We would like to update you with developments in our Deer Stud leading into this year’s stag selling season. We have also included here a survey which we would appreciate you taking the time to fill in to help us better understand your breeding requirements.

WFL deer stud is featuring on the PGGW stud tour programme soon; you will see details on viewing this further in newsletter! So I hope you tune in! If you happen to miss the programme (8.30pm 13th November Country 99 TV) it will be available online via WFL and Rural TV websites after this date.

Our season has gone well and we are continuing to review and analysis traits for enhancing venison production. Data from our latest CT scanning results continues to enforce the benefit and the range in value of one carcass versus another. Examples are at least 4 kg difference in retail cut meat available from a similar carcass which will be reflected in carcass lean breed values.

We are continuing our involvement with the DPT trials and are looking forward to the benefits these projects will have.

Our focus for breeding deer continues to be Reds for maternal instincts and terminal sires for public sale. We also have semen available from our top industry ranked sires if you are considering an AI breeding programme. Plus we have a limited number of F1 (Elk* Red Deer) two year old sires for live sale as further detailed in this newsletter.

The line up of Red Sires for sale in both North Island and South Island sales is very impressive this year. As stated in our newsletter earlier in the year the stags we are putting to the market show the genetic improvement has continued. I am sure you will agree the following weights will flow onto some outstanding stags come Sale Day.

Our sale catalogues will be available for the North Island sale in early December and mid December for the South Island sale.

Thank you again for your support of our stud. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the service providers, staff and family that have had various levels of input into our upcoming stud sales.

All the best for a successful summer in farming.

Regards,

Michael Wilkins
On behalf of the team at Wilkins Farming.

Mike Wilkins and the Tui Girls at the 2011 South Island Sale

Welcome	to	our	spring	2012	newsletter!

The Wilkins Farming Deer Team at the New Zealand Deer Farmers Conference in Wanaka

Key Contacts

Michael Wilkins
Phone 03 201 6246
Fax 03 201 6247
Cell 027 249 9317
Email mike@wilkinsfarming.co.nz

Pauline Pattullo
Livestock Genetics Manager
Phone 03 201 6246
Fax 03 201 6247
Cell 027 249 9309
Email deer@wilkinsfarming.co.nz

Wilkins Farming
Breeding for the Future
Looking Forward to the Sale

We are really looking forward to putting our next crop of stags to the market. The genetic improvement along with management, is not only seen in the BV but also the physical appearance, live weight targets and pedicle development the stud is achieving. I am sure you will agree the following weights will flow onto some outstanding stags come Sale day Summer 2012/13.

In summary, our potential stags are lining up as follows by liveweight.

Easterns Top 20 - 11mth weight average • 121kg - top 144kg • 10th Feb ave 151 top 184

Europeans Top 40 - 11mth weight average • 124kg - top 138 kg • 10th Feb ave 153 top 178

Our F1 breeding programme involves mating some of our top red European hinds to what I believe were the best Elk stags available at time of purchase for body conformation and growth rate.

Body conformation was done by eye appraisal but basically looking for thick set well muscled meaty looking stags that were available at auction through 2006-2009.

Growth rate; for us to have purchased a stag on growth rate it had to be either over 200 kgs at 12 months or as close as possible, with one stag achieving up to 217 kgs at 12 months.

Our top F1 progeny, as a result of this, was 199 kgs liveweight on the 25th Jan so 14 mth weight. But as far as the progeny go, for us to retain to sell as a 2 year old, they have had to reach 130 kgs by 11 mths. The tier under this we are selling as spikers for mating and the balance are slaughtered.

Two year old F1's for sale by private treaty limited numbers available.

Please contact us or your local deer specialist for further information.
The following sires should be considered if you are doing a AI programme. Details of these stags can be seen on our website (wilkinsfarming.co.nz) along with other sires that may be of interest to you. Prices are competitive and negotiable depending on sire availability and volume required. In some cases semen may only be available subject to availability or collection.

Venison sires available • Yesenin • Megamilian • Megatoo • Rocky • 144-O-05
Infinity
Shown at 5 years • English/German

Herd Sire

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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Body Weight</th>
<th>Hard Antler</th>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 2012</td>
<td>330kg</td>
<td>612 (8)</td>
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All-rounder Eastern • Maximilian • Maximilian II • Vladimir • Milano
English/German • Infinity • 2037
Be in to win!

To be into win complete the following form.

Prizes
Sale credit will only be available if you or your representative are on site the day of the sale. Semen prize winners will be notified on the 3rd of December.

First Prize:
$1500 credit at sale 2012/2013

Second Prize:
Semen – MACH SEVEN. Two for the price of one. $100 per straw minimum 20 straws.

Third Prize:
Free freight on stag purchased

Fourth prize:
Product of DB Breweries Ltd

Sale day prizes apply to both South and North Island sale.

This information will be treated as confidential between yourself and WFL, we value this feedback from clients and the industry to help give the stud direction it should be considering when planning the future direction of breeding programmes.

Please return this questionnaire by cutting along the dotted line and folding the panels as instructed, or alternatively you can complete this questionnaire online on our website: www.wilkinsfarming.co.nz

Not all questions need to be answered to be in to win!

Your time is appreciated.

Wilkins Farming
Breeding for the Future
### What is important to you when selecting a sire from the list below

Please tick the appropriate box as to what is important to you (key below) and add any comments.

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<td>11 month weight?</td>
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What is your preference when selecting a maternal sire for deer?

- European
- English
- German
- Eastern
- F1 (Elk, Wap x Red)
- Wapiti
- Elk

What is your preference when selecting a sire for terminal or venison production?

- European
- English
- German
- Eastern
- F1 (Elk, Wap x Red)
- Wapiti
- Elk

Type of hinds run

- NZ Red
- European
- Eastern
- English Red
- Hybrid
- German

### Carcass Lean Weight EBV?

1 2 3 4 5

### 12 month EBV?

1 2 3 4 5

### Velvet weight?

1 2 3 4 5

### Antler style?

1 2 3 4 5

### Mature hind weight?

1 2 3 4 5

Have you purchased stags from Wilkins Farming Limited before?  

| Y | N |

Would you like more contact regarding Wilkins Farming stags and breeding programmes?  

| Y | N |

Please confirm which sale you or your representative will be attending.  

| SI | NI |

What draw would you like to be included in?  

| STAG | SEMEN | BOTH |

### # of hinds mated to Red stags

|           |

### # of hinds mated to Elk stags

|           |

Any comments on a stags performance you like?  

|           |

Any comments on a stags performance you don’t like?  

|           |