

Hello Members,

Yet again thanks to our regular contributors of articles and photos for the NewZ.

A reminder from the office to please send a copy of your **current season brucellosis certificate** for their files. Also, of course, they will be needed for your A & P Show and sale entries.

- Never buy a ram without seeing a current *B. ovis* accreditation certificate.
- Treat any stray ram as infected.
- Keep your new rams separate until you have the flock checked each year.
- Don't buy dog tucker rams.

A second reminder is to make sure you are on the monthly (preferably) or three monthly, mailout of Drontal from your vet for the war against **Sheep Measles** (*taenia ovis*).

Some positive news for wool from 'The Clip', The Campaign For Wool's latest newsletter. They have certainly been doing promotion where it counts, with double page spreads in 'North & South' magazine, featuring NZ companies that have developed and are promoting wool products in housing and furnishing. We have an item on "Terra Lana" in this newsletter which tells of their business making insulation and eco textiles from recycled wool.

I see that the "Bales4Blair" campaign featured in Sheep NewZ #21 has been a great success with about 400 bales of wool donated and processed for free by Canterbury Woolscourers. Half is being made into insulation by Terra Lana for the new Southland Charity Hospital. The remaining bales sold to carpet manufacturer, Geoffrey Hirst, with proceeds also going to the hospital.

I report a measure of success in the quest for Drysdale sheep with a flock of 70 purebred ewes being drawn to my attention. Thank you to the reader who contacted the flock manager and they then contacted me. It is wonderful that there are breeders out there who, against the odds, are trying to keep many of our breeds with lesser numbers extant. Remember before you retire from breeding ask the Rare Breeds Conservation Society of NZ if they would like to collect semen from a couple of your rams or obtain a few ewes. The wider the genetic base the more future value. The RBCS can be found using Google with contacts listed including a "Webmart" page for members to list stock wanted or for sale.

Helen McKenzie

Editor

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Email: rosemarkie@wise.net.nz

ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From The President



Greetings from our parched part of the country. The Covid pandemic that has occupied our lives for just about a year now (and still does) may be about to be finally brought under some form of control. As I write NZ has started to roll out the vaccine - here is wishing for a positive outcome. Along with the vaccine and the removal of the "Trump" factor from the U.S.A. political scene perhaps the world might be a better place to live in this year!

The increase in global demand for our milk products goes to show the importance not only of milk based protein, but of all types of protein produced by our agricultural sector and the importance that this income stream has on our economy - it would do the government well to take more heed of this!

With the terrible storms lashing the northern hemisphere, especially the parts of the USA without electricity to stop the hyperthermia, perhaps more wool products would help! we just need to get a better/stronger message to people on the benefits of wool.

The summer in our area was fairly kind to us but has dried off quite quickly recently - great for cropping - not so much for growing grass. Most of the on-farm ram sales in Canterbury and public sales are now complete, with the earlier sales having good clearances. Ewe fairs gained reasonable returns, but whether they are good returns or not when you compare them with our contemporaries in Australia I wonder!

It is coming up to the most important part of a stud's year; mating and the decisions we make now will impact very much on the future shape of your enterprise in the coming years.

The celebration this year of our Association's 125th year is well under way. We plan to have a feature show at Wanaka in March and then the main celebration at The New Zealand Agricultural Show hosted by the Canterbury A&P Association. Further information for this is available from Greg at the office.

The upcoming round of Autumn shows has just started and hopefully we will not have the disruption that Covid caused last year. Good luck to all show associations and exhibitors.

Tom Burrows
President NZSBA

From The General Manager

NZ Ewe Hogget Press Release (*Abridged – Editor*)

“Due to circumstances beyond our control it is disappointing to advise that the New Zealand Ewe Hogget Competition has had to be postponed this year due to the last 6 months a number of convenors having retired and left their area. Convenors remain the backbone of this grass roots competition and this year we will be looking at sourcing new people on the ground throughout New Zealand.

This remains the only commercial sheep competition in New Zealand and will leave a void this year but we remain positive and aim to meet with enthusiastic people throughout New Zealand, as well as our sponsors. It is hoped that we can recommence a revised competition next year.

Remember we currently receive on average 225 entries every year and in 2019, 151,000 ewe hoggets were judged throughout New Zealand. Our Field Days on the winner's property always attract more than 200 people in attendance, so it is disappointing, but we anticipate renewed interest from potential convenors and hope to have everything in place for 2022.

More news to follow this year.”

I reiterate a disappointing result but hopefully we can gather some young and enthusiastic believers in this competition, along with sponsors, to formulate a revised competition in 2021.

SHEEP125

The Sheep125 committee held a conference call to discuss whether we proceed as the covid-19 cloud still hangs over us making it difficult to plan. After a discussion we agreed to continue with our planning and am awaiting to hear a final decision from the Show Board in March. Surely normality will finally resume.

Breeds have been sent the template to complete their breed bullet points, and once completed they will be sending them to the office along with a picture.

This information will be put in front of their particular breed pen at the NZ Agricultural Show in the main pavilion, along with the other breeds.

For those breeds that are showing there will be a commemorative **Sheep125** prize to the Champion Ram and Ewe.

Boehringer Ingelheim **Sheep125** Dinner - there will be a dinner on the Wednesday evening of the show and rather than as is the case normally, all breeds having dinners in various places in Christchurch, this year they will be having dinner together under the marquee on the showgrounds.

We are intending to have a speaker.

Information regarding ticket sales will be sent out later in the year.

Breed Conferences

This year could be manic with most breeds having conferences, especially as last year was a non-event.

Some breeds have already booked their dates with the office, and planning is underway. If your breed hasn't notified the office they should do so.

Renovations

The office has now been renovated, with most of the rooms being painted and our toilets have been overhauled and we now have a shower – the things you do to keep your staff happy....

NZSBA Youth Initiative

Remember to qualify a young breeder needs to be between 10 - 21 years old and have less than 50 ewes. This means they are exempt from all fees (subscription, breed levies, maiden ewe fee) except activity fees.....eg registering a sire, transfers.

To date 8 young persons' have taken up our initiative.

The Breeds are -

Shropshire	1
Suffolk	3
Poll Dorset	3
Dorper	1

MEN'S AND LADIES' COMMEMORATIVE JERSEYS FOR SALE

Quality wool Men's and Ladies Jerseys are now available. Both jerseys are manufactured in Christchurch. Place your order if interested.

Cost of Jerseys – Men's -\$170.00 – Ladies -\$135.00 and these can be posted anywhere in New Zealand. **SEE MORE INFORMATION AND ORDER FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Cheques being phased out.

As you are aware the use of cheques is being phased out. That's easy for most of us with our mobile phones and computers, but for those members without these devices they should talk to their bank for a solution.

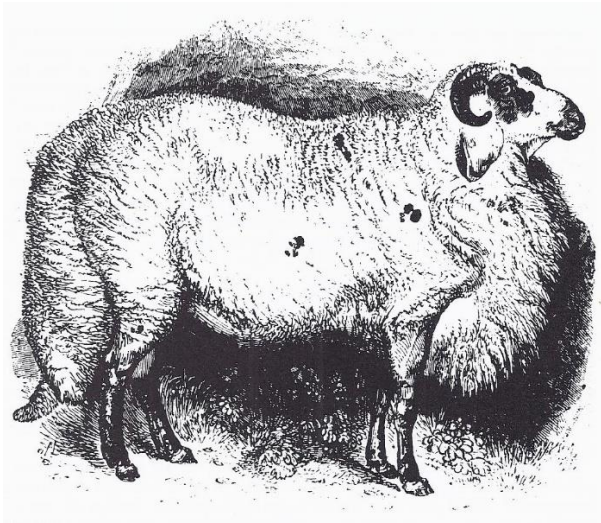
For those that have just discovered online banking you will find it so much easier than having to write out cheques, then post them.....oh so slow. Anyway, for those members who are still writing out cheques, there will be a solution for you at your bank. I now go to the bank with 1-3 cheques a week, whereas I used to bank over 10 a week.

To our sponsors thank you for your continued support; also thanks to Helen who puts this newsletter together.

Greg Burgess
General Manager, NZSBA

Feature Breed #1

Awassi Sheep



The fat tailed sheep of the Middle East.
(from Youatt 1840)

ORIGIN & HISTORY

The name of the Awassi is attributed to the El-Awas tribe, resident between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Awassi are found commonly in Southwest Asia. They are widespread in Israel, Iran, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

The modern Awassi evolved from a nomadic sheep breed through centuries of natural and selective breeding to become the highest milk producing breed in the Middle East. They are also utilised as a meat animal.

Awassi in New Zealand predominantly come from an improved milking strain from Israel and were imported in the 1990's by Awassi NZ Ltd; initially to provide sheep for the live sheep trade to the Middle East, with more recently the milking ability coming to the fore with establishment of a Sheep Dairy Industry in NZ.

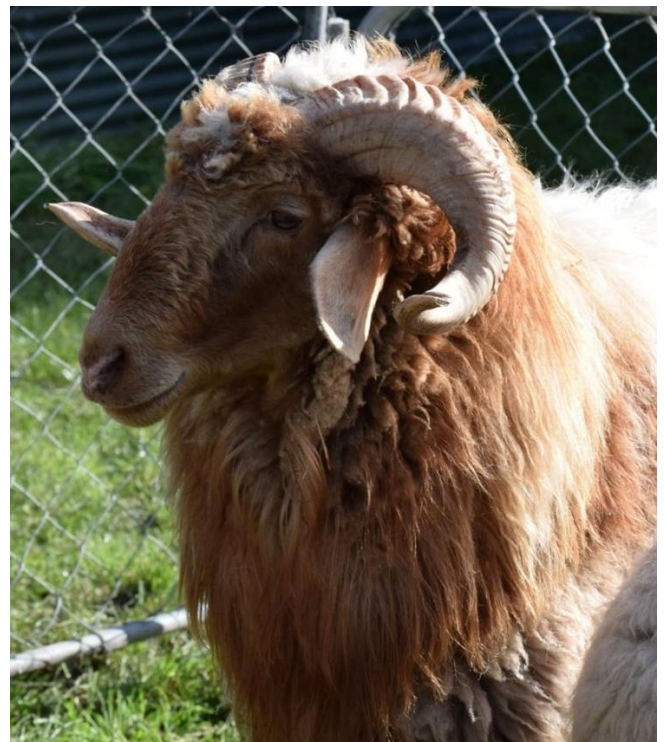
The breed is calm around people, pleasant to work with and easily milked. The breed also has the advantage of natural hardiness and grazing ability.

Awassi rams from the long established Hawke's Bay farm of Saudi businessman, Hmood Alali Alkhalaf, are being used to build up New Zealand's sheep milk flock.

BREED DESCRIPTION

A multi-purpose sheep used for milking, meat and carpet wool. Awassi have a brown face and legs with the fleece varying in colour from brown to white. Individuals can also be found with black, white, grey or spotted faces. The males are horned and the females are usually polled. The fleece is mostly carpet type with a varying degree of hair. They are fat-tailed sheep; the tail fat provides energy reserves in harsh climates.

Bodyweight
Rams: Up to 100kg Ewes: 60-70kg
Meat
Very lean, most fat is concentrated in the tail.
Breeding/Lambing
Lambing 110-150%
Numbers
3 registered studs recently established as well as one large commercial farm.
Wool
Very fast-growing fleece, consisting of wool – 40%; hair 45%; heterotype 10% (intermediate between hair & wool) & kemp 5%.



Awassi ram, Ashport 150-16

Photo: Penni Loffhagen



“Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry.”

STUD PROFILE #1

Ashport Awassi Stud, Flock #3,

Established 2020

Owned by Terry & Susan Ashley, Gore Bay



Ashport ram lamb & dam

We are excited to have the Sheep Breeders now registering the Awassi Sheep Breed and would like to introduce ourselves as Terry and Susan Ashley.

Our *Ashport* Sheep stud at Gore Bay, North Canterbury mainly run Suffolk and White Dorpers but in 2015 Susan developed an interest in a rare breed in New Zealand called Awassi and decided to purchase a ram lamb and two ewe lambs from Willowbank Farm. These are direct descendants of the embryos of an improved Dairy strain from Israel imported in the '90s. Two further purchases were made from Willowbank.



Ashport Awassi ewe and lamb

Awassi are one of the world's oldest breeds of Fat tailed sheep and have been bred in South - West Asia for at least 5000

years. They are known in their homelands for their sweet tasting lean meat and their fat tail is a delicacy. The fat over the rump and tail is used by the sheep as an energy reserve in harsh times. They are a very hardy breed and forage well, walking long distances. They are a very quiet, placid breed.

We have a goal to further develop the breed and in 2018 visited two Awassi studs in Australia with the view of importing semen to expand the very limited genetic base in NZ. Two rams were selected.

This season we will be inseminating eighteen purebred ewes with the new semen and look forward to next spring.

All enquiries and visitors welcome.

Terry.sue@amuri.net

☎ 027 141 7349 or ☎ (03) 319 8532



Ashport Ram lambs

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STUD PROFILE #2

Persepolis Awassi Stud, Flock #1,

Established 2019

Owned by Christine McQuillan and Ash Mayo, West Melton



Ewe lamb and dam, 2020

Persepolis Awassi Stud began with the purchase of four ewe lambs and a ram lamb from Michael Willis of Willowbank Farm, Canterbury.

These sheep are descended from the original imports of the improved milking stock from Israel.

Our first lambs were born in August 2020 and we are undergoing an AI programme with all four mature ewes in the 2021 breeding season using imported Australian semen to introduce new genetics to the breed. We aim to breed a high-quality milking sheep.

We are located at West Melton, Christchurch and welcome any enquiries.

We also have a Dorper Stud (**Persepolis** Dorpers).

Ph: 027 94 33399

Email: xtinemcq40@gmail.com

Face Book: Persepolis Awassi Milking Sheep

2020 Persepolis ewe lambs (Dorpers in background)➤



Persepolis Awassi ewe and lamb, 2020



Young ewe, 2019



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Last year's "lolly mix" of Awasssi Pure Ltd's lambs

STUD PROFILE #3

Awassi Pure Ltd, Flock #2,

Established 2019

Owned by Lesley Lord and Peter Harling, Moutere

Our Awassi stud is in the Moutere area of Tasman.

We established our flock of Awassi sheep in 2019. The initial flock comprised 11 ewes of varying ages and 2 rams.



Ewe & ewe lamb (I love my mum!)

These Awassi came originally from John and Karen Garrick, from Timaru, after their importation from Israel by Awassi NZ Ltd, and were then purchased by Willowbank.

We chose Awassi as they are a breed that is multi-purpose and has a history of thriving in dry environments. This is likely to be the case for us in the future. It is also important to us to help conserve a rare breed.

Our goal is to foster and improve the breed and raise high health animals.

Contact details;

☎021 174 5417 or

email: losltd@xtra.co.nz



Two of the ewes

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Recent Breed Arrival in NZ

AUSTRALIAN WHITES NZ



On the lookout for a sheep breed that will add something different, constructive and with a winning edge to the New Zealand sheep industry, a small group of keen breeders have recently imported, mainly as embryos, Australian Whites.

A breed bred and developed in Australia. The breed, to be known in New Zealand as **Australian Whites NZ**, is first and foremost, bred and developed as a pure meat breed.

The breed was developed to be a self-replacing, haired (they don't grow a fleece), meat sheep that requires minimal maintenance.

Four breeds of sheep were selected for specific traits to develop the breed: Poll Dorset, Texel, White Dorper and Van Rooy. They are adaptable to hot or cold climates, with fast growth rate, finishing well on grass. They do not need shearing, a great saving these days. With no fleece means no flystrike, lice or other parasites.

At this point in time the only fault noted is in wet conditions some young animals may get foot scald. Yet to be proven, because most females in the country at this point in time are too young, they can produce lambs three times in two years. Overall, they are very easy-care sheep.

A breed committee has been formed and now registered with the New Zealand Sheep Breeders' Association. In due course as the numbers of 'Whites' increase and the benefits of farming this new sheep breed become more widely understood and appreciated, it is hoped more breeders will join.

Information on breeders will be available in this year's coming flock book. (Picture: *Ewe hoggets with ram*)

Well named as 'Whites,' Australian Whites NZ truly are snow white, especially after rain!



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Encouraging ending to Chairman of The Campaign for Wool, Tom O'Sullivan's, latest piece in "The Clip", newsletter of The Campaign for Wool

"Ending on an incredibly positive note, I have recently heard from several wool retailers that they have noticed a significant increase in the enquiries for and sales of woollen products. I remain extremely optimistic that this is the early stages of a true renaissance of strong wool. There is no silver bullet or quick fix, however we at the Campaign are focused on the activity in the belief that the results are starting to flow."



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GRADING UP TO A WILTSHIRE FLOCK OF SHEDDING SHEEP

By **Professor Steve Morris**, School of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University

Ninety percent of New Zealand's wool production is classified as coarse wool (35 plus microns) with returns for this wool type currently trending between \$1.00 and \$2.00 kg/greasy. Farmers at these prices barely recover the costs of shearing. Shearing expenses have increased from 2004-5 season to the 2018-19 shearing season by 73%. (from Sheep and Beef On-farm inflation 2018-19, B & L NZ). There are two options to change.

- The first is to change to fine or mid micron range wools that fetch higher prices using fine woolled sheep breeds, however these breeds are not well suited to wet North Island hill country.
- The second option is to breed a "no wool" sheep. Within this option the two choices are a hair sheep like the Dorper or a breed of sheep that sheds its fleece once a year such as the Wiltshire. The Wiltshire breed popularity seems to be growing and prices for pure Wiltshire sheep are 60-70% above traditional breeds. Due to this demand and the fact they are so few (less than 1% of national flock) farmers are faced with the only viable option of grading up from their current sheep flock to a Wiltshire fleece-shedding breed of sheep. Some are attempting to do this but there is no data on the method, time horizon and production consequences of a breeding program to grade up to a Wiltshire flock.

What's not known is the production levels we can expect from no-wool sheep. There will be costs incurred in the grading up process as Wiltshire cross sheep will still need to be shorn and will not generate sufficient wool to cover shearing costs. However, if lamb production levels can be maintained, then there will be no economic losses from changing from a wool sheep breed to a no-wool breed. There are also intangible benefits of changing to a no-wool sheep such as animal health and welfare benefits from less flystrike, reduced crutching and dagging of sheep, and better comfort factors experienced by no-wool sheep in mid-summer which may achieve production advantages which until now have not been ascertained. A further benefit - unquantified at present - is improved and unblemished skins from these no-wool sheep at processing as there have been no potential shearing cuts to damage pelts.

Any future increase in extreme weather events due to climate change will have a potential impact on sheep health and welfare. If temperatures rise in the summer months (especially in the North of New Zealand) then no-wool sheep

will be better able to cope than full woolled crossbred sheep. At the other extreme, Wiltshire lambs are born with hair fibres so they are protected from the cold and hence have mortality rates that are similar to coarse woolled sheep, although that is one of the production indices that need to be measured and quantified. With changing climate careful attention needs to be given to ensure rams selected to breed up to full Wiltshire sheep are facial eczema (FE) tolerant. It is likely changing climatic events will increase the likelihood of sheep being exposed to FE and hence breeding from FE tolerant rams is considered essential to mitigate this risk.

Sheep numbers in New Zealand have declined over the last 20 years and now farmers face difficulties finding shearers to shear their sheep. Experienced shearers are heading offshore to shear where they are guaranteed better income. Increasing cattle numbers and fewer sheep will have some impact on labour requirements in the countryside and in the meat processing industry as fewer cattle are run in the place of sheep and cattle take longer to get to market.

Some farmers have graded-up to a Wiltshire flock but what's lacking is well quantified and researched results that show the way for other sheep farmers who might be contemplating a move to wool-less sheep. Despite some farming press articles most farmers are still not confident about how best to manage a breeding program to change from an existing wool producing flock within their farming system to a no wool flock. A research project at Massey Universities Riverside farm will provide information to do this and will quantify the benefits and costs of the change.

The project has two aspects firstly, to model the profitability of such a change and secondly, to undertake a multiyear flock study recording production and performance as a flock is graded up from Romney to a Wiltshire flock.

Modelling has indicated that in the long-term a change to a self-shedding flock will be profitable, however, our model is limited by lack of objective data in regard to production data over the transition period. Some of our assumptions were based on anecdotal industry data, or trial data from more than 20 years ago. The modelling suggests that the coarse wool greasy price would have to exceed \$4.15/kg greasy to break even on the costs of shearing in many farming scenarios.

The project started in March with 400 Romney ewes bred to Wiltshire rams and a comparable group of ewes bred to Romney rams. The project is being undertaken at Massey University's Riverside farm 10 km north of Masterton.

Lambing started on 17 August and lambs were weaned on 26 November. The Wiltshire cross lambs grew at 262 grams/day to average 29 kg at weaning while the Romney lambs grew at 255 grams/day to weigh 28.8 kg at weaning. Lamb losses recorded from birth (including born dead) to docking were 12% in the Wiltshire cross and 14% in the Romney bred

lambs. The Wiltshire cross ewe lambs were given a shedding score on a scale of 1 (no shedding) to 5 (fully shed) at weaning on 26 November and less than 2% showed any signs of shedding around the neck region.

Growth of the Wiltshire cross ewe lambs from weaning on 26 November to 21 January was 155 gm/day to reach a liveweight of 36.6 kg and hence they are on target for mating liveweights of 45 kg in late April. The comparable group of Romneys weighed 35.7 kg. A second shedding score taken on 21 January 2021, indicated an average score of 0.32 with around 40% showing early signs of part shedding on the belly and neck region. Wiltshire cross lambs had a dag score of 0.84 while the Romneys had a dag score of 0.97 on a scale of 0 (no dags) to 5 (very daggy).

Ewe lambs from this first breeding will be bred to Wiltshire rams late April 2021 to generate three quarter (F2) Wiltshire lambs in August 2021 and then the trial continues with seven eighths or F3 Wiltshire lambs born in 2022 and fifteen sixteenths (F4) born in 2023. At each lambing these lambs will be compared with the base Romney flock at Riverside farm

We are planning to hold an open field day on Tuesday 1 June 2021. The project team would like to invite you to this day with details to come later.

Email s.t.morris@massey.ac.nz

This trial is generously funded by the L. A. Alexander Trust and the Massey University Foundation.



Photos: William Morrison

[Note: Photos were not part of original article – Editor]

Stock sale coming up?

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STUD PROFILE

MORVEN HILLS HAMPSHIRE

Flock # 271,

Established 2020

Owned by Kay McKenzie,
Dannevirke



Hi Everyone

I'd like to introduce myself as a new Hampshire sheep breeder located in the Mangaheei District of Dannevirke. I have always been fascinated with the Hampshire breed.

Morven Hills Hampshire (F271) was founded in 2020 on 20 ewe lambs from *La-Mac* Stud near Christchurch, bred by Ben Butterick. They arrived during the drought. Then in June 2020 I purchased 54 mixed aged ewes and 6 maiden ewes, bred by Michael and Sheryl Vette, *Turiwai* Stud. In December 2020 I purchased a 2th ram from *La-Mac* Stud affectionately known as Ben who I will put over my mixed age ewes.

The modern Hampshire is known for its early maturity, high survival rate, trouble free lambing, good length, quality meat with quick return. They are also extremely cute with their cabbage like ears.

In November I took a trailer load of Hampshires to the Central Hawkes Bay A & P Show and was absolutely thrilled to win the "All Breeds Champion Ewe with lambs" class.

Having experience breeding and competing horses and stud alpine dairy goats in Gisborne, I am passionate about breeding and showing livestock.

To promote the Hampshire breed I recently entered the Horowhenua Royal A & P Show winning some certificates and medals. With the prospect of showcasing the breed I exhibited at our local Dannevirke & Districts A & P Show a variety of lambs, ewes and a ram to gain greater exposure for the Hampshire to the general public and to fellow sheep breeders.

The inaugural sale of Morven Hills Hampshire 2th rams will be in December 2021. I am looking forward to building my flock and growing quality commercial rams for new and existing clientele and would welcome any enquiry.

Kind regards

Kay McKenzie

Ph: 06 3742899

Cell: 021 1786400

Email: glengyle@inspire.net.nz



Morven Hills mixed age ewes



Morven Hills hoggets



Morven Hills lambs



Introducing Agricademy

Agricademy is a joint venture between Ecadame (Training model, platform and IP company) and GlobalHQ (publisher, information and data business). The core purpose is to launch 50,000 successful careers in Agriculture by 2030.

It does this through the creation of sector specific IATP (Industry attraction and training programmes). Over the last two years we have licenced and integrated [Salesforce.com](https://www.salesforce.com) and [Teachable.com](https://www.teachable.com) into our businesses, giving us the scalable framework to accelerate the attraction, training and retention of the 50,000 people we need to reach our productivity and export revenue goals.

Connecting existing resources

This \$700k+ investment (to-date) in global-leading IT infrastructure and integration enables higher adoption of training resources, higher success rates, and the opportunity to unlock and utilise the training programmes, skills and talent already in the industry.

Together we are already underway.

Current state of industry training

Skilled workers are in demand. People Powered, a 2014 report spearheaded by the Ministry for Primary Industries in partnership with DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand estimated that just 44 percent of primary sector workers had a qualification beyond the high school gate. Ever since the 1800s and even more so today in 2021, agriculture is New Zealand's most valuable and important sector.

Agricultural products attract \$46b in export revenues, feeding our population of five million (and another 40 million worldwide) and creating the wealth that largely funds our nation's welfare and infrastructure.

For a school leaver wanting a career that has real purpose and delivers real value, a career in the primary sector should be top of the list. However, there are huge gaps and an enormous amount of wastage in the way we currently present and deliver primary sector career training and pathways.

The Funding model for vocational training

The TEC student funding model, called a standard training measure (STM), provides approximately \$1800 for enrolment in a NZQA qualification at L2 or L3. Once it travels through the administrative system and meets all the requirements of an NZQA qualification, the net result is about \$500 per annum per student in direct funding. The Apprentice funding model available in other sectors paying \$5000 a year over three to four years is not working for the primary sector.

Proof of concept: WOMOlfe - an attraction and training system for shearing and wool handling

In 2020 Agricademy established WOMOlfe and invested in creating modern online video centric courses to be used in conjunction with a program of in-shed training for the sector. Courses cover wool handling, shearing, shed hands and pressing.

In December 2020 WOMOlfe was awarded a contract as part of a competitive tender by the New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association for \$1.36m to train 270 new and early-stage employees. Nominated pilot regions include Hawkes Bay, Gisborne, Otago and Southland.

WOMOlfe is now rolling out its IATP "A life in wool" for the sector.

CRM - a single view of the customer

The problem we have today is existing training organisations have legacy infrastructure and data silos. The result is a fragmentation of wider industry data, unnecessary duplication, and a lack of integrations between systems.

Agricademy will be supported by global-leading CRM technology, Salesforce, delivering connected learning experiences across sectors making it easy for people to enter the sector, train and upskill.

Having a single source of truth - the one trusted place that brings together all the customer data and touch points required to deliver amazing experiences for our customers is the holy grail of CRM. Salesforce methodology puts the

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experience of the customer in the centre of every interaction and gives our customers (trainees, training organisations, and trainers) the experience they expect in today's modern, digital, hyper-connected online world.

Working with stakeholders - a collaborative approach

Agricademy welcomes a discussion with stakeholders around funding to support and accelerate the development and success of quality, sustainable career pathway initiatives in the primary sector. Additional funding would be used to develop training resources, for program delivery, to promote best practice, and to amplify attraction and retention strategies.

A summary:

We're leading a coalition of stakeholders with the right mindset to build:

1. **Agricademy** - a framework to aggregate new and existing training resources across sectors to deliver an industry of knowledge sharing, and a lifetime of learning, using the global-leader in e-learning and vocational training technology: Teachable.

2. **Agripreneur.com** - a collaborative framework that will digitise the primary sector community, enabling connection, information sharing (unlocking resources), accelerated education and training, tech adoption, compliance and transparency, using the global-leader in CRM technology: Salesforce.

GlobalHQ reaches more primary sector farmers and stakeholders every week than any other company in New Zealand. We can take them all on this journey.

Only once we have that one network, can we work together to solve the wider challenges around tech awareness and adoption, data integration and interoperability, social and environmental licence compliance, education and training, talent attraction and retention, sustainability, provenance and transparency.

A BIT OF HISTORY (National Library, *Papers Past*)

Poverty Bay Herald, 27 May 1939

DORSET HORN SHEEP - Gisborne Importation **30 Stud ewes arrive - Breeding of Fat lambs**

Thirty Dorset Horn sheep arrive at Gisborne on Thursday and created much interest among flock owners who inspected them. They are stud ewes from Victoria and are all in lamb. The breed is a new one to the Gisborne district and no stud Dorset Horn sheep are known to be here at present. A few years ago, Mr C Laver, who had a property at Ngatapa, imported a number of ewes but he moved his flock a few months later to Hawke's Bay.

It is believed that the importer of the present line wishes to make an experiment with the Dorset Horn breed in the

We will also have the opportunity to better tackle issues around farmer isolation, succession, anxiety, health and wellbeing. 'Job done' will be when we have 59,000 young people leaving school every year with a better understanding of their primary sector, and we've kick-started 50,000 new careers by 2030.

Then one day we'll be able to go to a primary sector conference and not have to listen to speakers tell us yet again: "We need to collaborate more and tell our story better."!

We're ready to work with any organisation at the highest levels to co-design and accelerate this project.

For more:

Alister Shennan, Managing Director, Agricademy.

alister@agricademy.co.nz 027 302 3713

Dean Williamson, Owner, GlobalHQ.

dean.williamson@globalhq.co.nz 027 323 9407



production of fat lambs using some of the sheep on the flat and others on the low hills in order to ascertain their suitability to the two types of country.

The Dorset Horn is a breed which is able to produce two crops of lambs a year, and with such an advantage and also being able to breed at any season, it is believed that there may be distinct possibilities of developing fat lamb production at a period of the year when there is none at present.

Whether this is the idea of the owner is not known, but such a prospect would be an interesting aspect of the experiment. It may be that the owner has in view the possibility of improving the fat lamb type by the use of the Dorset Horn breed, but whatever the lines of the experiment, flock owners of the district will be interested to learn the results.

"Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry."

MOLESWORTH 4WD Tag-along Tours

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Come and join us for this 'Four Day Tag-along Tour'

Drive your own 4WD vehicle in convoy style through the Marlborough high country on private farms, Stations and Mailings Pass, that many are unable to access. Our licensed and experienced 4WD driver & guide will be keeping you up to date along the route via two-way radio contact, ensuring you are informed and having fun along the way.

NEW 2022 DATES RELEASED!!!

MOLESWORTH 4WD Tag-along Tour Dates

January	9-12	2022	March	20-23	2022
February	5-8	2022	March	27-30	2022
February	20-23	2022	April	3-6	2022
March	13-16	2022	April	24-27	2022

For full tour details please contact, South Island Tours NZ

Phone 0274351955

info@southislandtoursnz.com

www.southislandtoursnz.com


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On this magnificent journey of a lifetime, your guide will give you a full understanding of life and land in this region, with the bonus of meeting Merino sheep and beef station owners. Naturally, the farmers have wonderful stories to share, as farm life here is quite different with rugged terrain, extreme scorching summers to snowy, freezing cold winters. At the majority of these Stations the farm couples will host lunch or morning tea.

At South Island Tours NZ, Geoff and Lee Swift are tour experts, they have 28 years of South Island tour knowledge and are hands on owner/operators. Over the years Geoff and Lee have made many friends and contacts which enables them to provide you with an extra special tour experience.

Smaller groups allow them to offer a more personalised, off the beaten track tour, with a varied selection of accommodation to suit each individual group. On this tour, you have an option of individual rooms in the shearer's quarters or a higher level of accommodation within a new farmhouse.

Molesworth Tag a-long tours have existing itineraries that work well; however, they also create bespoke tours on request. For further information on the 'Molesworth Four Day Tag-along Tour' or other exciting South Island tours, please contact Geoff and Lee.

"We did the 4WD Tag Along Tour in October 2019. We would highly recommend this tour for its mix of magnificent scenery, challenging 4WD tracks, highly entertaining commentary, hospitality and good fun. It is one thing to look at great scenery and marvel at it; but this tour also gets you right in the middle of it to enjoy all it has to offer.

Our tour guide Geoff Swift was extremely knowledgeable about the areas covered, its history, people and highlights. The accommodation and food were of very good standard too. We came away with a real understanding of the area and its people; as well as dozens of great photographs to help us re-live the days.

Our trip will live long in the memory and we wouldn't hesitate to book another tour with this company".

Kind Regards,

Graham and Joyce Bell - October 2019

"Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry."



Terra Lana

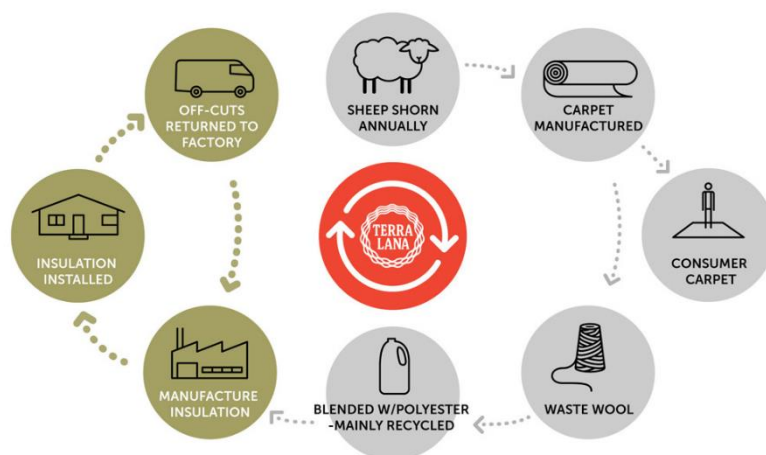
Terra Lana Products Ltd have been championing wool since 1999. We have two purpose-built factories in Christchurch, where we manufacture innovative wool products that we distribute throughout NZ. We are passionate about higher standards of comfort and health of New Zealand homes, while protecting our environment with a sustainable approach to manufacturing.

History of Terra Lana

In 1999 Terra Lana Products Ltd pioneered making insulation and eco-textiles from recycled wool. We were the first New Zealand company with wool based insulation products appraised by [BRANZ](#) (2012).

Sustainability - Our part in a better tomorrow

For every home built in NZ, there is approximately 4 tonnes of waste going to landfill. This is totally unsustainable, so as a manufacturer and supplier of the construction industry, we have taken responsibility by developing a closed-loop system. After supplying our insulation, we can take back any off cuts to our factory and upcycle them into new product. Last year alone we recycled over three tonnes and we see that figure growing as the expansion of sales continues.



The raw material as received for processing ^

Cost

Insulation makes up approximately 1% of a total build price, so it really is a no-brainer to invest in a product that will last for the life of the building without compromising thermal performance.

Terra Lana insulation has a 50-year warranty.

Future aims

Terra Lana strives to lead the way in innovative insulation and landscaping solutions promoting wools' naturally superior performance.

Our vision is for sustainable change throughout the construction and landscaping industry. We will continue to educate architects, builders and homeowners to make better choices for the health of our people, our homes, and the planet.

Product range

Thermal insulation

- Ceilings – both truss and skillion
- External walls

Acoustic insulation

- Chatterblock +
- Chatterblock ECO

Testimonial

"As sheep farmers we were happy to go along with our draughtsman's recommendation of Terra Lana insulation for our new home because I have many allergies. It is good to use wool, an eco-friendly, and non-allergenic product.

I like the rigidity of the Terra Lana batts and the way they maintain their shape and R value over time. In the Terra Lana factory, I saw batts in the wall that had been there for many years and showed no signs of sagging or deterioration. Fibreglass batts we have in our present house have sagged and deteriorated over time and have needed to be "topped up" to maintain their R value. I believe the Terra Lana batts will better maintain their R value over time in our new home.

Although we have not yet shifted into our new home, the warmth wave hits us as we step inside. We look forward to being toasty warm next winter thanks to our Terra Lana insulation."

Carolyn Abernethy



Doug Croy has been involved in the Stud Industry for over 50 years. Doug has vast experience, from running his own successful "Spring Creek" stud and is prepared to pass on his knowledge to you, the stud breeder.



STUD MENTORING SERVICES CAN:



HELP BREEDERS WITH EWE PURCHASES AND SELECTIONS FOR THEIR FLOCK.



HELP BREEDERS WITH RAM MATING SELECTIONS FOR EWES.



PROVIDING SELECTION ADVISE AND HELP IN PURCHASING STUD SIRES.



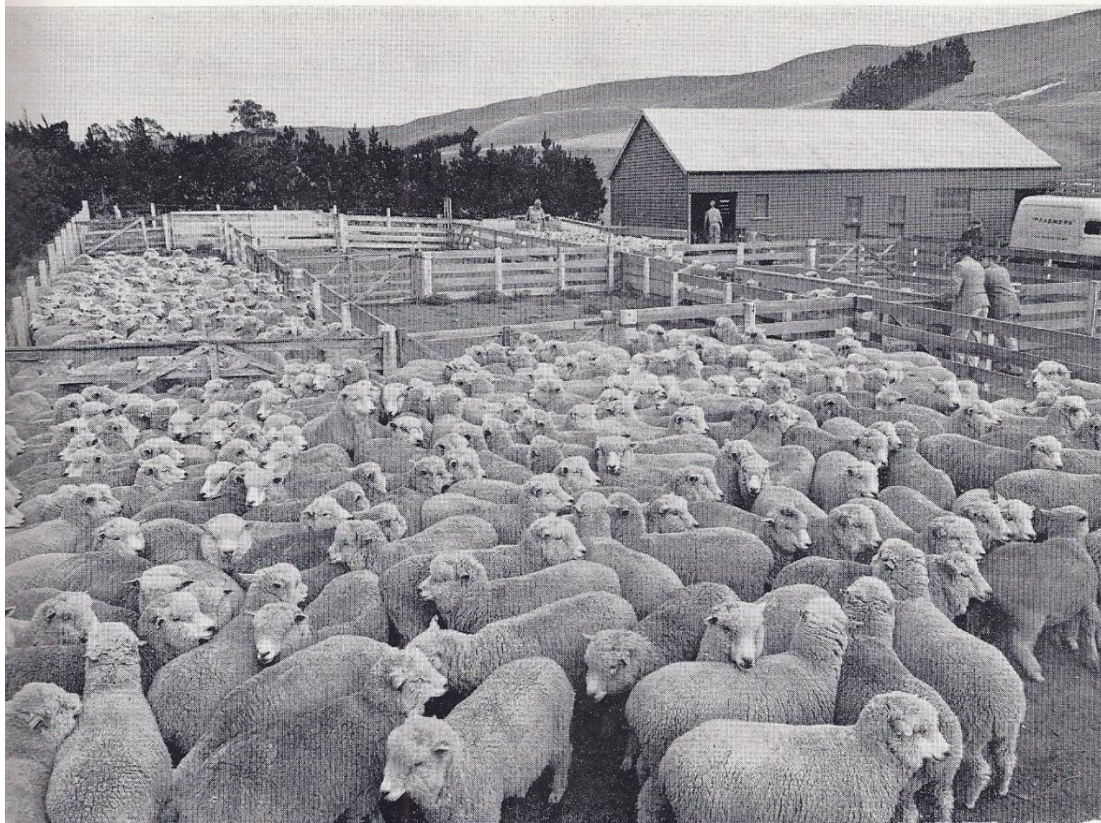
HELP BREEDERS WITH PROMOTION STRATEGIES FOR SELLING RAMS.



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"Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry."



A BIT OF HISTORY

Part of the big consignment of flock Corriedales exported to Kenya in 1959, shown in sheep yards of a North Canterbury property.
From "The Corriedale", Official Yearbook of the Corriedale Sheep Society Inc. Vol 1 #1, 1962



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“Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice
has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry.”

NZ SHEEP - THE SIL BUREAU

NZ Sheep, the SIL bureau, continues to offer an efficient service to sheep breeders.

The bureau now has 61 flocks performance recording and covering all breeds, namely: Corriedale, Charollais, Poll Dorset, Dorset Down, Southdown, Texel, Dorper, Hampshire, Suffolk, Romney, Perendale, South Suffolk and Border Leicester.

Most breeders have their 2020 lambing data and weaning weight data in SIL, which has provided them with up to date analysis of the performance of their flocks. This will enable better selection of their top performing rams and ewes for their 2021 mating Programme.

It is worth visiting the benefits of performance recording and I suggest those that are just recording pedigrees might consider a move to performance recording their flocks as in a lot of cases they are all ready recording all the traits required in performance recording.

Pedigree breeders and ram buyers can benefit from an objective way of assessing the genetic potential of rams
The best way to do this is by performance recording.


Performance recording enables breeders -

- Buyers can purchase rams on performance
- Rams can be sold on the merit of their EBVs
- Rams can be compared to those bred in other flocks of the same breed
- Better performing rams are produced for sale
 - To make breeding decisions, using Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) to assist with the: Identification of the best performing ram lambs to be retained as stock sires
- Mating decisions within the breeding flock
- Selection of female replacements to enable more money to be made from pedigree sheep.

For any further information contact:
Nigel Jay. ☎0211407827

"A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success."

Elbert Hubbard




The NZ Sheepbreeders Association
has been associated with providing top genetics to commercial farmers for over 125 years.

Fostering innovation, genetic improvement, technological advances, continuity and leadership and taking the NZ Sheep Industry forward into the future.

An approved SIL bureau to meet all your performance recording needs.

Contact Nigel Jay / 021 140 7827 / nigel.jay@actrix.co.nz
www.nzsheep.co.nz



Young stud principal, Charlotte Boyce with her "Dashwood Stud" Dorper Ewe lamb, born 10 February 2021

"Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry."

FROM FEET TO MEAT

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

Brought to you by **Southern Texel Breeders**

Ewe Hoggets – Your Flocks' Future

- Visual hands-on assessment of sheep conformation and constitution to optimize meat production and flock replacement selection.
Callum McDonald, PGG Wrightson and Guy Martin, Livestock Confirmation

Ram Hoggets - For tomorrow's market.

- Demonstration and presentation on Eye Muscle plus Intra-muscular fat scanning - Peter Clulee, Otago Scanning
- Latest in meat yield and intramuscular fat research – Patricia Johnson, AgResearch
- **Date:** Thursday 8th April
- **Time:** 1.30pm concluding with a BBQ at 4.30pm
- **Venue:** Waikaka Station – 162 Greenvale School Road Gore

For information contact:

Sharon 0272072801
sharon@waikakastation.co.nz

or

Heather 0275278089
h.cottle@globe.net.nz



“Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice has a beneficial effect on the total New Zealand sheep industry.”

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CLIMATE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED PATHWAYS FOR SHEEP BREEDERS

By Hamish G. Rennie, Associate Professor (Planning), Department of Environmental Management, Lincoln University

Sheep breeders, as with farmers generally, have been feeling the pressure from environmental regulations. There is much more to come! Here I will briefly highlight some implications from the report of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for sheep breeders.

The CCC report

The Commission's report is a consultation draft and it is seeking **feedback – from everyone – by 14th March** and this can be done here:

<https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz/> The report is reasonably readable with excellent diagrams and clear questions they seek responses on. You are not limited to those questions in providing responses.

It is supported by a more detailed "Evidence" report <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/get-involved/our-advice-and-evidence/>. This is a little more technical but also includes some very easy to understand information and chapter 4c deals specifically with agriculture (including sheep).

The report summarises the current situation and pathway that New Zealand is following in addressing emissions that cause climate change. It also suggests preferred pathways forward that it anticipates will achieve our commitments. These will influence Government decisions, and hence our future.

For sheep breeders the primary concern is methane, a short lived gas that has higher impact during its lifetime than other gases. This is well explained in the Evidence report Box 4c.2 which I recommend.

Unfortunately, for those of us keen to delve deeper, the evidence report tends to reference other Government reports or even newspaper reports as its sources of information on some points.

CCC also draws on advice from the Biological Emissions Reference Group (BERG), which is an advisory group facilitated by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and includes Beef & Lamb and Federated Farmers.

One has to work through several layers of reports and websites to identify where hard evidence is drawn from. All science has assumptions and uncertainties but modelling especially so. Much of the science is based on modelling and the cumulative weight of assumptions and uncertainties are not specified, in fact might not be able to be known.

Despite these uncertainties, these reports are best estimates and will be drawn on for policy decisions.

Implications

There are three key messages for sheep breeders.

Flock numbers are expected to need to be decreased by about 15%. This is anticipated to be compensated by greater efficiency in meat production and reduced input costs to retain profitability. There will be fewer sheep, they will be expected to be more productive and sheep meat prices may need to increase.

Land use change to reduce pasture and increase forestry, whether for commercial or permanent storage is anticipated. This may be forced by other legislation that will control future land use to a far greater extent than the current Resource Management Act. Sheep breeders may look to work together or with lifestyle block owners and other land users to have shelter belts and other treed areas that are currently small, amalgamated in terms of carbon sequestration to gain some return from restoring indigenous permanent treed areas. Regardless, certification as being environmentally friendly will become more necessary and this might include your emissions number in much the same as way Overseer calculates your nitrogen loss.

Perhaps most interestingly, the report highlights selective breeding for sheep that are low emitters of methane based on research undertaken by the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre <https://www.nzagrc.org.nz/>. The low emission trait has been shown to be heritable. As far as I have been able to identify, the breeds used to test this are Coopworth, Romney, Perendale, Texel and composite breeds that have additional infusions of Finn and East Friesian.

The choice of breeds reflects the current NZ flock and does not appear based on a scientific rationale oriented toward the needs of the future. A world with fewer sheep, where wool is undervalued and flavoursome meat, as opposed to lean, is returning because sheep meat will become a luxury food item. This suggests a need to look more broadly, perhaps at some of the rarer breeds.

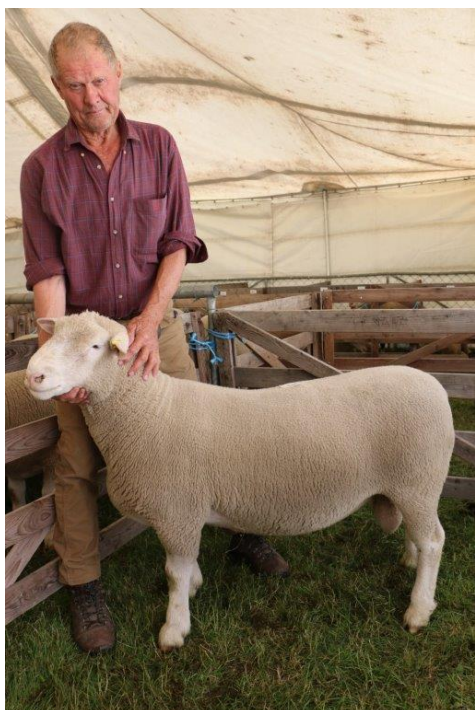
For instance, given that methane produced is proportional to dry matter intake one wonders whether breeds with a reputation for flavour and thriftiness, such as the Ryeland, should have been included in the studies. Self-shedding breeds should surely be a priority unless a solution to the wool prices can be found.

The clear implication for sheep breeders, however, is to get your rams tested for heritable low emission traits and start breeding from them as a priority.



Poll Dorset Halfbred lambs sold at Maryburn station to \$151

NEVILLE & DIANNE GREENWOOD'S 16TH ANNUAL SALE (All Photos this page by Ian McCall)



Alisdair McLraith holding Adelong 665/19 which he bought for \$4,500.



The Lochaire Partnership bought Adelong 73/19 for \$4,500., Held by Warwick Boon.

CANTERBURY A&P ELITE RAM SALE



Jim Sharratt holding Karaka 2019/35 which he sold to Alistair McLeod for \$4400. Top priced Texel.



Collie Hills 79/19 Top priced Suffolk and second top price across all breeds.

GORE RAM FAIR



George & Simon Prouting & George Lowe with Windermere 425/19 which sold for \$4100, the top priced Poll Dorset at the Gore ram Fair in January.

Special NZSBA Men's and Women's Commemorative Sheep125 Jerseys For Sale



◀ Men's Awakino –

Heavy weight merino quarter zip – this textured boucle knit merino jersey with nylon for extra strength is just what you need in the cooler months. This garment has rugged style – wear it to the game or to the pub with your mates. A very versatile style and a firm Wild South favourite.



◀ Women's Merino –

Wild South product specifically designed for NZ Sheep Breeders, we have used our mid weight Merino fabric utilised by the NZ Defence force to create a durable, versatile merino pullover to keep the ladies warm without any compromise in style.

Both styles made in NZ

Measurements

in CM

WS213A Women's Merino

8 10 12 14 16 18

½ Chest

42 44.5 47 49.5 52 54.5

Centre Back

63 64 65 66 67 68

MM047 Men's Awakino Pullover

M L XL XXL 3XL

½ Chest

56 58.5 61 63.5 66

Centre Back

69.4 71.4 73.4 75.4 77.4

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Men's Jersey - \$170.00 (gst inclusive)

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FOR SALE, ETC

GRAZING WANTED

Grazing needed for the Dalzell stud flock.

Due to farm sale Aaron and Nicole are currently looking for grazing for their stud flock.

150 M A ewes (2 mating mobs)

35 ewe lambs

50 ram lambs.

Aaron will happily continue to do all work required for performance recording and Animal health.

ENQUIRIES TO AARON: -

☎(03) 6855702 or ☎027 6855702

Sheep Breeds posters are available at the Office.

Contact: greg@nzsheep.co.nz



After having good rains over Christmas new year, the price for lambs saw a good improvement for the MacKenzie Basin on farm lamb sales held on the 12th of January. A feature of the sales was the first ever sale of 506 Beltex Merino cross lambs, on account of Simons Hill station. Which sold to a top price of \$120. **Report & Photo: Ian McCall**

Note: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS
***FREE** advertisements are available for member breeders with surplus stud sheep for sale.*
Full or half page ads may have a charge. Talk to Greg!

Remember the “Sheep NewZ” goes up on the website, available to be read by anyone with an interest in sheep!!!

Email adverts to the Editor or greg@nzsheep.co.nz

The **Closing Date** for next issue of the newsletter will be **May 20th for the June 2021** newsletter.

Please get items in well before the deadline!!!

“FEATURE BREEDS” Lincoln and Border Leicester.

If you would like to be part of this section or the newsletter, **photos and stud histories of All Breeds are accepted at any time for next issue.**

EMAIL OR POST TO THE EDITOR – see front page for address details.

Published by NZ Sheepbreeders’ Association

Email: greg@nzsheep.co.nz

Phone: (03) 358 9412

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