Welcome to our Spring 2013 newsletter!

We would like to update you with developments in our Deer stud through the year. We are continuing to build on varying bloodlines and composite breeds so the stag purchaser has options, not only around performance but also bloodlines. Some highlights include:

- Breed values are up to +24 for 12 month growth rate in our Born 2012 crop,
- A number of 15 month live weights between 180 and 190 kg recorded in February 2013
- On average these were up 10 kgs per head from the season before,

This highlights the potential of good genetics and feeding. Last year's sale line up only had one stag over 180 kg live weight at this time so it is a fantastic gain. This will enable us to present our stags in top nick again this summer.

In May we had a stand at the New Zealand Deer farmer's conference in Wellington. Also on farm in August we were part of the Next Generation Programme run by the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association. On the second day of the two-day programme, around 55 deer farmers visited our Athol property to view the latest tools and technologies in action. It was great to see so many young farmers in the industry get together and showing their enthusiasm to network and learn some new ideas they can implement in their own businesses. This was a good opportunity for us to share some of our knowledge about these technologies with the farmers in the Next Generation Programme.

For the success of our industry I also feel the frustration of the current schedules that they are not rewarding us for our efforts and investment. Though I do have confidence that some of the markets appreciate our products produced, we need to strengthen our connection with these and need to select the right new opportunities (I do believe they exist) that will ensure sustainability in our industry. This, as farmers, will allow us to continue building on our investment on farm including performance enhancing genetics.

Good strategy both sides of the farm gate is needed and with the right implementation it will be rewarding if executed well.

For the first time we are also selling the progeny of the Doncaster herd we bought two years ago from Peter Doncaster, a well-known Southland breeder who had a good following. His father Lindsay had put 32 years into breeding this stock, which has added more depth to our breeding programme.

The introduction of this herd reiterates our commitment and depth of breeding within our herd. This also reflects the dedication that spans over five decades from breeders whose herds we have purchased including Rob Brookes, Clive Jermy's and Doncaster's to name a few.

Our auction catalogues for red 2 year old sires will be available for the North Island late November and the South Island early December. In addition to the auctions we will have private treaty sales for F1's (Elk X Red Deer) terminal sires and Red Deer semen of industry ranked sires if you are considering an AI breeding programme.

We would appreciate your feedback to ensure our efforts are in a direction that matches your requirements to ensure your continued support. Please feel free to contact me directly.

Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank all clients, service providers, staff and family for their support and input into our upcoming sales.

All the best for a successful summer in farming.

Regards,

Michael Wilkins
On behalf of the team at Wilkins Farming.
**Looking Forward To The Sale**

We are really looking forward to putting our new seasons crop to the market. The genetic improvement along with management is not only seen in the EBV’s 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.

### Easterns Top 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Sire Details</th>
<th>Live Weight</th>
<th>W12BV</th>
<th>LEANeBV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>144/O/05 x Krona</td>
<td>188kgs</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>8.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Vladimir x Ramon</td>
<td>164.5kgs</td>
<td>21.36</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>144/O/05 x Fredrich</td>
<td>188kgs</td>
<td>22.91</td>
<td>8.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>Rocky (WF 27/W/08) x Megamilian</td>
<td>171.5kgs</td>
<td>22.73</td>
<td>6.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>Megatoo x Denzel (Winchester)</td>
<td>160kgs</td>
<td>15.21</td>
<td>4.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>Peel x Vaster</td>
<td>170kgs</td>
<td>19.77</td>
<td>4.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1122</td>
<td>BAT 436/08 x LDC 577/06</td>
<td>165kgs</td>
<td>16.72</td>
<td>5.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>144/O/05 x Izack</td>
<td>162kgs</td>
<td>15.33</td>
<td>6.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Europeans Top 40

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Sire Details</th>
<th>Live Weight</th>
<th>W12BV</th>
<th>LEANeBV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 month average – 131kgs. Top 147kgs</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 month average – 151kgs. Top 172.5kgs</td>
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<tr>
<td>W12BV average 13.06. Top 21.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEANeBV average 4.26. Top 6.01</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 month average – 134.5kgs. Top 146.5kgs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 month average – 164kgs. Top 188kgs</td>
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<tr>
<td>W12BV average 17.34. Top 23.89</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEANeBV average 5.87. Top 8.29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* W12BV’s & LEANeBV’s current as at 15/10/2013
* Date photo taken 10/03/2013
* 15 month live weight (as shown below) 10/02/2013

**Note:** Due to a high ratio of female fawns born in the Easterns only a small number of Eastern stags will be offered this year.
F1's

Stag buying is an important part of a deer farming business. Your sire purchasing decisions have a large and long lasting effect on the productivity and profitability of your deer enterprise, especially as deer are so long lived.

Some commercial deer operations are straight forward – a hind resource used to breed replacements for one purpose only, but many may have two or more outcome eg: velvet replacements and venison production. Good velvet genetics may not necessarily be the best genetics for the venison operation. Consider splitting your hind resource and purchasing the best sires you can afford to further each aim separately.

Breeding values are available for growth and sometimes for velvet, these are corrected across herds, across environments and for known environmental effects such as age of dam and birth date. They use the animals own record and the performance of related animals to give the best prediction additive genetic merit for a trait – the part that gets passed to progeny.

Purchasing high growth merit sires will give you an immediate lift in the male off spring but the real value comes over time from the female replacements that go onto to breed future generations.

For example a +12kg sire over a base hind that has not been bred from high growth lines is likely to have a merit for growth of close to 0 for weight at 12 months (W12) giving a progeny average of 12kg(sire) + 0kg (dam)/2 = +6kg. A hind from a line of hinds breed from high growth sires over time may have an average merit of +8 kg – giving a progeny average of 12kg (sire) + 8kg (Dam)/2 = +10kg advantage to the progeny.

You may use a sire for three or four years, maybe more, but his daughters will be influencing your productivity for 10 to 14 years. A good decision now will pay dividends for future years.

Sharon McIntyre

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 has been done by eye appraisal but basically looking for thick set well-muscled meaty looking stags that were available at action or for sale when replacements have been required.

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.

BUYING STAGS ON BREEDING VALUES
Vladimir is the stag Clive Jeremy retained from his born 2005 Eastern crop. A son of Sergei by a Maxmilian daughter, 253 kg live weight and 7.3 kg H/A stripped with a very heavy beam and top BV at the time for 12 mth growth rate of +17.71. This stag was a standout amongst stags that went onto sell for $27 000 and $28 000 per head respectively.

Antlers at 4 yrs where 42 “long and inside of 32”, as a velvet head he is very correct and cutting in excess of 9 kgs as a MA stag.

He is incredibly quiet and a wonderful asset to have in the herd, he is leaving very high performing progeny and therefore proving to be a champion sire.

BV W12 +12.3 (Oct 13 - under review)
Huge growth rates, two great sires Maximilian and Samurai to breed this stag out of one of our best dams, 350 Red for breeding efficiency. This stag has ranked number one of our progeny that we bred in 2005. Great body conformation and ranked No 1 on our loin and carcass value index for born 2005.

144 Orange is proving to be a standout sire. His progeny are eye catching and performing well in a number of traits including growth rate, yield and hardiness.

BV W12 +18.1 (Oct 13)
An exciting young stag by Corona who goes back to Alexei, the sire of Kabul. The dam WF 127/05 is a full sister to our sire 144/O/05 bred through one of our ET programs. The hinds in this pedigree have excellent performance and are second to none in our herd.

Tui’s pedigree contains top sires and is backed with all the look and performance figures to be a top future sire.

Tui has an outstanding temperament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>BODY WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAR (3MNTH)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT (11MNTH)</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY WEIGHT</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALE DAY WEIGHT</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESTIMATED LOIN WEIGHT</td>
<td>4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARCASS LEAN WEIGHT BV</td>
<td>5.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBV W12</td>
<td>20.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A massive English stag, the biggest (at 15 and 18 months) liveweights Stanfield have ever bred for this type of stag with outstanding breed values.

Top all round new sire stag strong antler head estimated 4.5kgs velvet @ 2 years. Very quiet nature.
**Semen Sires**

**All-Rounder Eastern**
Big bodied with huge long wide antlers
- Maximilian
- Maximilian II
- Vladimir
- Milano
- Heinrich VI

**English/German**
- Infinity
- Peel
- Churchill

**European**
- 144 Orange
- Yesenin
- Tui

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.
**Why Wilkins?**

**Breeding goals achieved by:**
- Using the best available genetics

**Using the latest technology available. This includes:**
- Ultrasound scanning for eye muscle
- CT scanning
- Deer select
- Deer progeny testing
- EID and DNA testing

**Breeding for:**
- Breeding efficiency
- Maximising carcass yield and high value cuts
- High growth rates
- Hardiness
- Outcrosses with high BV’s for growth rate including English and German Bloodlines
- Temperament
- Antler structure

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**NORTH ISLAND**

**RED SIRE STAG SALE**

**13 December 2013**

**4.30pm**

**SOUTH ISLAND**

**RED SIRE STAG SALE**

**13 January 2014**

**3pm**

**NORTH ISLAND SALE TO BE HELD AT THE PROPERTY OF:**

George & Laura Williams, “Te Maire”

678 Matheson Road, to the west of Highway 50 on the northern side of Tikokino

**SOUTH ISLAND SALE TO BE HELD AT THE PROPERTY OF:**

Wilkins Farming, Athol

65 Harvey Rd off SH 6 between Five Rivers and Athol.

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**Venison & Antlers**

- Megamillian - 3 yrs
- 144 O 05 - 4 yrs
- Maximillian - 7 yrs
- Valdimir - 4 yrs
- Heinrich VI - 7 yrs

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**For any enquiries contact**

Mike Wilkins 027 249 9317
Email: mike@wilkinsfarming.co.nz

Pauline Pattullo 027 249 9309
Email: deer@wilkinsfarming.co.nz

George Williams 027 447 6880 (Nth Is Sale)
or contact your local specialist Deer Livestock Agent

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**Stud Tour Video**

Profiling WFL Deer Stud is available on our website

**www.wilkinsfarming.co.nz**