



# **Mackenzie Advance Party**

**Realising potential**



# Group Focus





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## **Feeding hinds during lactation**

- A key area for improving deer performance in our class of land.

## **Analysis of productivity**

- We are looking more closely at weights, reproduction, condition scoring and financial performance.



# The value of deer on Braemar



- Braemar Station was a sheep and beef farm with some deer.
- Deer needed a higher priority to make them consistent financial contributors.
- Several changes were made

# The changes at Braemar

- **Genetics** - Focus on hind genetics that perform consistently on this class of land.
- **Weaning** - weaning earlier.
- **Feeding** - R2 hinds fed better.
- **Weighing** and **condition scoring**
- **Sales/Finishing** - From selling all store to sell stags store, keep hinds to 2 years.



# The Outcomes

## LEARNING

- “Although it feels like we’ve come back to what we were doing before, we are much more knowledgeable than we were then”
- “We now know what some of the options are, for instance we can early wean if we need to”

# Deer Performance

	Scan %		Wean % weaned/pregnant		Efficiency (weaned/hinds to stag)	
	MA	R2	MA	R2	MA	R2
2014	98%	81%	>95%		90%	
2015	95%	83%	>95%		90%	
2016	97%	94%	89%	96%	86%	90%

Year	Wean date	growth rate pre-weaning
2015	30/4/15	303
2016		
2017	22/3/17	350

# Financials - EBITDA\*\$/SU for cattle, sheep and deer 2015-2017

	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Deer</u>
2015	\$16	\$42	\$25
2016	\$14	\$53	\$17
2017**	\$30	\$39	\$31

\*Trading income + Change in capital stock minus Farm Working Expenses  
(*estimated* FWE break down for each class of stock)

Sheep have higher costs!

\*\* Year still in progress





# Next steps



- Re-evaluate weaning and sale dates
- Concentrate on feeding hind and fawn pre-weaning
- Consider sale dates of R2 hinds (pre winter or in-fawn to capitalise on genetic value)
- Monitor weaning weights, financial outcomes
- Work within environmental stewardship requirement



# Group Focus

## Feeding hinds during lactation

### Haldon

200gpd barley + 130gpd lucerne baleage for 6 weeks: Cost \$4/hd

Weaner +2kg, hinds +1 BCS at weaning.

Return \$8 + earlier conception

### Clayton:

7.5kg/hd grain from tagging (Feb) to weaning(10 March) Cost \$3/hd

Weaners +3kg :Growth rate: Grain 300 gpd; No grain 200gpd

Hind + 0.5 BCS, 2 week earlier conception, same preg %. Return \$22 inc conception

### Clayton

Oversowing - Improved pasture on hill - better feeding of hinds during lactation, no supplement

Weaners +1kg, hinds +0.4 BCS, same block used for mating young hinds, no supplements required cf previous years.