Feeding Group- Wayne Allan  
Talk about your projects, experiences and challenges

* Stu Stokes – Pasture renewal and use of red/white clover
* Dallas Newlands-Animal Health Plan developed with vet  
  - Utilisation of feed for hinds/fawns –PKE in feeders
* Richard Cook – Optimise stocking rate
* Allan Gorton- Lift growth rate in weaner’s
* Mary Falconer- Increase utilisation of feed on hill blocks and better reproduction from hinds –post rut wean and have recently bought Advantage Feeders
* Bruce Allan – Lift weaning weights
* Karen Middelberg- Improve weaning weights – more killed in 1st year. By subdivision of paddocks with fences, use of cattle in with deer and using plantain
* Kevin Clucas- Shed feeding to lift spring market kill – heifers in hind blocks for pasture control
* Thomas Jones- Boost growth in 2nd cut from stags – lift spring market kill

Weaner Growth Group –Richard Hilson facilitator  
Talk about your projects, experiences and challenges

**Key points**

* Lift hind condition –lactation and pre mating
* Fawns – pre rut wean and post weaning autumn winter and spring
* Pastures – variety of mixes , chemical topping, use of cattle
* Supplements –Grain, PKE strategic use, in-shed feeding

**Pre weaning**

* Drought management – everyone has had issues with this
* Form farmer son the hill –was anyone using plantain/chicory or clover and values?
* Those that weaned early –thought it was too early (18/2) stress, animals never recovered
* Early stag removal Simon Wright –to manage lactation and condense calving was removing stags on 7/4 from MA hinds and 14/4 from R2 hinds. The group was shocked
* Pasture quality – use of cattle, weaning early meant getting rotation going

**Get store/finishing farmers too..**

* Assist with the pre-rut weaning
* Get involved more
* Invest in stags/genetics

**Post weaning**

* Use of Clover/Chicory for lactation
* Fodder Beet – Pass/Fail – still some qstns about the cost –do they hit a plateau in growth
* Fetal age –remove lates and cull
* Quality ME testing –value
* Advantage Feeders- increase feed on offer and key times
* Have changed drench regime (to the injection + oral)
* Possible Trial – Grass vs Lucerne vs chicory ????? for post weaning pre mating time period
* When finishing –minimum 50Kg buy in weight
* Smaller numbers = less stress
* Having the right staff –to handle weaners
* Weighing –sample, individual, seasons
* Hybrids vs Reds –keeping them apart in mobs is more beneficial for growth
* Fodder Beet use –still lots to learn
* Most have invested in scales and were batch weighing animals

# Reproduction –Deane Carson

Talk about your projects, experiences and challenges

* First Project of Martin Rupert’s project was on reproduction and was to increase % conception/survival in R2 hinds -10% were missing in first scan. Not fetal wastage.91% weaning of the IC hinds.(83% weaning of the hinds mated)
* Dry/Dry vs Wet/Dry from last year is still showing poor performance
* Copper bullet application was difficult and not deemed the issue
* Feed mgmt. over lactation-difficult year
* Need to target better hind weights in future – set cut-off limit
* Calving environment and feed quality over lactation another issue
* Use of cattle to mop up rough parts of fawning paddocks
* Brian Shaws project was also on repro. Single sire mating was tried this year. As well as looking at hind weights closely. Calving R2s separately was another change in the system
* Focus on mating weights and BCS pre mating
* Also consider BCS pre calving to buffer tough summers
* Des Fords project was increasing weaning weights of fawns from first calvers
* Change = worm drenching in January
* Change stocking rate/control pasture covers

# Animal Health Planning –Pania Flint

Talk about your projects, experiences and challenges

* Production limitations identified as key reasons to change
* Too many deaths
* Products and their WHT’s-what can be done to get new products registered?
* Need regular reminders –charts/vets?
* Careful with advice that is received e.g. drench dosing and WHTs  
  There is a stigma still around admitting the problem
* Opportunity = increased production
  + **Issues**
* Vet saying “we can add value’
* Cost
* Fear of having to take on more work
* Unwilling to change
  + **What it looks like?**
* Relationship with vet – Has to know about deer –Continual process – Needs to be personalised
* Flexible, seasonal and fit with management
* List of products and their WHTs –clarification
* Update plan as new info becomes available
* Accurate info from vet is key
* Digital options –icalendar updates via email –look at what B&L are doing,fortnightly, regional
* A list of deer vets within NZ would be beneficial –good resources within JML/JCN
* DI news, Countrywide Mag (ltd readership)
* Having a spreadsheet printed on wall – handy in office
* Key dates noted
* Management, mating etc
* Vaccination dates
* Drenches –options and WHTs
* Updated by self, based on publications/info from vet etc
* Overviewed by vet from time to time to ensure correct

Highlighted yellow areas indicates project opp’s for DINZ