

Hello Members,

This issue four different breeds are featured. While each of these breeds is currently low in number they all have something to contribute, or may have already contributed to, our ovine genetic resource in New Zealand.

There is also an important role to be played in keeping these breeds viable worldwide as who knows what future meat/wool/farming requirements may be.

On a personal note, Warwick & I had a great trip to South Africa to the International Red Poll Cattle Congress. This sounds grand but sadly this time there were no British representatives, only Jamaica, NZ, Australia, USA and South Africa. On these triennial tours we visit not only cattle studs but also get to meet other farming folk, view the country and visit a variety of tourist attractions, all in the company of like-minded people. Meeting up again is like catching up with family.

Fortunately, we scraped back into NZ 3 days (missing out on our planned week with another Red Poll breeder in Kenya) before the Level Four lockdown, going straight into self-isolation for 14 days. Warwick's work delivered (at a distance!) a laptop and cell phone so he could work from home and we had groceries supplied by our youngest son, Alistair, over from Australia. He spent Lockdown elsewhere but on Level 3 was able to join our "bubble". Lots of catch up farm jobs being done, especially on the weekend, when Warwick is not working.

While in South Africa we visited a "mega" sheep farm. I have written about it further into the newsletter.

The best thing I liked about South Africa was that every souvenir I looked at was made in South Africa – what a change from China. Interestingly, South Africa also imports items from South America – maybe we should look more in this direction for trade goods? All the people we met and those I spoke to briefly on the street were friendly and polite. The scenery is amazing and the wildlife awesome. Once the travel world takes off again I would heartily recommend a trip to South Africa; however, a knowledgeable local guide would be a sensible idea, one who speaks some Afrikaans. The small travel firm we went with was very good. If anyone is interested just contact me as below.

No show photos at present so take some of your stock in the paddock at home. How about an item plus photo of your best ewe and her breeding career?

Helen McKenzie

Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From The President



As I sit here contemplating what to report I think how lucky I am living here beside the Catlins Estuary, full tide and full of reflections with the calm autumn days that we have had. It is so quiet with no tourist traffic, actually deadly quiet, in fact that it reminded me of my school days, when it was much the same.

Has taken a bit of pressure of the environmental things at the moment but don't worry it won't be long before things return to maybe near normal and we will be bashed again from our usual lot Fish & Game Regional Councils and those unusual people who like to poke their noses into our farming interests.

We have been very fortunate in the farming business to be able to proceed with running our farms as essential workers and yes we have had disruptions getting stock processed but I must say I have been impressed with the meat companies and their work force for playing their part keeping the works going. Imagine what the outcome would have been like if they had shut up shop like it did in the USA.

The drought has taken its toll on a large part of the country and I hope for all affected by the lack of rain you are now getting some moisture and some late autumn growth.

Sheep meat prices have held at a reasonable level, and I would like to think they will stay there or maybe improve slightly next season as there is a genuine shortage of good product throughout the world.

I attended the World Merino Conference in Cromwell in early March and my congratulations go to the organizers for a well run event. There were some very good speakers and I was impressed by Craig Smith who buys Merino wool for Devold who make top garments in Merino wool including jeans. The flying Doctor from the Wairarapa kept us amused with his rather humorous approach to mental health and spoke about what time in the afternoon when fatigue sets in. I can assure you no one was asleep when he finished.

Talking of Craig Smith, I read he has been appointed onto the Wool Board. A very good move in my opinion as we had a good talk at dinner and I was very impressed with his views on wool marketing and what to do with producing products from wool. Something needs to be done with this industry as it is just about a liability at the moment. There

was a mix of overseas delegates, mainly from Australia, some from South America, Russia and Kazakhstan. One of the Kazakhstan delegates displayed all the breeds of sheep they have in their country. I didn't know they had so many sheep breeds although some looked half goat. A happy lot of delegates they were and provided a bit fun at the dinner with their toasts. They seemed to enjoy quite a lot of vodka shots but they appeared to disappear very quickly after that. Thank God there was no Covid - 19 cases there.

Talking of the Covid - 19 lock down Greg and staff have been working from home so there may be a bit of delay in some book work, so bear with them. We have a meeting for our 125th Anniversary planned for early June having been delayed because of Covid - 19.

Will be interesting to see what will happen with our A & P shows this coming season. It's possible many may not be held. Canterbury has cancelled their show this November.

Enough from me now. Winter well.

Jim Berney
President NZSBA



SUFFOLKNZ AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR, 2019

James Gardiner receiving the Ambassador of The Year Trophy from Symon Howard, Chairman SUFFOLKNZ



James Gardiner of 'Pinegrove' stud in Amberley, North Canterbury was the recipient of the Ambassador Of The Year award, presented at the breeders' dinner after the Canterbury Ram Fair in November.

Breed Committee members were pleased to put his name forward after his ram 55/17 was the top-selling ram at Christchurch Ram Fair in 2018 for \$15,500, which is the highest price received for a Suffolk Ram bred in this country. The ram was featured on the front cover of the 2019 ram fair catalogue.

Members felt the nationwide promotion of the breed due to the sale was invaluable and a tribute to the lineage of the oldest Suffolk stud in the country. Chairman Symon Howard said (with a twinkle in his eye) that James has been the lucky recipient of all of Hamish's hard work in prior years to James taking the reins.

Simone Budge

From The General Manager

Covid-19 has cancelled much of 2020 with the impending economic crisis to follow. Farmers have largely carried on as per usual, continuing to feed the world. What we don't know is what our product prices will be in the future, because if the world is in a recession, then the prices we receive will be obviously be lower. A lot of unknowns.

NZSBA Breed/Council/ Meetings – Nothing much to report as no breed meetings and Conferences have taken place in the usual window for meetings being April/May due to the pandemic.

But on a positive note, now in level 2 (not before time) we are nearly normal. Meetings can now take place if no more than 10 persons, and domestic flights have commenced.

Some breeds are intending to organise a 2 day get together when they do meet.

The NZSBA Council and AGM remains in doubt under Level 2.

A & P Shows - Cancelled

NZ Ewe Hogget Competition – 2020 – Cancelled

Suffolk NZ tour to Australia – 2020 - Postponed

NZ Agricultural Show – 2020 – Cancelled. This announcement is a massive hit for Canterbury as Show Week generates over 30 million dollars for the Canterbury region.

A Sheep Show, to include the Mint Lamb Competition & Club BBQ the day before the Ram Sale – may be a possibility and the only light at the long end of the tunnel.

Suffolk NZ are also taking the initiative and may be holding a sheep show in November, followed by a dinner.

Office During the Lockdown – some staff could work from home successfully. I still managed to travel to work, whilst not compromising myself or anyone else, as the lockdown coincided with a very busy time for the office due to the end of our financial year. I feel many businesses should have been able to work safely throughout, but apparently we can't be trusted.

125th Celebrations – Christchurch 2021 – nothing more to report as again the virus has prevented any further progress. We are meeting very soon, and details will be circulated.

Merino Excellence 2020 – The Merino Excellence Conference held in Cromwell, was a real success, with a pre-tour leading to the Conference held in Cromwell, then visiting the Wanaka Show, and carried on touring back to Christchurch. Unlike the Hereford Conference, which was

held in Queenstown, I'm not aware of any person from the Merino Conference testing positive for Covid-19.

The Wanaka Show may have been the last large event to be held in 2020...I hope not.

NZSBA Website – is currently being updated with a new and improved format. – **BREEDS** –we require new photos of your sheep.

NZSBA Annual Returns – these should have been received by the office by now. If for any reason you haven't please do so now as there is a huge cost in time and resources with dealing with late returns. Your annual Brucellosis form should have been sent to the office.

Romney New Zealand – Since 1st April the Romney breed now belong to the Association and are under the NZSBA, and we all welcome them.

They are hoping to have their AGM later in the year in Hamilton.

Greg Burgess
General Manager,
NZSBA



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Feature Breeds

Wiltshire Horn



Wiltshire Horn ram from Bluestone Stud

ORIGIN & HISTORY *(Courtesy UK Wiltshire Horn Society website)*

Up until the end of the eighteenth century the Wiltshire Horn was the predominant breed to be found on the Wiltshire Downs. At that time the sheep were able to roam freely on the poor terrain, providing much needed manure for the soil. The countryside offered little shade or protection. The breed is renowned for its hardiness and resilience with great vitality in the lambs.

The breed fell out of favour during the nineteenth century when the economy became reliant on wool. The breed was saved from extinction by a small group of enthusiastic breeders who formed the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society in 1923.

Although thought to be imported to NZ first in the early 1970's the Nelson Examiner, May 1862 had a reference to Wiltshire Down sheep being shown at the Nelson Show, bred & exhibited by a Mr Saxon, from imported stock.

[Following from NZ Rare Breeds Conservation Society newsletter, issue #9, 1990] 'Wiltshire Horns were first imported to Australia in 1952. It was in Australia that the Wiltshire Horn was first polled by the introduction of the Polled Dorset then crossing back to the Wiltshire Horn. It was from these sheep that 4 ewes and a ram were imported into New Zealand by Mr Belleby of the Wairarapa. The flock was then moved to Mr David Blakely of Te Puke and from there was bought by MH Morrison & Son of Ardo, Marton.

Previously there have been up to nine flocks registered with NZSA. Only one is now continuing with registration. [I was unable to find any reference to a Breed Society of their own. Editor]

More recently in NZ, Australia and Britain they have been used as one of the foundation breeds for the establishment of

such commercial (mainly self-shedding) breeds as the Wiltipoll (Australia); Wiltshire, Ezicare and SHIRE® (NZ); Exlana and Easy Care in Britain.

BREED DESCRIPTION

(Information from the "Observers' Book of Farm Animal's, by Lawrence Alderson, 1976)

The Wiltshire Horn is a distinctive, white-faced sheep and both sexes are horned. Because it does not grow wool it suffers less than other breeds from fly strike. It is a robust breed, and the lambs are active at birth, while the loss of wool has been compensated by extra fleshing, especially over the back.

In NZ the derivative breeds have come into favour with the requirement for "low maintenance" breeds where minimal interventions eg crutching & shearing are desirable.

| Bodyweight |
|--|
| Ewes: 60-75kg Rams: 110-142 kg |
| Meat |
| Good growth rate with lambs lean and heavy |
| Breeding/Lambing |
| Lambing 190-210%. Good mothers. |
| Numbers |
| Registered ewes (NZSA Flock book) 22, but some purebred flocks run commercially. |
| Wool |
| Wool is usually shed annually. Fibre is short. Fibre diameter 30-32 microns, Staple length 25-50mm |



Some of the Bluestone Wiltshire Horn stud's ewe flock

STUD PROFILE # 1

Bluestone, Flock #5,

Established 2009

Owned by Anthony Meadow-Frost & Cheryl Ritchie, Auckland

We moved to our lifestyle block in 2001, but soon discovered that the land was not really suitable for cattle so we started to investigate sheep breeds. Wanting an easy-care sheep, we came upon the Wiltshire Horn and were immediately captivated by its looks, attributes and long history. We did consider some of the out crossed, like Wiltshire polled but opted for the original horned variety, a rare breed.

In 2005 we were lucky to get a few sheep from the flock of Mary Hutchinson from Gisborne when her flock was dispersed. We also got a few from Morrisons at Bulls and some, including a ram from Warkworth, and so started our flock.

Our experience with sheep was nil but we could not have got a better breed for our lifestyle block. Their meat has less fat than others. They are good mothers and both the rams and ewes have lovely temperaments.

We do not dag, remove tails or shear our sheep and after the initial lambing drenches we only drench if Barber Pole is around. No shearing means all the birds around have fleece lined nests, a bonus for the birds. Shearing could be done but before they start to shed.

What amazing sheep we have found they are. In dry weather they exist on very little; we have never had to buy in feed. This summer we had limited rain in the Auckland area. Grass was practically non-existent but our sheep are as healthy and in as good condition as they have ever been and look absolutely wonderful. In Winter, our ground is wet and slightly hilly but we have never had any trouble with their feet unlike some other breeds, which is a blessing

We have found that they do not tolerate copper very well. Coming from the chalk covered hills of Wiltshire they like more calcium which we put in their water from time to time.

They are a smaller sheep than many but are easy to handle, especially with horns. What we would do without them I do not know. My husband and I can handle all the rams and ewes. Having horns is a great help and we would never consider a non-horned breed now.

We wish there were more people willing to breed these wonderful sheep.

Cheryl and Tony

"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."

Oxford

ORIGIN & HISTORY

(Info from NZ Sheepbreeders' Oxford website)



UK Oxford shearling ram Champion at Worcester Show & Sale. **Breeder:** James Brown, Monkstone flock, UK

Photo: Alan Hambley

An English breed developed in 1830s by crossing the Cotswold with a forerunner of the Hampshire, and to a lesser extent, Southdown ewes, and using the resulting crossbreds to form the basis of the present-day breed. It first entered New Zealand in 1906, but generated little interest and died out. It was reintroduced in the 1980's and was released from quarantine in 1990. The breed's capacity to produce a large, meaty carcass for further processing has stimulated interest from the meat industry, and it also grows the most wool of any of the terminal sire breeds.

BREED DESCRIPTION

Polled. Brown face. Brown nostrils. Wool on poll and cheeks. Fleece short, of Down type. Wool on legs. Black hooves.

The Oxford is the largest and fastest growing of all British breeds. Wool production is higher than any other Down

breed and fecundity of purebreds high, matching the Border Leicester and Cheviot.

Fast early growth combined with lean carcasses are the main productive advantages of the Oxford. Increased wool production in comparison with other Down breeds will also result in higher wool pull figures.

The Oxford is an attractive specialist terminal sire for prime lamb production. The breed possesses genes for fast growth rate, coupled with heavy, lean muscling on an above average body weight carcass.

Oxfords are renowned for producing cross-bred progeny, with a good wide loin that carries deep muscling, coupled with hindquarters that are always fully rounded.

| Bodyweight | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Ewes: 60-80kg | Rams: 95 -120 kg |
| Meat | |
| Carcass large with lean meat. | |
| Breeding/Lambing | |
| Lambing 105-125%. | |
| Numbers | |
| Registered ewes (NZSA Flock book) 175 plus youngstock in 4 flocks. Also, some run commercially. | |
| Wool | |
| Longest wool of any of the Down breeds Fibre diameter microns, 33-37 microns Staple length 100 – 150mm | |

Below: Oxford ewe lambs from Cairnvale stud of B R & C A Dalzell, Hawarden



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STUD PROFILE # 1

Lakeside, Flock #19,

Established 1991

Owned by Jim & Anne Berney, Owaka



Lakeside ram 2th rams

Lakeside Oxford stud was formed in 1991 on 2 ewes bred by NZ Sheepac. Embryos were taken from these ewes to establish the flock. Also that year we inseminated thirty South Suffolk ewes with Oxford semen.

More ewes were purchased from Lamb XL the following year. The South Suffolk/Oxford cross ewe lambs were upgraded to pure over the following years and these proved to be our best ewes. It allowed us to open up the woolly heads. Oxfords also got a bad name for lambing problems when they arrived which in my opinion was a fallacy as over the years we have never had that problem. These two things I feel put people off the breed. The consequences of that means we now have only four registered breeders of Oxfords, one of those breeders starting their stud last year.

The modern Oxford is described as a thick-set sheep with good width across the loin and a well filled hindquarter. They stand on good bone and now have open heads. They are a very good early lamb sire and lambs can be taken to heavy weight without going over fat.

Regular clients that purchase Oxford rams are getting good results with them and wonder why there are not more Oxford stud flocks. They are good sheep for cross breeding and we breed a few Oxford/South Suffolk rams and Oxford Charollais rams. The latter we call Char-Ox and I think we are the only breeders of this cross in New Zealand.

Hopefully, the breed will survive in New Zealand and maybe some new studs will emerge in the future.



STUD PROFILE #2

Cairnvale, Flock #5, Established 1991

Owned by B R & C A Dalzell, Hawarden

☎ 027 725 1174



Cairnvale Two tooth rams just taken out from the ewes

The Oxford is a very versatile meat breed, being exceptionally well muscled and early maturing, but can be taken through to heavy weights.

My clients cross Oxfords with Romneys, composites, Corriedales and Merinos. Hill country farmers find them hardy and good movers, producing a very sought after store lamb, while farmers on easier country can produce an early prime lamb.

Half of my Corriedale flock are mated with the Oxford lambing, late August, with prime lambs being sold from early November on.

Cairnvale Oxfords have had some amazing muscle scanning results. Last year, ram lamb #839/18 was exceptional. Our scanner, Peter Clue called him a freak. This year's lambs have also scanned very well.

I have had a very good selling season, with all two tooths being sold, plus six ram lambs.

Book early for next season!

| Cairnvale Oxford Ram Lambs Top 5, 2019 | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|---|------|------|--------|-------|
| Scanned 5/2/20 Av birth date 25/8/19 | | | | | | | |
| Tag | A | B | C | LW | EMA | EMA/LW | Index |
| 918 | 84 | 36 | 4 | 72 | 23.3 | 0.323 | 1270 |
| 964 | 82 | 34 | 5 | 59 | 21.5 | 0.364 | 1164 |
| 946 | 81 | 33 | 4 | 62.5 | 20.6 | 0.329 | 1117 |
| 955 | 81 | 33 | 4 | 59.5 | 20.6 | 0.346 | 1117 |
| 929 | 81 | 33 | 5 | 61.5 | 20.6 | 0.335 | 1113 |

FINNSHEEP

ORIGIN & HISTORY

(Info & ram photo from NZ Sheepbreeders' website & "History, Recent Developments & Uses of Finn Sheep", Journal of Agricultural Science in Finland by K. Maijala)



The Finnsheep is an ancient breed, native to Finland, also known by the names of Finnish Landrace or Finn.

The Finnish Sheepbreeders' Assn was established in 1918. The main objective was to improve the meat production of the native sheep, whence prolificacy was highly appreciated. In 1948, systematic production recording was started.

NZ Finn animals have a long lean carcass. A proportion of Finn genes within a composite ewe breed will generally decrease fatness in lamb carcasses, a desirable trait.

The Finn has been used in several composite breeds within NZ including in the recently developed Highlander and Multiplier breeds

DESCRIPTION

The Finnsheep is one of several North European short-tailed Landrace breeds. It has a clear wool free face and a pink nose. Fleece wool is soft and lustrous and valued for specialised handcrafts.

A very prolific breed with twins/multiple births the norm. The NZ Finn lamb drop is as high as any breed in the world. More than 3,600 sheep have been exported to 40 countries in 6 continents between 1962-86.



Some of Schaap Finns young flock

| Bodyweight | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Ewes: 50-70kg | Rams: 66-93kg kg |
| Meat | |
| Carcass lean and non fatty | |
| Breeding/Lambing | |
| Lambing 175 -250% | |
| Numbers | |
| Registered ewes (NZSA Flock book) Under 100 plus youngstock. Many in crossbred flocks | |
| Wool | |
| Very white and lustrous, good colour & bulk Fibre diameter microns, about 27 microns Staple length 75mm – 125mm Pure Finn wool is used for interior textiles | |

STUD PROFILE # 1

Schaap Finns, Flock #35

Established 2020

Owned by Libby & Daniel Schaap, ?

Libby and I have been lucky enough this year to start our own Finnish landrace stud called Schaap Finns. We started off by buying 7 ewe lambs from Rachel Foster then 3 ewe lambs and 1 ram off Dan Wheeler.

So far we have noticed they are super easy to handle and their wool is readily sold to hobbyist spinners around NZ.

Our main goals will be to better the survival rates by lambing in a shed as that seems to be the worst trait. They may have lots of lambs but they are small, therefore easily caught out in the weather. We would also love to get in behind bringing colour back into the breed as there is a bit of talk about embryos coming from Finland where they originate. We don't want to get too serious about them though as they are just a hobby for now.

Next year we will be putting Finn rams over our stud Suffolk hoggets to hopefully ease up the lambing. We look forward to hearing from other breeders in NZ although I know they are in very limited numbers.

PGG Wrightson Livestock

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GERMAN WHITE HEADED MARSH SHEEP



White Headed Marsh ram

Photo: Graham Meadows

ORIGINS & HISTORY

The White Headed Marsh originated in the North Sea marshes of West Germany. Its beginnings can be traced back to the mid-1800's; when North German Marsh sheep, the local milk sheep, were crossed with imported British long wool breeds, including the Cotswold.

They first arrived in New Zealand in the 1980s (being imported from Denmark) and were released from quarantine in 1990.

DESCRIPTION

Similar to the Romney, but larger & heavier. Originally dual purpose with equal emphasis on meat and wool. In NZ however, one strain has coarser fleece wool, one has finer wool with big hindquarters and there is a strain intermediate between the two.

| Bodyweight | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Ewes: 70-80kg | Rams: 93kg - 106 kg |
| Meat | |
| A bit similar to Texels - have big loins so are quite big in the back end on the primal cuts. Tasty meat. | |
| Breeding/Lambing | |
| Lambing: 130-160% Ewes are good milky dams | |
| Numbers | |
| Registered ewes (NZSA FI book) <100 plus youngstock. | |
| Wool | |
| Very white and lustrous, good colour & bulk Fibre diameter microns, about 31-38 μm & 40+ μm (Staple length 75mm – 125mm | |

STUD PROFILE # 1

Makarora, Flocks #16 & #A16,

Established 2008

Owned by Gary Charteris, Wanaka

☎ 03 443 8341 or at garycharteris@gmail.com

‘A breed currently rare in New Zealand, the dual-purpose White Headed Marsh, is adapted to cold, hard, wet conditions.

In Denmark and North Germany the White Headed Marsh live outside in very wet and cold conditions. They are known for their hardiness, natural immunity, easy-care and excellent meat. They lamb at 180% in Denmark. White Headed Marsh are similar-looking to Romney's or Coopworths, but are much larger with meaty hindquarters and wide deep loin and rack meat - the most valuable cuts.’
(NZ Rare Breeds Conservation Society Website.)

My own [Gary Charteris's] research also shows that in the 1960s a strain of Danish Texel's was introduced and this can still be seen in some of the sheep today. In Germany, these sheep live along the dykes by the North Sea, often in very wet, cold and swampy country. This breed is also well known for its longevity. In my flock I regularly have sheep that are still producing a good lamb at ten years old. I had one that produced its last lamb at the age of 19. (This was very exceptional.)

I first got into the White Headed Marsh sheep about 20 years ago when I was given a ram and a few old ewes to try out. I live at Makarora which is not far from the Haast Pass. With a rainfall of over 2400 mm per year the Perendales that I had were struggling over the winter in the wet and cold. I found that this small flock of sheep, although old (all over 5 years of age) did well, even thrived and produced a very good lambing percentage.

After talking to Tim Gow (who at the time had the only remaining White Headed Marsh Stud flock) I decided to set up my own Stud flock in 2008. I bought a few ewes and a ram and I began in a small way. Over the years I added new genetics from Tim and grew my flock. From the beginning, my aim was to have a stud flock of a maximum of fifty sheep, as myself being older I decided not to make things too big.



▲ Makarora White Headed Marsh ewes & 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.”

Tim also advised me that there are three very different lines of the White Headed Marsh, one with particularly coarse wool, another with finer wool and very big hind quarters (probably a throwback to the Texel genetics introduced in the 60s) and the third strain is somewhere in between the two.

I soon noticed that like many other breeds of sheep some sheep tended to have no belly wool and that these sheep also had no wool on the crutch. These sheep often were my best performing ewes. Often with other wool breeds having no belly wool is an undesirable trait. I found that with the way the wool prices are at this time the belly wool is of little value and that these sheep were so much less work not having to crutch them and also at shearing time they were a lot easier to shear. I have devoted a section of my flock to breeding these bare belly ewes and am most impressed as to how they are performing.



♂ Makarora bare-bellied ram

♀ Makarora bare-bellied ewe



The White Headed Marsh Sheep perform exceptionally well in a cold wet climate on hard, wet and cold country. They have certainly out performed my expectations. Their lambing percentage is always in excess of 160%. They live to a very old age as stated earlier in the article (regularly up to or over 8yrs old). Ewes have high milk yields and make excellent mothers. Last year I had their milk production tested as part of a national trial and they performed well against breeds. Results from this trial are available on request. Their feet are also hardy to the damp conditions we have here in Makarora with no regular cases of foot rot.

It was decided earlier this year to change the breed name in the flock book back to German White Headed Marsh to truly reflect the origins of the breed.

At the time of writing another person is in the process of registering a White Headed Marsh flock which is very good for the breed. If we don't get more people on board this Breed could well die out in NZ.

If anyone else is interested in starting a flock of this interesting breed please contact myself (☎03 443 8341 or at garycharteris@gmail.com) or via the NZ Sheep Breeders' Association.

I am more than willing to provide all the assistance needed to get someone up and running with a new flock of their own.



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1,000 Sign Up for Tahi Ngātahi training

The Wool Harvesting Industry's new online training initiative Tahi Ngātahi aims to boost skills and cut workplace injuries by 30%. Over the past year, more than 1,000 contractors, shearers, wool handlers and farmers have signed up.

The website uses videos fronted by the best in the sheds to pass on skills and safety tips.

NZ Shearing Contractors' CEO Phil Holden, says Tahi Ngātahi is designed to "boost skills, reduce workplace injuries and attract new entrants."

The site's a joint initiative between NZSCA, Federated Farmers, Worksafe NZ and ACC. Everyone who completes

Tahi Ngātahi earns an industry-recognised certificate and farmers can use it to connect with contractors and complete an online Warrant of Fitness for their woolshed.

Keeping sheds and equipment safe and workers injury-free is a big issue. The wool producing sector loses 9,300 working days to injury every year, impacting livelihoods, families and communities. "That's why, addressing those stats through Tahi Ngātahi and looking after our people is such a big focus for NZSCA," says Phil.

To extend the reach of Tahi Ngātahi to more communities, NZSCA has partnered with NZ Merino. They plan to make the online training available to all 400 of their ZQ Fibre growers. "Tahi Ngātahi is about raising the woolshed game and that's what we're all about too. Our brands need to know that the shearing and preparation has been done in a manner which cares for animal welfare and people alike. We want Tahi Ngātahi to become part of business as usual," says Donna Didham, New Zealand Merino's CSR & Ethical Sourcing Manager.

Seddon shearing contractor Angus Moore is one of many on board. "The Tahi Ngātahi videos are specifically about the things we have injuries with most e.g. wrists, backs, hips. If you blow your wrist you might be out for 3 weeks - and that might be the busiest time of year when you're out. So if you just spent half an hour watching these videos and doing a bit of research on it and doing these exercises, you might just save yourself 3 weeks off work and make yourself stronger. Let's face it, our bodies are the tool that make us our money."



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

SPEKBOOMBERG FARM, CRADOCK, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

By Helen McKenzie – Editor, Sheep NewZ, from my notes and the following sources: Afrikaans agricultural magazine “Veeplaas” and the Voermol 2018 “Sheep Farmer of the Year” Fielday Report.

In early March, my husband, Warwick Potts, and I travelled to South Africa on the International Red Poll Cattle Breeders’ Congress Tour. As part of the Tour we visited the “mega” sheep farm operation of the of the Jordaan Family’s large mixed farming business.

Named Spekboomberg” the farm is owned by Andrew Jordaan Sr and sons: Wilhelm, Andrew Jr, and Ginkel. Wilhelm is the overseer of the farming operations, specialising in irrigation, machinery, land management and assists his mother with finances. Ginkel runs the dairy herd and the Boran cattle stud. Andrew Jr runs the Merino and Dormer (white wool mutton breed – Dorset Horn over German Merino; kemp free wool) sheep operation. Andrew Sr is quoted as saying, “It is a challenge to accommodate three sons on one farm and still keep the peace! It requires careful management, but is most rewarding if you can pull it off”.

Upon purchasing the 20,000Ha farm Andrew Sr established the irrigation for cash crops, lucerne and intensively grown pasture. A large dam was built and about 1200Ha of the farm is irrigated. All cultivation is no till. About 275Ha of maize is planted annually; 150 Ha is used for fodder. The south African power supply can be erratic so a solar farm has been set up. They run 10,000 ewes and 1500 dairy cattle.

Average annual rainfall on the farm is 350mm annually with grazing capacity of 2/ha per small stock unit (SSU). The overall stocking rate of the farm including the mountainous veld grazing is 2.8ha/SSU. [Note they had just had 300mm rain after 7 years of drought when our tour visited – Editor] The Merinos have been the backbone of the farm for many years. Nothing new is done on the farm without considering the consequences on them. The Montevideo Merino stud was founded by Andrew Sr’s great grandfather but is now known as Andrew Jordaan and Sons. The aim is to breed sheep with excellent wool quality (average micron is 19.5 with approximately 5.1kg of wool per ewe), with a good carcase. Weed control is important. Bathurst burr is a



problem – thought to have come in with horse feed in the Anglo Boer War.

Fertility is also a large consideration. Electronic tags are used on the stud sheep. The commercial ewes are grazed and mated in the veld. The stud ewes are taken to the lands 3 weeks before AI (laparoscopic) and are returned to the veld after that. AI success rate is about 85%, natural mating 93% with 7,000 ewes AI’d annually.

Lamb in Autumn and early Spring. When our tour was there the ewes were about to go into the lambing pens (about 5 days before lambing). The 1,000 pens were still being set up. They are sanitised before ewes go in. The ewes are kept in for 2 weeks approximately. Slowly moving to automated feeders. Ewes are fed pellets of lucerne, maize, molasses, cotton seed cake and added minerals. Six labour units are required for 3 x 2 weeks. Penning ensures twin lambs have a good start. If triplets one is mothered on to ewes with a single. The main predators are red backed jackals and caracal cats. The latter (weighing 17 to 19 kilos) can pull down a full-grown ewe.



▲Lambing pens – onlooker is Douglas Payne (Australia)

Midsummer there are a lot of parasites around so the commercial lambs need to be strong and in the farm-owned feed lots before then. There is some drench resistance in the flock. They use cross grazing with the dairy heifers first, then the ewes. Prices at home are poor with many lambs from South Africa now going for live export to Kuwait.

Ram of imported Wanganella bloodline ➤

From the stud mob, 500 rams are prepared for sale, 80% are horned. Ten years ago the standard of Poll Merino was not so good but the use of Australian genetics has improved them. Lines used have come from Wanganella, Collinsville and



others. Andrew feels the Australian lines have better wool quality, length & weight; the South African lines have better conformation and meat. Andrew remarked that the

PGG Wrightson Livestock

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Australian wool has a higher level of lanolin in it. The aim is to be able to take the whole clip as one line.



Breeding rams must have good conformation, strong head, stand well and of course have the right type of wool. They are checked for ticks between the claws. They are used for a couple of seasons and may then be sold on. Average weight is 110kg. *[The wool on the merino rams was stunning and so even from the front to the hindquarters of the rams. Editor]*

Replacement ewes are mainly selected from the AI bred females.



▲ *Small section the ewe mob prior to lambing.*

Interestingly, and nothing to do with sheep, Ginkel was saying they are moving away from Purebred Friesian cows in the dairy and using some NZ Kiwi Cross semen. The cows are smaller and cope better with walking up to 4km to the dairy shed from their pasture.

Andrew was the Voermol 2018 Sheep Farmer of the Year. I would heartily recommend a visit to this operation if you have the opportunity. Check out Andrew Jordaan en Seuns if you are on Facebook or Google Merino sheep farming Andrew Jordaan & sons for a video or two.

Andrew Jr's email is andrewjordaan3228@gmail.com should anyone wish to find out more.

UK OXFORD SHEEP

Information and photos from Alan Hambley, UK

The Oxford is currently classified as a minority breed in the UK with approximately 1500 pedigree ewes put to the ram each year in around 100 registered flocks. As has always been the case throughout the 130-year history of the Oxford Down Flock Book, flocks are very widely distributed throughout the British Isles, illustrating the capability of the breed to do well in a wide variety of situations.

Commercial role

The breed remains a valuable terminal sire within the stratified system of sheep breeding practiced in the UK. It is used on a variety of ewe breeds and crosses in commercial flocks to produce fast-growing quality prime lambs. The Oxford 'nicks' well with the Texel and its crosses and the Texel x Mule is a good crossbred ewe, popular in the UK, to put the Oxford ram on. In these lowland flocks the early maturity and high growth rate potential of the Oxford cross lamb ensures that they can be marketed quickly.

Oxford rams also find favour in some upland areas where the hardiness of the Oxford cross lamb is of considerable value. When used on hill-type ewes the Oxford ram will put size and frame onto the progeny. The resultant Oxford cross lambs are typically sold off the hill in the autumn for finishing by lowland farmers.

The Oxford should be a large sheep and the Oxford ram will sire large, lean lambs that can be taken to heavy carcass weights while remaining lean. Where the market wants a heavy lamb, the Oxford is an ideal terminal sire.

Premium markets

Some registered flocks maximise returns from the pure-bred lambs not good enough to be retained or sold for breeding by marketing them directly through lamb box schemes, farm shops, farmers markets and private butchers shops. In this way a premium return can be obtained from the prime lambs. Oxford lamb displays a degree of marbling which greatly enhances flavour and eating quality.

Oxford Exports

The Oxford was widely exported during its early history, and UK breeders have continued to export Oxfords in more modest numbers during the modern era to countries such as Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway and the Czech Republic. Registered populations are maintained in the USA, Canada, the Scandinavian countries, the Czech Republic, New Zealand and Eire (the latter being registered in the UK Flock Book). Related breeds of the Oxford type are bred in Switzerland, Germany, and the Baltic states.

Summary - the key benefits of using an Oxford ram

- Outstanding growth rate potential and early maturity for early marketing
- Hardy lambs due to good birthweights and wool cover at birth
- Vigorous lambs that are strong and active at birth
- Lambs are easily finished off grass and hold condition well in adverse conditions
- Lambs can be taken to heavier carcass weights without excess fat
- Large, lean carcasses produced with great width of loin and depth of lean meat
- High quality marbled meat for premium markets

Oxford Down Sheep Breeders' Association

www.oxforddownsheep.org.uk



Oxford X Beltex carcasses, UK

A Bit of Oxford Tradition

The Oxford naturally has a strong top-knot on the poll. Traditionally it was left on after shearing. The breed was originally developed in the 1830s by crossing Cotswold rams onto early types of Hampshire Down and to a lesser extent Southdown ewes, thereby being the result of a direct cross between longwool and shortwool breeds (I think the only British breed to be developed from a cross between these two types). The Cotswold also has a top-knot which the Oxford inherited from it. My understanding is that the Cotswolds (which were obviously valued for their heavy fleece at a time when wool was a valuable commodity) also left the top knot on when the sheep were shorn, and this tradition was carried on in the Oxfords which had largely supplanted the Cotswold as the common commercial ewe in the breeds' native Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire by the turn of the 19th century. I have read that the reason the top-knot was left on the Cotswolds was to show proof of the quality of the Cotswold's fleece after it had otherwise been bare shorn, quote: "The Cotswold has a well-developed forelock (the fringe of wool above their eyes) traditionally left on the sheep after shearing, so anyone purchasing the sheep would know the quality of their fleece".



Nowadays Oxford show sheep have the top-knot left on so that it can be trimmed up for show, but in some flocks even the main ewe flock have their top-knots left on after shearing. Other breeders let the shearing gang take it off all the ewes. It is really just a tradition.



"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears this is true"

James Branch Cabell 1879-1958

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kind Regards,

Graham and Joyce Bell - October 2019

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FARMING IS OF MORE IMPORTANCE TO US NOW THAN EVER BEFORE

*By Professor Jon Hickford, Lincoln University
President of the NZ Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science*

My bubble has million dollar views because I am fortunate enough to live perched on a hill looking over Lyttelton Harbour. What is more, it is a view I still enjoy on a daily basis, because despite having moved to Level 2, we academics have to stay at home and teach on-line courses. This sounds a lot easier than it actually is. It is certainly no holiday.

Over the last eight or so weeks the pilot boat has gone out most days, usually followed by the two tugs. At no stage during the lockdown did this activity stop and the port stayed busy. That ongoing activity always brightens my day, because it tells me that the 'backbone' of our economy is active. Despite COVID-19, NZ is still trading. In

all likelihood the containers I see below contain dairy products, and the farmers who produced the milk for those products, still got up at 3 a.m. this morning and every other morning of lockdown to milk their cows. It isn't just dairy producers though, as it is just as likely to be meat in the reefers, off to a market somewhere that appreciates high quality food.

These farmers were probably worried about what was happening with COVID-19 too. They would have been scared that it could harm their whanau and friends, but they had limited time to dwell on this. They were still at work and deemed to be 'essential', although no more so than they have always been in my eyes. And so as I ponder the view, I just hope that 'urban New Zealand' now understands the importance of our producers, and not just because they produce vastly more food than we will ever need to stock the shelves of our supermarkets. They also underpin our export trade, and that will be life-blood for our faltering economy.

There is little doubting that our primary production systems and exports make us resilient at times like this, with this borne out by recent export figures. For example, exports hit a new high in March 2020, driven by kiwifruit, dairy, and meat, and all this while the COVID-19 pandemic was spreading around the world. Stats NZ reported the value of total goods exports rose \$215 million (3.8%) from March 2019 to reach \$5.8 billion in March 2020. This was a record for any month, with the previous high being in May 2019. The increase reflected a bumper kiwifruit harvest and higher prices for milk powder and meat, but it was partly offset by

a fall in log exports, particularly to China, in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

I think it is fair to say though, that the city-dwellers do find it too easy to overlook the importance of primary production to New Zealand. It's not just them, but also the celebrity-driven media, and of course politicians, who always place greater value on getting votes than doing the right thing. It has also become popular of late to hold farmers to standards that urbanites can't or won't tolerate. They conveniently overlook the appalling management of urban waterways. They assume that once waste leaves their property courtesy of their Councils, that it is no longer a problem. They think someone else, somewhere else, should take responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) levels, as they jump on a plane for a quick jaunt to a tropical island, or a bit of shopping in Melbourne.

Let's look at that last issue in more detail. Prior to the lockdown, I had the privilege of talking to Merino Excellence 2020. Like the now infamous Hereford Congress it was held in Central Otago over the week March 9-13th, albeit I was lucky enough to avoid COVID-19, unlike one of my students. I talked about GHGs and merino farming, and the feedback from farmers and rural reporters at that conference, has inspired me further.

In short, as you probably know, our livestock farmers have a problem with GHGs. Most of them know this, and understand it in great depth. At the heart of the problem is that sheep and cattle produce methane, which is a potent GHG and a major contributor to our national footprint. Now I might be wrong, and you will need to take me on trust on this, but I think most farmers think they can do a little better. They are nearly all motivated to find enduring solutions to the GHG issue.

One solution could of course be to get rid of all of our sheep and cows. I have heard that suggested by seemingly intelligent urban folk, but it is a disingenuous argument. Once you get past the \$25 billion plus loss of export earnings, then the 'urban theorists' might learn that our ruminants are farmed on land that can't be used for much else. It is uncultivable because it is steep, wind-swept, of low fertility or at high altitude, and left un-grazed it is a fire hazard that harbours pests. It quite simply can't produce food for vegans, other than the ruminant kind. It is worse than that though, if we did get rid of those ruminants, we would become even more dependent on food imports. In the current circumstances of a global pandemic, would that make us feel comfortable? Are we even of importance to other global food producers, when feeding their own population becomes a priority??

There is another important thing to think about too. We are among the most carbon efficient sheep and cattle producers in the world, and because we do not use a lot of grain or

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corn to feed those animals, we also have very water efficient livestock industries. You certainly wouldn't guess that if you read all the negativism around using irrigation. However, if we withdrew from our current markets, then our high quality and efficiently produced ruminant products could, and probably would be replaced by those with a much bigger GHG and water footprint. An apparently responsible change, if you are uninformed and live in a city, but one that would likely make the global environmental problem even worse.

There is little doubting we need to focus on GHGs, and their reduction is a critically important goal, but taxing farmers will simply not do it. Taxes rarely change behaviour (otherwise I would actually give up work!), and further encumbering farmers will make us less resilient. I think we all know that now. Let's focus on improving resilience then, but with some emphasis placed on doing it with a smaller GHG footprint. This could be as simple as increasing lambing percentages, decreasing dry cow rates, improving pasture quality, or simply breeding superior livestock. You guys are experts at that. Those simple things would improve

our GHG footprint without the need to tax farmers. In hand with greater diversification of on-farm income streams and off-shore markets, we make our backbone industry even more resilient.

In that respect, rather than have our Government think about punitive carbon taxes for farmers, I would rather see a little bit more money allocated to biosecurity. In the last few years we saw PSA-V severely knock our kiwifruit industry and *M. bovis* sneak into our cattle, both at a huge cost. It is quite simply not good enough that these incursions happened. With each, Government oversight seemed to be lacking and our response was slow. When you think of what might be at stake in the context of foot and mouth disease, then we need the livestock industry equivalent of a Dr Ashley Bloomfield ready in the wings; and of course Jacinda too, 'talking-up' our highly resilient farmers. Don't hold your breath on that!



Changing Times

The past couple of months have seen some interesting changes to the way that livestock and studstock are sold.

Online offerings are popping up left, right and centre and it can be hard to know what is right for you and your clients.

Overall, communication is the most important part of all sales going forward. Clients need to know where, when and how sales are happening.

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Southern South Suffolk Breeders Club

(Apologies to the Southern South Suffolk Breeders Club for not putting this in the previous newsletter. It is good to have these club reports – Editor)



The Southern South Suffolk breeders club once again had a stand in the agri-shed at the 2020 Southern Fielddays, held last week 12th – 14th February 2020.

We showcased a breeding ram each day and also ran a “guess the weight of the ram” competition which proved popular. Winners received a Farmlands voucher (not the

We also had ram hoggets on show, as well as two pet lambs that were stud South Suffolks. These lambs were on leads,

very quiet and were the most photographed animals at the Fielddays – even making it on to TV3 news on Wednesday!

We had lots of interaction with non-farming people and was a great opportunity to showcase our breed.

Tracey Powley, Secretary
Southern South Suffolk Breeders Club

A Bit of History

Patea Mail, 28 June, 1879 (*National. Library Papers Past*)

Notice to Sheep Owners

If any Sheep owner within the Patea County has not been supplied with the Schedule A of “The Sheep Act, 1878,” for the purpose of procuring the number of sheep in the county for Sheep Rates, please write to me at once, and I will supply them.

W. MACKENZIE,
Inspector of Sheep



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LUCY TACKLES FLYSTRIKE IN HER UNIVERSITY WORK

By David Hill, *North Canterbury News*, May 14th 2020

Reprinted with permission.

Flystrike is no laughing matter for Canterbury farmers, but a family joke led to a Rangiora woman studying genetic resistance to it.

Lucy Burrows developed an interest for sheep genetics while at Rangiora High School.

“My brother John had jokingly said that one of his friends was trying to breed sheep, on a lifestyle block, that weren’t susceptible to flystrike. “It occurred to me, ‘wouldn’t it be good if we could breed a sheep that was resistant to flystrike’.”

That was during the summer after her third year at Lincoln University and she was looking for a topic for a dissertation as part of the requirements for her science honours degree. She proposed the topic to her supervisor, Professor Jon Hickford, and went on to study the FABP4 gene for possible resistance to flystrike in sheep.

Lucy found the development of a gene marker test for selecting sheep that are resistant to flystrike was possible, but more research was needed, so she then spent a further four years at Lincoln University’s Gene-Marker Laboratory and completed a PhD. “We probably won’t eliminate flystrike, but we can certainly reduce its impact,” she says.

The original dissertation is being peer reviewed for publication in a scientific journal.

Lucy was born at Culverden and her family moved to her maternal grandparents’ farm at Kaitaia when she was eight. The Burrows settled at Horrelville, near Oxford, three years later.

Her parents, Tom and Fiona Burrows, are well-established Corriedale and Perendale sheep breeders, while brother John has Dorset Down sheep.

Lucy has taken a shine to the less common Shropshire breed. “I had my first lambing season in 2008 and my dad helped me a lot with managing them, which we have worked on together.”



▲ *Lucy’s Shropshire flock*

Now that she has graduated, Lucy is working at the Ministry of Primary Industries’ animal health laboratory in Wellington. She says there are plenty of gaps in the study of sheep and other animals for other budding scientist to make their mark.



SUFFOLKNZ LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the recent SuffolkNZ Breed Committee meeting, it was decided to award another SuffolkNZ Life Membership. The recipient of this award, **Marty Loffhagen**, is no longer breeding Suffolk’s but is still very involved with the Suffolk breed. He has been involved with the Suffolk breed for nearly half a century (48 years.) The Beechbank Suffolk Stud, Flock 230, was established in 1971 by Robbie & Ann Burrows. One year later Marty Loffhagen married Ann. It took another 9 years before Marty’s name was in the Flock book.



Marty was at the original meeting of the Northern SI Suffolk Breeders’ Club in 1983. In 1985 Marty was elected Chairman. He has always been a supportive member of the Breeders’ Club. Marty is the person behind the scenes, doing all the work and making things happen. Until recently he would be found feeding the rams into the scanner at both the Canterbury Show and Ram Fair. Recently when someone came up with the idea of a ewe hogget trial and sale, guess who was behind the scenes making it run smoothly.

My first memory of Marty Loffhagen, was just after I left school, going with my father Peter to see the shearing of the trial Suffolk rams at Spring Creek before they went to the Christchurch Show. On the way home I said to Peter ‘that old fellow made a really good job of shearing those rams.’ That old fellow was Marty Loffhagen & he had to be 37 years old. Doug Croy told me that Marty shored the Suffolk rams there for the 3 years that the trial ran.

The Beechbank Stud has supplied seed stock to most of the flocks over the years, Those big, proud, well-muscled rams with those black real Suffolk heads. Marty is recognised as a very good judge of livestock, being a judge of many breeds of sheep. He always has time to discuss the finer point of a Suffolk. This year he judged the Suffolks and South Suffolks at the Royal Show in Hastings. That shows the respect the breeders have for Marty.

Congratulations Marty Loffhagen, you are a very deserving recipient of a SuffolkNZ Life Membership.

*Chris Hampton,
ex-Chairman SUFFOLKNZ.*

‘Beechbank’, Flock 230, MJ Loffhagen

‘Beechbank’ Suffolk genetics are found in many studs in NZ & were the foundation ewes of Marty’s daughter Penni Loffhagen’s ‘Tawhai’ Stud, which she established in 1988. The ‘Beechbank’ prefix is still coming through in her pedigrees to this day.

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CORRIEDALE SOCIETY NEWS

The past few months have brought Corriedale Breed Council plans to a halt in some ways. Like other breeds we look forward to an Autumn get together and AGM which has now been delayed until mid-Winter or later. We were fortunate to have sent ram and ewe hoggets away to graze in our hogget competitions before the world changed so those plans are running as normal.

Plans for a trial using Corriedale rams over strong wool ewes have been delayed by 12 months but we are still working on making the most of what appears to be a growing trend. I recently viewed ram hoggets by one of our Corriedales out of stud Coopworth ewes and was impressed to see the first cross in real life. The client who has started on this path is excited but it is early days. We have certainly seen growth in the number of commercial farmers looking to use Corriedales over crossbred ewes.

When North Canterbury started its three year drought around 2014 there was an abundance of winter feed in Mid Canterbury and further south that proved a saviour for ewes and hoggets sent out grazing. Works space was available and the saleyards were open. Farmers facing drought this year have for the most part been missing a neighbouring region with spare feed and the Covid19 impact on works space and throughput has compounded the problem. Having plans to handle market volatility is all well and good but facing drought and Covid19 impacts at the same time is new territory. Let's hope we manage to see the opportunities that will inevitably arise after a tough period.

Lockdown life at Glenafric had plenty of silver linings. Two kids almost equal one labour unit and we pay them well below the minimum wage. It was a timely reminder how fortunate we are to have open space and rural life. That said we were ready for the schools to reopen!

I hope all breeders are faring well and looking forward to some social times ahead.

James Hoban
Corriedale Society President



▲ Alice Hoban (and friend) helping in the Glenafric woolshed during lockdown

▼ Corriedale ram hoggets in our feature competition in May. Gordon and Barbara Gilbert run these. This year there are 42 from ten flocks.



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IWTO Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare; concise summation of good practice principles for ethical wool sheep production.

BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES FOR WOOL SHEEP

At the request of IWTO's membership, in 2013 the main wool growing countries developed the IWTO Guidelines for Wool Sheep Welfare, which have since evolved to the recently released [IWTO Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare](#).

Based on the universally recognised Five Freedoms of animal welfare embodied in the OIE's [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#), the IWTO Specifications provide a concise guide to best practice principles for wool sheep production around the world.

The Specifications respect the vast diversity of sheep production environments – which vary from extensive rangelands to intensively housed systems; additionally, the document describes the legislative frameworks that protect animal welfare in each wool producing country.

Each wool producing country – Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay – has a set of animal welfare laws which wool growers are bound to uphold, and a corresponding set of best practice regulations to guide animal husbandry practices. These animal husbandry management tools are highly specific to production system, environment, and sheep breed.

There are five husbandry principles that meet the physiological and behavioural need of sheep:

- Environment
- Nutrition
- Health
- Behaviour
- Handling

Read more about each principle and how it applies in practice in wool production: view or downloading the [IWTO Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare](#).

FOR SALE

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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 **August 20th for the September 2020 newsletter.**

Please get items in well before the deadline!!!

Next “FEATURE BREEDS” will be SAMM, Isle de France, & Gotland Sheep

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.

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