

SIR ARTHUR WARD

Anthony John Pearse

BSc, MAgSci (Hons)

Tony Pearse is widely recognised as a world leading authority on practical deer farming. His research in the areas of deer velvet and venison production systems and development of performance recording now widely practiced throughout the NZ deer industry make him a truly worthy candidate for the Sir Arthur Ward Award.

Up until recently, Tony has been very active as a scientist at AgResearch Invermay, playing an integral role in the development and extension of key technologies including the application of Wapiti hybridisation, performance recording for bench marking and farm monitoring, as well as record keeping as a basis of a new industry genetic evaluation system. Practicing what you preach has been an important part of Tony's philosophy with the management of Invermay's extensive deer research farm as a critical part of the research activity and its strongly integrated team approach. The annual Invermay velvet crop has become one of the two most sought after in NZ based on its all round quality including timing of harvest, antler removal practices, and underlying genetic quality.

Tony's ability to communicate complex technologies and their benefits to deer farmers has seen him highly sort after as an organiser and contributor at field days, and as an invited speaker to deer farmer and scientific conferences throughout the world. When word of deer farm visits organised by Tony in the Otago/Southland region spread to other parts of New Zealand, he has often



been invited to organise and/or participate in similar events in other parts of the country. This extensive amount of road work has been backed up by his authorship over the last three years of 24 publications (of which he has been lead author of 9) covering a wide range of aspects of deer production in both scientific journals, and more applied publications (source: AgResearch publications database) and the major text on practical elk and deer farming in North America.

Perhaps the most telling recognition of the NZ deer farming industry respect for him comes from the year 2000 presentation of the industry's top honour, the NZ Deer Industry Award and election to the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association Council in 2001. Following the recent disestablishment of the DFA, he has now taken up a position with the expanded Deer Industry New Zealand as an executive covering all aspects of producer activities and on farm production issues. Through these recent new roles, Tony has been further able to disseminate his incredible knowledge of deer farming with huge benefits for the New Zealand industry. He provides an active link in the 3 partners - 1 vision strategy, that drives the deer industry's further development.

Thus, the successful application of scientific research and farmer experimentation through research and effective extension in New Zealand animal production has been what Tony Pearse has been all about for the last 20 years. He is a very worthy recipient of the Sir Arthur Ward Award.

Peter Amer and Geoff Asher