

## Winter Feeding

### Current issues and projects

	Farming type	Challenges	Solutions and projects
Manawatu	Breed/Finish	Mud	
CHB	Breed/Finish	Self-feed pit Mud Waste Social Pressure Cost	Hill country crops
Te Anau	Breed/Finish	19SU/ha Mob size and hierarchy Feed quality and salt	Hind feedlot. R1 swedes + kale + lucerne baleage Tweaks
West Coast	Breed/Finish and Finish	Feed pad Quality of feed in the stack	Grass winter now R1 indoors barley + lucerne. Balance of R1 outdoors
CHB	Finish intensive	Winter	Maize, Plantain, Advantage feeder (\$) try crop and give others more room Winter crop for 2017 (swedes and kale)
CHB	Breed/Finish + velvet	Sheep, post-weaning check, dry, plan change 6, Hinds on grass	Hinds on kale with wire More space for weaner on grass. Rotation kale->plantain-> grass
CHB	Breed/Finish + velvet	very winter wet, poor fertility,	R1 on crop oats, rale Stags + hinds no grass +/- maize and baleage
Southland		Mud 120 day winter Deer get sick of silage after long periods on it Wastage	Silage bunkers. Reduced stocking rate led to increased waste. Increased hinds back to 1000, saved \$15,000 in reduced waste
		Hours in the day to get work done	
North Canty		Dry Autumn means Italian and Ryecorn hasn't struck until June. Worried about yield now for winter	
		Getting adequate high energy feed in winter to grow young stock	AP got him onto Italian in winter to increase weaner kill weights and flexibility if tough spring

	Farming type	Challenges	Solutions and projects
Hawkes Bay		Top growth rates and targeting key feed periods relative to potential	
		Deer growth shuts down Ability to feed supplements in wet Limited crop options Lucerne dormancy cost/benefit of winter feed	Ideas for fodder beet feeding Better understand of complete nutrition, not just putting feed in front of them
		Access to good grass paddocks when on supplement When to graze beet to make best use of it Saving supplement for when have to use lower quality feed	Ideas on twice week shift on Fodder beet rather than once a week

---

### Group advice on winter feeding practices

#### Plan

What classes of stock are you feeding?  
 R1: growth - e.g. protein, quality  
 MA: maintain - e.g trace elements, quality  
 Genetics, big animals, fast growth, need enough food.  
 Cost of winter feed  
 Crop, rotation: e.g. kale->plantain -> grass, 6 year rotation  
 Location  
 Feedlots versus self-feed  
 Mob sizes, social aspects

#### Self-feed bunkers

Environmental consideration  
 Look of deer; deer losses; deer behaviour  
 Do all hinds get to stack, pull off those that don't  
 Don't put second calvers in  
 Richard 33m face for 1000 hinds  
 Site  
 Shelter  
 Gate design  
 Whole crop good option to fill pits.

#### All grass with supplements

Supplements add energy to pasture diet.  
 There is a positive benefit effect when extra energy is needed. Below that level it is all financial. I.e. the cost of maize relative to the cost of pasture.

Offering maize over a long term allows gut to learn to digest it and maximise the utilisation of energy in the grain during the high growth period.  
System has to fit environment, farm, access, practical considerations etc.

### **Crops**

E.g. brassica, ryecorn, Italian

Why dry, early fert can result in N toxicity later. Have crops that can't be used when ready to start animals on them.

Need to understand reason for crop. i.e. Part of pasture renovation and weed control cycle, transfer feed to the winter, management of nutrients and soils.

Choosing the right brassica. Class of stock and time of year, weight gain targets and expected crop yield.

Integration of other classes of stock

How it fits with the farm system.

### **Fodder beet**

Some advised not to put urea on beet

One person put 350kg total N on in 2 applications (Sustain) and got 27T/ha crop.

Better option than rape/kale if N toxicity risk

### **Autumn Urea/ProGibb**

Life saver coming out of a drought

Soil temperature important 6, 7, 8, 10 dC, site and area specific.

Response rate is the key

Cheapest form of supplement

Easier than feeding out grain and maize

No response if no rain = biggest risk

Need place for animals, not instant growth

Need disciplined grazing management throughout winter

Ammonium sulphate alternative - always good.

Spring application also an option

Foliar application option. Lower rates throughout and only on truck accessible. Chopper is cost prohibitive for this.

### **PKE**

Saviour in dry

Market perception issues

Will it always be available?

### **Work out costs**

Know cost of establishment

Opportunity costs

Yield of crop, silage etc.

### **Attention to fertility**

Soil tests and fertiliser

### **Feed Budgeting**

This crop, measurement, allocation of days on crop, pasture growth in other paddocks

Can deer build on the Beef and Lamb existing programme which is simple and easy to use?

Tom Fraser is the man to talk to.

### **Crop transition**

Ruminants take time to adjust

### **Monitor and measure results**

- Weight gain
- Condition score
- Utilisation
- Observe condition and behaviour of deer

### **Feed quality/balance**

- Add high quality or high protein (lucerne bales) if necessary
- Quality silage/baleage. Not fine chop, coarse chop is better

### **Environmental considerations**

- e.g. Hawkes Bay Plan Change 6
- Waterways
- Runoff from feed pads, silage stacks, crops
- Sediment from cropping.
- Fertiliser application

### **Issues and potential solutions**

#### **Deer growth shuts down**

- Growth very limited on older pastures & grain
- High quality feed, Italian ryegrass, baleage
- Balance protein (e.g. lucerne baleage)
- Mud/Wet - Feed pad – Indoors - Crop to keep off other paddocks
- Long winter
- Deer go off winter feed after a while (100days e.g.)
- Silage quality
- Ability to feed supplements in wet/access
- Limited winter crop options
- Lucerne dormancy
- Access to water - Temporary troughs