



Braemar Station Advance Party Project

Aim:

- To consistently produce 60kg plus weaner stags for sale at the end of March
- To wean 90% or more.

How are we going to achieve this?

- Change the herd genetics by using Sire Stags from Peel Forest Estate.
- Feeding fawns and hinds better in late summer by growing additional pasture and forage crops as required
- Condensing the fawning spread by ensuring hinds are in good condition at start of mating
- Increase body weight and condition score on yearling hinds to ensure they keep on growing right up until they are put to the stag with the aim of improving conception rate and possibility of early fawning.

Management tools

- Strategic use of advantage feeders throughout year to ensure quality of feed to both hinds and stags
- Condition scoring of hinds at weaning to identify any that need priority feeding
- Adopting a consistent Animal Health Plan
- Weighing of animals to monitor progress towards goals (key weights R2 hinds and MA hinds)

Capital Requirements

To achieve the above goals significant levels of capital need to be spent mainly on Sire Stags but also on fencing of additional blocks, advantage feeders and scales. A return on this investment is critical.

Success Criteria

Weaning 60 kg fawns from a greater than 90% calving drop

How will we demonstrate Change?

Report and present data to Advance Party members as required and DINZ

Measureable Outcomes

- Condition scoring at least 3 x annually
 - Hind weights and condition scores
 - Scanning results (if required)
 - Weaning % and weights
 - Growth rate gains pre and post weaning

Background/Notes:

- In the last 14 years Hamish and Julia have averaged 55-58 kg weaner stags,
- 260 kept with “31 retainers” The management and feeding of the retainers could also be seen as an opportunity
- They bought 13 stags from Peel Forest Estate in 2013 to service 560 hinds. These were straight reds and eastern.
- In 2014 they scanned 98% from the MA hinds. Two year olds scanned at 80%, these were with Braemar spikers (next year could just scan a random 100 or 1st calvers)
- They have just fenced another 19 Ha for young stock
- MA hinds went onto rye corn for 15 days before being put back out on to blocks. Another 20 ha of rye-corn will be grown this year. Hamish and Julia originally had some concerns about the animals having to run the length of the deer farm to go onto the rye-corn but there were no problems this year, and they saw a resulting increase in condition.
- May put another 20 ha into rye corn this year.