happy about that," Mr Bamford said.

Announcing the decision, Mr Wetere said the Fiordland Capture Consortium Ltd in 1982-83 removed 84 animals from the park to form a breeding herd, under an agreement between the consortium and the Crown.

The wapiti, together with their progeny, were now on the Meredith property, Mr Wetere said. The progeny would be divided equally between the Crown and the consortium under the agreement, which expires on May 31, 1988.

The Crown herd would be established as a breeding scheme, similar to the other successful breeding scheme ventures of the Lands and Survey Department, Mr Wetere said.

"With Landcorp managing the herd, we should get the optimum benefits," he said.

"The herd could possibly form a focal point for some tourist operation, but that would be a Landcorp decision. Some loose ends need tidying up, such as the profit-sharing basis, and setting up the trust fund for recreational hunting.

"It is important that the basic herd remain in

Southland, and, with the recent split of Lands and Survey, it is obvious that the Land Corporation should assume management responsibility for it.

"There have been numerous representations, and I have spoken with the Deerstalkers' Association on several occasions," Mr Wetere said.

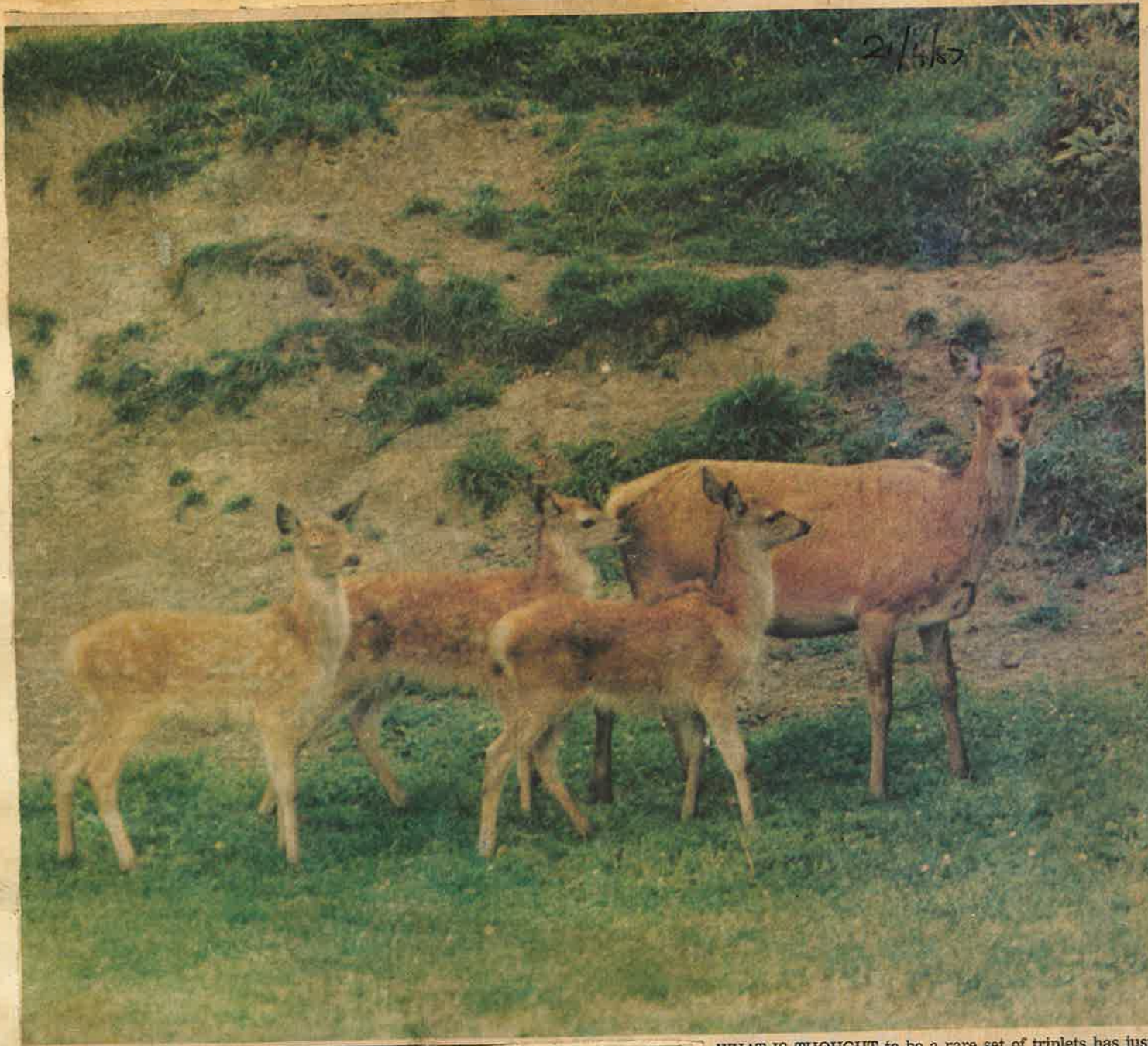
"The decision will guarantee the retention of the herd, and should be acceptable to all concerned."

The farm operations manager for Landcorp in Invercargill, Mr Gerald Soanes, was pleased the Minister had given Landcorp the job of managing the wapiti, "for the herd's sake."

But he was reluctant to comment further and would not confirm if the herd would be farmed on a Landcorp property not far from Mr Evan Meredith's farm.

Mr Meredith, the manager of the herd for the past five years, was surprised the Minister had decided in favour of Landcorp, as there was considerable opposition to that option and Landcorp was already the biggest corporate farmer in New Zealand.

The national executive director of the Deerstalkers' Association, Mr Shelby Grant, said from Wellington last night he was reluctant to comment on Mr Wetere's decision until he had studied it in detail.



Aden Corp Buys Southland Deer

(PA) HOKITIKA
The Hokitika-based deer and timber investment company, Aden Corp Ltd, yesterday announced it had bought a top-quality deer herd from well-known Southland farmers Mr Herbie Whyte and Mr Reg Brown.

The deer — 1620 red and German-cross and 180 pure German — are to be grazed under contract to Southland properties owned by Messrs Whyte and Brown and also at Te Anau with Mr John Morrison.

The managing director of Aden, Mr Jim Paterson, said yesterday: "We are very excited about this purchase. These are all top animals bought from two of the country's best deer farmers."

The deer were bought from the Braxholm Deer Syndicate, which is owned

by Messrs Whyte and Brown.

It was intended to develop the German deer into an elite breeding herd which would supply other Aden farms and the general market, Mr Paterson said.

The purchase brings Aden's total deer herd to 4500 females and 2500 stags.

The animals are based on various properties in Southland, Canterbury and the West Coast.

"We will be buying more deer to fill our farms to capacity," Mr Paterson said, "and to achieve our goal of developing a substantial herd before August, this year."

WHAT IS THOUGHT to be a rare set of triplets has just been weaned from a red deer hind on a Waikaia farm. Mr Bruce Edwards put the hind, which has a history of two uncommon twin births, into a separate paddock before birthing, because she was so "huge".

When he went to see her early in the morning on January 2 she had three fawns with her.

"I just couldn't believe my eyes," Mr Edwards recalled yesterday.

He believed they were triplets but cannot be sure because he did not see the actual drop and it is not unusual for a hind to adopt an extra fawn.

However, in this case the nearest fawning hinds were two paddocks away through six inch netting fences.

A Winton veterinarian specializing in deer, Mr Mike Bringans, said fawns could get through 12 inch netting but he did not think they could get through six inch netting.

If they were triplets they would have to be considered "very, very rare."

He did not know of any triplets born to hinds under normal circumstances in New Zealand, although triplet fawns had been born at the Invermay agricultural research station after hinds were treated with a fertility drug.

Mr Edwards said initially he thought he should take one of the fawns from the hind but she was making such a good job of rearing them he left the three together.

"She's made an excellent mother."

Unfortunately the fawns are all stags, which are less desirable than hinds, and Mr Edwards is uncertain what he should do with them.

They were slightly smaller than the other fawns which were weaned recently, but were still a good weight.

The hind was caught by helicopter on Glenary station in 1978 and was full-mouthed then, so she is thought to be about 11 or 12-years-old.

Mr Edwards has been running deer for about 10 years and now has about 200 animals.

About 2 per cent of those produce twins each year.

PICTURED: The red deer hind with her rare triplets.

Trophy Hunting Option For Deer Farming

Trophy hunting, New Zealand style, is one aspect that has great future for deer farming.

That was the message presented to this week's New Zealand Deer Farmers' national conference held in Christchurch, by Mr Bernard Pinney of Dunrobin Station.

The development of deer farming during the past 15 years had been based around live sales, venison, velvet and by-products he said.

While such products would continue to be pursued by most of those in the industry, Mr Pinney believed trophy hunting, breeding master stags and live exports would also assume importance for other farmers in the future.

"For most of us the greatest opportunity, however, is to manage better what we are already doing."

Looking towards the year 2000, Mr Pinney told the conference that future directions of deer farmers should be to give more attention to matching the various breeds with the country they were expected to perform on.

"Integration of deer farming with other forms of livestock farming, cropping and forestry has still to be developed."

"There is scope too, for greater integration of intensive and extensive deer farms."

Fooling

Mr Pinney believed people who confused high gross margins with a high return on capital were fooling themselves and their financiers.

"In fact," he said, "the return on capital invested in sheep has almost invariably been several times higher than that in hinds ever since the start of deer farming."

"The essential question is whether capital or land is the limiting resource. If the answer is land and the finance is readily available in some form, there is good sense in farming deer; but if capital is limited, one is better to stick with sheep."

Mr Pinney predicted that a steady increase in farmed deer numbers would continue, but warned there was no point in increasing numbers if deer became unsaleable.

Among the specialist opportunities he foresaw in the immediate future,

were the breeding of master stags, live exports and trophy hunting.

The future studmaster would have to be aware of work carried out by research stations he said. Such awareness should include a clear understanding of embryo transfer and artificial insemination, cloning, population genetics, heritability and computer recording.

Such skills should be viewed as being in addition to and not in place of traditional stockman skills.

Exports

Live exports had to be considered if a vital deer farming industry was to continue, Mr Pinney said.

"We are being humbugs if we expect other countries to sell to us and not allow reverse trade."

Trophy hunting was a new and exciting option opening up for deer farmers. Such an option would give farmers the opportunity to design new landscapes and modify existing ones to create perfect habitats for trophy herds, he said.

"There could be a lucrative market waiting to be tapped in this new field."

"To make it work will require vision, homework and an obsession with service and perfection, skills for which New Zealanders are not always noted."

Mr Pinney considered it would take a generation of farmers to develop trophy hunting management to a stage where it would rival or surpass the best offering in Europe or North America.

"What is certain, is that we have all the necessary ingredients in New Zealand; land, space, forest, guides, accommodation and a resourceful farming community. Above all we have a fabulous landscape with an unpolluted atmosphere."

Farming Leisure

In Mr Pinney's view, New Zealand farmers should be looking closely at farming leisure.

Recreational opportunities, earlier retirements, higher disposal incomes, when combined with the ease and

cheapness of modern travel were all reasons Mr Pinney gave for taking the idea of marketing leisure and recreation seriously.

Both Britain and Hungary provided excellent examples of intelligent game management, Mr Pinney said.

In Britain there is a well established appreciation of the need to maintain a balanced habitat for many game animals and their food sources. Hunting and shooting rights have a substantial value.

In Hungary and elsewhere in Europe, trophies are valued for the weight of the head, with gold medal class heads commanding prices well into five figures.

Elegant hunting lodges are maintained close to the hunting areas and highly skilled guides, who take great pride in their work and pay particular attention to safety are employed.

Hungary

"Hunters come to Hungary from all over the world for the wide variety of game on offer and revel in the experience which some describe like putting the clock back to last century."

Mr Pinney considered the larger landowners in New Zealand should now be seriously working to enhance the game resources on the land under their care.

"A number of New Zealand landowners have set up hunting operations in recent years. The pioneers of this new skill are selling not only the trophy head to go on the wall, but the experience of the wide open spaces, the mountains, the bush and meeting New Zealanders first hand."

Camera stalking also provided a growing market, and one that had the obvious advantage of leaving the target alive, he added.

"The important point for New Zealanders contemplating going into this form of game management is that they do not try to copy the way things are done in Europe," Mr Pinney suggested "but work hard to provide a uniquely New Zealand experience."

"This may or may not mean providing a smokey, rough back country hut."

MAF Deer Service

A national deer consultancy service has been established to give clients access to the latest Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries information and research.

MAFDeer, the ministry's first national consultancy project, was launched at the New Zealand Deerfarmers' conference in Christchurch earlier this week.

The project supplies specialist back-up for staff already active in deer consultancy and extension, national business manager, Mr Robert Riddell said.

"The aim is to provide an effective means for clients

to access the whole ministry resource through contact with a local consultant," he said.

Applied research, farm consultancy, investment analysis and industry promotion are offered by a team of scientists, technicians, advisers and economists with extensive first hand experience in deer farming.

Mr Riddell said the economists would be able to analyse the commercial viability of particular deer schemes for farmers and corporate groups.

Information

The consultancy group will meet regularly to exchange information and discuss problems, and research will be undertaken to fill any information gaps which become obvious.

Consultants will undergo training programmes, and adults will ensure the most up-to-date information is being used.

MAFDeer technical manager, Mr Tony Pearce said the ministry's latest work included product research, particularly on the shelf-life and packing of venison.

Inverted deer dressing to enable more hygienic handling of deer carcasses for chilled venison exports is also a ministry innovation.

The research was carried out in conjunction with a Dunedin engineering firm, Millers Mechanical Equipment (NZ) Ltd, and financed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Breeding Deer Copter Operator Fined For Release \$7500 for Forgery

(PA)

DUNEDIN

The years of deer culling in West Otago appear now to be well and truly over. The Department of Conservation has a proposal to breed deer and release them into the wild.

The proposal, being put together in the Invercargill office of the Department of Conservation, would see deer bred for improved trophy heads and let loose into the Blue Mountains recreational hunting area.

The district conservator, Mr Lou Sanson, said this would be the first time this had been done in New Zealand.

The deer numbers in the area would continue to be closely monitored to ensure the condition of vegetation was maintained, he said.

He sees positive benefits also in working with the Deer Stalkers' Association

for improving the fallow deer stock.

A quality stag or semen would be brought into the department's 5ha property just outside Tapanui and a game management herd developed.

Already deer stalkers have a small herd on the land.

Mr Sanson said the hunting area was the first of its type in New Zealand and was gazetted in 1980.

It covers 22,000 hectares of native and exotic cover and is being split between the department and the Forestry Corporation.

Up to 5000 hunting permits a year are issued and

Mr Sanson said it is the premier recreational hunting area in the South Island.

Mr Sanson also sees tourist potential in the herd and its management and is at the stage of working out proposal details.

The department already has three salaried staff and a wage worker in the area.

While the proposal is being put together, a Forestry Research Institute scientist is working in the mountains tracking fallow deer. Radio transmitters are attached to some deer and their progress around the area's trails monitored.

(PA)

DUNEDIN

A helicopter operator was yesterday fined a total of \$7500 after a jury in the Dunedin District Court found him guilty on five charges of forgery.

Nelson James Thompson, aged 44, of Te Anau, was one of five people charged during the past year for offences relating to the forging of commercial pilots' licence examination papers.

Four pleaded guilty, including one man who faced 19 charges of committing forgery by actually sitting

papers for four others.

The charges against Thompson were that in February and May, 1982, he committed forgery by having Stephen James Keenan sit commercial pilot's licence examinations for him in Invercargill.

Mr S. J. O'Driscoll, for Thompson, said Thompson had no previous convictions and had not had any pilot-related accidents since he received his commercial licence.

Loss of his licence when investigations began into suspected irregularities, cost Thompson financially,

because he could not fly. He had to hire another helicopter pilot, who had a crash after only three days.

Mr O'Driscoll applied for final suppression of Thompson's name, but Judge Jamieson declined the application.

He told Thompson it was a matter of public interest that people should know who they could trust in trade and commerce.

To suppress Thompson's name would be unfair to other people involved in the helicopter industry.

He fined Thompson \$1500 on each of the five charges.

Changed Emphasis In Venison Marketing

8/5/87

Difficulties selling venison after the Chernobyl nuclear accident have led to a rethink of the deer farming industry's marketing approach, farmers were told at last week's Deer Farmers Association annual conference in Christchurch.

Chernobyl highlighted the dangers of concentrating on a single product, Game Industry Board general manager, Mr Michael Pattison, said.

The board is attempting to introduce chilled and manufactured venison into retail outlets in Europe.

Mr Pattison said the aftermath of the accident had reinforced a determination to market venison world-wide as a "specifically New Zealand product."

"Instead of trying to maintain the feral fiction, venison will be sold as coming from New Zealand game ranches."

The New Zealand identification on export cartons presently ended up in the rubbish bins at the back door of German restaurants and hotels, Mr Pattison said.

"Thus it is perceived as a potential health hazard," he said.

It was the German trade

which originally decided to play down the farm connection of the New Zealand product.

Obscure

"We have never set out to deliberately obscure the fact that, increasingly, our venison is farmed rather than feral, the preference of traditional distributors."

Mr Pattison said the impetus given by the accident to brand-oriented marketing strategies would eventually be seen as a turning point for the industry.

To avoid a backlash against advertising New Zealand venison as "nuclear free," a campaign without "knocking copy" will explain the benefits of this country's product to the German trade.

All game markets have taken a "hammering" in Germany, the world's largest venison consumer, and many producers urged the board to "knock the competition to death" for short term sales, Mr Pattison said.

"Unfortunately there are some brutal realities of which they seemed painfully unaware."

Important

Most important, was that the distributors and importers who handled New Zealand game also handled European sales, he said.

They would be "most unhappy" to see the bulk of their product unfavourably compared, in health terms, with New Zealand venison.

New Zealand supplies only 10 per cent of the imported game on the German market.

Besides being unable to guarantee sufficient placement of product to capitalize on a nuclear free campaign, Mr Pattison said it would create poor relations with the German game industry.

The stance that was eventually taken is regarded by the board as a small part of the base for a long term strategy to create consumer recognition of New Zealand venison.

Elders Video Deer Sale Next Week

1/5/87

Elders Pastoral Ltd will hold the first national video sale of deer next Friday.

The sale follows the success of other Elders regional livestock video auctions, including a fat lamb auction at Oamaru in December and North Island dairy stock.

Elders Invercargill deer agent, Mr Murray Mills, said more than 500 selected weaner hinds would be offered on account of 65 clients. Of that total, 195 animals would be offered by 16 Southland deer farmers.

The national video sale will be conducted from the selling centre at the Hamilton-Te Rapa racecourse, linked to five regional selling venues by special telephone circuits.

The Invercargill venue will be Ascot Park Hotel.

"All the animals have been videoed and the film will be shown to intending buyers at 10am on sale day, showing the animals in order of sale. The actual sale starts at 12 noon," Mr Mills said.

The video of each lot will be replayed as the animals are put up for sale.

Mr Mills said a senior

selling agent in each centre would accept bids from their area and relay the highest bids to Hamilton via telephone. The order of bidding and the centres they were coming from would be relayed back to the regional venues.

Each lot would take approximately three minutes to sell, Mr Mills said.

So that prospective buyers can gain a subjective assessment of the animals and compare the lots against each other, each group of deer has been filmed in exactly the same manner and under identical conditions.

The deer are filmed against a background marker calibrated in feet to show the animals' height.

All the deer were weighed at the time of filming and would be weighed again prior to the sale, Mr Mills said. Such weights would be disclosed during the sale.

High Standard

"All the deer are of a high standard (there's no rubbish) and are Tb tested."

"Elders guarantees that the deer identified on the video are the deer the buyers will get."

Mr Mills expected sale catalogues would be available this week.

He considered video selling offered considerable advantages to both buyers and sellers.

Buyers would not have to travel long distances to buy

stock and vendors would not incur transport costs of sending their stock to a selling centre.

Mr Mills was confident the cost of \$150 per pen would be less than the total usual costs incurred by selling deer at auction.

An added bonus was that the deer, by remaining on the vendor's property until sold, would not be subjected to the same degree of stress associated with moving the animals to and from selling centres.

The offering at next week's video sale will consist of approximately 400 Red weaner hinds, 40 English, German and New Zealand crossbreds, 50 Wapiti cross and 20 Elk cross.

Blood Markers For Deer

22/5/87

One of the most important developments in the deer farming industry in recent years, has been the move towards hybridisation between different species and strains of deer to inject genetic material with superior production characteristics into New Zealand's herds.

Until recently, deer farmers have had no way of confidently defining the genetic origins or make-up of individual animals, but a team of researchers at Invermay Agricultural Centre, under the leadership of Dr Peter Dratch, has developed tests which distinguish proteins in the blood.

Different breeds, and individual animals, are characterized by unique combinations of proteins.

"The technique has proved of enormous value to deer farming research, particularly in wapiti hybrid breeding programmes", Dr Peter Dratch said.

"But we are also offering the test as a commercial service to deer farmers, especially those who are importing high value animals."

Initially developed to detect hybrids of wapiti and red deer, the blood marker test can be used to distinguish all species of farmed deer and the hybrids developed from them.

The first crossbred calves of Pere David and red deer born in New Zealand this year were confirmed by this technique.

"We are co-operating with researchers in the UK so that animals can be blood sampled there before shipment to New Zealand. They are also using the technique to look at genetic variation within deer species, to identify particular strains originating in different parts of the world," Dr Dratch said.

The aim is to develop the test to where it can be used not only to detect the source or type of stock, but also as a paternity test, to identify the parentage of individual animals when then this is in question.

"The technique can also be used to help resolve the conservation controversy relating to the crown herd of wapiti from Fiordland National Park by identifying which animals in the herd are wapiti and which are hybrids."

VENISON SCHEDULE FROM 18/5/87 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+70.0	5.00
AP2	-12mm	50.0/70.0	5.40
H1 (Hybrid)	-12mm	+70.0	5.10
AP3	-10mm	-50.0	4.25
AF	Overfat		4.00
AD	1 Damaged Primal		2.50
AM	2 Damaged Primals		1.50
TBR	TB Reactors		2.50



16/5/87

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Deer Sell Well

16/5/87

(PA) WELLINGTON Two annual weaner deer sales conducted by Wrightson Dalgety this week saw total clearances and good prices.

Conducted on behalf of Central Game Partnership (Waipukurau) and Maranoa (I. B. and J. W. Spiers, Takapau), the auctions saw the presentation of exceptional capital stock, Wrightson Dalgety said.

Top weaner hinds fetched between \$1000 and \$1325, with good medium weaner hinds going for between \$800 and \$1000.

Specially selected stag fawns realized between \$500 and \$1200, with top venison stag fawns fetching from \$220 to \$270. Good medium venison stag fawns realized \$200 to \$220.