

DORPER NEWS



NEW ZEALAND DORPER BREED SOCIETY

September 2020

From the Committee

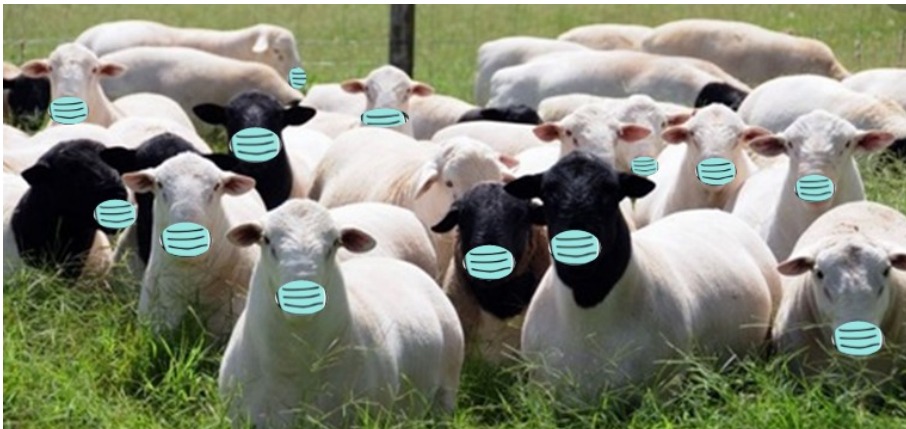
Wow—what a year!!

Who would have thought at this time last year of how dramatic and challenging 2020 was going to be—sometimes there is a benefit in not knowing what is around the corner!

Hopefully everyone came through the first Covid-19 lockdown period reasonably unscathed—it was certainly an interesting time for us all—one which I don't think any of us we will ever forget.

For those who have had a difficult time, and perhaps are still struggling, our thoughts and best wishes to you for getting back to 'normal' in the near future.

We have done very well here in NZ to have the relative freedom to go about our everyday lives and long may it remain that way. Fingers crossed we don't end up like these guys below!!



On a good note most people will either starting, be or even finished lambing—best wishes for the good weather to continue and a bumper crop of new progeny to start assessing as future 'stars' of the breed.

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Committee Meeting roundup

With this year's AGM being cancelled, the Committee held a teleconference in June where the following was discussed:

Annual General Meeting 2020

The committee sought clarification from Greg Burgess on the necessity of holding an AGM this year, given the Covid-19 pandemic and a decision made earlier in the year to cancel this year's AGM.

Greg advised that under the Incorporated Societies Act, a breed annual general meeting does not need to be held as long as there is a Breed Committee meeting.

The committee therefore agreed that given the ongoing uncertainty around Covid-19 pandemic and possible further lockdowns, no AGM would be held this year with the intention to hold the 2021 AGM in Hamilton since we didn't get there this year.

While a date is yet to be confirmed, the second week in May has been suggested. More information will come out once a date has been finalised.

Dermatosparaxis

The committee are encouraged by the White Dorper breeders working to reach OD^{clear} status.

While it is not mandatory to be OD^{clear}, it is a something that we believe is achievable by all our breeders, and will be a feather in our cap if we can eliminate this disease from our registered NZ flock.

Of those breeders who aren't currently clear, most are working towards achieving that status this year. Note: the committee must sign off your OD^{clear} status request before the Flock Book can be updated

Following a query from a OD^{clear} flock owner, the Committee discussed the matter of OD^{clear} flocks still currently having to test all sale rams.

The committee agreed that if a flock has OD^{clear} status, the testing of rams being sold is not necessary.

Inspection of stud stock for transfer

One of our listed inspectors has raised their concern with a committee member on the current inspection rules and criteria for inspecting stock being sold to new breeders.

The committee discussed this and would like to remind all breeders of the following:

- Stock to be inspected for transfer should be at least 10 months of age at the time of inspection—under that age the animal is really too young to know how they will eventually develop/mature (they can change so much up 10 months of age) This protects the buyer/new breeder as much as the seller.
- Inspections must be arranged and carried out before the animal leaves the breeders property ie retrospective inspections will not be carried out. This is to protect breeders who may have sold the animals as 'commercials' especially if the person who purchased them decides they wish to register and 'stud' the animals. (if you are selling animals as commercial stock, it is recommended that you remove all eartags and means of identifying individual animals prior to the stock leaving your property)
- If you are wanting animals inspected when you sell them, please ensure that you have familiarised yourself of the NZ breed standards which can be found in the front of the Dorper Section of the NZSBA Flock book or on line at the NZSBA website: <https://nzsheep.co.nz/dorper/>
- When selling stock, you should ensure you are very clear to the purchaser the class of stock these animals belong to (commercial or stud). You should also be very critical of your own stock, if it is not good enough to retain in your flock as a stud, then please don't sell it to someone else as a stud!!

NZSBA Website updated—new Dorper photos needed

The NZSBA website has recently been revamped. The Dorper section will be reviewed to check for accuracy/relevance etc and we think this is a great opportunity to have some new photos from breeders to 'freshen up' the look of our section. The photos need to be showing the breed off at it's best .

Please submit your photos through Greg @ greg@nzsheep.co.nz



✓ Preferred photo



✗ Less preferred photo

Spring A&P Shows

Sadly the Covid-19 pandemic saw the cancellation of several A&P shows, including the Christchurch NZ Agricultural Show this year.

Most of the spring shows are going ahead, provided the country is sitting at Covid-19 Alert Level 1. It is suggest that you get your entries in and start assessing your sheep in preparation in the meantime.

The show committees are closely monitoring the situation, if the current Alert Level 2 and 2.5 are still in place on show days—the shows will not proceed. The current advice is that if that is the case, entry fees will be refunded.

Entries to all A&P shows can be made electronically at: <https://showday.online/>

Selwyn Spring Show (aka Ellesmere Show)

Saturday 17 October 2020 (clashes with the new election date) This show is celebrating it's 150 year this year.

Entries close on 11 September 2020.

Ashburton Show (2020 Dorper Feature Show)

Friday 30 October and Saturday 31 October 2020 (note livestock are only required on the Saturday)

Two additional classes have been added to this years catalogue—a pair of under 18 month rams, and a pair of under 18 month ewes— these do not need to have the same sires.

Additional prize money will be up for grabs!!

Entries close on 2 October 2020.

Sheep 125 Celebration Christchurch November 2021

Note the change of date and location —this event will now be held at the NZ Agricultural Show in Christchurch in November 2021.

Planning is well underway. The event will include displays of breeds current or previously registered with the NZSBA (37 breeds are being invited to participate). It is also envisaged that there will be shearing displays, fashion parades and other activities of interest to both farming and urban visitors.

A dinner for all NZSBA breeders will be held on the Wednesday night.

Aussie Dorper sales:

A world record price was paid for a Dorper ram last week, Friday 4 September at the 2020 Dubbo Dorper Sheep National show and sale.

The successful bid of A\$50,000 was paid by the owners of a large commercial flock based in Queensland. The ram, bred and sold by the Van Niekerk Family's Dell Dorpers, had earlier been judged the reserve champion senior ram at the show.

The buyer said the ram was the best Dorper he had ever seen—"he has a beautiful topline and very correct. When you look at a sheep and can't find anything wrong, then you have to buy it".

A White Dorper ram from the Belowrie stud sold at the sale for \$21,000—he was brought by the Van Niekerk Family's African and Dumisa White Dorper Studs.

Full sale details will be published in [The Land](#) September 10 edition

RECORD BREAKERS

And then...

Following a bidding war, a world record price for any sheep was recently paid at the Scottish National Texel sale for a 6 month old Texel Ram lamb — 350,000 guineas which amounts to £367,500 or NZ\$725,000.

The ram is named Double Diamond and carries an index in the top per cent of the breed. He was bought by a three way partnership of breeders who are hoping to recoup their investment through breeding. One of the partnerships farm managers is quoted as saying "it was an obscene amount of money to pay for a sheep" but it was a price they had to pay to get the genetics.

Wouldn't want to be responsible for keeping this wee ram alive!!

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If you would like to write a contribution/share news/advertise stock for sale in these newsletters please contact **Cristine** at the above email address