

Hello Members,

Once again, a **huge thank you to Ian McCall** for taking the time to provide photos from the Shows. I'm sure there are a lot more of you out there who own cameras or cell phones who could also get the odd shot or two. It means the difference between a colourful Sheep NewZ that stands out when casual browsers hit on it on the NZSBA website and a boring photo-less view!

We did have another photo or two from others so thanks to you too.

I was reading a piece by Andrew Morrison of Beef+Lamb New Zealand in "the Country" (September 2019) where he commented on the Red Meat Sector Conference he had attended where the keynote speaker was Professor Frederic Leroy from Vrije University Brussels.

Andrew said 'the professor stated that the focus on meat in relation to its impact on climate change was drawing attention away from the real issue, which is fossil fuels.

For example the Professor pointed out that if the whole of the USA went vegan, it would reduce the country's greenhouse gas emission by between 2 and 6 percent, but it would also result in widespread nutritional deficiencies and significant issues around water use.

Likewise, in Professor Leroy's home of Belgium, a single steel factory produces more greenhouse gases than all of Belgium's agriculture combined. Internationally, tourism contributes 8 percent of man-made CO2. Even the production of pet food accounts for 25-30 percent of the environmental impact from animal products. Yet we don't see anyone advocating for no more tourism or pet ownership'.

As a country our agricultural emissions seem small compared with those from our NZ human population simply living their everyday lives. NZ agriculture produces food for NZ and the rest of the world with a tiny emissions footprint (I understand this includes the transportation used to get it to our markets) when compared with other countries' whose animal welfare and environmental sustainability are no match for NZ's even when producing food for their own people. Someone's not seeing the big picture!

I wish you all a happy, healthy & prosperous 2020.

Helen McKenzie

Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From The President

Another three months have gone by and the weather is still very average being wet cold and windy here in the south. Attending water meetings and writing a submission on the water reforms has taken up a few of the wet days. Hope you all put in submissions against some of the obnoxious plans fired our way.



It was great to see "50 Shades of Green" trying to sort out Shane and Damien at parliament. I hope there were some intelligent sheepbreeders along there to support the "50 Shades of Green" team.

I was reading in the newspaper about the effect of swine fever in China and the slaughtering of thousands of pigs which is going to cause a short fall of billions of tonnes of protein. This is very unfortunate for China, but is an opportunity for the sheep meat industry to sell more product and help to ensure sheep and lamb prices hold or even increase.

I took time out to attend the New Zealand Agricultural Show in Christchurch for the first time in three years. It was great to catch up with breeders past and present.

The sheep section was at its usual best with the sheep of a very high standard in every class. Watching the judging of the All Breeds class is a must. Congratulations to the winners of these classes. Also I think about the judges who put their time aside to do the job. The show is a great way to help town meet country. I also caught up with the Swiss Valais ladies in their tent. They were full of enthusiasm and they said they had a lot of interest in their sheep.

We had a short meeting of the 125th Sheepbreeders' Celebrations committee. Some members are in favour of having it held in Christchurch instead of Central Otago. We are looking for feedback from members past and present about this. Unfortunately by the time this newsletter gets printed a decision will have had to be made. We will have another meeting just after the Christchurch stud ram fair and the Ewe hogget field day which is to be held on the 29th November at Taihape and we hope to get some feedback re both these venues.

It is always busy at this time of year with regional A & P shows. Please try and support the shows. Also ram sales are

kicking off. Maybe with lamb prices at record highs ram sale prices may have a lift as well?

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all success with your sales. The outlook for sheep meat is positive for the season giving a much needed boost to sheep farmers. Maybe it is our time to enjoy a few good seasons.

Wishing you all a very merry Xmas and New Year, and safe holidays.

Jim Berney
President NZSBA



From The General Manager

Another NZ Agricultural Show (formerly Canterbury A & P), and the show again delivered to the many 1000s of people that attended. Show Week in Christchurch continues to be something special with the two forms of races, together with the Show, and Show Day on Friday was really hot. What I really enjoy is being able to catch up with various members during the 3 days of the show. Most breeds continue on the Wednesday evening to have their own dinner in restaurants throughout Christchurch.

During the show the “Sheep 125” committee held a brief meeting, as we have been focusing on holding the celebrations at Wanaka and Cromwell, but it was suggested “why not choose the NZ Agricultural Show in Christchurch” as the location where all breeds can have a combined dinner on the Wednesday evening.

The committee have to make a decision and are currently canvassing people, and I have sent out copious emails to breed committees and members asking for their feedback.

This Year’s NZ Ewe Hogget Field Day is taking place on Friday 29th November on the overall winner’s property, Brian & Anna Coogan in Taihape, and the organisers suggest there should be over 300 persons attending. This Field Day is the culmination of the competition, and is always held on the winner’s property wherever they are located. [See Greg’s report later in NewZ – Editor]

I am disappointed to report that, due to lack of sponsorship for next year, this year may be the last competition held in its 23rd consecutive year, but however we are continuing to work with prospective sponsors.

Also on this note the NZSBA run eye muscle scanning workshops every few years for eye muscle scanners throughout NZ, and Beef+Lamb have declined our application for funding so the workshop is also in jeopardy.

I met with a delegation from South Korea today regarding them setting up a sheep stud industry in South Korea. They currently have no sheep stud industry and are currently

building a 1 hectare shed and have been visiting various meat breed stud breeders in the Canterbury area. All going well there could be around 700 pedigree ewe lambs travelling to South Korea next year...

They are looking initially at a few meat breeds, and hopefully once New Zealand gets its foot in the South Korean door, more breeds will follow.



L-R: Mr Lee; Greg Burgess, NZSBA General Manager, & the second Mr Lee

To our sponsors, Thank You for your continued support, and to members let’s hope Ram Selling goes well.

Greg Burgess
General Manager, NZSBA



“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.”

Feature Breed

EAST FRIESIAN



East Friesian ram

Photo: Graham Meadows

ORIGIN & HISTORY *(Thanks to NZSBA website)*

This long established breed originated in the Friesland/Ost Friesland area in the north of Holland and Germany. In Europe it has been used either pure as a milking breed, as a crossing breed with other milking sheep breeds, or to improve fecundity and milk production in meat production breeds.

In December 1992 eleven pregnant ewes and four rams were imported into New Zealand from Sweden and entered a private quarantine station at Silverstream, near Dunedin. Thereafter a breeding programme was commenced using embryo transfer techniques, with only those animals derived from the embryo transfers eligible for release from quarantine.

The first release occurred in March 1996, with 40 rams being sold while the remaining animals were held back to expand the flock numbers. However, there were substantial sales of semen, with an estimated 50,000 ewes of various breeds being artificially inseminated.

In 1995, the first flock was registered with the NZSBA by Silverstream East Friesians and in 1996 several more flocks were registered and this has continued.

BREED DESCRIPTION *(Taken from the NZSBA East Friesian website)*

The East Friesian is a larger framed, thin tailed breed that is very clean around the back end. It has a pink nose, pale hooves, and head and legs are clear of wool. It is renowned for high fecundity and high milk production.

It is particularly used for cross breeding to improve milk production and lambing percentage of other sheep breeds. The East Friesian is the basis for establishment of a sheep

milking industry for the production of feta cheese and other sheep milk products.

Bodyweight

Ewes: 75-95 kg

Rams: 100 -125 kg

Meat

Carcass very lean, good lamb growth rates

Breeding/Lambing

High fertility. Average of 280% in mature ewes

Milk

The most productive sheep breed in the world, producing 500- 600 litres per 210-230 day lactation

Numbers

304 registered ewes in 7 flocks but many hundreds of commercial purebred ewes and crossbred ewes in dairy flocks

Wool

4 – 5 kg. Approximately 37 microns. An ideal carpet wool.

In NZ the East Friesian breed has previously been used over Poll Dorsets (one of the first breeds used in modern sheep dairies in NZ).

Currently it is now being used as a foundation ewe (alongside the Coopworth in some flocks); being crossed with the more recently imported Lacaune and Awassi breeds in setting up several large new commercial sheep milking flocks.



East Friesian ewe

Photo: Graham Meadows

“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

**Tainui East Friesians, Flock #59,
Established 1998
Owned by Mark Collis**



Tainui sale ram hoggets ▲

The Tainui stud was formed in 1996 on embryos purchased from Silverstream. In 1997, a ram was purchased and was mated to 250 Romney ewes. The first cross-ewe lambs were mated as hoggets and lambed very successfully that year. This was the start of a commercial first cross flock of ewes and the numbers built up to a flock of 700. The first cross ewe was very productive with lots of milk and the lambing percentage went from 140% to 200%. They were very good mothers and in one year, 20% of them had triplets or more. The ewes were crossed to either a Poll Dorest or Southdown ram to produce fat lambs - and in many cases, a ewe would have two lambs drafted off her. The pure breed flock bred up to 50 ewes, selling rams to commercial farmers to produce first cross sheep. I've exported sheep to Japan, China, Chile, Mexico and embryos to China and Chile. Semen has been sent to four countries overseas. I've also exhibited sheep at Hamilton, Hastings, Christchurch and Palmerston North Royal Shows. The ewes are great producers of milk and lambs and have longevity now, not like in the early days. The sheep are run on flat, fertile country and are fed like dairy cows.



Tainui ewes & lambs

STUD PROFILE # 2

**Fortuna East Friesians, Flock #67,
Established 1999
Owned by Martina Lawlor**

My husband and I run a 240 hectare farm near Gore, entirely with sheep; 1900 ma ewes, 450 hoggets, plus rams. We have a commercial flock which are a cross of Texel, Coopworth and East Friesian. I have around 80 purebreds running around and various crosses.

I have always had the vision that EF are to be bred for milk, and with that I like to see a well-positioned udder being easy to get on for the lambs, as well as for machine milking.

I started with 17 pure bred Silverstream EF ewes and lambs in 1998, which got dwindled down in number fairly fast, due to the sheep having different requirements to what New Zealand can provide. I added additional ewes from other breeders over time, which gave me more breed diversity.



East Friesian sire with his ram lamb offspring ▲

Over the years I have done a lot of reading about different aspects of mineral, soil and feed requirements for those sheep and it made our operation to what it is today.

The breed objectives for my East Friesians are longevity, to be able to rear what they scan (besides triplets, I make a judgement call on whether I leave all of them on or not) and after weaning lambs, be able to continue milking if I wanted to do so. Not all of my ewes are there yet. With those ewes, which do not fit that milking requirement, they are still able to be bred with a Texel to create a useful half cross. All of my 2th ewes normally go to the Texel, to become a mum first and show their maternal worth. If they are proving to have the right breeding aspects they will go to a pure bred from then on.



◀ *East Friesian 2th ewe with Texel cross lambs*

“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.”

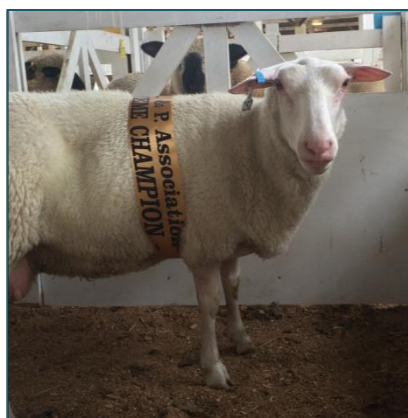
Over the years we have found the East Friesian crosses make very good maternal commercial ewes. The ewes have few dags due to the tail area being more open. They are very fertile and when crossed with the right meat breed, create very good works lambs, with good growth rates.

It was the milking side which attracted me to the East Friesian breed and I have always milked some of them just to see what their milking temperament is, as well as volume. Having only a single milking plant I haven't taken volumes for all of them, with running the farm on a day to day basis as my husband tends to his other business (which takes him off the farm most days) besides lambing time, where we do pull together, to maximise our lamb crop.

In the last few years I have started to show a few East Friesian sheep with good success. It is important to show people that East Friesians are still around and that people can see what we as breeders have been up to.



East Friesian ewe and ram lambs Gore A&P show 2016



*East Friesian ewe
over 18 months
Gore A & P show
2018, Supreme
East Friesian ewe*

I would like to see the sheep milking industry flourish, as I feel sheep's milk is a great product and it would be a great addition to the already existing sheep industry. But in saying that, I feel they have still a place to play as a part of a maternal composite.

STUD PROFILE # 3

Bridesdale East Friesians, Flock #6,

Established 2000

Owned by Judy & Richard Dillon, Gore

My husband Richard and I now farm about 40 hectares, which we retained to run my sheep and horses on - having been through the farm succession exercise a few years ago to enable our sons to farm on their own account.

Richard's grandfather brought the farm in 1919. Rainfall is around 800-1000mm. Soils are Ardlussa/Fleming - floodplain soils. We are in close proximity to the Mataura River Waikoikoi/Kaweku terrace soils. These have required tiles and mole ploughing.



Newly shorn ewe & lambs, November ▲

I founded my East Friesian flock in 1996 by artificially inseminating 29 Romney ewes, then over the next few years added ewe lambs of various degrees of purity plus purchased pure bred rams to gradually progress towards a pure bred flock. I now run between 45 and 60 ewes and ewe hoggets.

They appealed right from reading the first article written by Jock Allison, in one of the farming magazines. Fecundity, milking ability; a large framed sheep with good wool.

The cost of setting up a milking operation meant I have not gone down that track. My aims have been to gradually improve the sheep I have. While I don't have milking figures, I would suggest that a ewe whose lambs wean at 40-42kg each for a set of twins, is milking well!

At present I sell a number of ewe lambs after I have chosen



those I wish to keep as replacements and similarly sell a few ram lambs. Any singles and the remainder are sent to the works - achieving good weights and prices.

Bridesdale ram lamb ▲

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

Campaign For Wool Update

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales visited the British Embassy in Japan today (23rd October) to celebrate the UK House in Japan campaign that is running a series of events and activities to showcase UK excellence in business, innovation, culture, arts and education in order to build closer relationships between the UK and Japan. This included a display from the Campaign for Wool that highlighted the attributes of wool for well-being.



Wool is known for its biodegradability in the land and ocean which is becoming a topic of social discussion and engagement as the Campaign for Wool continues to push this message globally through Wool Week, social and other promotional opportunities for consumers to Make A Difference and to Choose Wool for their next garment or product in the home. Collectively we can all make a small difference and accumulatively this can only help the plastic issue we are facing globally.

Wool is less known for its health and well-being properties, but has a great story to tell, with its ecocredentials propelling the fibre into the health and wellbeing industries. Science* is showing that wool bedding and sleepwear appear to promote a better night's sleep, and medical studies reveal the wellbeing benefits of

superfine Merino wool, particularly for eczema sufferers. Wool can improve air quality and also absorb VOC's (released from many products found in our homes and offices; solvents, paints, cleaners and disinfectants, air fresheners. Used in furniture,

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carpets, bedding, clothing or insulation, wool can be a sustainable and natural solution to the problem of accumulating indoor contaminants.

As Japan found new prosperity in the 1950s and 1960s at a time when traditional values in the home were being revisited, consumers of futons and mattresses routinely asked for bedding products filled with quality wool. As there are very few sheep in Japan, this growing demand was met by wools from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK and the market grew to between 6000 to 7000 tons of wool per year.

Unfortunately, this brief encounter with sustainability was short lived, as mills across Japan began to produce polyester at predatory prices that ultimately reduced wool's place in the futon market to around ten percent of the total, reducing the bedding market of all the proven health advantages of sleeping with wool.

Peter Ackroyd, COO The Campaign for Wool said "Wool regulates your body temperature far better than any other fibre, keeping you in what is known as 'the thermal comfort zone'. You therefore not only fall asleep quicker and sleep longer, but also have deeper, better quality sleep."

"We are pleased to have the support of the Campaign for Wool Supporters in the creation of the wool well-being space at the Embassy, these include Johnstons of Elgin, DAKS, Hotta Carpets, AW Hainsworth, Smalls, Janie Withers, Abraham Moon & Sons, Joshua Ellis (Escorial Wool), Smalls, Allbirds, MamaOwl, Wool&Prince, and with special thanks to John Smedley."

The Prince of Wales noted in launching his Campaign: "**Wool is a product that the most brilliant boffin in the most hi-tech laboratory could never create.**" October 23rd, 2019 News Release

NEW ZEALAND EWE HOGGET FIELD DAY

Report from NZSBA General Manager, Greg Burgess

The New Zealand Ewe Hogget Field Day was held last Friday in Taihape on the Coogans property with over 200 persons in attendance. The weather was sunny and very hot and the day was incredibly interesting and enlightening. I actually spoke to a farmer from Gore who had made the trip with his wife and a couple of his workers and he said he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt so much on the day.

A great experience and hopefully the Ewe Hogget Competition continues.....



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AROUND THE SHOWS

Clean Sweep for Coplands

Ashburton Guardian, Saturday November 16, 2019

Reprinted with permission

By Heather Chalmers heather.c@theguardian.co.nz

Mark Copland and family of Dromore achieved an extraordinary clean sweep at this week's New Zealand Agricultural Show in Christchurch, winning virtually all the combined wool breed classes with their Border Leicester sheep, culminating in the Supreme Wool Breed Sheep Exhibit.

The family had never previously won the award. "It's huge," Copland said. "It was great for the breed and great for the family. It all came together."

To further cap off a great day, Mark and his wife Robyn also won show ambassador of the year for being long-time supported and exhibitors.

Competing against the best of the other wool breeds, including Merino, Halfbred, Corriedale and Black and Coloured sheep, the Coplands won prize after prize.

A judge noted when awarding the Coplands the prize for Best Wool Breed pair that while the merino wool was worth a lot more, he couldn't fault their animals for structural soundness and evenness of fleece.

The Coplands, who farm and exhibit as Westmere Farming Company, were long-time exhibitors at the Show. Of the 12 sheep they took to the Show, all received prizes.

"I am the third generation of the family showing sheep and our son Hugh is the fourth generation," Mark Copland said. "My grandfather started the flock in 1932."

As well as winning Supreme Wool Breed Sheep Exhibit and best pair, they also took home the Food and Fibre Trifecta, for showing the best three ram hoggets of a wool breed.

In a rare double, they also won both the Miss Canterbury Best Shorn Ewe Hogget and the Best Wool Breed Ram Hogget.

Copland said they had won the Miss Canterbury twice before, "but a long time ago".

Awarding the prize for Best Wool Breed Ram Hogget, judge Hamish Mackay of Gore said he couldn't say enough about that ram. "He carries himself well with a tremendous fleece of wool, which has a beautiful lustre to it." The previous day, Westmere Farming won Supreme Champion Border Leicester with their Champion Border Leicester ram. They also won Reserve Champion Ram and Champion Ewe for the breed.

As well their sheep stud, the Coplands also run a commercial flock of first cross Border-Romney ewes.

"We have 2500 ewes, including the Border Leicester stud of 200 ewes, which is small by comparison with what we used to have. When I left school, we had 6000 ewes. It was dryland then, but now we have irrigation," Copland said.

Since developing irrigation from bores 15 years ago on three-quarters of the farm, the farming operation had become more diversified. As well as sheep, they now also have crop, including potatoes, and also finish 1000 beef cattle.

Border Leicester rams were sold to commercial farmers to put across Merino and Romney flocks. The breed was also known for its high lustre wool.

The former captain of the New Zealand Dog Trialling Team, Copland said he still participated in the sport, but now only in the Autumn.

Another Mid Canterbury sheep breeder to perform well at the show was Stuart Sinclair of Wkakanui, who was awarded supreme champion Ram in the Cheviot and south Suffolk classes. He also won Supreme Champion Suffolk in partnership with another breeder, Johnny Miles of Lyndhurst.



(Photo supplied)

Dromore farmers Mark Copland (right) and his son Hugh won the **Supreme Wool Breed Sheep Exhibit** at the New Zealand Agricultural Show in Christchurch with this four tooth ram, McCombie 254-17 BNZ Supreme Champion Wool Animal.

Winner of the: Frank O'Reilly Memorial Trophy.

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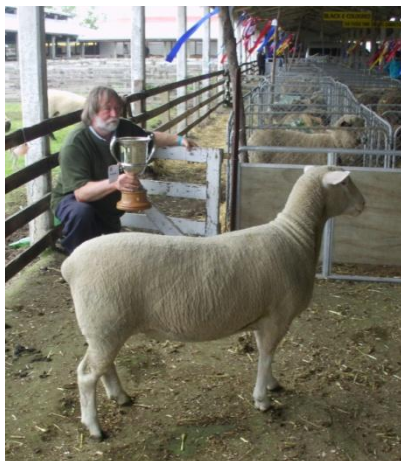
Royal Show, Hastings 2019 (3 x photos editor)



▲ Bruce Orr addresses some of the onlookers at the awards presentations



ASUPREME SHEEP OF SHOW Simon & Fiona Prouting's South Suffolk ram hogget



◀ Miss Hawkes Bay Ewe Hogget, Poll Dorset owned by Glenbrook Stud of John du Faur (pictured) & Est. JA du Faur, Waiuku

The NZ Agricultural Show, Christchurch, 2019



Photo: Ben Doubleday Photography
Ben Butterick (right) receives the Marks & Spencer cup for Best Ram Hogget, Meat Breeds with his Hampshire ram hogget at the NZ Agricultural Show. Sponsors representatives from PGG Wrightson & Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health NZ stand alongside.



Photo: Heather Cottle
Supreme Champion Texel, Mayfair 1/17. Bred and owned by Quintin and Kate Boyd



NZ Agricultural Show Christchurch continued



▲ Sarah Adams, Zoe Bain, Diane & Neville Greenwood with the Supreme Champion Poll Dorset **Photo:** Ian McCall

Ellesmere Show



▲ BJ & PE Butterick's All Breeds Champion Hampshire ram hogget **Photo:** Ian McCall



Photo:
Ian McCall

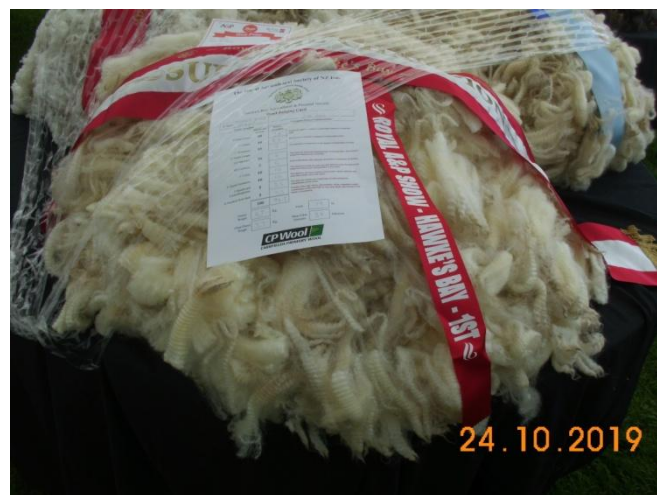
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Andrew & Tracy Paterson, Matakanui, **Supreme Champion Fleece at the NZ Agricultural Show, Christchurch**

Ashburton Show



▲ Westmere Farming's Border Leicester, All Breeds Champion ewe hogget **Photo:** Ian McCall



Champion Romney Hogget fleece at the Royal Show, Hastings - 94.5 points out of 100.

Exhibited by Te Kaihi Romneys

NZM celebrates Supreme Award win at 2019 New Zealand International Business Awards

The New Zealand Merino Company (NZM) is celebrating after winning the Supreme Award at the 2019 New Zealand International Business Awards that were held in Auckland last evening.

As well as taking out the top award, NZM also won the 'Excellence in Design' category, and achieved highly commended both in the 'Excellence in Innovation' and 'Best Large Business' categories.

The annual Awards celebrates the success of New Zealand businesses on the world stage. The award for 'Excellence in Innovation' recognises achievement in developing and commercialising innovation in international markets. While the 'Excellence in Design' category highlights the best use of design to succeed in a global marketplace.

NZM Chief Executive John Brakenridge says, "These awards go to our team and board, the 500 high country farmers, strong wool farmers, Māori agribusinesses, and Pāmu farms who dare to be different. They are leaning into regenerative agriculture and embracing the notion of wellbeing, not just of people but also of the planet."

"We'd also like to acknowledge our innovative brand partners who are taking our special fibre to the world and the Te Hono network who continue to lead the way for agribusiness in New Zealand." Brakenridge said.



L to R: Peter Floris, John Brakenridge, Steve Williamson of NZM.

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MICRON REDUCTION - Breed Choice

Not Obvious by James Hoban (*Reprinted with permission from Country-Wide Sheep Special 2019*)

Merino NZ recently ran a series of workshops for farmers considering reducing the micron of their flocks. Some people have already started this process through cross breeding while others have moved to finer breeds entirely and many continue to run strong wool sheep on the basis that they believe meat production trumps everything.

The Merino NZ workshops were attended by a captive audience and the company made assurances that any concerns about fine woolled sheep could be addressed by sourcing the right genetics. What the article was missing was a compelling financial comparison of strong wool and fine wool flocks.

The following is an attempt to put some figures around different types of flocks. This is a comparison made challenging by the range of flock performance. Pregnancy scanners will vouch for the fact that there are still fine wool and crossbred flocks routinely scanning well below the national average and other flocks, including fine wool, far exceeding the norm. Simply questioning whether a Merino, Corriedale, Halfbred, fine crossbred, Dohne or Sann is more profitable than a Romney, Perendale, Coopworth or composite ewe will not lead to a definitive answer because so much relies on management. There continue to be breeds within breeds. A simpler way to approach any comparison is to look at what level of performance is required from either fine or strong wool sheep to match their counterparts.

What about the anecdotes?

Generations of farmers loyal to particular breeds have always had theories on the strengths of their favoured sheep. Unfortunately not all of these have been validated or dismissed by scientific studies.

Feed conversion efficiency is one trait many fine wool farmers have claimed is an advantage of their sheep for generations. The theories being that “four Corriedales can be run where only three Romneys can,” or that a Halfbred ewe will eat less than a Romney of the same liveweight, or that crossbreds never sleep but just continually eat, or that Merinos can live on fresh air and good views. Feed budgeting tools all base animal demand on liveweight in a way that does not cater for

these theories. The idea that an animal can be heavier – therefore more valuable when sold, with a heavier fleece and bigger lambs while still eating the same as lighter ewe has obvious appeal but unfortunately it’s never been proved beyond all doubt. AgResearch work on feed conversion efficiency has shown some animals to be curve benders – more efficient than others – and the only fine woolled sheep involved went some way to supporting the old theories. Like many projects through this trial is awaiting funding support and comes with the usual caveats around the length of the study and application at farm level.

Temperament is another trait attached to breeds by many farmers. While some handling and management influence temperament, most farmers would agree that in general Merinos behave differently to Perendales, for example. Some people continue with mid micron sheep in part because they find them easier to handle. Dogs and shepherds used to crossbreds have been thrown by the behaviour of a fine woolled flock and vice versa.

Longevity is an asset that mid-micron producers also claim. A longer-lived ewe reduces the replacement rate and means that ewes can be sold younger for a better price or that extra hoggets or two-tooths are sold. Some farmers at the Merino NZ workshops cited ewe deaths as a concern they had when it came to shifting towards finer sheep. The reality is that there are flocks in all breeds with high wastage. The Massey University work, recently reported at Beef+Lamb Farming for Profit days by Kate Griffiths, showed ewe losses as high as over 24% but generally ranging from 8-12%, in a group of Romney based flocks. Many fine wool flocks will lose a smaller percentage than this while some will lose the same or more.

Gross Income comparison

With flocks within all breeds either exceeding or failing to meet common production expectations, identifying genuine averages is difficult. The following comparison uses Beef+Lamb NZ economic service data to compare average results of crossbred flocks with finer wool options. A range of beef and lamb classes are shown in table one which averages lamb price, ewe price, lambing percentage, wool weight and wool price over three years. Unfortunately there is no farm survey class solely running fine or mid micron wool. Class one South Island High Country is the closest to a sample set of fine wool farms available through the Beef+Lamb information.

TABLE ONE*Averages - 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18*

<i>Class</i>	<i>Lamb Price</i>	<i>Ewe Price</i>	<i>Lambing %</i>	<i>Wool Sold kg/head</i>	<i>Net Sale Price c/kg</i>
<i>1 - SI High Country</i>	<i>\$100.56</i>	<i>\$78.22</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>812</i>
<i>2 - SI Hill Country</i>	<i>\$103.38</i>	<i>\$89.47</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>447</i>
<i>3 - NI Hard Hill Country</i>	<i>\$101.27</i>	<i>\$79.66</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>287</i>
<i>4 - NI Hill Country</i>	<i>\$101.43</i>	<i>\$81.22</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>289</i>
<i>5 - N I Intensive Finishing</i>	<i>\$110.31</i>	<i>\$85.84</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>279</i>
<i>6 - SI Finishing Breeding</i>	<i>\$104.04</i>	<i>\$89.84</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>319</i>
<i>7 - SI Intensive Finishing</i>	<i>\$102.71</i>	<i>\$85.13</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>287</i>
<i>8 - SI Mixed Finishing</i>	<i>\$116.55</i>	<i>\$100.70</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>340</i>

Table Two compares an average of all the predominantly crossbred Beef+Lamb classes with Class one (fine wool) and a mid micron class. Three year averages are used to compare all three.

The wool price for the mid micron class is based on the mid micron wool price indicator – averaging 45 values for that indicator over three years and converting them to a greasy price at 75% yield. For the mid micron production figures, real farm data has been used, based on eight unnamed Corriedale or Halfbred commercial flocks, all running on hill country. These are predominantly breeding properties. These flocks have a wide range of lambing percentages from 100-145%.

The wool price for class one has been increased to remove the influence of strong wool flocks and make it more

representative of a Merino sample. An average three year price for a number of Merino growers has been used.

The North Island classes are almost entirely made up of strong wool farms. To make it more favourable for the strong wool class, North Island Hard Hill country is not included and South Island Finishing/Breeding is. This helps inflate the average lambing percentage for the strong wool.

The Gross Income per ewe figure has been created by:

- Multiplying the lamb price by the lambing percentage
- Adding 20% of the ewe price (she is only sold once – five years has been used for all classes)
- Multiplying the wool weight by the wool price and adding it to the above values.

TABLE TWO

Group	Lamb Price	Ewe Price	Lambing %	Wool Sold kg/head	Net Sale Price c/kg (greasy)	Gross Income per ewe
Fine wool	\$101	\$78	106	4.1	1187	\$170
Mid-micron	\$112	\$111	126	4.5	758	\$197
Strong wool	\$105	\$84	134	4.5	285	\$170

It should be noted that these are averages of available information. Using this information, mid micron ewe values are higher than crossbreds. Longevity and ewe size may influence this. The lamb price is also considerably higher in the mid micron class which may be a function of the number of terminal cross lambs and the added value of a

fleece on fine wool store lambs. If the ewe and lamb prices are dropped to be the same values as the strong wool class, it brings the mid micron gross income figure down to \$182, still ahead of both fine and strong wool classes.

If a strong flock could refine its wool clip to achieve \$5/kg greasy, at the same lambing percentage, it would increase

gross income per ewe to \$179. If this was done through introducing fine wool sheep in a crossbreeding programme hybrid vigour would help maintain other traits.

People running any breed could argue that these figures do not fairly reflect their flock's performance or their preferences. However based on these figures, if the mid micron flock is only achieving 100% lambing it matches the strong wool flock at 134%. Looking at it another way, the strong wool flock does not match the mid micron flock (lambing at 126%) until it achieves 160%. A Merino flock lambing 120% remains well behind Mid micron but comfortably ahead of the strong wool class.

An important consideration is whether sheep related expenses would be the same between fine, mid and strong wool sheep. This will largely come down to management, genetics and farm conditions. Most strong wool sheep are shorn twice annually which is an obvious cost that the fine and mid micron options do not present. Feed and animal health costs can be debated. Flystrike, internal parasites and footrot all need consideration but none of these are limited to a breed of sheep. Regardless of personal biases, any flock performing well in any of these groups will exceed the averages of alternatives.

Shropshire NZ Update *by Helen McKenzie*

Unfortunately we have had one of our longer standing studs disperse recently but some of the ewes have gone to existing breeders and several to a potential new breeder in the South Island so not all bad.



Some really great news is the fact that for the first time in recent history we had 8 ewe hoggets in the Shropshire **Ewe under 18month** class at the Royal Show in Hastings this year. We had three exhibitors with 16 sheep in total.

◀Emma checking out potential ewes for purchase from Rangitukia Stud of Nan McDonald & Sue Kingsford, Wairarapa.

It is so good to have an enthusiastic relatively new breeder, Emma Pollitt. Emma works as a Genetics Specialist for PGG Wrightson, covering the Bay of Plenty and East Coast of the North Island. She says she chose to establish a Shropshire stud after much research, which promoted their easy lambing and early finishing abilities. She sees a real fit in the hogget mating space, and is also keen to validate the claim of the Shropshire's ability to graze within trees to reduce the use of carbon and chemicals within orchards.

Emma had several mixed age females at the Royal Show and gained Supreme Champion Shropshire with her ewe hogget, Highley 889-18, (bought from Dr Lucy Burrows as a lamb) The other special moment for Emma came when her ewe hogget came 3rd out of 16 sheep entered in the All Breeds Ewe Under 18months of age. Her older ewe with twin lambs at foot was third in the All Breeds Ewe Over 18 month class from 7 ewes entered.

Royal Show Champion Ram, Stirling M514-17, was entered by Stirling Shropshires of Wairarapa, owned by Alistair Potts.

Other exciting news is that pertaining to the export of semen to the USA from three rams, bred and owned by another young breeder, Dr Lucy Burrows. The semen is going to American Shropshire breeder, Cody Heimke. Some of you may have met him when he judged the Shropshires at the NZ Agricultural Show a few years ago.

There have been previous exports of Shropshire semen to the USA but not for several years now. Last time the semen was from the "Mamasa" stud of Margaret Birtles. The recipient breeder, Mrs Annette Menhennett, was based in Pennsylvania. She had visited New Zealand to see the Shropshires; a more the traditional type than the modern American style of that time. She was pleased with the NZ sired progeny. Annette worked with a cheese maker and they made cheese from her Shropshire milk which she sold at the annual Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. It sold out in no time at all. Annette died in 2012 at the age of 86.

NZ Shropshire breeders are finding good demand for Shropshire rams to go over white face ewe hoggets. They have a distinct advantage with easy lambing, early maturity and progeny which are colour marked for quick identification in the drafting race.

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2020 – MOLESWORTH 4WD Tag-along Tour Dates

Jan	13-16*	Alternative dates could be available for group bookings of 6 or more people. Please phone to discuss.
Feb	22-25*	
Mar	1-4	
Mar	15-18	
Apr	5-8	*Limited Spaces available, be in quick!

Price from \$1695 pp twin/share

For full tour details please contact, South Island Tours NZ

Phone 0274351955 Or 03 3147220

info@southislandtoursnz.com

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Have you driven through the vast and unspoilt high-country region of Molesworth Station and neighbouring areas? If not, it is an opportunity you do not want to miss out on.

This unique part of New Zealand has extensive and towering mountains, meandering clear rivers, fresh native beech forests, rich golden tussock landscapes and is rich in history.

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 farm 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. Geoff has a wealth of knowledge and is a well-known and likable character in this region. Over the years Geoff and Lee have made many friends and contacts which enables them to provide you with an extra special tour experience.

Geoff and Lee have identified smaller groups allow them to offer a more personalised, off the beaten track tour, with a more 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 extremely 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.

An incredible experience awaits!

"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, it's 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

ANOTHER GREAT SHOW FOR DORPERS AT CHRISTCHURCH

Last week's New Zealand Agricultural Show in Christchurch saw another great turnout of Dorper sheep. Entry numbers, which have remained reasonably steady over the last few years continued with 6 exhibitors showing 28 White Dorper and 40 Dorpers respectively.

This year's judge was GT Ferreira, a stud Dorper and Angora goat farmer from New South Wales, Australia.

The Supreme Champion Dorper prize went to John Roux and Mart-Marie Schwartz from the Lowveld Dorper stud with their outstanding ram Lowveld 381/17 who was also awarded the Champion Dorper Ram and Grand Champion Dorper Ram ribbons.



Judge GT Ferreira and Mart-Marie Schwartz with the 2019 Supreme Champion Dorper

The Roux/Schwartz team had a great week winning the reserve champion Dorper ram ribbon as well as achieving the Champion and Reserve Champion Ewe ribbons. Congratulations to them on this great accomplishment!

In the White Dorper Section Lindsay and Cristine Drummond from Belfield Park Dorpers won the Champion ram ribbon with their ram, Belfield Park 3/18, and also took out the Reserve Champion ram ribbon with their older ram, Slopehill 6/16.

Jo & Pete Townshend from Kilmarnock Dorpers won the Champion Ewe ribbon with Kilmarnock 24/16 who then went on to win the Grand Champion Ewe ribbon. Rachelle Keen of Willowdown Dorpers won the Reserve Champion Ewe ribbon with Winton 95/15.



Judge GT Ferreria and Jo Townshend with the 2019 Grand Champion Dorper Ewe

A progeny class was introduced this year where three sheep from the same sire were judged together. Eight entries were received for this new class. Lindsay and Cristine Drummond's Belfield Park entry achieved first place with their two rams and one ewe sired by Rivermoor 15/16. Runners up were the Lowveld Dorper team of one ram and two ewes sired by Lowveld 276/16 with third place going to the Maple Dorpers team of one ram and two ewes sired by Dell 106196.

Special mention must also be made to Maple Dorpers for achieving 2nd place in the All Breeds Super Ewe Class – congratulations to Don and Eunice Edgecombe for this great result!

Roll on next year!! ☺





ShearWarmth *Article supplied by Lyn Neeson*

ShearWarmth is owned and operated by farmers Lyn and Monique Neeson, a mother and daughter in-law duo, who proudly produce quality woollen blankets made from wool specially selected from the first clip of lambs' fleeces off their farm, Awarima Station, in Tokirima, King Country, New Zealand.

ShearWarmth grew from frustration at the dollars we were getting for our wool in the late 2000's. We had been breeding for wool using Paparata Rams, in a closed flock for 20 years and we were producing some beautiful, white, clean ewe wool and being offered \$1.38 a kg.

Ewes had always taken pride of place in our farming policy on the 1300 steep sheep and beef family farm at the junction of the Ohura and Whanganui Rivers. When we first purchased the property, 1987, wool made up one third of the income. In 2007 it wasn't covering the shearing costs. We had taken pride in the preparation, had 3 shed hands for the 4 stand shed and were not impressed by all of the talk about lack of care and the excuses for the low prices. Monique and I put our thinking caps on and decided that the world needed pure wool Romney blankets.

There were some things that we were adamant about from the start. We wanted a traceable product, with a small carbon footprint. Each blanket comes with its own Birth Certificate tracing from the mob the lambs were shorn through to the shearers, and the process. Each colour combo comes with a unique name which reflects the country side or the process. For instance, 'into the forest' is our latest colour, a brilliant rich green. Black Sheep is our most popular and Gravel Grey is named after the 18km of gravel road that winds' down to our place. Tokirima Natural is undyed and we can never be sure which shade of white it is, which depends on the season.



The best fleece wool is kept separate from the first shear of the lambs in January, at weaning. It gets sent to Napier for scouring, goes to Lower-Hutt for spinning, Auckland for weaving and comes back to our workshop in Taumarunui for cutting and finishing. We have played around

with shearing dates to try and maximize length while

avoiding VM, always a bit of a compromise. We use 1 tonne of our premium lamb's wool and pay the farm a fair price for it, something that was one of our motivators.

It took us about a year to source the manufacturers, and a further couple of years to get the finishing process and the branding the way we liked it. Then we had to market them. We had several 'boosts' with our marketing after winning an Enterprising Rural Women of the Year award (in 2016) being featured in a programme on Country Calendar and also in a book, "Growing More than Grass". Most recently we were a successful venture for some interest free capital funding through She EO. So it has been a matter of getting the publicity and finance when we need it to carry us through to the next stage. With all of the awards we have also been lucky to receive mentoring from business people that teach us the skills we were not aware we needed to learn. The network of people that surrounds these programmes is also very loyal and supportive.

We sell mainly on line through our website. Most of our customers are repeat, which is really unusual but says a lot about the quality of the product and the reaction of people who receive a beautiful natural New Zealand wool blanket as a gift. We have also been lucky enough to supply an international airline for their premium customer presents, the Government for their gifts and have a number of corporate clients who use them as their gift for special clients, employees or speaker gifts. The process of manufacture in New Zealand sets the price point and makes it difficult to sell to other retail outlets.

We outgrew the farm house and our sewer's front lounge so with the interest free capital from She EO we moved into a workshop in Taumarunui. Our motto was still 'remain local, hire local'. PGG Wrightson were kind enough to let us use an empty part of their retail space until we outgrew that as well, and so in July 2019 we rented a shop on the main street of Taumarunui with enough room out the back to finish our blankets. We now make a range of cushion covers, purses and bags to utilise all of the fabric. And we have paid it forward, supporting other small local businesses by selling their products that complement our blankets in return for sharing the workload of manning a retail outlet.

Monique and my son Tim now lease the farm and own the stock, introducing their own sheep blood lines using Keith Abbott's Waiteika Rams. They researched and found Waiteika Rams have the best Eczema tolerance and fantastic survivability rate and are very happy on their steep hills. I have moved into town to enable me to be more hands on in the shop and in the business. This business has progressed from a farm based/home based business to a company with a trademark. It has been a lot of hard work and perseverance and could have folded at many stages. We have complementary skills and separate responsibilities which has helped with energy and momentum and also some honest

conversations when things get tough. It is not the path we intended as farmers and wool growers, but it has been an enabler through the natural succession of a farming business.

We are seeing a resurgence of interest in the sustainability of wool and the value of it as a natural resource. Some may say it is about time. I'm not sure our timing has been perfect, its taken a long time to get this business off the ground. But perhaps that has enabled all the learning's and now we are poised for taking advantage of the positivity around wool. No one denies it is a fantastic product. If you know of its values you instantly recognize the shortcomings in alternatives. ShearWarmth is still all about the wool. Strong, versatile, last a lifetime blankets made out of a sustainable raw product. Nothing beats it.



▲ Tim and his dogs droving sheep to shearing

A BIT OF HISTORY

Hastings Standard, 10 July 1896
National Library, *Papers Past*

N.Z. Sheepbreeders' Association.

-----♦-----
MEETING IN WELLINGTON.

-----♦-----
[BY TELEGRAPH.]

-----♦-----
SPECIAL TO STANDARD
-----♦-----

WELLINGTON, This Day.

Messrs J.G. Wilson, R.Cobb, G.Wheeler, W.C. Buchanan, A. Matthews, J. Tuckey, A. McHardie and J. Baker have been appointed as council of the North Island Sheepbreeders' Association.

One other member will be elected to represent Auckland.

At the same meeting the risk of introduction of the tick plague was discussed, and it was resolved to draw attention to the danger of allowing the importation of hides from neighbouring colonies.

Ewe Hogget Competition '19

By Alistair McLeod [photos taken by Alistair]

The last couple of years I have had the job of driving the Judges of the National Ewe Hogget Competition around NZ for the final judging round. It is an enjoyable and interesting experience taking us through many back country roads to places we would otherwise never have seen. We've meet lots of very passionate sheep breeders proudly showing their ewe hoggets and laying bare their farming operations,

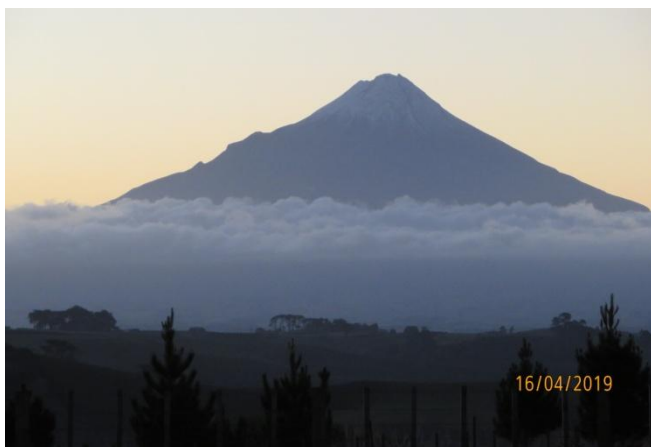


business practices, their successes and challenges. It never fails to amaze me the enthusiasm and hard work done by these people.

◀ Ewe hoggets waiting for judging

The final judging round is run to a very tight schedule, planned & timed precisely. We are on the road early and drive several hundred kilometres/day to cover the country. For example, our first day in the North Island (16 April 2019) started in Hamilton, where the Judges met for the first time. Then we were on the road with a drive down to Piopio on the west coast of the North Island.

It's my job to introduce everyone when we arrive on farm, take photos for the record, slot in food stops and keep time! With only an hour allocated/farm the Judges get a reminder from me fifteen minutes before departure and then the vehicle is running with five minutes to go. It's not easy as most finalists are so hospitable, keen to show you more, feed us up and tell us more!



▲ Another early start in Paradise

From Piopio we drove 3.5 hours to a property near Hawera. Day 1 finished with us settling down at the Waitotara Hotel. This was a very interesting experience in itself, still well & truly set in the 70's maybe when the last guests stayed and their vacuum cleaner blew up. I don't think they get many

punters in there. The menu was fish or steak but they were out of fish and there was none of that 'green stuff' either they told us! It was a good meal all the same. We continued our North Island tour judging stock in Taihape, Eketahuna, and finishing at Palmerston North.

▲ Day after night in iconic Waitotara pub.



L-R: Dave McKelvie, Adrian Arnold & Charlie Seymour

For the South Island tour we flew to Nelson to start in the Howard Valley south of Nelson. Other farms were located at Seddon, two at Hawarden, then Springston, finishing at Geraldine. Day 3 in the South Island covered Timaru area, Kyeburn, Middlemarch and finished in Gore. Our final day on tour this year started at Waikana, then to Chatton, Longridge, Five Rivers and Lochiel, finishing in Invercargill.



▲ Car packed up for another day's judging

On tour the Judges ask plenty of questions, view the stock, listen to the farmers' presentations and then in the vehicle travelling to the next spot they are conferring over points for things including Flock Performance, Wool, Breed Selection, Type and Evenness. It is no easy job for the three Judges discussing all these points and then rating them against all the other farms they've seen. Plenty of pressure!

It would be great if the sponsors and the general farming community got in behind these entrants, and supported them

by joining the judging rounds. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge out there that these farmers are prepared to share and I would like to see young farmers, and old, tap in to this. The ewe hogget competition is a great chance for farmers at the local and national level to showcase not only their stockmanship but also their ability to manage diverse environmental conditions to get the best

out of their land and stock while complying with ever-evolving government regulations.

Every year sees a final prize-giving meal and celebration where entrants, sponsors, judges and supporters enjoy a great night out. The Overall Winners also host a field day on their property where everyone gets a chance to see first-hand their stock and land.



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.



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Shearwell New Zealand Ltd - Advertorial

The best-selling RFID sheep tag in Britain and Canada, known as the SET tag, is now available in New Zealand.

Shearwell New Zealand supplies direct to farmers and offers livestock tags, EID readers, software, weigh crates and drafters.

The one-piece sheep tag has a wrap-around design that's light enough to be inserted into new-born lambs and strong enough to last for life. It was designed to give the best possible retention. The latest trial work in Canada shows 99% retention in 50,000 tags over a 3-year period. With these exceptional retention rates, SET tags are gaining popularity in Australia, Brazil, USA, Canada and now New Zealand.

Shearwell's revolutionary tag design allows this lifetime tag to be used as both a visual identification tag and a low-cost method of electronically identifying sheep. The tags can be applied to sheep at any age, and are also suitable for identification of other species. They are available in 11 colours (yellow, green, white, orange, grey, blue, purple, pink, black, red and brown).

Another useful tool is the Shearwell Stick Reader which has been developed for speed of use and accuracy. One of its helpful features are the green and red lights, green to show the animal is being read for the first time and red if it has already been scanned which is a real plus when pen reading.

This is the ultimate farmer-friendly tool – simple to use, rugged and versatile. It reads all types of EID ear tags and boluses, and can hold up to 16,000 records! It links by Bluetooth to mobile printers and weigh-heads. Another unique feature is the ability to interface with both android and iOS apps, which means it will greatly assist farmers to meet their NAIT requirements.

The Shearwell Weigh Crate or Automatic Drafter takes the pain out of handling large groups of sheep. The race reader and digital weigh-head are linked to a handheld stock recorder so data collection is easy, fast and accurate.

Knowing the pressures on costs, Shearwell is committed to bringing value for money to the marketplace. Talk to us about the best solution for your farm.

For more information go to www.shearwell.co.nz or call 0800 79 99 89.



Note: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Free advertisements are available for member breeders with surplus stud sheep for sale.

Let others know that you have spare ewes. Maybe enable a new flock or two to start.

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Sheep Breeds posters are available at the Office.

Contact: greg@nzsheep.co.nz

The **Closing Date** for next issue of the newsletter will be **February 20th for the March 2020 newsletter.**

Please get items in before the deadline!!!

Next **"FEATURE BREED"** will be the **Dorpers**

If you would like to be part of this section, **photos and stud histories of all breeds are accepted at any time.**

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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