



**Summary of the 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of DEERResearch Ltd**  
**Wednesday 18 April 2007, by teleconference**

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**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
  2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (7 December 2006)
  3. Matters Arising
  4. Register Update
    - A. Interests
    - B. Intellectual Property
  5. Financial Report
  6. 2006/07 Research Updates
  7. Massey Deer Research Unit
  8. Travel Funds Request
  9. Approval of 2007/08 Research Budget and Work Plan
  10. "BreedMETER +" Registration
  11. General Business
    - A. Requests from DFA
    - B. Johne's Disease Research Consortium
    - C. JD Herd Status
  12. Suggested Meeting Dates and Calendar of Key Events
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## Present

- C Isaacs (Chairman), F Griffin, M Buick, G Keeley, M O'Connor

## Apologies

- N Beatson, P Benfell

## Attending

- L Fung, T Pearse, S Hoskin (Massey University, for Agenda Item 7)

## Matters Arising

- *List of research on Market Access and Development obtained from MW&NZ.* Ongoing.
- *Prepare licence agreement for DEERselect.* Awaiting decision on ownership of software. Ongoing.
- *Request updates on JD vaccination research programme.* Ongoing.

## Research Update

- Branch interest in ForageMaster™ has been limited by the required half day training commitment. Plans to channel workshops through the focus farms.
- The Board noted the delay in project 4.06 (although this has since been made up) and emphasised its desire to have the project completed as soon as possible.

## Massey Deer Research Unit (DRU)

- *Issue:* DRU seeking one year's bridging funding after funding from PGG Wrightson has been withdrawn.
- The Board noted that PGG Wrightson's position was confirmed by separate conversations:
  - The deer industry was considered too small and a sheep farm model could be more conveniently and cost effectively used for future forage trials.
  - There was still ability to look at individual proposals as they arise – greenhouse gas work could be supported for example.
  - PGG Wrightson is more interested in extending what they currently know.
- The DRU was the only North Island site for research and internal parasite and integrated livestock management were key areas the DRU. Venison Supply Systems work for the DRU will include lactation studies using different forages
- Comment from the NZDFA Chair was generally supportive of the DRU as a strategic asset for the industry.

- It is unlikely that Massey would contribute to bridging funding – even as a co-funding arrangement.
- The Board suggested that a long-term business plan be developed that placed the DRU in context with its strategic value to the industry and industry research priorities. Elements would include:
  - Massey Inputs (capital cash, student capability & stipends/Massey internal funds, in-kind contributions).
  - Venison Supply System inputs (funds) and outputs (work carried out on DRU).
  - Other projects (greenhouse gas, PGG-W, PGGRC, Deer Improvement, other livestock).
  - Output from bridging fund (new pasture/forage establishment data).
- *The Board recommended that the business plan be developed and presented to the Board by the end of May for funding approval.*

## **Travel Funds Request**

- Travel to attend a conference was typically an organisational responsibility. This differed from travel that might be directly linked to a project.
- The Board were appreciative that the applicant is a pivotal and important researcher for the deer industry as well as bringing extensive research experience to New Zealand.
- *The Board declined the request for travel funds as this was not the function of DEEResearch funds and would set a precedent. The Board further emphasised that the decision was based upon this principle and was in no way a reflection on the calibre of the applicant.*

## **Approval of 2007/08 Research Budget and Work Plan**

- *The Board approved the 2007/08 Research Budget and Work Plan*

## **BreedMETER + Registration**

- The Board noted the report and supported the concept that the primary objective is to get the technology used rather than to make a profit.

## **General Business**

### *A.1 Venison saleable yield grading system*

- This area was being investigated by companies in relation to beef and lamb: once this had been determined, the application may flow on to venison. This issue was also more appropriately raised with venison processing companies at DINZ and VMM meetings.

*A.2 Differential teeth wear*

- The Board were supportive of enquiries being made to researchers.

*B. Johne's disease research consortium*

- More dialogue was sought regarding science priorities and funded work to ensure that the deer industry's interests remain well represented.

*C. JD herd status*

- Contents noted and Board invited to forward any comments on to T Pearse.

**Suggested Meeting Dates and Calendar of Key Events**

- Next meeting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at Invermay preceded by viewing of trials and presentations by researchers on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007.
- 22 - 24 May 2007 – Industry conference (Hamilton)
- 18 July 2007 – FRST funding announcement