



A photograph of two men standing in a grassy field with a dense forest in the background. The man on the left is wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers, smiling and gesturing with his right hand. The man on the right is wearing a grey short-sleeved shirt, olive green cargo pants, a blue baseball cap, and a watch on his left wrist. He is also smiling and has his left hand on his hip. The text 'DIFF Central Regions highlights...' is overlaid in large, bold, black font across the center of the image.

DIFF Central Regions highlights...

Timaru Deer Industry
Conference
May 2011

1. Been practical...

- Took a practical angle to every field day.
- Tried to present about three important topics and link them if possible.
- Presented options that Joe Average could use or try.



2. Been Positive...

- Been very positive about deer and deer farming.
- Not all messages are positive (disease issues, crop failures) but have taken a “glass half full” approach.





3. Been timely...

- Timing of field days has been when we thought it'd suit deer farmers.
- Also tried to sum up past seasons in a timely fashion and look towards the season coming next.



5. Been fun...

- Definitely have not taken ourselves seriously!
- Field Days have been very informal with good interactions and plenty of laughs.





Community Group has been casual but cohesive.

4. Been scientific...

- Proud to have regularly “used” experts from Invermay, DRL, HBRC, Farmax, Agricom etc. And Simone...
- Those experts have been very well received and have delivered concise messages.
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Implications for managing in dry autumns

Ensure quality feed available for calves

- Ensure herd productivity (pregnancy rate and conception date) not compromised for next year.

- Weaning to maintain calf productivity

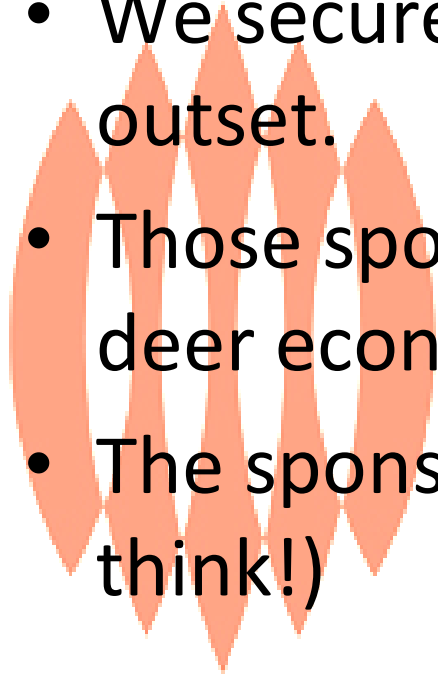
- If supplements fed (eg. grain), introduce prior to weaning

- Wean calves to a familiar paddock

- Use “Aunty” birds

6. Been seen...

- We secured strong local sponsors right at the outset.
- Those sponsors play integral parts in our local deer economy.
- The sponsors have had good exposure (we think!)



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The Future