

Sheep NewZ

#33 Summer 2023



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Hello Members,

Thanks to all who supplied material for this issue of the Sheep NewZ. Also, thanks to Ian McCall; to Jon Hickford, Marina Steinke and to the Muster of the ABSS for use of photos and articles respectively. It certainly makes for an informative and more interesting issue when a variety of items are featured.

Next time the Hampshire sheep will be our feature breed. They are reliable suppliers of relevant material.

Three great stories about passionate young stud sheep breeders but they are all girls – Where are the boys? Who saw Pieta Buist-Sidey on 7 Sharp? What a wonderful young ambassador for sheep breeding. If you would like to see your up-and-coming stud breeder featured, please send in their story with a photo of them and their sheep. Thanks also to the parents who take the time to mentor their children and provide the wherewithal to obtain, farm and show the sheep!

It's going to be interesting watching the new government putting their 100-day action plan into service. I am hopeful we will eventually see a more untied (oops a Freudian slip, I mean united) country come about, as long as people with private agendas in the community give the new lot time to show what they can do.

Helen McKenzie

Editor

☎ (06) 372 7842 or

Email: rosemarkie@wise.net.nz

Front cover photo

Line up of three Charollais rams from the **Lochee** Stud of ES & MG Smith, Rangiora.

ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From the President

Hello to all members and welcome to the summer edition of Sheep NewZ.



Good lambing weather was had for most in Canterbury from August into mid-September but after that, cooling NE winds prevailed, with regular rainfall and made for a later spring, more heat being required.

The New Zealand Agricultural Show has just been held last week. Sheep numbers around 770.

New Zealand Sheepbreeders' sponsored a new Youth Initiative on exhibiting sheep, started this year with a generous number of young people (under 25yrs) entered over 3 classes.

Doug Croy gave an in depth and very descriptive display of judging the line-up of sheep, spending time with each individual exhibitor. This was very well received and with some refinement and adjustments should see this event continue with a rising popularity.

Also, Elizabeth Hampton took out the Lady Isaac Scholarship / NZ Sheepbreeders' Young Judges Championship. She was asked to judge 4 Meat Breed and 4 Wool Breed Hoggets, then gave a very informative description as to why and where she placed each individual animal. She was indeed very thorough. This win enables Elizabeth to travel to Australia next year to compete.

Drafting and weaning of lambs has begun with downward pressure on lamb and mutton schedules being the utmost on everyone's minds. On farm sales are also swinging into gear.

I wish members all the best for the upcoming festive season, and I hope you all have a successful ram selling season.

Mark Copland
President NZSBA



Hard times create strong men.
Strong men create good times.
Good times create weak men.
Weak men create hard times.'

G. Michael Hopf
Author – "Those who remain."



From The General Manager

The NZ Agricultural Show – We have just had Show week, which was massive and seemed well supported, as the races and the show continue to boost the local economy.

Regarding classes this year, the Valais Blacknose introduced show classes this year.

Breed Conferences – 2024 – organisers need to firm up on dates for their conferences in 2024 and contact the office. Members should look at taking the opportunity to join their breeds conference.

In the sheep world it is just so important members meet periodically.

Some breeds are looking at visiting parts of Australia and are seeking interest from members.

NZSBA Website – please check your breed website and any changes please contact the office. – BREEDS should continue to provide photos of your sheep and update any information that needs updating. Any published articles should be also included on your webpage.

NZSBA Promotion – Farmers Weekly – it was agreed at the July Council meeting we will continue with a series of ads in the Farmers Weekly this year. **Look out for them!**



NZSBA Flock Book – 2023 – the flock book has been published and circulated to those members who require a hard copy, and is also online. Should you wish to purchase a copy, please contact the office.

No Annual Returns – Some meetings are very upset with their members refusing to complete an Annual Return as they seem happy to pay the \$100.00 fine instead.

Breed Committees are now actively approaching those members and encouraging them to complete their Returns.

Office Administrator – After quite some time I am pleased to inform you that Nicky Lloyd has now replaced Anne.

We have had quite a year attempting to look for a replacement for Anne, and our initial person after being trained by Anne for a month then decided that the job wasn't for her. But this

turned out to our advantage as we placed another ad and have found Nicky. Anne will be dropping in from time to time to help Nicky as she has over 34 years' experience in the role.

Commemorative Jerseys - for sale – NOW REDUCED - CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!!

Cost of Jerseys – Men's - \$140.00 – Ladies - \$115.00 and these can be posted anywhere in New Zealand. Check out our website for more details.

Tag Discounts - Shearwell, Allflex, - Now offering discounted tags to members. When ordering please state you are a member of NZSBA, and they will send the product to you, but will send your invoice to our office, and we will then invoice you.

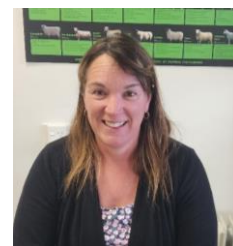
To our sponsors thank you for your continued support, and to members let's hope Ram Selling goes well, and here's hoping for a great 2024.

So, all of the above and a big thankyou to Helen, and here's hoping for a positive 2024!

**Greg Burgess
General Manager,
NZSBA**



Hi, my name is **Nicky Lloyd** and I am delighted to have commenced my role as Office Manager here at NZ Sheep Breeders' Association. I realise I have big shoes to fill with Anne leaving after being in the position for such a long time, but I hope that given time, I can be a worthy replacement.



I have a history with racehorses through the whole of my life, having trained thoroughbreds for a number of years. My family still has a farm full of these delightful ponies and this takes up nearly all of my spare time when I'm not racing around taking my teenage daughter to her various sporting activities!

My past work history includes a number of years managing Garrard's Horse and Hound at Addington and of late have worked at the Greyhound Racing Club so I have a history of working with animals – haven't experienced sheep-racing yet but maybe that can come!

I am really enjoying the company of the others in this friendly office and am also loving the challenge of my new Role. I am looking forward to meeting you all at some time in the future.

Cheers,
Nicky

Feature Breed

Charollais



Charollais ram, Waterton B354-17, bred & owned by the Hampton family from Cave.

ORIGIN & HISTORY

The **Charollais** is a breed of domestic sheep originating in east central France, in the same region in which Charollais cattle originated, Charolles and Saône-et-Loire. The breed was developed in the early 1800s from a cross between Leicester Longwool and local Landrace sheep.

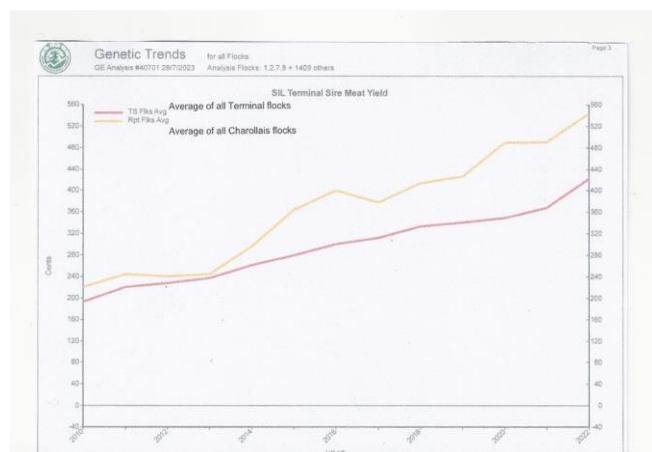
How the breed got to New Zealand is quite interesting. Its beginning come from breeders' visits to the UK in 2009, and assessing the Charollais as one of the only breeds which offered the NZ Sheep industry anything new and extra. At the time the importation of Charollais semen and embryos into New Zealand was restricted. But an opportunity was available from Australia.

Ian McDougall had imported embryos into Australia in 2005, along with Colin Hilston, a UK farmer, who had moved to Australia. It was from this flock (Farmgene) in the form of semen, embryos and live sheep that the breed was established in New Zealand.

Charollais frozen embryos and semen were introduced in 2010 by breeders Peter and Matt Ponsonby, Murray Rohloff and Nigel Jay at Lincoln University inseminated 100 Coopworth Ewes with Charollais semen.

In the development of the breed in New Zealand, there has been embryo transfer and AI but in the main it has been

through grading up of New Zealand breeds, namely Poll Dorset, Texel, Coopworth, Tefrom and Suffolk ewes.



CHAROLLAIS SOCIETY

Charollais Sheep Genetics NZ was established in 2012. Performance recording on Sheep Improvement Ltd (SIL) and Across Flock Referencing are both mandatory for members. The breed has been represented in the Central Progeny Test for a number of years since 2016. This has improved linkages with the industry by improving the accuracy of data in SIL's Next generation Terminal Worth analysis (NZTW)

Through the use of Performance recording, we are able to track genetic progress of the Charollais breed and how it is performing within the industry. The graph above shows the breed is performing better than the average of other breeds, particularly in relation to meat yield. To date commercial farmers are reporting reduced days to slaughter and ViaScan meat yields up to 59% by using Charollais rams as terminal sires.

The Charollais is proving itself to be a most suitable sire for carcasses between 17- 20kgs. Charollais produces a long carcass with an extra rib, and the higher intramuscular fat and lower subcutaneous fat makes the meat cuts very attractive to butchers, chefs and consumers due to the relationship with tenderness.

- The Myostatin muscling gene variant which is additive to MyoMAX is present in Charollais flocks.
- Long carcass with an extra rib.
- High dressing out % and high meat yield %.
- Capable of grading to carcass weights exceeding 25kgs.
- Very fast growth rate on pasture
- Charollais also produce a short staple fleece of down-type wool. They are very clean on the points often with a bare breech, making them less susceptible to fly strike.

Intramuscular Fat (meat Quality)

Intramuscular fat (IMF), often known as marbling, is the distribution of fat within muscle. In lamb carcasses IMF measurements are currently taken from the loin and expressed as a percentage.

Intramuscular fat is a key driver of eating quality in sheep meat. Despite being measured in the loin, IMF has a positive impact on eating across all cuts in the carcass and contributes to all factors of eating quality, including flavour and overall liking. IMF can be influenced by genetics and management, such as nutrition leading up to slaughter. It is the last fat to be deposited in the animal, with its greatest deposition evident in later stages of the growth process when nutrition supplied to the animal is above maintenance levels. It is also the first energy source to be utilised, making nutrition leading up to slaughter very important.

- Intramuscular fat has now been measured within a number of industry lamb progeny tests. These progeny tests have included terminal and maternal
- breeds. A heritability estimate based on the data is very high at around 0.70 which means that significant genetic variation exists. In the born 2016 Horizons Progeny Test a Charollais Sire supplied by Elite Charollais ranked the highest of the non-maternal breeds (that were link sires) for intramuscular fat breeding values. In the UK RAMCOMPARE trial, Charollais were consistently the top-ranking breed. That Charollais have increased intramuscular fat is anecdotally supported by marketing of the breed in both the UK and New Zealand
- Ultrasound muscle scanners are now able to measure IMF as well as CT scanning.
- IMF has high to moderate heritability and a negative correlation with shear force, so not only does IMF increase juiciness and flavour, it also improves tenderness.

Breed Description

The Charollais is a terminal sire breed, so emphasis is placed on its excellent fleshing qualities and growth. The purpose of the breed is to breed rams for crossing with commercial ewes to produce quality meat lambs for slaughter.

Bodyweight

Ewes: 80-90kg

Rams: Up to 120kg

Meat

The Charollais sheep breed is used mainly as a terminal sire for increasing the muscling and growth rate of the lambs.

To date commercial farmers are reporting reduced days to slaughter and ViaScan meat yields up to 59% by using Charollais rams as terminal sires.

Breeding/Lambing

It has a reputation as an easy lamber, because of its wedge shape, and has proven to be a useful sire to use for hogget mating and is used as a terminal sire to increase muscling and growth rate of the lambs.

Numbers

2023 NZSBA Flockbook figures

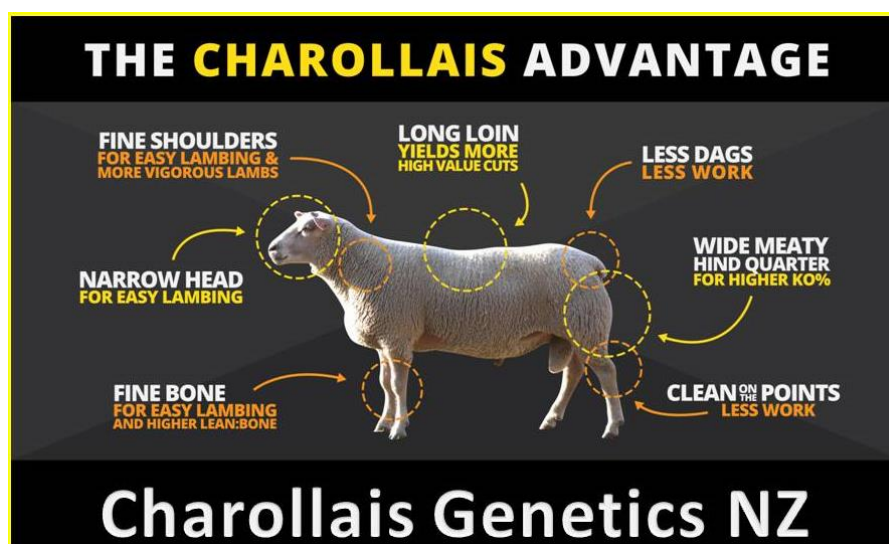
Purebred: 638 ewes

Appendix flocks: 486 ewes

Also likely to be a few hundred commercial ewes.

Wool

Good quality fleece; dense but not too long nor open.



2023 CHAROLLAIS BREED TOUR

This year the 2023 Charollais sheep breeders' AGM and flock tour were based in Fairlie about 65 kms inland from Timaru.



Tour participants, left to right. Mitch Taylor, Shaun Lawlor, Matt Ponsonby, Denby Lawlor, Chris Hampton, Nigel Jay, Peter Ponsonby, Everlie Smith and Murra.

The breeders' flocks that were visited included **Brabazon Charollais** of Alastair Brown and M. Prouting at Pleasant Point. This stud was founded in 2015; flock number 9. Currently they have 20 registered ewes as well as 80 grading up to pure in their Appendix flock, number A9.

Chris and Annabel Hampton's **Waterton** stud based at Cave, on the road towards Fairlie, was established in 2012. Their flock # 4 consists of around 80 registered ewes with a similar number in an Appendix flock.



Waterton Stud's ewes on display in the woolshed.

Last, but not least, the tour took in a visit to Mitch Taylor. Mitch Taylor's, **Morelea** flock is an Appendix flock, number A13 grading up to purebred, based at Fairlie.



Charollais Sheep Genetics NZ

For further information on private ram sales contact participating flocks

Peter Ponsonby, Lawrence	027 299 2871
Matt Ponsonby, Lawrence	0274 199 733
Scott Linklater, Feilding	0175 483 578
Chris Hampton, South Canterbury	0272 025 679
Murray Smith, Rangiora	0274 140 308
Alastair Brown, Pleasant Point	022 188 6601
Duncan & Casey MacKintosh, Rangiora	03 312 8192
Mitch Taylor, Fairlie	0274 054 527
Nigel Jay, Rangiora	021 140 7827
Martina & Shaun Lawlor, Gore	0274 445 379



The breed that offers fast growth rate and high yielding carcasses.

The Charollais wedge shape gives easy lambing and ideal for hogget mating.

WOOL IMPACT

Wool Impact – building demand and value for New Zealand strong wool.

Andy Caughey, Chief Executive, Wool Impact

Wool Impact is a three-year collaboration between sheep sector partners and the government under the SFF Futures fund who have invested \$6.9m and \$4.5m respectively. We facilitate innovation and investment, support domestic and international brands grow demand, boost sector services like training and education, enable a unified voice for strong wool in New Zealand, engineer the industry for vitality, and restore pride in quality wool production amongst farmers in Aotearoa New Zealand.

It is said that from crisis comes opportunity, and in the strong wool industry new opportunities to revitalise the New Zealand strong wool industry by positioning wool as a fibre fit for the future are becoming increasingly clear.

The potential of New Zealand's strong wool industry has been overshadowed by low prices and a lack of industry cohesion. However, there are a growing number of reasons to be positive and optimistic about the future of this industry.

Commercial opportunities for wool are everywhere when they are grounded in solving problems for brands, specifiers and end users. Wool Impact advocates for increased demand and value for strong wool. Through collaborations with growers, brands, and industry leaders, Wool Impact is working towards a timely renaissance for strong wool.

Driving Demand and Value

Wool Impact sees the potential of strong wool as a natural and sustainable fibre for various applications, including insulation, carpets, and acoustic panels. Locally and internationally, there is remarkable innovation in the use of wool, opening opportunities for growth. Typically used in flooring, New Zealand's strong wool is now being used in acoustic panels, insulation, filtration, cosmetics, bags, and personal care. Here in New Zealand, Wool Impact has tracked the projected use of wool by domestic brands which could see New Zealand using up to 40% of our national strong wool clip locally within 5 years.

Shifts in specifier, brand and consumer sentiment toward the impact of product choices presents new opportunities to position wool as good for the wellbeing of people and planet.

But new demand, without new value, will not solve the woes of the strong wool sector. Wool Impact is working with brands and across the value chain to better demonstrate the value of New Zealand's strong wool, be that through environmental impact measurement, the performance benefits of wool in building and other sectors, or training and education to improve the presentation of quality wool to global markets.

Training and Skill Development

The importance of quality shearing and wool handling was highlighted at a recent wool conference in China where the larger users of wool identified poor separation and preparation of wool as a significant issue for New Zealand, resulting in lost value, and impacting our reputation as the world's premium supplier of quality strong wool.

Wool Impact, alongside other industry leaders and organisations, is getting the data to demonstrate the financial benefit to growers of good wool handling. Knowing that there is a value to quality wool preparation is part of the solution. Having the capability in shed to deliver it is another. Wool Impact has advocated for the development of four new micro-credentials for wool harvesting in collaboration with Muka Tangata (workforce development council for food and fibre). These credentials aim to formalize training and provide more opportunities for individuals in the industry to access training.

Environmental impact and sustainability

As a natural and renewable fibre, wool ought to be well positioned as an environmental solution. However increasingly, brands need quality data to support that positioning. Wool Impact has been working to make it easier for brands to access accurate information about the environmental and social impacts of producing wool.

AgResearch was commissioned by Wool Impact to look at how Life Cycle Assessment methodology was being used to measure the "carbon footprint" of producing 1kg greasy wool on-farm and explore different sensitivities. Leading the

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FARMERS
WEEKLY

research was Dr André Mazzetto from AgResearch, a biologist by training, an agronomist by profession, and a specialist in life cycle assessment.

A product's "carbon footprint", expressed as its Global Warming Potential (GWP) is often used as a shorthand for understanding a product's impact on climate change. We needed to know how accurate currently available information is and understand how wool's impacts are pitted against competitive products. The study found wool's impact is considerably overstated in existing LCA databases.

Looking ahead, we will be looking to evidence the broader impacts / contributions of wool production and show that a renewable natural fibre is a more sustainable choice for brands globally.

Improving Market Transparency

To monitor the impact of efforts in driving demand and value, Wool Impact partnered with Fusca to launch a free access strong wool price indicator available at www.woolimpact.com. This indicator provides a visible and consistent benchmark for the wool sector, allowing for better monitoring and analysis. The platform aims to offer precise pricing data based on weekly wool auction and export

information. Growers can sign up here to receive data specific to their wool clip: www.fusca.co.nz

Advocating for Government Support

The recent government announcement to prefer the use of wool in its buildings is warmly welcomed by Wool Impact.

Our team made significant contributions at a Parliamentary Select Committee meeting, urging the government to recognise and support the industry and continue to work with government agencies to overcome barriers to the procurement of wool products.

Work activities aside, our real inspiration comes from the regular engagement we have with the wool sector – the growers, the innovators, the brands at the heart of the wool sector, who drive ambition and determination for this industry every day.

Connecting at a grassroots level with our growers and individuals at the heart of wool production through events like Agri Shows, A & P Shows, and Shearing Competitions is always inspiring and reaffirms Wool Impacts position that strong wool is well placed for a timely renaissance. Please get in touch if you'd like to talk wool - visit www.woolimpact.com



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2024 LAST PLACES AVAILABLE

MOLESWORTH 4WD Tag-Along Tour Dates

March	11-14	2024
March	25-28	2024
April	8-11	2024
April	22-25	2024

For full tour details please contact, South Island Tours NZ

Phone 0274351955

info@southislandtoursnz.com

www.southislandtoursnz.com

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SMALL GROUP TOURS

Recent feedback from a November 2023 4WD group

"We thoroughly enjoyed the Molesworth 4WD trip with Chris. Awesome, interesting and well organised! Chris was part of the team from time of introduction, great company and very informative. We got to seriously use our 4WD vehicles, up steep slopes, river crossings etc. Meeting the station owners was also a highlight. Learning all about the day to day running of their stations, the history and statistics, was great, as was their hospitality. The food was the best and am sure we all packed on a little weight 😊

Would we recommend this tour? 100% YES. Will we do another? 100% YES."

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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."

UDDERLY AMAZING

The Ovine mammary gland is an intricate structure composed of secretory tissue (Parenchyma) and supporting ligaments, venous, lymphatic, adipose and nervous tissue (Stroma). There are two mammary glands divided by a suspensory ligament contained within the udder as shown in the Ovine udder anatomy diagram.

By Naomi Fischer

MAMMARY GLAND DEVELOPMENT

The development of the mammary gland (mamogenesis) commences in the embryo and continues through to lactation. Ewe lambs are born with cistern, teats and some large ducts. Alveoli and interlobular ducts develop several months after birth along with fat and

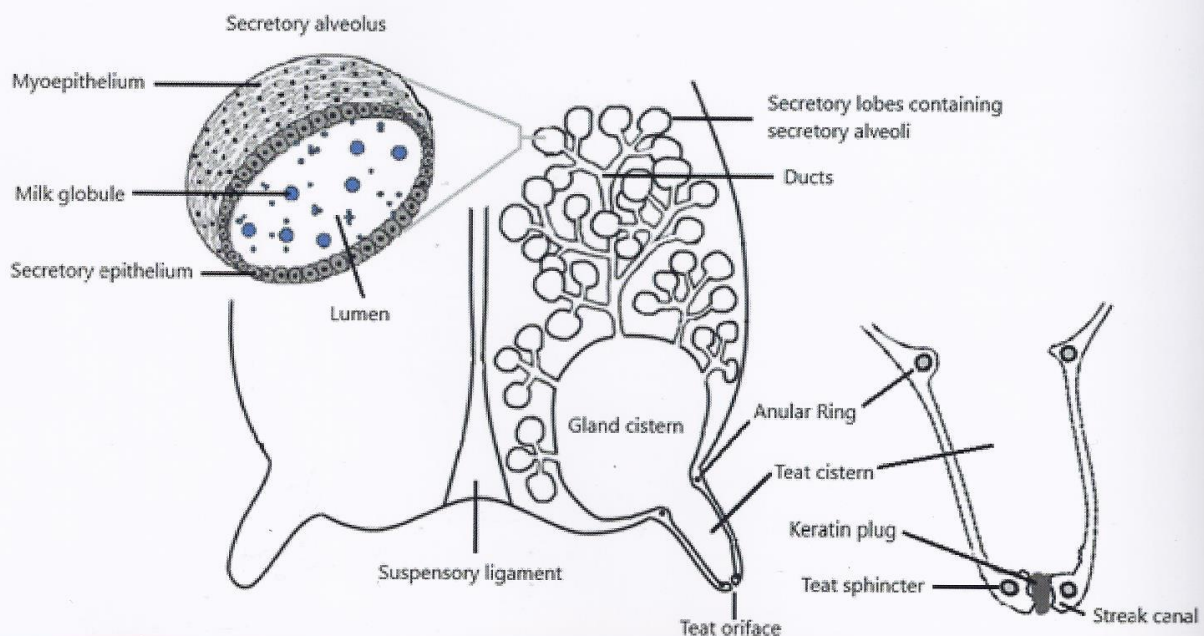
connective tissue. During pregnancy and in response to estrogen and progesterone, the concentration of blood vessels and secretory cells increases, with new alveoli and duct formation continuing for several weeks post lambing.

LACTATION

In the last trimester of pregnancy, changes in the concentration of circulating hormones and growth factors induces lactogenesis, enabling milk production. Nutrients, white blood cells and antibodies are transported to the secretory alveoli by surrounding blood vessels and lymphatic tissue. The secretory epithelial cells produce milk particles from the nutrients absorbed from stromal tissue. Milk globules, composed of milk particles and cytoplasmic fluid, are moved to the inner lumen by pinch off part of the cell wall in a process known as apocrine secretion. In response to external stimuli, nerves innervating the udder signal the release of oxytocin from the brain, which acts on the myoepithelial layer causing the alveolus to contract

and forcibly expel milk from the lumen into the network of ducts and down to the gland cistern. Suckling or manual milking causes milk to pass through the annular ring into the teat cistern where it is ejected from the teat through the streak canal. Shortly after milking, the teat sphincter closes preventing milk leakage and infection.

In sheep and goats approximately 50-70% of the milk is stored in the glands cistern unlike 20% in cattle. Sheep with larger gland cistern can store more milk and cope with less frequent milking, which is beneficial for dairy sheep.



Ovine udder anatomy (Adapted from Ontario Sheep Farmers Dairy Sheep Udder Health Guide)

DRYING UP

When suckling or milking ceases for 24-48 hours, a pressure build up and accumulation of inhibitory proteins, signals the mammary gland to stop milk production. A keratin plug forms in the streak canal to seal the opening. A process of involution leads to replacement of

alveoli with adipocytes, breakdown of retained milk and shrinkage of the udder. It is important for ewes to complete this phase as rest is required to ensure productivity in future lactations.

UDDER CONFORMATION

In general the mammary glands should be supported by a good udder. It should have a wide attachment to the body of the sheep and have teats at a sloping angle from the widest part of the bag. The udder should have depth not extending below the level of the hock

and should have a strong suspensory ligament that shows cleavage between both halves of the udder. Teats with smaller surface area tend to be easier for lambs to suckle. Since udder conformation is highly heritable, breeders can select against poor conformation.

PROBLEMS

The mammary gland is an intricate and fine tune organ but unfortunately problems can arise. Some of these are genetic or congenital while others are environmental. Breeders should become familiar with the problems listed below, and use sound judgment when selecting and treating breeding ewes.

MASTITIS

Inflammation of the mammary gland due to, physical injury, stress or infection. The condition can be either severe or subclinical and usually occurs from lambing to post weaning. Both acute and subclinical mastitis negatively affect production systems including the loss of reproductive ewes, loss of lambs, slow growth rates and management costs.

PENDULOUS UDDERS

Caused by poor suspensory ligament support. The udder hangs below the level of the hocks and swings more freely during motion. Pendulous udder are harder for lambs to suckle and completely empty and often have increased somatic cell counts (SCC). Both SCC and physical attributes have been associated with poorer milk yield, reduced lamb growth and increased incidence of mastitis.

POLYTHELIA

Supra-numerary teats, are a condition where a ewe has more than two teats. In general, extra teats are small and non-functional, usually not impeding udder function. However, complex polythelia results in aspects of functioning teats including cistern and streak canals. This can negatively influence milk production, suckling or machine milking and provide an entry point for infection. Some breeding has been done to select for sheep with functional supra-numerary teats, but in general producers select against this trait.

BLIND TEATS

Are those that do not have an opening, preventing milk passage.

POOR TEAT PLACEMENT

Horizontal teats are difficult for lambs to find and can cause abrasion to the teat from rubbing on the leg, while vertical teats are difficult

for lambs to attach, causing injury, scaring and infection. Extra time suckling/milking affects the teat sphincter leaving the streak canal open for longer, increasing the risk of infection.

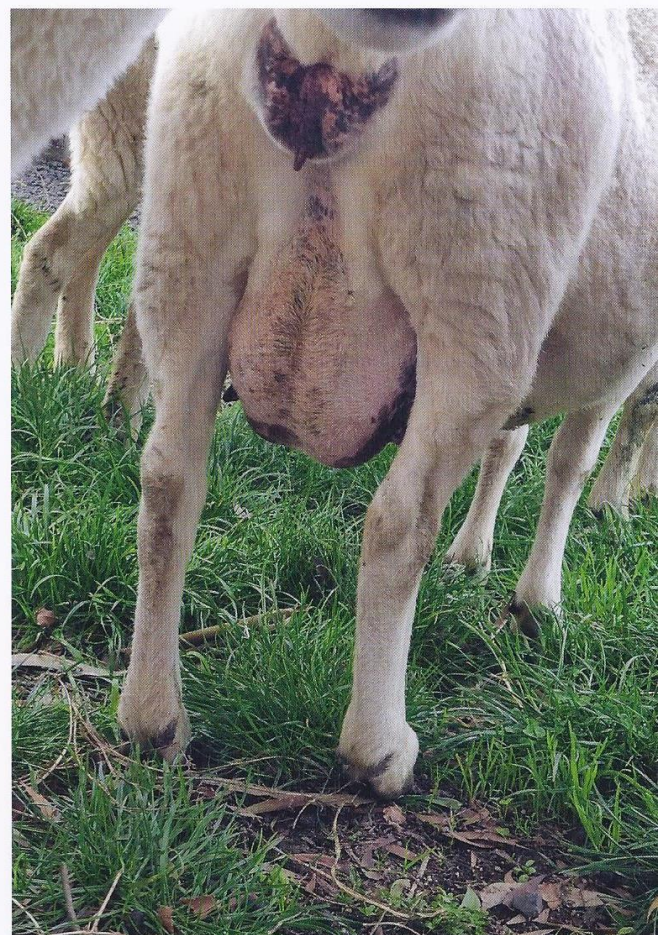
HAEMATOMA

Swelling and inflammation often associated with ewes that have poor suspensory ligaments allowing the udder to swing, causing mechanical trauma.

STENOSIS

The impedance of milk flow caused by narrow streak canals. This can lead to blockage, requires extended milking time and can lead to lamb frustration and slow growth.

The mammary gland serves a major function in production systems and its development is highly heritable highlighting the importance for breeders to select ewes with well conformed and functional udders in order to maximise productivity.



Naomi Fischer is a researcher who has studied genetics. She is a passionate sheep breeder and lives in Kinglake with her family and her flock of Wiltshire Horn sheep.

Resources:

<https://www.slideshare.net/schoenian/udder-health-in-ewes-and-does>

[https://www.ontariosheep.org/uploads/userfiles/files/Dairy_Sheep_Udder_Health_Guide%20Section%20I\(1\).pdf](https://www.ontariosheep.org/uploads/userfiles/files/Dairy_Sheep_Udder_Health_Guide%20Section%20I(1).pdf)

Wormwise Workshop by Marina Steinke, (Rare Breeds Conservation Society NZ)

- based on the workshop presented by veterinarian, Sarah Williams, North Canterbury Vets, Culverden

On Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023, I attended a Wormwise Workshop organized by New Zealand Beef and Lamb held in Culverden and presented by veterinarian, Sarah Williams, who works at North Canterbury Vets in Culverden.

I found out about this workshop due to a Facebook advertisement and signed up immediately as I had heard many good things about these workshops in general - and we needed to up our game against worms!

After having no serious problems with worms in our sheep and alpacas for some 20 years, this past season we got hit hard. We lost 3 of our 6 alpacas to barber's pole. Two were dead one day, a third one was lethargic and lying down and the remaining 3 were a bit slow. The vet diagnosed *Haemonchus contortus* (Barber's Pole) due to their pale skin around their eyes and their almost white mucous membranes. The alpacas were in good condition, only one was scouring a little bit and two had just dropped dead. The alpaca who was lying down received intravenous drenching, the others were drenched orally. The alpaca who was lying down died 2 days later, the others recovered.

We also noticed that a few of our lambs were a bit slow so we drenched all our sheep (all 27 of them) twice within 10 days as recommended by the local vet. This was a first for us as we have Wiltshire and Meatmaster sheep plus a few Damaras. Wiltshires are known for their resistance to worms, Meatmasters are usually resistant, and the Damaras were older ewes when we got them so should have acquired some natural immunity.

Drenching is not something we wanted to continue to do for our otherwise chemical free sheep so I was hoping the Wormwise Workshop would give me some more knowledge about the lifecycle of worms and how paddock rotation at the right times can help prevent the need for worming.

At the beginning of the course Sarah, the presenter, asked each attendee what brought them to the course and what their background was. I was very surprised that about half the attendees were employees at PGG Wrightson or Farmlands and were sent to the workshop to learn about worm management to be able to give better advice to their customers. There will be some very well-informed customers at Farmlands Culverden and PGG Wrightson in Hawarden and Culverden!

Most participants were mainly interested in how to manage

the worms that are often resistant to triple drenches. Survey data from Gribbles Veterinary Laboratories has shown a rapid rise in the number of triple drench resistant parasites in recent years. This survey information can be accessed on the Wormwise website. With no new treatments on the horizon, farmers now have to employ different strategies to manage worm burdens, and these strategies were the subject of this Wormwise workshop.

Many of our Rare Breeds of sheep have good genetics for resistance or resilience against parasites which mean they don't need to be drenched very often. However, in a wet season like we just had, even the most resistant sheep may be challenged as worm numbers skyrocket when conditions are ideal for them, so we do need to monitor our situations carefully.

Given that drench resistance is now common throughout New Zealand we need to be careful about using our drenches wisely and in a sustainable manner, so they are available for the next generation of farmers.

The Life Cycle of Worms: To be able to effectively manage worms and their larvae, it is necessary to learn about factors that influence worm numbers and the life cycle of worms common in New Zealand. Often in our NZ farming systems, 95% of parasites are on pasture and only about 5% are within the sheep. This means parasite larvae numbers present in the pasture are an important factor to consider for worm management.

Worms reproduce in the gut of sheep and other pasture animals and their eggs are excreted with their droppings or dung. If conditions are favourable, with temperatures over 10 degrees Celsius and some moisture being present, the eggs hatch into the L1 larval stage of the worm and proceed to develop into the L2 phase, followed by the L3 phase. Both the L1 and L2 stages live within the dung pile. Once the larva moults into the L3 phase, they migrate onto the grass surrounding the dung pile.

In ideal conditions, with a temperature of between 20 and 25 degrees Celsius and moisture present, development from the egg being excreted to the L3 larvae migrating onto blades of grass can be as quick as 7 days. If conditions are less favourable with lower or slightly higher temperatures and less moisture present, it can take 10 weeks or longer for the eggs to hatch and develop into L3 larvae ready to be ingested by sheep. Under severe drought conditions the larvae desiccate

and are not able to develop. They will eventually die. Heavy frosts, especially if there are a few in a row, also kill off worm larvae.

Knowing what conditions are required for worms to develop, we can make educated assumptions about the likely worm larval contamination of a paddock.

Once an L3 larva has been ingested by a sheep, this larva develops into the L4 stage within the sheep and soon develops into adult worms. Female worms are sexually mature and start laying eggs around 21 days after being eaten. This is called the prepatent period.

The number of eggs excreted in the faeces of sheep can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- Number of worms in the sheep, more worms generally means more eggs.

- Genetics of the sheep. Some sheep are resistant to worms and hence have a lower worm burden (and excrete fewer eggs), some are resilient to worms but excrete as many eggs as sheep who aren't resilient or resistant.
- The health and immunity status of the sheep. Well-fed sheep who have no vitamin or mineral deficiencies are better equipped to handle a worm challenge and usually shed less eggs.
- Age of the sheep. Lambs are more susceptible to worms than adult sheep, so lambs usually shed more eggs than adults.
- Worm species present in the sheep. Barber's pole worms produce many times more eggs per female than other pasture worms present in New Zealand.

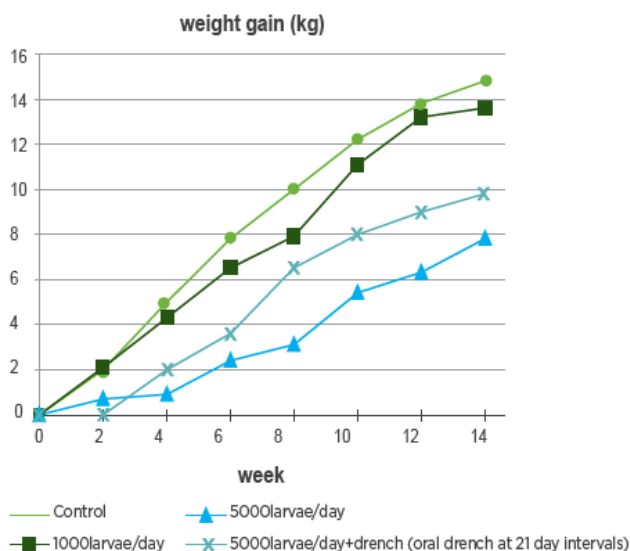


Managing pasture contaminated with worms:

Successful worm management strategies should aim to minimise larval challenge at critical points in your farming operation. Larval challenge occurs whenever animals graze pasture contaminated with infective L3 larvae. Infection causes appetite suppression and changed grazing behaviour, as well as demanding an immune response, which is a cost to production.

We discussed an experiment that showed that challenge with L3 larvae reduced growth rates. Growth rate reduction was higher with increasing challenge. Drenching alone cannot eliminate the effects of worms if the worm challenge is high. The smaller the worm burden the better the growth rate was. See table below:

Effect of daily intake of *Ostertagia* larvae and anthelmintic on growth of young lambs (adapted from Coop *et al* 1982)



With this in mind, successful worm management is all about minimising larval challenge. We can use a number of different strategies to help reduce larval challenge on farms. These strategies could include:

- Pasture length – keep grazing covers long – most worm larvae are in the bottom 2cm of pasture.
- Using fodder crops (eg kale or rape) as these can contain low levels of worm eggs and larvae.
- Hay and silage aftermaths (preferably closed up for three months or longer) can have low larval challenge.
- Alternating grazing species. For example, cattle can graze an area of a farm to prepare safer pastures for lambs.
- Stocking rate: the size of the worm problem largely depends on grazing animal density. The higher the stocking rate for a particular stock class, the higher the potential for worm problems.

- Graze young animals ahead of older animals.
- A preventative drenching programme for lambs where lambs are given monthly drenches over the summer and autumn.

These are all tools which can be used for worm management. It is important to discuss which ones are the most appropriate for you to use on your own property.

Refugia: Refugia is a tool we can use to delay drench resistance. This is where some of the worm population (hopefully mainly the drench-susceptible parasites) are left unexposed to treatment (anthelmintic) so they may reproduce and have offspring. These worms can exist in an animal as susceptible adult worms or on pasture as infective larvae.

Refugia, when put into practice, involves making sure there are some drench-susceptible worms available to reproduce. The idea is to create a “refuge” for worms so non-resistant (susceptible) worms still remain in the population base. The aim is to ensure this reservoir of drench-susceptible larvae significantly outnumbers drench-resistant larvae on the pasture.

When worms breed in the animal, the gene frequency for drench resistance will be diluted.

Methods to achieve refugia.

Refugia can be achieved by not drenching all the animals in a mob every time. How you select animals to remain undrenched is important, and this can be done in a number of ways. You can randomly select a proportion of the animals, e.g. the heaviest, best condition, not to treat, or target the animals to treat by FEC, milk production or LWG.

Using un-drenched ewes to graze on pasture previously grazed by drenched lambs will also create refugia, as the susceptible worms shed by the ewes “dilute” the population of resistant larvae left behind by the lambs.

Returning a mob of animals to the same infective pasture, for a week or so post drenching, before or after they go onto “clean” pasture, also promotes refugia. This ensures any potential resistant worms are dilute on the existing pasture, and some unselected worms will be deposited on the next pasture.

Know your Drench Resistance Status:

It is important to know the drench resistance status of the parasites on your property. This can be determined by doing a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test. This should be performed by your veterinarian who will have an in-depth knowledge of the required method.

The results will tell you whether you have resistant worms, and also which worm species is resistant to which drenches. Should there be drench resistance, your local vet

will be able to discuss the best parasite management options for your flock and give advice on which drenches can be used. In years gone by, sheep were often drenched every 28 days, no matter whether they needed it or not. With drench resistance becoming so widespread, this practice must be replaced with a more refined approach.

It's mainly lambs who suffer from a worm burden. Ewes develop an age acquired immunity giving them some resistance to parasites and hence, if well feed and healthy, they should not require regular drenching. We can use Faecal Egg Counting, Body Condition Scoring, and weighing to determine if drenching is necessary. Ensuring ewes are adequately feed at all times, including during droughts is important to enable them to maintain strong immunity against worms.

Risk Factors for Drench Resistance and some ways to mitigate these risks:

At the end of the workshop, we were given a list of risk factors for the development of drench resistance and we had to assess whether these factors were high, medium or low risk. Thank you to the lady who sat next to me who filled out the form and let me take it home!

- Using long-acting drench products is high risk. Do a faecal egg count before drenching to see whether it's necessary and don't blanket treat. Keep your ewes healthy and in good condition. This will increase their immunity and ability to tolerate a worm burden.
- Drenching adult stock can be high to moderate risk. Minimise drenching of adult stock wherever possible.
- Routine drenching of lambs as part of a preventative drenching programme can be high or low risk depending on drenching policy and grazing management. Remember to consider refugia and discuss what you are doing with your vet.
- Drenching and shifting lambs onto clean pasture is high risk. Use refugia to manage this risk.
- Buying in sheep is high risk. Drench resistance is now common on farms throughout New Zealand so the odds of buying in sheep who carry drench resistant worms is high. To mitigate this risk, have a good quarantine drenching protocol when buying in stock. Discuss this with your vet. Use Zolvix or Startect as your quarantine drench. Drench animals as soon as they arrive on farm and leave them in the sheep yards for at least 24 hours, preferably with feed and water, before putting them out onto your paddocks.
- Using a single active drench is moderate to high risk. Use combination drenches in conjunction with good refugia planning.

- Continued use of an ineffective drench is high risk. Your situation will only get worse. Work with your vet and do a "Drench Check" which is faecal egg count ten days after drenching to check the effectiveness of drenches used.
- Under-dosing when drenching or using a faulty drench gun is high risk. Calibrate your drench gun; check it is working properly and drench for the heaviest lamb/ewe!

Before I attended this Wormwise workshop I had no idea that drench resistance had become a serious problem on some commercial farms. I had heard about drench resistance but that was about it. I had hoped to learn about life spans of worm larvae and how paddock rotation can prevent re-infection with worms and keep our sheep worm free.

What I learnt is that almost everything I had heard over the years is just 'old wives' tales'. Even what's available on the Internet can be inaccurate. I learnt that L3 stage worm larvae are a formidable survivor and can survive on pasture for a year or longer, sitting there waiting for a grazing animal to come along to ingest it. This excludes 'paddock rotation' from the strategies available to most small farmers, especially if it has been a mild season without a drought or hard frosts.



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However, as described above, there are a number of measures available to minimize the worm burden in grazing animals. Knowledge empowers and with our recent experience with Barber's Pole worms and the loss of 3 of our alpacas this knowledge will come in very handy.

From a Rare Breeds point-of-view, the current crisis caused by drench resistant worms has been foreseeable as many commercial farmers have never selected for resistance to worms. All sheep were drenched every 28 days, so their sheep were never challenged by worms.

Most Rare Breeds of sheep, and our New Zealand heritage breeds of sheep, in particular, developed at a time when drenches were unknown. These sheep either had natural resistance or they died, leaving only those with natural resistance to breed. Those who keep these heritage breeds in domestication either don't drench at all or they give their lambs 1 drench at weaning and that's it. Any thin sheep who

are not thriving are moved on, usually to the freezing works after being drenched and fed well to gain condition.

With our climate changing and worm species that have not been known to occur in the South Island wreaking havoc among our grazing animals, any measure to reduce the worm burden that can be taken is valuable.

I would like to thank veterinarian Sarah Williams for allowing me to write an article for our newsletter based on her Wormwise workshop, and New Zealand Beef and Lamb for running these workshops for free and allowing me as a non-member to register and take part. It was definitely a very valuable and well-presented workshop.

More information can be found on the Beef and Lamb website in the Knowledge Hub website, the Wormwise Website and Wormwise facebook page. There are lots of articles and short videos available.

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Doing God's work?

By Professor Jon Hickford, Lincoln University

I have never been accused of doing 'God's work' before now, but that is how one Lincoln student described me to Jamie Mackay of 'The Country' (a fellow Lincoln graduate), based on an *ANSC314 Meat and Wool Production Science* assignment that I had set. Luckily neither Jamie nor the student in question were at Lincoln when I was a student, although I suspect some academic staff at the time used the phrase 'Oh God' - in reference to my work.

This student can be excused, not least because he also claimed it was the 'best assignment he had ever done at Lincoln'. This proves beyond a doubt that he had either never completed any other assignments (this is not unprecedented with some students – I'm thinking of a past Minister of Agriculture perhaps?), or that we had misled him badly over the last few years of study. Regardless, this is what I asked the 97 students in *ANSC314 Meat and Wool Production Science* to do for 10% of their final mark:

Hi everyone,

The second problem solving assignment focuses on wool. I have tested the following idea out with some of you, and those people seemed to like it, so here goes:

This is a fully open book, get help from anyone and anything you like assignment! The 'problem' to solve is that recently the Ministry of Education decided that over 600 schools in New Zealand should have wholly synthetic carpet tiles laid on their floors (at the expense of wool carpeting). Is this a good thing or not?

Your task is to write a polite letter to Dr Iona Holsted, the Secretary of Education (i.e., the Head of the NZ Ministry of Education), explaining whether you think this is a good decision (or not). Your argument needs to be concise, (perhaps two pages at most), extremely well justified scientifically and worded in such a way as to mount a compelling argument for, or against that recent Ministry decision. You will need to use science, be it looking at the carbon footprint of wool versus synthetic, the effect of microplastics on young people, the end-of-life disposal of the floor covering, etc.

Your letter could also be copied to the current Minister of Education, Jan Tinetti.

It will be up to you to decide whether you formally submit your letter to the Secretary and the Minister, and I can assist with that. You will be graded based on the quality of the arguments you mount to a total of 10% of the final mark for ANSC314.

I also told them to 'be polite' – good advice that I always got from my mother – and typically ignored!

Out of the class of 97 students, I got 95 assignments submitted (see my above comment about some students failing to complete assignments). Every one of them was wholly against the use of cheap synthetic tiles in schools, and their scientific arguments were both sound and very compelling. They were mostly polite.

I saw real passion in nearly every letter that was written, which is not something we scientists tend to do, and they didn't pull punches. Many of them (perhaps not surprisingly from the best students), were sent off to Holsted and Tinetti too. I would guess that I am not on their Christmas card lists now, so I will instead have to settle for the far more rewarding activity of spending time with my family. I hope God will be happy with that!

What was written? There is far too much good stuff to detail here, but this (edited slightly for length) is from one of the more engaging members of the class (Ka nui te mihi Reece Michelle). It is only part of what he wrote:

In comparison to synthetics, wool is a natural fibre, one which has been used for thousands of years by humans. Its unique and complex structure provides a range of useful, and safe properties. Wool absorbs dust, repels bacterial growth, and is naturally flame retardant. In a primary school environment, it is safer alternative to synthetics as it does not produce microfibres. Wool is made of complex molecules, with high natural carbon and nitrogen concentrations. This gives it fire retardant properties. Instead of igniting, it slowly smoulders. Wool retains structure with cold water washing, and woollen carpets they do not stain if treated properly. Unlike synthetics, wool keeps its sheen and structure. Wool has a longer lifespan and is easily biodegraded after life. On a textile level, wool trumps synthetics in most categories.

In these gender diverse times, I also must be fair to a student who identifies as female (thank you Megan Maslin). She wrote:

Studies carried out by the University of Portsmouth and SB+CO have shown that on average only 60-70% of the fibres in the product are recycled. Another study also showed that none of the 24 carpet companies that were reviewed had publicly stated their position on microplastics even though all these companies sold carpets made with plastics. Almost 86% of the manufacturing companies analysed have a sustainability strategy or commitments, but microplastics are not included in these strategies. There is no communication to consumers around microplastics shedding from carpets or the potential impacts as retailers only offer guidelines to highlight carpet qualities such as durability and cleanability.

Their main concerns are for the environment and chemical usage. Products made with recycled material are valued highly, but they are not focusing on microplastics and getting down to the roots of this issue around increasing global plastic consumption.

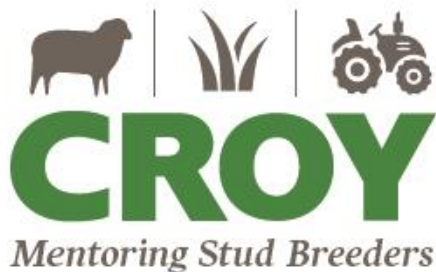
She then went on to say:

The Government has a very strong agenda around environmental sustainability and addressing climate change. Farmers are doing all they can to help the government and are under huge amounts of pressure now with increasing regulation and compliance on farming, which has come at a cost to farmers. I have seen this pressure first hand growing up on a sheep and beef farm in the South Island of New Zealand. The primary industry sector plays a huge role in the NZ economy, and it recorded a GDP of around 16.2 billion

NZD in the year ended March 2022 (Statista, 2022). This was a perfect opportunity for Government to reward the rural

community and farmers in NZ, by supporting the primary sector of NZ instead of signing a deal with a US-based carpet supplier. I believe that this decision is not aligned with New Zealand's wider environmental goals and does not fit this agenda. This goes against the messages we are trying to promote to young students in schools by trying to be as sustainable as possible.

I couldn't have produced better words myself and my thanks to the three students (Callum Shore, Reece Michelle and Megan Maslin) whose words I have used. The wool industry will be in good hands in future, and I think we all have every reason to be proud of young people like this.



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VALAIS BLACKNOSE NOTES

Supplied by Cole McGregor

Many thanks to Kaye McKean and Kirstene Sherri Grant for hosting today's Meet and Greet, Talk about the Sheep, farm visit lunch and afternoon Tea.

Your sheep are gorgeous. Thank you for showing us your set ups, carding machine and sheep kit. It lovely seeing and cuddling some beautiful lambs ❤️.



It was also great putting faces with names and catching up with old friends. Many thanks to those who set aside their time to come to today's event and for those that travelled from further afield.

The sharing of information is a valuable part of the meet ups. I love learning new things; it makes me a better shepherd. I will do a separate post on some of the equipment we saw

today. Without people like Kirstene and Kaye, these valuable events don't happen. If you are interested in hosting an event like this, please message me. You don't have to have a big flock to host a Meet and Greet, or a flash home. Just so beautiful Valais and a place to have a cuppa and chat.] Next date for the North Island [Save the date!!

25th November I will be hosting a stud visit with my little flock of Valais at Range View Valais in Dannevirke.]

Cheer's Cole



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- > *they have eye cancer.*
- > they have injured or diseased udders.

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Animals that are not fit for transport should be:

- > treated on farm, by farm staff or a veterinarian; or
- > humanely slaughtered on farm.

Approved pet food operators can humanely slaughter animals on farm and remove the carcass.

SHOW ROUNDUP

A BIG thank you to Ian McCall for supplying these photos.



Ben Butterick holding the Lochaire partnership's, All Breeds Champion ram hogget at the Ellesmere Show. The ram was sired by Australian ram Gooramma 220/17. This ram also got first place premier Poll Dorset ram hogget at the NZ Agricultural Show.



Champion South Suffolk ewe exhibited by D.M. Butterick at the NZ Agricultural Show.



Ben Butterick, La Mac Hampshire stud, holding his supreme champion all breeds ram at Ellesmere Show.



Hugh Copland, McCombie Stud, holding his Border Leicester ewe hogget that won Miss Canterbury at the NZ Agriculture show



Windermere's Supreme Champion Poll Dorset, 55/20, which was also the Best Carcassed Meat Breed Of The NZ Agricultural Show.



Gallant
38/22

Gallant Stud's prizewinning Shropshire ewe hogget. 1st in the All-Breeds Ewe Hogget at Hawkes Bay and second in the Miss Waikato at Hamilton.
Photo: Emma Pollitt

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

NZ SHEEP BREEDERS OF THE FUTURE

#1 Alice Hoban

Glenafric Corriedale Flock #660

Registered 2022

Alice Hoban is carrying on a family tradition as a stud Corriedale breeder. She established her own Glenafric flock in 2022 with a selection of her family's Parham Hill ewes. That flock was established in 1925 by her Great, Great Grandparents. She has since added some Whiterock Mains and Kawaimate ewes to increase her flock to 15.

In December she will have two of her own rams included in the Glenafric on farm South Suffolk and Corriedale ram sale for the first time.

Alice enjoys taking sheep to shows and has benefitted from the opportunity to enter youth classes at Mackenzie, Amberley and Christchurch this year. She won the Supreme Champion youth breeder's sheep at both Amberley and Mackenzie. She also won Champion Corriedale ewes at both those shows and placed second in the ewe hogget all breeds youth class at Christchurch. At that show she won best SIL recorded Corriedale ewe and ewe hogget prizes.

Alice enjoys the challenge of trying to breed dual purpose sheep and balancing multiple traits. She enjoys pedigrees and the responsibility of carrying out a range of farm calendar jobs with her own flock.

Alice is in year seven at Waipara school in North Canterbury. She is quick to look for time off when major jobs like

scanning or shearing are booked but despite being a strong negotiator she is usually sent to school.



#2 Paige McCall

Hay Hill Suffolk Flock

Registered 2022

Aaron McCall assisting his daughter, Paige, to hold her second placed ewe in the Super Ewe class.

Paige went on to get first, third & fourth in the Youth Exhibitor Class for Ewe with Lambs At Foot and was Champion of all the youth classes, sponsored by the NZ Sheepbreeders' Association.



“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.”

#3 Pieta Buist-Sidey, Mallochvale Stud, Flock #659, Registered in 2022

I feel I was born to farm!

Entering the Christchurch Show for the first time at 14 years old and seeing my stud's name on the show pen above my Corriedale ewe and lambs was such a surreal feeling. I didn't have any great expectations before the show but never thought for a moment that I would win a First and Reserve Champion for my Ewe with two lambs at foot. This was such an incredibly exciting moment that couldn't have got any better, until it did! I also won the 'H. C. A SIDEY MEMORIAL TROPHY'; this trophy is my Great Grandfathers Memorial Trophy that the Sidey family donated in 1961 after the passing of Harry Sidey, it's like he was watching over me and it was incredibly special to me and our family.

I started my Corriedale Stud a couple of years ago with pet sheep. I sold those pet sheep and with the money I made I purchased my choice of Corriedale Ewes from a selection of my father's 'Glenovis Corriedale Stud' to begin my stud flock. When Dad was young, he started his Corriedale Stud under the 'Mallochvale Stud' name, so I am now following in his footsteps as this is now my stud's name. Both Glenovis Farm and Mallochvale Farm are two of the original Sidey family farms.

I am immensely proud of my roots and to say I am a 6th generation Corriedale Sheep Breeder and 5th generation farmer on our family farms Glenovis and Mallochvale. My great great great grandfather, James Little, bred the first Corriedale in 1878 which our family has continued his legacy. James produced the Corriedale breed specifically to flourish in areas such as ours, and it means I have sheep that are dual purpose stock who are up there for meat and their fine wool.

I wouldn't have had the confidence to start my business at age 12yrs if it wasn't for the support of my dad Andy, grandfather Doc and my mother Anna who all have guided me with their individual business experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank many farmers for their encouragement, all you have said and done will never be forgotten.

As you will have gathered, I am passionate about my 'Mallochvale Stud' but also in growing the female profile in the sheep farming sector, encouraging strength with positivity in our mental health and wellbeing. I am loving how women are championing each other as much as possible, I think of us as 'Flock Sisters', which is another branch of my business I am developing, so look out!!

Pieta



“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.”

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A BIT OF HISTORY

NEW SHEEP BREEDS

Press, 18 October 1962. National Library, *Papers Past*

Stock classes at the Rangiora show have been widened in recent years and the show on Saturday will feature another first – the introduction of two new sheep classes. These are the Dorset Down and South Dorset Down breeds.

The response by breeders has been excellent and the number of entries exceeds that in some of the breeds which have been featured for lengthy periods.

The Northern Agricultural and Pastoral Association may be only the second show in Canterbury providing classes for the South Dorset Downs.

The pioneer in this field is probably the Winchester and districts show, which is believed, by one of the North Canterbury exhibitors of the breed, to be the only show in the province that has catered for the breed.

Introduction

The first Dorset Down stud in New Zealand was established in Southland during the late 1940's from sheep imported from England. This flock was bought by Mr J R Butt, Seddon in 1951.

In the same year T W Stevenson and Sons, Ltd., imported 12 ewes and a ram from England to establish the Branston Dorset Down stud at Hornby. This was followed by other importations from England and Australia. When the company disposed of the Hornby property in 1960 the stud was sold also and sheep from this were used to establish many of the Dorset Down studs now in Canterbury.

A further importation of Dorset Downs was made by Mr A C Wright, Waimate, about 18 months ago when he bought one of the four studs of this breed in Australia. Until then there had been only 800 stud Dorset Downs in this country but the breed is growing in popularity.

The Dorset Down is gaining in popularity in North Canterbury and a strong nucleus of breeders is growing in the Northern Agricultural and Pastoral Association's area.

Among the advantages claimed for the Dorset Down is that it gives a fairly large, early maturing lamb, although the wool is slightly stronger than that of the South Downs.

The South Dorset Down breed has been developed in New Zealand by mating stud Dorset rams with stud Southdown ewes. A South Dorset Down society is now established with a membership of 39 in the South Island and three in the North Island. Although stronger in south Canterbury the breed is developing in the rest of Canterbury.

South Dorset Down rams crossed with South Down ewes are claimed to result in early maturing lambs, even carcass conformation with few tail enders.



FOR SALE, ETC

Sheep Breeds posters are available at the Office.

Contact: greg@nzsheep.co.nz

Note: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Full, ½ or ¼ page ads may have a charge. Talk to Greg!

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

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

The **Closing Date** for next issue will be **February 20th for the March 2024 newsletter.**

Please get items in well before the deadline!!!

"FEATURE BREED" will be HAMPSHIRE.

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

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

Published by NZ Sheepbreeders' Association

Email: greg@nzsheep.co.nz

Phone: (03) 358 9412

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