



# “Hawkes Bay Progressive Regional Workshop”

**Farm:** “Longbrook”

**Owners:** Keith and Sue Burden

**Area:** 263ha (73ha house side and 190ha over the road) of sandstone and pumice soils. 100ha now deer fenced

**Rainfall:** 2000-3000ml

## **Farming system:**

The farm was purchased only 2 years ago. The last owner had been on the farm for 50 years and ran a sheep and beef operation. The farmer had only missed one year of fertiliser application in 50 years using mainly RPR and lime.

The cattle system is mainly aimed at maintaining feed quality with the weaner steers sold store. The sheep follow a breeding and finishing system.

A breeding and velvetting herd was established in 1995. The focus has always been on bodyweight, temperament and velvet style. Over the last 10 years we have been building numbers, especially since purchasing the farm. MA hinds and R2 hinds are all single sire mated and scanned. MA stags (4years and over) averaged 4.67kg first cut in 2016, three year olds 3.2kg and retained two year olds 2.6kg. Still big room for improvement as the numbers start to stabilise.

## **Identified goals:**

- 1) Aim for all weaning weights to average 50kg
- 2) To maintain soil structures and farm sustainably i.e. prevent soil erosion, and preserve waterways



3) To breed sire stags for use in own hind flock

4) Improve deer production

**Use of crops:** Velvet stags after roar were wintered on kale ad lib. This year the stags will graze the new annual grasses (Hogan and Shogun) early spring. Another rape paddock was planted this year and used to flush R2 hinds pre-mating and then wintered R3 stags. This autumn we have undersown three paddocks with Hogan in and are very happy with the results.

**Longbrook Farm stock numbers (deer fenced area) for winter 2016:**

<b>Stock class</b>	<b>Longbrook</b>	<b>su</b>	<b>Total su</b>
Total area	263 ha		<b>2555 su</b>
Effective area	255 ha		<b>10 su/ha</b>
Deer fenced area	100 ha		<b>13.4 su/deer ha</b>
Effective deer fenced area	100 ha		<b>13.5 deer su/deer ha</b>
<b><i>Deer, sheep and cattle on deer unit: winter 2016</i></b>			
MA hinds (in fawn)	139	2.4	334
R2 hinds (in fawn)	55	1.9	105
R1 hinds	123	1.7	209
R1 stags	80	1.7	136
R2 stags	54	2.5	135
R2 stags venison	0	2.5	
R3 stags	44	3.2	141
MA stags	74	3.5	259
Sire stags	5	3.5	18
<b>Deer</b>	<b>574</b>		<b>1337</b>
MA cows	28	5.5	154
R1 heifers	15	4.5	68
R2 heifers	14	5.5	77
R2 bulls	2	5.5	11
R2 steers		5.5	
R3 steers		5.5	
<b>Cattle</b>	<b>58</b>		<b>310</b>
MA and 2T ewes (sil)	680	1.1	748
Lambs and hoggets	215	0.7	151
Rams	11	0.8	9
<b>Sheep</b>	<b>906</b>		<b>908</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1538</b>		<b>2555</b>

NB: stock units based on DINZ for European red deer and on BLNZ information for sheep and cattle

<b>Velvet Summary</b>					
			<b>Year 16/17</b>	<b>Year15/16</b>	<b>Year 14/15</b>
Total velvet Kg			709.67	562	
Main cut in Kg			564.54	436	
Spiker velvet in Kg			41.83	43.41	
Regrowth in Kg			92.37	112.02	
Grading					
SA%			10.53%	3.12%	
A%			60.15%	84.60%	
B%			3.85%	0.00%	
C%			14.91%	0.00%	
D%					
E%					
NT			14.22%	7.44%	
Overgrown			0.00%	1.00%	
DAMAGED			6.66%	1.50%	
Hard Antler			0.19%	2.59%	
Total No of stags			132	169	
No of R2			35	28	
Avg R2 velvet			2.21	2.09	1.85
No R2 retained			28		
Retained R2 Avg			2.60		
No of R3			22		
Avg R3 velvet			3.2		
No of R4+			75	73	
Avg R4+ velvet			4.61	4.47	4.97
RG per stag			0.67kg	0.66kg	0.88kg
SPK per stag			0.39kg	0.67kg	0.41kg
No Spikers			42	68	

Hind fawn weaning weights:

	2017	2016	2015
1 <sup>st</sup> Fawners		39.1kg	39.8kg
MA Hinds	42.4kg	42.2kg	42.2kg

Stag fawn weaning weights:

	2017	2016	2015
1 <sup>st</sup> Fawners		43.1kg	39.1kg
MA Hinds	46.3kg	46.6kg	44.6kg