

Hello Members,

I hope the weather will provide the desired conditions for your area soon! Some are getting way too much rain and the rest of us way too much sunshine.

Thanks to those of you who have taken the time to provide information for this newsletter, especially the Dorper breeders for the Breed Feature and Ian McCall and Jim Berney for getting local photos.

Re photos: for those of you wanting photos with your ads please take a little time to present your animals to their best advantage. Take note of where other animals are in the background; are head/s, legs and tail/s of the sale animal/s all in the photo?

Check out advertising in your rural papers – see if you can pick the best sale ad for stud sheep – then aim to be better!

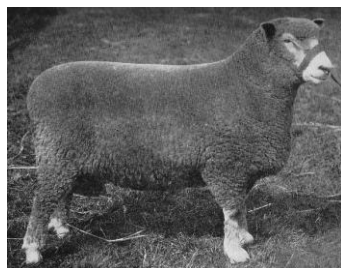
If you send me the complete photo, uncropped, sometimes I can improve it, but poor stance or an extra leg beneath the subject animal cannot be rectified by cropping.

The examples below are not perfect photos but the sheep look alert and are standing reasonably square.

It does not actually take long to train a sheep to stand for a



photo with a halter. Probably 1/2 hour should do it. (Teaching them to lead takes a bit longer...) A bit of bribery & corruption doesn't hurt either!



If taking a group photo as per the great picture below of Burrows' Shropshires, try and attract their attention so they are all looking at the camera.

Helen McKenzie
Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From The President

Another three months has gone, Christmas and New Year a distant memory, so it's back to doing what we do best SHEEPBREEDING!!!



The weather has been hard to follow this summer, hot and dry up north making conditions tough for livestock farming also complicated by the Corona Virus affecting prices. Wet and cold with floods down south to top it off.

You have to feel sorry for those whose properties have been torn apart from the flood waters, losing fences silage and baleage, as well as winter crops.

I heard of one good deed when the Gore A & P Assoc committee members banded together for a working bee to assist the president whose property was affected by the flood. There will be many good deeds like this going on all over the areas affected by floods. Great community spirit and it shows what rural people do to help their neighbours.

The **Merino Conference** is to be held in Cromwell on 12th March and will probably be over by the time this report is printed. It will be followed by a dinner at night I will be attending and looking forward to catching up with the members.

We are due to have another 125th meeting and I'm just waiting for a date for this.

Southern field days have been and gone. Good to see all the sheep breeders showing their breeds. Had Todd Muller, opposition member for Agriculture, come and talk with us at our stand. I was impressed with his comments.

Ram sales have been steady with some on farm sales having very good prices. At the Gore Stud Fair the prices were firm but you would think with the prices being paid for lamb you would have thought stud prices may have been a bit higher.

Lamb and mutton prices have dropped back, affected by the corona virus, but I'm sure these will lift again in the near future, as the drought in Australia and the pig virus in China will have long term implications for both countries.

If you know of any young people interested in breeding sheep please try to encourage them to join the Sheepbreeders' Assoc. as there are provisions to help them with their fees in their first years of breeding. I believe there has been 2 young breeders joined under this system already.

Well enough from me.

Jim Berney

President NZSBA



From The General Manager

A new year and already February has almost gone.

Merino Excellence 2020 – A bus load of visitors from many overseas countries begin their tour of the South Island on the 8th March travelling to Cromwell where the actual Merino Excellence Congress is taking place on March 12th. There are several top speakers from New Zealand as well as overseas and the day ends with a Dinner that night. I will be in attendance with our President Jim Berney. The tourists then spend some time at the Wanaka Show, and travel back to Christchurch by the 18th March.

125th Celebrations – Now NZ Agricultural Show – Christchurch 2021 – Since the last report all members were canvassed as to where they think ‘Sheep 125’ should be located, and the result was an overwhelming tick for Christchurch during the 2021 show.

More information will be available once the committee meets. We will be holding an all breeds dinner with some top speakers, as well as all breeds having display boards.

Romney New Zealand – as we approach the end of March, Romney New Zealand will then come under the umbrella of the New Zealand Sheepbreeders’ Association.

Breed Conferences – those breeds having conferences this year will be sending their information to the office to be circulated very soon. Suffolk NZ are travelling to Australia in May and have welcomed other breeders to their tour party.

Breed Promotion – Breeds will be discussing the perennial issue called Promotion... how to make the best use of the limited funds a breed may have? Always a conundrum for breeds to determine. Using paper medium, Facebook, merchandise etc caps, signs. If using paper medium, then it’s imperative the ads are supported by an interesting article relating to your breed.

NZ Ewe Hogget Field Day – 2019 - was held on 29th November on the overall winner’s property, Brian & Anna Coogan in Taihape, where over 150 people attended. The day was hot and very interesting and there were numbers of bikes available to transport everyone on the farm tour.



NZ EWE HOGGET COMPETITION – 2020

This years’ Ewe Hogget Competition in its continuous 24th year has kicked off for this year and **ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.**

NZ Flock Book – 2019 – Due to problems with the binding machine, some flock books are literally falling apart. If you require another please contact the office.

Eye-Muscle Scanning Workshop – we are still pursuing holding a workshop for scanners and new entrants.

NZSBA Website – is currently being updated with a different format. – **BREEDS -wanted new photos of your sheep**

Office News – Great news as our Coffee Shop next door that abruptly closed last year has now re-opened.

Also note that we no longer have a fax machine as the office is now on Fibre.

Greg Burgess
General Manager, NZSBA

An advertisement for 'LIVESTOCK ADVERTISING with Farmers Weekly'. The top half of the ad has a background image of sheep. The text reads: 'LIVESTOCK ADVERTISING with Farmers Weekly'. Below this, it says 'Have ewe heard the most successful place to advertise your livestock, is in Farmers Weekly?'. At the bottom, it says 'To advertise Phone HANNAH GUDSELL 0800 85 25 80 or email livestock@globalhq.co.nz'.

‘Whether you think you can, or you can’t,
you are right.’

Henry Ford

Feature Breed

DORPER & WHITE DORPER

ORIGIN & HISTORY

20 years of Dorpers in New Zealand

Supplied by Cristine Drummond

The Dorper sheep breed was developed in South Africa back in the 1930's where they wanted a breed that had good lambing percentages, produced a high-quality carcass and could survive in their extreme environment. The original cross was the Dorset Horn with the Blackhead Persian from which the blackhead (Dorper) and white (White Dorper) sheep were produced, both of which were then stabilised to give a reliable reproduction of features and characteristics.



Blackhead Persian Sheep



Dorset Horn

Dorper sheep first arrived in New Zealand in 2000. The original genetics were sourced from Australia as embryos, semen and live animal shipments. Today the expense of importing live animals has seen a move back to mostly semen and embryos as a source of new genetics. All genetics are still sourced from Australia as our strict New

Zealand agricultural import laws do not allow the importation of genetics directly from South Africa.

There are currently 32 registered breeders in the NZ Society; this is a mix of Dorper and White Dorper breeders with over 1400 registered animals. These breeders are located from Auckland to Invercargill in the south and various places in between. This means Dorpers are being farmed in all different climates and environments.

The White Dorper is sought after as a terminal sire particularly for hogget mating to produce smaller lambs with little lambing problems and the ability to grow quickly. The bulk of White Dorper rams sold in New Zealand at present are being used for this purpose. There are also commercial farmers infusing White Dorper blood into their maternal flocks to produce a lower maintenance breeding ewe.

The Dorper is more popular with lifestyle farmers/small block holders. They are seen as an alternative to the traditional 'boring' white sheep and are popular for their lower maintenance qualities such as their fleece shedding ability.

Continuing low wool prices are seeing farmers move from the more traditional dual purpose (wool/meat) type breeds to producing a more meat orientated sheep. They are looking to produce a good meaty lamb and they like the Dorper breed which produces lambs consistently yielding at 50% or more. There was initial scepticism in the early days that the breed was too small and could not compete with the more traditional larger meat breeds. The breed often attains good results at Hook & Hoof meat competitions which shows that their smaller body size does not impact on the meat ratio.

The NZ Dorper Breed Society is proud of the progress that has been made since the breed arrived here and is keen to continue to build on the previous hard work put in by all those who've been involved with the breed over the years.



Belfield Park Dorper & Black Dorper ewes

Photo: C Drummond

"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."

BREED DESCRIPTION

The Dorper is a smart intelligent sheep that is easy to work with. They are generally quiet to handle and free moving. Initially better on drier country but they are adapting well to wetter/heavier country.

They are non-selective grazers and put poorer pastures to good use. They graze in a similar manner to goats.

Bodyweight
Ewes: 65-70kg Rams: 90-100 kg
Meat
Well put together carcasses with good fat distribution. Good growth rates; lambs able to reach 36kgs liveweight in 3½ - 4 months. Lambs small at birth but grow well.
Breeding/Lambing
Excellent mothers who produce good quantities of milk. Very fertile, with older ewes usually having twins or triplets. Will breed at any time of the year – may produce lambs three times in two years.
Numbers
Dorpers: 970 registered ewes in 18 flocks Black Dorpers: 398 registered ewes in 16 flocks Also, about 250 ewes in Appendix flocks, mostly White.
Wool
Some sheep have hair and others wool, all self-shedding.

STUD PROFILE # 1

Dashwood Dorpers, Flock #161,

Established 2018

Owned by Charlotte Boyce



Charlotte and one of her rams ▲

My name is Charlotte Boyce and I am ten years old.

I breed the Black Headed Dorper with the help of my Grandad and I am a registered breeder since 2018. I bought my sheep from Mr & Mrs Bill & Maureen Lott, Flock #8. I live on a farm in the Awatere Valley. I love Dorpers. They are great sheep and I have just put the ram out with the ewes.

I take them to shows and so far I have won two firsts, two seconds and one third. I groom them because it makes them look good and they run to me when I call them. I have named most of my Dorpers. I feed them sheep nuts and lucerne hay.



Charlotte and one of her 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.”

STUD PROFILE # 2

Willowdown Dorpers, Flock #129, SIL 3424

Prefix: Winton, Registered 2010

Owned by Greg & Rachelle Keen



We started in 2005 with commercial flock of 15 7/8th black Dorper ewe lambs. My goal, at the time, was to breed up a commercial unregistered flock.

We went to the Dorper ram sale in Christchurch in 2008 and purchased Turnbull 05/88 (named Bull). A purebred Dorper that was used a lot. He can be found in most of the lineage of Black Dorper sheep.

I registered my flock with NZ Sheepbreeders' Assn and got the Dorper breeders handbook!

Fifteen years later I have brought in, and bred up to, 65 breeding ewes. A mix of Black/White Dorpers. They have adapted well to being South. I find a medium sized, wet type of sheep, (good fat cover) survive and breed well in our wet climate. My favourite type got Reserve Champion at 2019 Christchurch show this year. I go to the show yearly to have competition and to socialise with other likeminded breeders.



Judge GT Ferreira & Rachel, with her Reserve Champion ewe at the NZ Agricultural Show, Canterbury in 2019

I also show our animals at most of the local Southern shows. This photo is at our local Winton A&P show. The Best Ram Lamb Class. The dorper got 2nd.



The White Dorper rams are in demand for hogget/ terminal mating. A client told me "He has never seen another breed of lambs playing 30mins after being born". He got 50% lambs away at weaning draft from his hogget's. They killed out at 18-19kg.

The Dorper (Black Head) is demand for its looks, no shearing or crutching. If someone wants 2-10 sheep in their front paddock they want one with a black head. I have sold rams to a high-country farm because they wanted to make a distinction between maternal and terminal lambs at tailing for contractors.



Photos: Supplied by Rachel Keen

STUD PROFILE # 3

Valhalla Dorpers K & K Ltd
Flock #62 (OD^{CLR})
Established 2004
Owned by Kevin Carr &
Kath Murphy, Kumeu
Mobile 027 273 6967 Kevin



Valhalla Dorpers K&K Ltd, based in Kumeu, Auckland, is the furthest north of the Dorper stud breeders in New Zealand. We have been breeding Dorpers in New Zealand since 2002. Having farmed them commercially back in the 1970's and 1980's in South Africa, we were excited about breeding them in New Zealand.

Over the years, we have syndicated genetics from Australia with other breeders and have also exported semen, embryos and more recently live animals, to Argentina and Paraguay in South America.

The Dorper breed has come a long way from the original stock that first came into the country. Valhalla Dorpers K&K have kept up with the times, bringing in new genetics that complement the breed in production of top end quality meat, with very high yields and fast-growing lambs.

With growth rates, we have seen up to 450 grams per day and reaching meat yields of between 54% and 61.5%. These percentages are our best achievements to date, in Best Export Carcass at carcass competitions.

Top end lambs from our new genetics used last year, are growing at up to 10kg per month.



◀ Valhalla ewe & lamb

▼ Valhalla ram lambs



STUD PROFILE # 4

Lowveld Dorpers, Flock #140
Established 2012
Owned by John Roux aided by Mart-Marie Schwartz, Christchurch

The Lowveld Dorper stud was formed in 2012 with the purchase of 15 ewe hoggets and five mixed aged ewes from a local breeder (Dorper Lodge). For the first two seasons, a Turnbull ram was used which provided the following generation with beautiful heads. These first-generation Lowveld Dorper ewes became the base of our flock. One of these ewes was awarded Reserve Champion Dorper Ewe at the 2013 Christchurch A&P Show as a hogget with twin lambs.

In the years following our success with the Turnbull ram, we used other local rams as well as Australian genetics through AI. The latest with semen from Global Dorpers, Australia. In recent years, there has been enough genetic variation in our flock allowing us to use our own rams, both of which had been awarded Supreme Champion Dorper at the Christchurch A&P Show, in 2017 and 2019, respectively.



◀ Lowveld 276-16

Our primary breeding objectives at Lowveld Dorpers are fertility, meat production, mothering ability, sound feet and

beautiful heads. The majority of our ram lambs are sent to the works. We keep the best ram lambs as potential breeding rams for ourselves, and market the rest both locally and internationally. We generally keep larger numbers of ewe lambs to select our replacements from. The remainder are marketed the same as the rams. Currently, our largest, most profitable market, is live export, mainly to Argentina, but also to Japan and Peru.



◀ Lowveld 381-17

Judge GT Ferreira
and Mart-Marie Schwartz

STUD PROFILE # 5

Maple Genetics, Flock #149

Established 2014

Owned by Don & Eunice Edgecombe

Ph 021 0338064 Email don@maple.co.nz

Building on the Past – Breeding for the future

The Stud

We find the Dorper are a great breed of sheep with personality to match, Our Stud was established in 2012 with the purchase of a line of fully recorded Purebred Ewes, these ewes have laid a good foundation to build on including the main families in the Stud today, including the “Baa” “Petunia” and “88” families

Past sires were Gracelands 64/09 “Elvis” and Dorper Lodge 460/12 “Mickey”, these 2 Rams also helped to establish a sound base for the Stud. In 2016 we imported embryos from the Dell Stud in Australia to bring new bloodlines into NZ. This resulted in 2 Rams used heavily in 2017 and 2018 with big improvements gained.

2017 we purchased 3 ewes in Australia, Dell 160007 and her daughter Dell 170536, and Dell 160831, to flush for embryos to continue enhancing the growth of our genetics, They are from very strong maternal families at Dell which have produced top stud rams and ewes.



Dell 160007

Ram lambs from embryos of Dell 160007 were our main Natural Mate Sires for 2019; Maple 1829/18 “LJ” and Maple 1830/18 “LG”. The progeny are very pleasing and display a strong resemblance to 160007.

2019 Mating also included AI using semen from the Australian sire, Amarula 165984. This ram sold for AU\$11,000.00. He is a proven sire in Australia and has left exceptional growth and muscle in the lambs born here. His SIL Terminal Worth is 677 which is the highest Dorper Ram we have used.



Amarula 165984

Amarula 165984

2020 Mating is underway now with 28 Embryo's from the Dell Ewes to be implanted; these are sired by Amarula 165984 and Winrae 163908. Semen from both these rams will also be used, along with Maple 1829/18 “LJ” and his son Maple 9202/19 “Persian”. This ram lamb is from a strong constitution ewe from the Petunia family and will be strategically mated to a few select ewes from the “Baa” family to be part of a line breeding program to Dell 160007 which hopefully will be the building blocks for future Genetics to enhance our Stud. Does line breeding work? Time will tell. I have read the best line breeding is when you have the same top animal on the top and bottom line of a pedigree. This is what we are aiming at with this program using Dell 160007.

2019 Highlight

We exhibited at 4 shows during 2019 receiving good placings at all four. The highlight for us was at the Christchurch Show receiving 2nd place in the “Super Ewe” All Breeds Class with our Ewe Maple 521/15. She had a magnificent set of triplets at foot sired by Amarula 165984. Her weight was 80kg and her lambs total 96kg, lambs were scanned for Eye Muscle with a weight to EMA Ratio of .450, .460 and .500 - the lambs were reared entirely by her. She has 3 Rams already used in Studs.

She is a purebred Dorper but her extra color in the hair comes up against the Breed Color Standard, however, with performance like this she certainly has a place in our Stud

Maple 521/15 ➤
Placed 2nd in the All Breeds Super Ewe



The Properties

We lease approximately 50 HA of land spread over 7 different blocks. The closest to our home is 3km, the furthest away one is 40 Km away.

All our blocks are classed as “Dry Land Farming” with no Irrigation. We lamb from mid-July and in a normal year would aim at all surplus lambs off the farm by mid-December.

This year has been a challenging year, with well above average rainfall during the late Spring which resulted in a lot of growth which was hard to control and now in February we are extremely dry, with no grass and feeding Baleage only.

Performance Records

We have all our Ewes on the NZ “SIL” (*Sheep Improvement Ltd*) recording system

We also have our own program called “DataBaa” this program records all the raw data, DOB, Sire, Dam, Birth weight, Lambing Ease, Mothering Ability, Mid rearing weight, Wean Weight, Foot Score, Shedding Score, EMA data (*Eye Muscle*) and Autumn weight. The Data is all averaged out with adjustments made for twins, triplets, and hogget Lambs. The result is each lamb is given an Index Figure with the base being 100.

All Lambs are Foot Scored from 5 best to 1 worst

Selection Criteria

Sound confirmation & constitution, Extra emphasis Ewe Lambs - on Mothers milking ability, Foot Score of 3 or better, Ram Lambs - Foot Score of 4 or better and on Growth, Lambs are all challenged under dry conditions to cull out those that can't handle the dry.

Other Breeds

We are a multi breed Stud.

Ewes to be mated 2020: -

Dorper 70

Recipients-Dorper 20

Texel 40

Beltex Cross 40

Lambing % for 2018 was 193% for mature ewes and 147% for hoggets, with 6.9% deaths

We sell Mainly ram lambs each year and also have a Ram Leasing option available to clients. Lease Rams are run on a separate block to our Studs.



STUD PROFILE # 6

Belfield Park Dorpers, Flock #12

Established 2000

Owned by Lindsay & Cristine Drummond

(Photos supplied by Drummonds)

On 13 July 2000 we implanted 30 blackhead dorper embryos imported from Australia into recipient ewes at our then property near Geraldine.



First Dorper lambs on ground



Our original White Dorper ewes

These embryos formed the foundation flock of the Belfield Park Dorper stud, and were among some of the first purebred Dorper sheep to arrive in New Zealand. Initially only Blackhead Dorper genetics were available, however in 2001 we were able to source White Dorpers who initially arrived via live animal imports.

As with any new breed there was a huge demand and prices were up there. People were paying up to \$3,500 for ewes and \$7,000 plus for rams. However that has settled over the years with prices now being much more practical and sustainable. At the peak there were about 80 registered breeders, but that has now dropped to around 30.

Belfield Park Dorpers are now located just outside Ashburton where we continue to farm both types of Dorpers. We run our flock of 40 White ewes and 20 Dorper ewes on 10ha of irrigated land alongside a handful of cattle and goats (ironically South African boer goats!).

Our aim is to breed good functional sheep that shift anywhere in New Zealand and do the job that people want. The Dorpers we are breeding these days have come a long

way from the sheep originally introduced to New Zealand. Having clients who regularly buy your stock hopefully means we are on the right track.

Over the years we have supplied genetics around the world but over the last five years we have been exporting animals to Chile, Peru, Paraguay and Argentina. It is always gratifying to receive positive feedback on what you are producing, especially when an a young ram you send off is crowned the best Dorper Sheep at one of Chile's top sheep shows! (may be we should have kept him here!!)



Belfield Park 8/15 winning top awards in Chile (November 2019)

It is hard to believe that the Dorpers have been here for 20 years, and that we were one of the original breeders. Through the breed we have met many people we would never have otherwise met, and it introduced us to the stud sheep breeding industry which has long been a tradition here in NZ. Unfortunately like many stud breeders these days, our stud will stop with us as the younger generation have four wheeled (not four legged) farming pursuits!



2018 born Belfield Park White ewes

Standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous; you get knocked down by traffic from both sides.

*Margaret Thatcher
UK first female Prime Minister*

STUD PROFILE # 7

Arimba Dorpers, Flock #36

Established 2002

Owned by JF & JM McPhee, Christchurch

Following profile and article by Jim

SHEEP SELECTION AND USE OF SIL DATA

Background

I am a breeder of White Dorpers which are run on traditionally top sheep country on the Canterbury Plains at West Melton. This year 77 ewes and around 15 ewe lambs will be put to the ram. They are run as a commercial flock on grass but, of course traditional summer drought and winter cold requires hay and/or grain as required. Winter rape is planned for late winter/spring for the ewes and lambs. Although there is an option to breed 3x in two years I prefer to stay with the traditional July/August lambing as it fits our grass growth best. We started with 2 White Dorper ewe lambs purchased at the initial Canterbury sale in around 2003. Imported semen, AI and ET have all been used to get where I am today. Other Dorper breeders have also put in a lot of effort so that now there is evidence of quality stock coming through which are better suited to NZ conditions compared to the early imports.

I believe there must be many other farmers who want a low input meat sheep option in their farming mix to complement other enterprises. For that reason and the fact that the Dorper is an excellent terminal sire for ewe lamb mating I have become quite passionate about breeding good sheep that will suit NZ conditions.

My contribution to this newsletter is not a review of SIL but more of a questioning of its value relative to other observations of what constitutes a productive animal. As a small breeder of a minority breed in NZ I was quickly alerted to the fact that SIL did not work for Dorpers. When it is recommended that for each ram there needs to be over 20 offspring to get some sort of handle on how good or otherwise the sire is then for all flocks of 30 or less SIL appears to be a no goer (as the additional source of objective information on which to base breeding decisions).

Regardless of the attitude of several fellow breeders I was always anxious to use objective measurement to (I thought) help me with sheep selection. In fact my goal is to have 100 ewes of stud quality White Dorpers, a maternal line, with SIL figures to back up their pedigree.

The first year or so were a bit mucky but there is now 3-4 years of data on which to reflect. Certainly, without this information I would not have had the opportunity or stimulus to really try to understand the data or what it really means. In fact, that clarification process is ongoing! I will

present some of my thought process in anticipation that some mathematical nerd might clarify some of my observations!

1. Dorpers do not have high figures – is this related to the fact they have small lambs at birth, are a moderate size, that there are few flocks recording under SIL or that they are relatively unproductive!! On reflection we have in the Dorper some characteristics which are very valuable to the commercial breeder. They are ideal for hogget mating, the hair sheep with its thick skin handles miserable conditions well and as a true meat sheep there is the obvious advantage of outcross vigour which most commercial farmers endeavor to utilize for prime meat production. Two positive comments from repeat ram purchasers are that the survivability is higher (than alternative sires used with hogget mating) and another that the lambs finished earlier (than his traditional sires).

Armed with my new found knowledge of 3-4 years SIL data I now suspect that, as a breed with low BW then always there will be that negative in the Terminal Worth Index created. In reality, breeders will not want to lose that particular advantage as it underpins one of the selling points of rams. I have noticed that by acting solely on TW index the sheep seem to get taller and narrower - probably as a result of bigger frame, more bone, whereas we really should be looking for more meat on the smaller frame of the Dorper (hence eye muscle scanning).

2. Of significance to those who utilize ET I have noted that the offspring are designated to have the recipient ewe as the mother. I can see that if a donor ewe has 6 lambs in a season that her Maternal Worth will be exaggerated but surely there must be some way to get around this? Certainly, the figures created for the ET progeny cannot be as accurate as one expects?

3. Just how much better is a sire with TW of 600 than one with 300? Twice as good? What does that really mean in terms of production of progeny.

Moving away from SIL to the subjective observations used by experienced stockmen for generations to judge stock, we all have an ability to produce a structurally sound ewe, which produces offspring annually and lives to an old age. All key production parameters without any maths! However, by recording 100 and 200 day weights of all offspring there is an immediate ability to rank offspring on productive merit. One of the important observations I have made is the importance of the lambs to keep gaining weight from weaning and those that do progress are the ones to select. My aim is to have ram lambs 40kg+ at 100 days and a % do achieve that weight. These are immediately in the lambs to watch category. Next are those 30kg+ lambs that by 120 to 150 days end up 45kg plus. Obviously smaller at birth but with inherent growth ability so still potentially of value as commercial sires. Note the weights are commercial goals that are pursued for profitable lamb production.

All commercial ram buyers like to see stud breeders with input that creates continuous improvement in the rams available each year. For that to be demonstrated there is no alternative but to create the data base that SIL seems to deliver. However, for the stud breeder and the commercial ram buyer there is a lot of soul searching and pondering on how much weight is given to each of the observations. I would argue that rather than individual TW Indices there is more merit in seeing a trend upwards over the whole flock. Of great importance is to maintain the type and constitution of animals produced and there is a definite art in that selection process. For my money the sheep in front of me is the first priority, but the figures help ensure that we are not making a bad decision. To use a high index sire who has no guts or even structural faults is not, in my opinion, a good decision.



Dorper Ram Photo: Bill Lott of Sunnyvale Genetics

“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.”



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

Campaign For Wool Update

Advertorial from the Air New Zealand Koru Magazine and North & South Magazine.

Wool is not only durable and sustainable it changes the atmosphere of your environment. Stephen McDougall reminds us not to be fleeced by alternatives.

Witnessing melted plastic in the aftermath of a fire was enough to convince architect Stephen McDougall that wool was the way of the future.

“Everything was petroleum-based, from the curtains down to the furnishings and it was all just dripping. But the woollen carpet was only a bit charred.”



McDougall is a founding director of Wellington firm, Studio Pacific Architecture, which promotes the use of wool for everything from insulation to furnishings.

◀ *Stephen McDougall*

“Sustainability is now at the heart of all conversations. Wool is not just the best fibre in the world... it’s also the best fibre for the world.”

Wool is natural, durable, renewable and biodegradable. In terms of healthy living, wool is non-allergenic

and breathable. It soaks up pollutant gases and has naturally high UV protection. Furthermore, it’s a very effective insulator and flame retardant.

“It’s our responsibility as architects and designers to influence people to consider one of the world’s most natural and environmental products in their house or office.”

McDougall says wool can change the atmosphere inside a building. “Two woollen rugs used as curtains didn’t remove the need for a dehumidifier in our daughter’s Otago student flat but it significantly reduced the issue. We put woollen insulation and drapes into our own house and the whole environment changed. The air quality changed. It was so much quieter, but not just acoustically; it felt quieter.”

As an ambassador for the Campaign for Wool (NZ), McDougall encourages people to take decisions back into their own hands.

“Wool should be a first choice. Look at labels when you’re buying. It’s like buying a whole-food product in the supermarket; a garment or a carpet should have one ingredient – wool. I think it’s time to take pride again in this most magic of products. It’s nature. It’s art. It’s time for a wool renaissance.”

Whats on in Autumn

Autumn bull sales are coming up, I know several studs that run a dual sheep/beef stud operation, so we are here to help you with all your advertising needs across your business.

You can advertise your ram and bull sales in the *Farmers Weekly* and our AgriHQ upcoming sale notifications to ensure the right buyers are at your event.

We will also be running bull sale eNewsletters with results from around the country. If you are interested in being a part of these initiatives please contact me anytime.

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AgriHQ

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FARMER



“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.”

Wool Classer training: A brief history by Barbara Newton

Thanks to NZ Wool Classers' Association December 2019 newsletter. Reprinted with permission.

With all the confusion and upheaval of classer training of late I thought it would be appropriate to give a very brief history, and by no stretch of the imagination a comprehensive record, of classer education in the New Zealand wool industry.

Initially, becoming a wool classer generally involved training on the job, often as an apprentice sorter. The 1908 Technical Education Act primarily aimed to give NZ boys some basic training in manual skills, to fit them for later apprenticeships. In some areas technical colleges recognised a need to provide elementary training in wool classing.

The annual report on technical education provided to Parliament in 1917 records classes were held in the Wairarapa, Wanganui and Fielding being taken by a travelling teacher, at Temuka and in 1927 at the Christchurch Technical College. Night classes were a rarity, but some were held in the 1920's by Dalgety's Dunedin wool manager, Jack McGregor, who also taught wool classing to pupils at Waitaki Boys High School (Oamaru).



Students at the Christchurch Technical College in 1910

From its inception in 1929, Massey Agricultural College included instruction in shearing and wool handling as part of its sheep farming courses. Similar courses later started at Lincoln College. But until the late 1930s, there was limited opportunity for learning wool classing in New Zealand outside practical on-the-job training in a wool broker's store, or in the top making department of Ross and Glendenning's mill at Mosgiel.

Shed classing in New Zealand was at first little more than a separation of obvious differences in the fleeces, but as local auctions increased, the larger stations brought in Australian classers who had some appreciation of what the buyers were seeking.

The East Sydney Technical College had a long- established course that provided most of Australia's station classers. Some graduates came to New Zealand. The Sydney course was popular and over the years it turned out thousands of wool classers. Another wool classing school was at Geelong. Some of these early classers had also worked for a time in Bradford, England.

The increase in smaller clips, and variation in the wool brought about by crossbreeding in New Zealand, introduced a new description called "colonial halfbred". Many of these wools were not classed but only roughly sorted. Within an individual flock the fleeces would vary markedly in fineness. The opportunity was soon taken to improve these wools for sale by classing them to better uniformity in the broker's store and offering larger lots of broker-classed or 'binned' wools. Brokers had seen the fellmongeries and wool scourers were increasingly buying the half bred and crossbred wools, sorting them, blending them with similar wools, scouring and then shipping the product to London sales.

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Post-World War 2, rehabilitation courses in wool classing for returned servicemen started as early as 1944. It was a part of a wider drive to address the need for better wool preparation and replenish the depleted pool of skilled classers. This was driven by Geoffrey Peren, principal of Massey College, and George Roberts, chairman of the NZ Wool Brokers Association who met to consider the need for a new system of training wool broker classers resulting in the more comprehensive Massey diploma in wool classing. Up until then many wool brokers had little time for those trained outside their stores.



♣ *Massey College wool classing course 1945*



◀ *Students at Lincoln College.*

After the Korean war (1950-53) there was a new generation of wool growers whose focus was on high quality and efficient shearing, wool handling and preparation.

Almost from the beginning in the early 1950's, the NZ Wool

Boards shearer training courses included tuition in wool handling, given by the Dept of agriculture's sheep and wool instructors.

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Classer registration

The NZ Wool Handling Committee (Chaired by the General Manager of the NZ Wool Board, members included; the Director of Dept of Agriculture-sheep & beef, a Dept of Agriculture sheep and wool instructor, with a representative from each of the NZ Wool Commission, NZ Wool buyers Association, NZ Wool brokers Association, and Federation of NZ Wool Merchants) initiated classer registration in 1967. This came to fruition in the late 1960's early 1970's when Lance Wiggins became the NZ Wool Boards' wool production manager. Also at this time came the introduction of official training for wool handlers to raise wool preparation standards and to better develop skills that were required as a result of increasing shearing tallies, the consequence of the Wool Boards shearing training programmes.

A number of classers all became registered at the same time, initially just in crossbred. Dave Anderson (A2) and Dave McPherson (A3) and Tom Bryant (A16) were among the first to become registered. A Roger Baird was apparently issued with X1, and we are unsure of his connections but according to Tom Bryant he never classed a shed!

In 1996 the Classer Registration Advisory Committee/Group was established with the NZ Wool board responsible for the administration, training and classer registration. It is interesting to note that the representatives that made up the original wool handling committee largely formed the base for the Classer Registration Committee, although a classer representative was not appointed until 1997, and many of these organisations are still represented on the current NZWCA Board.

Education

After the shearing training was recognised by the NZ Qualifications Authority in 1989 wool handling and wool classing also joined the accreditation framework. The New Zealand Wool Board was disestablished in 2003 and the New Zealand Wool Classers Association was established to take over the roles of the Classer Registration Advisory Group.



Wool Board wool production officer Robert Pattison with trainees at a refresher course at Wrightson's wool store, Dunedin, in 1996.

Since both Massey and Lincoln ceased to offer either the wool diploma and certificate courses, (although the Massey wool handling Certificate continued for distance learning for a time) classing and wool handling education has been adopted and taught under many different guises and names, such as WoolPro, Tectra and Te Ako Wools.

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The only remaining training in wool is the Certificate in Wool Technology currently delivered by Laurie Boniface through the Southland Institute of Technology catering for a wide range of wool interests.



Students attending Laurie Boniface's block course in Christchurch.

References:

"Wool. A History of New Zealand's Wool Industry", by Bill Carter & John MacGibbon,

Various miscellaneous documents from Barbara 's own collection.

WOOL PREPARATION/MARKET UPDATE

By Roger Fuller, Carrfields Primary Wool

Thanks to NZ Wool Classers' Association December 2019 newsletter. Reprinted with permission of Roger also.

High preparation standards need to continue with the removal of skirtings, very tender, hard yellow, cotts, raddle and seed.

With weaning nearly complete and summer shearing into full swing, prices for crossbred wool continues to be very disappointing. It is important preparation standards continue to be of a high standard.

For full wool crossbred it is important to keep the hard colour and very tender fleeces separate. Slight tenderness is acceptable through the main lines at this time of the year.

Skirting is still important, especially removing those hard yellow points which can be put into the pieces.

Hard colour in the fleece has to be removed as this can severely impact on the colour reading of the main line.

With the heat and moisture, you may come across wools that are becoming very cotty. These will appear mainly around the flanks and it is important these are separated from the main body wool into a separate line of Cotts.

Second shear and lamb's wool preparation is much the same as previous, although be watchful of seed in lamb's wool which should be kept separate from the main line.

RADDLE

This is becoming a major issue within the industry. Up until now we have believed all brands are scourable BUT this is not the case. We are seeing major claims coming forward from Exporters. Wool Scours are not scouring wool if they see brands which are causing major down time within their business.

Where you see Raddle of any colour coming across the board or the table be very vigilant in removing this for the sake of the industry!!

MARKET TRENDS

Unfortunately, overseas markets continue to be very subdued going forward for crossbred wool. Lamb's wool finer than 30 micron is showing some positive signs but again seed can be a discounting factor.

With prices at very low levels we must keep a positive attitude when preparing the wool clip. What we do not want to see is the farmer getting even less for his wool because of poor preparation.

Enjoy the summer
Roger Fuller

New Zealand Ewe Hogget Competition



PRESS RELEASE - 2020 COMPETITION

This nationwide iconic competition is now in its 24th year and entries are welcomed.

This unique hogget competition continues to give farmers the opportunity to benchmark their flocks against others at both local and national level as well as giving them the chance to compare different farming systems and learn from other competitors as well as the judging panel. All farmers are invited to enter and **'give it a go', - what better way to assess your progress?**

The Competition thanks our sponsors Boehringer Ingelheim, New Zealand Sheepbreeders, Farmers Weekly, FMG, and PGG Wrightson Livestock who believe in this grass roots competition.

We welcome our new sponsors this year, BX Foods, Agricom, Goldpine and Country-Wide.

Our National Judges this year are Charlie Seymour, Dave McKelvie and one other to be appointed.

ENTRIES CLOSE 15th MARCH NORTH ISLAND; 25th MARCH SOUTH ISLAND with judging to follow, and the National Final Judging to take place in the North Island, followed by the South Island.

"The achievements of New Zealand farmers deserve more recognition and acknowledgement. The New Zealand Ewe Hogget competition is in its 24th year and continues to grow momentum in promoting excellence within the sheep industry. It is now more important than ever for sheep farmers to have an efficient and profitable business. This competition provides the ideal opportunity for entrants to compete and compare to ensure future success" –

Stephen Rabbidge, the National Convenor



Regarding this year's Presentation Dinner the location and date are still to be confirmed but we are looking at Palmerston North.

"A massive thanks to the many volunteers who believe in this competition, contacting farmers encouraging entries, and giving up their time and effort for the duration of this event"

– Greg Burgess New Zealand Sheepbreeders' Assn – email: greg@nzsheep.co.nz

Looking forward to receiving your entries from all over New Zealand.

"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."

Merino Awatere Valley Stud Tour 9th March 2020

DAY ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

Arrive Muller **10.00am** - Smoko

Leave Muller **12.00 noon** for Middlehurst

Middlehurst from **12.30 pm** Lunch

Leave **2.30pm**

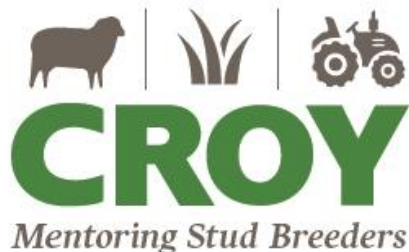
Arrive Blairich **4.00pm** and includes
Upcot, Glenlee, Awapiri and Isolation.

BBQ Blairich 6.00pm

While refreshments are being supplied at Muller and Middlehurst, visitors are asked to bring their own lunch. The bbq at Blairich will include food and drinks for everyone and is being sponsored by Marlborough Merino Stud Breeders.

Please contact Mary Satterthwaite to book in for BBQ

**Email info@mullerstation.co.nz.
Numbers ASAP please.**



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.



GIVE INDEPENDENT ADVISE TO BREEDERS WISHING TO USE RECORDING SYSTEMS.

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NEW ZEALAND WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO OUR

Industry Day and Annual General Meeting 2020

Venue – Scottish Hall 10 Tyne Street Oamaru,

Date Thursday 14th May

‘Look for our field Day Flag’



KEEP THIS DATE FREE

The Programme for the day is designed for our members but will be of interest/benefit to all involved in the wool and wool harvesting industry

NZWCA MEMBERS NO CHARGE – NON MEMBERS \$25

7.30 am to 8.00 am - Registration, Hot Drink and Health & Safety

PLEASE NOTE: Attendees are required to wear covered shoes.

8.00 am to 9.15 am - Wool exercises – Yield & Micron test, Breed test, oddment recognition test. Examples of Colour affecting body wool and Crutching's (both Scoured and Greasy)

9.15 am to 12.00 noon - Presentation by Mark Herbert the Manager Canterbury Spinners Ltd. Mark going to talk about the process at the Mill. We then travel (own transport) to the Mill (Weaver Street, Oamaru approx. 10min) and carry out a tour through the Mill. *(Bring high vest tops if possible)*



12.00 noon to 12.30 pm - Lunch provided (over lunch you will have the opportunity to carry on the wool exercises)

12.30 pm to 1.00 pm – Presentation by Steve Finnie representing Fuhrmann Wool Exporters

1.00 pm to 1.30 pm - Speaker from NZ Shearing Contactors Association

1.30 pm to 2.00 pm - Wool exercise answers and tea break

2.00 pm to 2.30 pm – Presentation and display by Ian Cuthbertson Wool Research Manager on new uses programme for wool

2.30 pm to 3.00 pm – Presentation of Merit Awards & winners of wool exercises

3.00 pm to 3.30 pm Presentation by Teri McClelland Head of Faculty Southern Institute of Technology on Wool Technology and Wool Grading Courses

Tahi Ngatahi (Wool Harvesting Health & Safety programme) will in attendance. There will be displays including Contamination, , Wool Products, and NZWCA clothing and metal stencils

We look forward to your support of this day

N Z Wool Classers Association Annual General Meeting – to start after Industry day

Non members are welcome to attend but have no speaking or voting rights

Members are encouraged to attend. Your Association has been involved in the promotion of education for the wool harvesting industry and a number of areas that NZWCA has been promoting change in our industry. Be there to hear what your executive and board have got to say.

AROUND THE SHOWS

LITTLE RIVER SHOW



Ben Butterick's Hampshire ram won Champion Sheep of the Show. Same ram that won Ellesmere Show and Christchurch Show.

AROUND THE SALES

STUART SINCLAIR'S DISPERSAL SALE

Thanks to Jim Berney for the photos below



GORE A&P STUD FAIR



Photo: Ian McCall

Trevor Potter holding Ohio 21/18, which was the top priced Poll Dorset, purchased by Neil & Sharryl Baird

NEVILLE & DIANNE GREENWOOD'S ANNUAL SALE



Photo: Ian McCall

Adelong 117/18 which sold for \$5000 to Sarah Adams Huntington.

PGG Wrightson Livestock

"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."

UK DORPER PHOTOS

Thanks to Sarah Tester from the British Dorper Sheep Society




Riverhall Apollo

Riverhall Dorper flock is owned by Sarah & Valerie Tester.



The gorgeous photo below & the photo above of Dorpers on rocks, are of sheep from the Knotlow flock owned by Margaret Hollinrake




**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
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www.nzsheep.co.nz



“Fostering the improvement of all sheep breeds and providing a unified body whose collective voice
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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.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

KINGSMEADE RAMS FOR SALE

Dairymeade Dairy Breed

Selected for milk production under New Zealand conditions over the past 24 years.

Both Black and White lines available.

Prices between \$850 to \$2500 depending on their breeding index.



Contact:

Miles King

☎06 3775252 or ☎ 0274781778

info@kingsmeadecheese.co.nz



“Pinelands”

Flock # 450, SIL 2773

Established 1993

30 registered Poll Dorset ewe lambs.

Capital stock. Flock dispersed.

Contact: Ian Wilson ☎ 06 378 0267

Mobile: 027 383 7650



**RAVENSWOOD ENGLISH LEICESTER STUD,
Registered Flock #406**

John and Fiona Robinson took over the 100 year plus English Leicester Ravenswood stud 3 years ago and are trying to establish a regular outlet for these strong wool sires. We believe this year's progeny is our best yet.



3 stud ram lambs for sale. Born in September 2019. These ram lambs are by a Te Pamuiti Sire over Ravenswood Ewes.

If interested, please contact John for further information: ☎ 021 488 021

PGG Wrightson Livestock

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

**Sheep Breeds posters are available at
the Office.**

Contact: greg@nzsheep.co.nz

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

Please get items in before the deadline!!!

**Next “FEATURE BREEDS”
will be Finnsheep, Oxfords,
White Headed Marsh &
Wiltshire Horn**

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

NOTE: Editor away 3 March to 6 April!

Email or post to the Editor – see front page for address details.

Published by NZ Sheepbreeders' Association

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