



# Sheep NewZ

#37 Summer 2024



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Hello Members,

Thanks to an offer of assistance from Nikita Woodhead in sourcing items I have decided I can manage another year. I do enjoy doing it but the body is beginning to fall to bits and not so keen on lengthy time sitting at the computer.

A huge **Thank You** to the Dorper sheep breeders who contributed so much to this issue. I could not resist the cracker photo of the lambs for the front cover. Sadly, the East Friesian breeders did not manage to send in anything. Beltex did contribute some items.

I’m not sure why breeders are so reluctant to publicise their breeds at every opportunity.

Don’t think there is no point in showing sheep as you will be amazed who is wandering around looking at the breeds. Children grow up with great memories of going to the show and viewing the animals. Later in life it might be your breed they remember falling in love with.

There seems to be a lot of positive things happening with wool, either as fleece or broken down into its constituents.

Sad that Kainga Ora have opted to go for synthetic carpets. There are carpets that are a mix of synthetic and wool available.

*Helen McKenzie*  
**Editor**

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**Front cover photo:** Lambs at Persepolis Dorper stud

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## 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. Unfortunately, the Northern regions of the province have missed a lot of the moisture others have had and until three weeks ago were heading into the second year of drought conditions. A very good rain was had then, but for fortunes to change will need more than that to get out of their predicament.

Sounds like parts of Southland have had one of their wettest and worst springs for decades with a lot of dead lambs and spoiled feed with pugging leaving the province in a very bruised state.

A refined and simpler version of the Canterbury A & P Show was held last week (for 2 days). Sheep numbers around 600.

Lave Masila, an employee and prodigy of Chris Medlicott’s, Waimate, took out the Lady Isaac Scholarship/NZ Sheepbreeders’ Young Judges Championship. Lave cut his teeth on Chris’s Clifton Downs Southdowns and along with others were asked to judge 4 Meat Breed and 4 Wool Breed Hoggets, then give a very informative description as to why and where each animal was placed. The win enables Lave to travel to Australia next year to compete.

Drafting and weaning of lambs has begun with a schedule increase for both the lamb and mutton. Not often seen at this time of the year. Also, on farm sales are starting in both North and South Canterbury regions this week, following on from some held in the North Island recently.

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

**Mark Copland**  
**President NZSBA**



## From the General Manager



**The Christchurch Show** – We have just had Show week which remains a significant event in Christchurch. This year at the start of the year there was to be no show, then at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour some members teamed together to organise a livestock show. The result being a massive congratulations to all involved, and it will be interesting to hear what format the show will be for next year.

**Breed Conferences – 2025** – organisers need to firm up on dates for their conferences in 2025 and contact the office. Members should look at taking the opportunity to join their breed's conference.

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

**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 Flock Book – 2024** – 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.

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

The Texel Breed Committee are now to strictly enforce the 2 years without an annual return rule and will withdraw any members who don't comply.

**Helen McKenzie** – Helen has been producing Sheep NewZ for a number of years now [37 issues!- Ed] and has agreed to carry on for another year.

I have known Helen for a long time and probably first met her when she was the Chairman of the Ryelands from 1994 until 2022. We would always hold meetings either at hers, or a motel room The get togethers were always informal and great fun. So, keep it up Helen.

**Breed Committee Elections** – early 2025 nomination forms will be sent out to members in January 2025. If you are willing, eager, passionate about your breed, and willing to give the time please get someone to nominate yourself.

**Texel Breed Committee** – I have just returned from attending a Texel Breed Committee meeting in Wellington. This was a significant meeting as all the members will be retiring at the end of the year, meaning that there will be a completely new breed committee in 2025. Obviously not ideal, as it is always beneficial to have some members on the breed committee remaining to help with continuity. But due to the fact that most have been on the committee for a number of years this is inevitable. One member has given 18years service to the breed whilst serving on the breed committee.

We have developed a friendship and intend to have an annual catchup.

**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 2025.

**So, all of the above and a big thankyou to Helen, and here's hoping for a positive 2025!**

**OUR OFFICE LAST DAY WILL BE FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AND COMMENCING BACK ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025.**

**Greg Burgess  
General Manager,  
NZSBA**



## Feature Breed #1

### BELTEX



**ORIGIN & HISTORY** (Thanks to UK Beltex website)  
 The Beltex breed, or the Belgian Texel, is simply a double muscled Texel, developed initially at the University of Liege. Two Professors, Roger Hanset and Pascal Leroy initially worked with industry sheep breeders from the 1970s and concentrated on selection from the culards (double muscled) animals.

They were imported into the UK in 1989. Breeder Tom Ashton and Dr Mike Tempest formed the Bel-Tex partnership which imported the first Beltex and gave the breed its name. It wasn't long before the first flocks were established in Scotland and Northern Ireland as well. The UK Breed Society was founded in 1991.

Beltex embryos were brought to NZ in February 2016, put into ewes in March 2017. Particular attention was paid to structural soundness, and the ewes selected with a good cover of wool.

The Beltex importation into New Zealand was a joint venture between Blair & Sara Gallagher, Jock & Hilary Allison and John & Lynley Tavendale. The flock is run at "Rangiatea" near Mt Somers in the Canterbury Foothills.

Flock number one, it was registered in 2018



Jock Allison, John Tavendale and Blair Gallagher with Sterl Roadley with the top priced Beltex ram lamb, at \$22,000, March 1, 2019.

### BELTEX BREED DESCRIPTION (UK)

Medium size, wedge shaped sheep with double muscled hindquarters. Terminal sire, producing superior-muscled lambs. Fine bone is a desirable characteristic

The Beltex importation into New Zealand is a joint venture between Blair & Sara Gallagher, Jock & Hilary Allison and John & Lynley Tavendale. The flock is run at "Rangiatea" near Mt Somers in the Canterbury Foothills.

Bodyweight
<p><b>Ewes:</b> Up to 60kg</p> <p><b>Rams:</b> Up to 80kg</p>
Meat
<p>Superior muscling in carcass, lean. High meat to bone ration.</p>
Breeding/Lambing
<p>Generally easy lambing. Lambs are vigorous</p>
Numbers
<p>Pedigree 124 ewes, NZSBA Flock Book, 2024</p> <p>Appendix (grading up) 370 ewes NZSBA F.B. 2024</p> <p>Breed still being established with imported embryos.</p>
Wool
<p>Tight, dense, of medium staple length, affording good protective birth coat to lamb. Creamy, 31 -34 micron.</p>

"Rangiatea" stud ram ✓



## STUD PROFILE # 1

### Rangiatea Beltex, Flock # 1

Registered 2018

Owned by Gallagher/Tavendale, Ashburton

The flock was founded in 2016 by the Gallagher/Allison/Tavendale Partnership on imported embryos bred by K & M Buckle (Fl 103174 T.B.S.S). The latest NZ flock book gives the stud 101 ewes. Sires used have all been from flocks in the T.B.S.S. Hamish Gallagher manages the flock at present.

The stud also has an Appendix Flock, #A1 founded in 2017 using Suffolk, Perendale and Poll Dorset ewes. This currently consists of 340 ewes.

Currently Flock #1 is the only registered flock with a significant number of purebred ewes – figures from the 2024 NZSBA Flock Book.

Rangiatea is an 1100 hectare dryland sheep and beef operation in the foothills of Mt Somers, carrying 9,500 stock units, of which half is developed flat land and the other half is rolling/steep tussock country. Two other sheep studs are run which are Rangiatea Perendales and Rangiatea Cheviots.

The reason Hamish's father, Blair and Jock Allison first decided to import the breed was because of the relaxing of the laws for the importation of semen & embryos from the UK. They saw a real opportunity to import a breed that offered high yielding, meaty animals that would greatly contribute to the NZ terminal breeds which have often lost these qualities.



*Purebred Beltex carcasses from "Rangiatea"*

The photo is of carcasses followed through to processing at Silver Fern Farms. It's impressive the volume of meat they produce when comparing with another line of lambs coming through the chain that were the same weight and grade.

Hamish says that great advances have been made with genetic progress in New Zealand in the 7 years they have had the breed - particularly with structure, type and maintaining dark-faced females in their Beltex-Suffolks. They have been trying to breed the best type that they think will suits the New Zealand conditions: - quite a free-moving sheep while maintaining size and not losing the muscling trait which the breed is known for. They are now pushing more towards fertility and improving the overall Terminal worth index.

Studies in the UK comparing various terminal sire breeds noted that from the animals killed the purebreds had a higher meat yield of 8%, the halves ¼ and the quarter Beltex's were 2% higher.

They have crossed the Beltex with Suffolks, Texels and cheviots. They also have a new breed they are going to be crossing with the Beltex, which Hamish says they are very excited about. Something they think will be popular in New Zealand.



The Suffolk crosses have proved extremely popular as a terminal sire with the high growth and size of the Suffolk, mixed with the high yielding and total amount of meat that the Beltex have. The Cheviot crosses have proven to be a great choice for hogget mating, with lambs born small and vigorous, Farmers are really impressed with the amount of hogget lambs they get away at weaning, and their weights.

The breed is now spread throughout the country, with more than half their rams being sold to the North Island each year, and many to Southland.



## Feature Breed #2

# DORPER & WHITE DORPER



*White Dorper rams*

*Photo: NZSBA*

### ORIGIN & HISTORY

#### 20 years of Dorpers in New Zealand

*Supplied by Cristine Drummond*

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

Dorper sheep first arrived in New Zealand in 2000. The original genetics were sourced from Australia as embryos, semen and live animal shipments. Today the expense of importing live animals has seen a move back to mostly semen and embryos as a source of new genetics. All genetics are still sourced from Australia as our strict New Zealand agricultural import laws do not allow the importation of genetics directly from South Africa.

There are currently 22 registered breeders in the NZ Society; this is a mix of Dorper and White Dorper breeders with around 1000 registered animals. These breeders are located from Auckland to Invercargill in the south and various places in between. This means Dorpers are being farmed in all different climates and environments.

The White Dorper is sought after as a terminal sire particularly for hogget mating to produce smaller lambs with little lambing problems and the ability to grow quickly. The bulk of White Dorper rams sold in New

Zealand at present are being used for this purpose. There are also commercial farmers infusing White Dorper blood into their maternal flocks to produce a lower maintenance breeding ewe.

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

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

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



*Dorper ram lambs*

*Photo: NZSBA*

### BREED DESCRIPTION

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

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

General appearance:

The sheep should be symmetrical and well proportioned. A calm temperament with a vigorous appearance is the ideal.

<b>Bodyweight</b>
<b>Ewes:</b> 65-70kg <b>Rams:</b> 90-100 kg
<b>Meat</b>
Well put together carcasses with good fat distribution. Good growth rates; lambs able to reach 36kgs liveweight in 3½ - 4 months. Lambs small at birth but grow well.
<b>Breeding/Lambing</b>
Excellent mothers who produce good quantities of milk. Very fertile, with older ewes usually having twins or triplets. Will breed at any time of the year – may produce lambs three times in two years.
<b>Numbers</b>
Dorpers: 659 registered ewes in 11 flocks Black Dorpers: 398 registered ewes in 12 flocks
<b>Wool</b>
Some sheep have hair and others wool, all self-shedding.

## STUD PROFILE # 1

### ARIMBA WHITE DORPERS

**Flock number – 36**

**Established – June 2002, Christchurch**

**Principals – Jenny & Jim McPhee**



*Arimba 913 Champion Ewe at Christchurch Show, 2024 by Belfield Park 62/21.*

I have always believed that grazing pastures is enhanced by having different classes of stock, so I was considering Boer goats to run with our deer herd. However, I arrived home one day in 2002 to be met with, “Dorpers are what we need!” from Jenny who had just read an article about them. I always do as my wife suggests!!

In my prior life as a vet I was involved with the transferring of embryos imported from Australia when the breed was first introduced to NZ by Xcell Breeding Services. At the first sale of progeny from this work Jenny and I bought 2 ewe lambs for \$2000 each. That started me on a journey where I have developed a passion for breeding the best White Dorper in the country.

Our history spans 20 years and lots of ups and downs. At one stage I was wondering whether I would ever see a WD with straight legs and feet! However, historically all breeds introduced into NZ have had issues, but selection and culling has brought our small flock of 40 ewes to a level where all the young stock are pretty good on feet and last year a ram lamb was born to one of our better ewes and he is 100% in feet and legs with no trimming and has shed perfectly this spring. As we all know one sheep does not make a flock but for me that is a milestone in the breeding programme.

I must confess I used to consider sheep to be ground lice, so I have come a long way in my appreciation of sheep generally, and Dorpers in particular. I have shown sheep regularly as a breeder’s role in showcasing the breed and this is how I have gradually learned from other experienced sheep breeders all the stuff I now know. Sharing at shows with all breeders, both big and small, has provided gems of knowledge which I have gratefully put into practice.

The focus for me is on feet and I now have a flock which is as good in the feet as any other breed. Although I have used AI and AI/ET programmes my biggest boost came from buying Belfield Park 62/21 from Cristine and Lyndsay Drummond. This ram has produced lambs from lesser to better ewes almost all of which are worth keeping. He is that elusive sire that we all look for. I am pleased that I will pass him on to another breeder who will benefit greatly from the use of such a quality sire

Over the years I have had modest success at shows but, on reflection, there has been a gradual improvement over the years to a recent Champion Ewe success at Christchurch this year- a daughter of BP62. It took 20

years to get into this category. I read recently that it takes 40 years to breed a quality flock and 5 years to stuff it –

so I must be at least halfway there. A second and third place at Ellesmere carcass competition 2019 was a nice result as well. These were produced by Texel ram over lesser ewes and slaughtered at 90 days



▲ Ellesmere Show 2019, 2nd and 3rd in Hoof and Hook 90days old

My philosophy of breeding is to make some mating decisions which are exciting! Not just same old/ same old. Last year I took the opportunity of horrible sheep prices to make the 18 lesser ewes into recipis and the top 4 ewes into donors. I used imported semen which I have used many years ago on what I now know as lesser ewes. I was interested to see how it would go in decent ewes. The result has been pretty good and there are some nice upstanding ram lambs along with some great ewe replacements. However, more importantly the number of tail enders has been significantly reduced.



Ewe 136 by BP62 with AI daughter by Omloop son semen ex Etiwanda Aus, 120days old

The other aspect of breeding is to have a handle, not just on conformation and type but also productivity. That is why I started using SIL from 2015 as my perception is that it is the only way to rank the sheep. When I first started my worst Terminal Worths were -500 but today, I

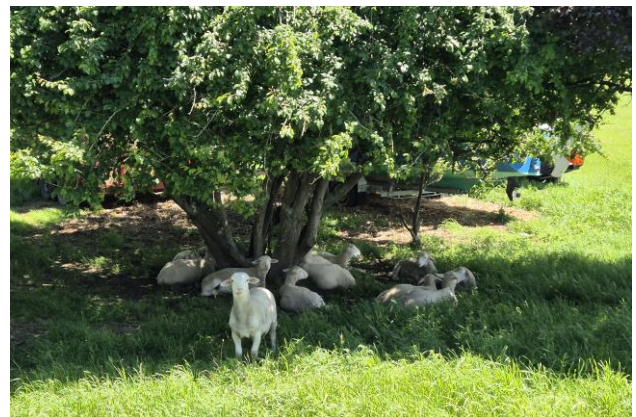
have ewes and rams up to TW1200. My preferred ewes are over TW 500. If I had the scope for crossbreeding, I would put a Texel ram over those ewes less than TW400 as that almost guarantees a prime lamb by 120 days. This was my practice when I had more land and 100 ewes.

Going into 2025 there is another prospect to make me look forward to spring 2025. I am using BP62 over 10 selected ewes (after which he has been sold and is going to be the sire in another flock upgrading to pures from base stock). The balance of the ewes are going to be mated to Winton 522/21 who is also included in the Shedding Sheep category of SIL so there is a linkage aspect which I think will be of value. Winton 522 is a young ram I tried to buy earlier but great to have the opportunity to use him this year.

Currently I am collaborating with other breeders who have negotiated to import semen from Kaya Stud in WA so some will be used in 2025 and I will have that to look forward to for 2026. Kaya has been a major source of genetics via Sunnyvale (Bill Lott) in earlier years. I think it great to have another shipment from a stud which has had a lot of positive influence in the NZ Dorpers early history.

Finally, I see the role of the Dorper to be a terminal sire with particular use for hogget mating. With the growth in interest in Shedding Sheep the White Dorper will definitely fit into the mix for ewes at a level yet to be determined but different environments will demand more or less Dorper influence, and this will sort itself out in the coming years. I am looking forward to providing quality rams to those who appreciate the quality of carcass seen in their offspring and to those breeders who aspire to grading up to purebreds. There are far superior White Dorper sires available today than when we commenced breeding.

Jim McPhee  
25thNov 2024



The benefit of shade even on a cool day. An African 200 son by ET stands up well.





**STUD PROFILE # 2**

**Willowdown Dorper stud, (Prefix Winton)  
Flock 129 Sil 3387 Dorper, 3424 White  
Dorper**

**Established in 2005 in Winton, Southland.  
Principals R.A. & GW Keen**

In 2020 we shifted to Central Otago onto a 50-acre farmlet. This means we have been able to increase our numbers and have all the sheep on one place.

We run 40 Dorper and 80 white Dorper ewes, and our own replacements. All my stock is recorded on Sil recorded on the Maternal and Terminal Traits. We have used AI across our Dorpers from the Douwana stud from Australia in 2023. For the next 2 years we plan to use Dell Jackpot and Full Throttle.

We brought in thirty 2ths and 15 mixed aged ewes from the Loch Head white Dorper stud of Clark Scott and Judy rams, Winton 552/21 and Winton 673/22.

I strive to produce good shedding stock with excellent mothering, growth and confirmation. A strong trait of short tails from 673/22 has meant no tailing in 70% of his lambs.

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**FARMERS WEEKLY**



Winton 673/22

▼ September 2024 snow fall, Willowdown hogget's and late lambing ewes



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.”



▲ *Winton 552/21*



▲ *Lamb sired by Winton 552/21*



▲ *Willowdown, first day of lambing in the snow, September 2024.*



**STUD PROFILE # 3**  
**Persepolis Dorper Stud**  
**Flock 151**  
**Established 2014 in Christchurch**



We purchased some land in 2012 in West Melton, Christchurch and took several years to decide what to run on it, having no previous experience with livestock.

After a start with some “not so good” Dorpers purchased on trade me, Persepolis Dorpers was founded in 2014 (and registered) with 3 ewes purchased from Belfield Park Dorpers and a further 8 ewes bred by Dorper Lodge. We were very fortunate to purchase an AI (Australian– Kaya Dorpers) ram from Dorper Lodge, he was awarded Supreme Dorper two years running at the New Zealand Show. This ram injected some fantastic genes into our growing flock.



Persepolis Dorpers is named after the ancient Persian royal residence founded around 518 BC, a country I was born and raised in until 10 years old. The Dorpers are a breed developed in South Africa in 1942 with the crossing of the Dorset Horn and Blackhead Persian sheep, hence the link to Persian Persepolis

We have used artificial insemination from Australian rams and purchased a number of rams from Maple Dorpers who held Australian genes to ensure genetic diversity.

A reflection of the quality is in the numerous NZ Show placings over the years.

Over the past few years, the focus has been on improving feet, and I am pleased to say that this has gained great results with NZ-bred sheep suited to their conditions, resulting in very few foot issues compared to the early days.

The flock are mostly self-shedding, carry good muscle and meat and generally produce twins at lambing.

Our numbers are small, generally keeping to 30-40 breeding ewes, and we are conscious of ensuring that we continue to bring in high quality rams with divergent genetics.

Our focus for the future, now that feet issues are resolved, is to ensure our sheep have strong bone and increased meat, as well as keeping to high breed standards. With the downturn in wool the breed is well placed for commercial meat breeding.

At Persepolis Farm we are also breeding and have registered the rare breed Awassi sheep, one of the world's oldest breeds of fat tailed sheep from the Middle East. We have also just started breeding Babydoll sheep, a rare breed as well, a smaller version of the Southdown sheep.

All enquiries and visitors welcome.

Christine McQuillan

[Xtinemcq40@gmail.com](mailto:Xtinemcq40@gmail.com)

Phone: 0279433399



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# DORPERS IN 2024

*Thanks to Cristine Drummond for the following article*

With the continuing trend for breeding shedding sheep in NZ, several of our Dorper breeders are involved in various shedding sheep groups around the country keeping across these developments and flying the flag for the Dorper breed which is great to see. It is good to see that some White Dorpers in particular are ranking high in SIL data being provided.

## 2024 Canterbury Spring shows

### Ellesmere A&P Show

Four Canterbury breeders: Maple Genetics, Arimba, California Clemens and Belfield Park attended the Ellesmere show on 19 October exhibiting 22 Dorpers & White Dorpers.

The Champion ram and Supreme Dorper sheep was Belfield Park 97/22 ram shown by Lindsay & Cristine Drummond.

***Belfield Park 97/22*** ➤

The Reserve Champion ram went to Maple Genetics 21209/21. Maple Genetics also took out the Champion ewe and Reserve Champion ewe awards.



### Ashburton A&P show

The 2024 Dorper Sheep Feature show was held at the Ashburton A&P Show on Saturday 2 November.

There were 39 sheep exhibited by 6 breeders: Maple Genetics, Arimba, Belfield Park, Persopolis Dorpers and Ashport Dorpers from the Canterbury area and Willowdown Dorpers who had travelled up from Otago.

It was a great sunny but windy spring day until later in the afternoon when a short sharp southerly blew in rain just as everyone was loading their sheep to head home!



*White Dorper rams relaxing post judging*



*Waiting to load up and head home*

The Champion Ewe and Supreme Dorper Sheep went to Maple Genetics 20003/20

Champion ram went to Ashport 276/23 shown by Terry & Sue Ashley, with Reserve Champion Ram going to Belfield Park 97/22. Maple Genetics also picked up the Reserve Champion ewe award.



**Supreme Champion**  
*Don Edgecombe with Maple Genetics 20003/20*  
(Photo by Ben Doubleday Photography)



*Terry & Sue Ashley with Ashport 276-23*  
(Photo by Ben Doubleday Photography)

## 2024 Canterbury Show

The two-day Canterbury Show was held on 14 & 15 November.

There were 18 Dorpers and 11 White Dorpers exhibited by 7 breeders: Maple Genetics, Arimba, Belfield Park, Persepolis Dorpers, Ashport Dorpers, California Clemens from the Canterbury area and Dashwood Dorpers (our youngest registered breeder) who had travelled from the Awatere Valley, Blenheim.

*Belfield Park 97/22 waiting for the All Breeds judging ➤*

*(Photo by Ben Doubleday Photography)*

The Champion Dorper ram and Grand Champion ram was Maple Genetics 21209/21. The Champion Dorper ewe was Maple Genetics 20003/21 who also won the Grand Champion ewe award.

Young breeder, Charlotte Boyce from Dashwood Dorpers won the Dorper Ewe Hogget class with her ewe hogget who went on to pick up the Reserve Champion Dorper ewe award as well – a great effort for her first time bringing her sheep to Christchurch.

Champion White Dorper ram was Belfield Park 97/22 and the Champion White Dorper ewe went to an Arimba ewe hogget.



*The overall Supreme Dorper sheep award went to the Maple Genetics ram 21209/21.*



*Christchurch Show Supreme Champion Maple Genetics ram 21209/21*

All in all, the Dorpers had a good turnout for the spring shows.

Congratulations to Maple Genetics who have had an excellent spring show season – well done! The ewe, Maple Genetics 20003/20, was the Supreme Ewe at all three shows.

2025 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dorper sheep arriving in New Zealand so to celebrate this breed milestone the feature show will be held in November at the revitalised Canterbury Show. Expect to see some outstanding Dorper Sheep!

**From our team  
to yours**

We wish you a happy and safe festive season

**Call Andrea  
027 602 4925**

**FARMERS  
WEEKLY**

# 17<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CORRIEDALE CONGRESS, 2024

By James Hoban

Reprinted with permission from the  
September issue of

sod  
.co.nz



What global event brings together a handful of Kiwi, Aussie, South American and USA farmers in Peru? It is not the beginning of a bad joke but rather the formula for the 17<sup>th</sup> World Corriedale Congress; an event with a level of pomp and ceremony that would surprise commercial farmers in New Zealand. The first congress was held in Christchurch in the 1950's and despite major farm and market changes, the event continues to have a strong following.

June this year was the first time Peru had hosted the event, and the organisers were eager to show visitors the quality of their Corriedales as well as the best of their country. As is traditional, a 10-day tour was followed by the congress. This was a two-day event with a range of speakers from participating countries, followed by a show and dinner. The tour group numbered 20 from various countries while over 400 people attended the congress. I was fortunate to be one of three New Zealand delegates representing our breeders, partly funded by the New Zealand Corriedale Society.

Every time I have been overseas and visited farms (Japan, the UK and Australia) I have learnt some important lessons I could apply to the business at home, but it is difficult to say the same about the Peru experience. In terms of experiencing a different culture, seeing a beautiful country, making lifelong friends and being taken well outside my comfort zone, Peru exceeded every expectation. When it comes to what I learnt though it was not technical or farm specific. Everyone on the tour had our eyes opened to circumstances far removed from our own. This taught us valuable lessons in gratitude and perspective.

*The official NZ delegation L-R John Booker, Mark Sidey, James Hoban ➤*

At the Congress, in jacket and tie, with three to five delegates from nine countries sitting behind their respective national flags, our New Zealand breed President whispered, "What other breed would do this?" He had a point. While he has been a good friend for a few years we had got to know each other uncomfortably well over the previous two weeks. These included nights sharing a hotel room while one or both of us was suffering the effects of altitude sickness and/or a completely foreign (but delicious) diet. We had also shared some 18-hour days on terrifying roads with eye-opening drivers. This time was initially spent in the back of the bus but only until we hit the roof twice over unmarked speedbumps. By the time of the congress, we still had lumps on our heads but no lasting signs of concussion. Our guide explained that the speed bumps, which were sporadically found on stretches of open road, are used instead of speeding tickets "because nobody pays."

Anyway, there we were at what felt like a major political summit, the United Nations of sheep breeding, and we were representing New Zealand which as well as being the birthplace of the Corriedale (shoosh Australia) was by far the country the attendees were most interested in hearing about.

Unfortunately given the mid-winter mood in New Zealand, as delegates we struggled to share a wealth of good news. We covered the challenges facing not just fine wool growers but sheep farmers in general – focussing on (lack of) profitability and climate. We made it clear that sheep farmers who had survived in New Zealand had only done so through innovation and adaptability. Then explained that the farmers who come out the other side of the current industry upheaval and reduction will be stronger for the experience. They will have implemented survival strategies that make their businesses stronger in the long term.



It was hard to get our heads around the typical sheep farming system we saw in Peru. Most farms we visited were far removed from what we are used to. The country we saw in the highlands was similar to the Mackenzie Country but at a much larger scale and without the rabbits and hieracium. Tussock country, undeveloped, as far as the eye could see.

While we visited wealthier farmers who had scale and mechanised farming, this was not the norm. The common system is small scale and low input, based on minimal working costs. Labour is cheap. Fertiliser and re-grassing are nil. We regularly saw people turning cropped areas over by hand. Having left our wives in New Zealand we felt safe observing how hard Peruvian farming women worked. It should be noted that while we were on the trip of a lifetime our wives were going to great lengths to keep the home fires burning, children fed and watered and farms running, in the depths of winter.

Cropped areas were largely covered in stooked oats. Sheeves were tied by hand and stooks were built manually – not even a century old binder in sight. A handful of idiot (conventional) balers and tractors were spotted but they were too few in number to have covered the massive area of stooks we witnessed.



◀ *Peruvian Corriedale ewes in their typical landscape*

Fences were few and far between and a family with 50-100 ewes running alongside a smaller number of llamas and alpacas was common. At the same farms we viewed housed sheep which would rival any Corriedale at New Zealand or Australian shows. These sheep were big, well fed and stylish. They showed what feed and housing could do and they took older breeders on the tour back to a time when shedding show sheep was common practice.

The wool was generally traditional Corriedale wool, stronger than modern New Zealand and Australian flocks. Many of the Peruvian show sheep were well over 30 microns. While some farmers were moving finer and have bought genetics from New Zealand to help the

process, they are not yet rewarded for reducing micron. The Peruvians we spoke to are receiving \$25c (NZ) per kg and this does not fluctuate with micron.

Lambs are killed on an ad hoc basis in small numbers, to trade for essentials or sell. The liveweight of these is not particularly important and there is no real distinction between adult sheep and hoggets. If meat works exist, we could not find any evidence of them. It was tempting to point to lambing percentage as an area where quick gains could be achieved but on reflection trying to mimic our own systems might be short sighted and patronising. Many of the Peruvians are running what we would call subsistence farming, but the people were happy, the sheep looked well and the business generally met a family's needs. The industry is not currently equipped to reward farmers who innovate through finer wool. The cost of labour coupled with the state and scale of the land means pushing for more lambs from less ewes is largely not worth the effort.



◀ *Showground reception, Espinar*

Experience in New Zealand has shown the dedication to housed show sheep leads to a decline against modern breeds and composites run under commercial conditions and at scale. That does not mean the same thing will happen in Peru. Their show following is massive and the esteem surrounding the country's first time hosting the World Congress is difficult to describe.

We could not have asked for more from our hosts. The Peruvians were fantastic company and took hospitality seriously. They were welcoming and extremely generous. Our tour took us from



Lima to Cusco and Machu Picchu on day three. There were several nights in Cusco and Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca before we arrived in Arequipa for five nights which included the Congress, touring and more farm visits. Landing in Cusco gave us our first taste of a sudden shift in altitude – flying from sea level at Lima to around 3000m asl. Eventually we peaked at around 5800m asl where we enjoyed a brief breathless bus break, surrounded by volcanoes. This was an incredible stop but every metre we descended between there, and Arequipa brought relief.

Despite the glamour of the Corriedale congress being exclusive to the breed, steeped in tradition and history, there was agreement between all countries represented that we could make progress together in several key areas. These were to aim for more moderate framed sheep with finer wool, increase genetic linkages between countries to make performance recording globally relevant and accurate, and to make more regular efforts to maintain formal dialogue between countries.

The Argentinians brought the theme to the congress that Corriedales = meat, wool and friends. As stud breeders we have pushed the idea for over a century that Corriedales are the ultimate dual-purpose breed, but we might have neglected to appreciate the bonds between breeders, both within New Zealand and across borders. New Zealand Corriedale breeders have enjoyed global ties and experiences for decades and the relationships with other breeders are permanent. While the World Congress format is alive, the people aspect of Corriedale breeding, the opportunity for creating memories with great people who share a passion for the breed, will continue to be a major benefit to those involved.

The delegates present in Peru unanimously agreed that New Zealand would host the 2027 World Congress. This is an exciting development for breeders here and the door will be open to anyone in the sheep industry who is interested in joining the fun.



**HOBAN CHILDREN’S CANTERBURY SHOW SUCCESS.**

Alice won:

- The dual-purpose breeds Super Ewe competition (Tug Burrows memorial trophy).
- The ewe class in the youth exhibitor section
- The supreme champion in the youth section
- Young exhibitor of the year

In his first year exhibiting William had a great show with his English Leicesters, capped off by winning second place ewe hogget in a strong class in the youth section.

William's sheep came from the Todhunters at Cleardale when they sold their flock earlier this year.

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.”

# Focus on Forelimbs

Thank you to *The Muster (Australian)* for this article by Jill Noble. Diagrams of forelimbs are from “*Conformation 101*” by Susan Schoenian, retired sheep & goat specialist at the University of Maryland.

**Forelimbs, front legs or shoulders in a sheep actually hold up to 60 per cent of the weight of a sheep! I chatted with Matt Hill from Aurora Park Hampshire Downs and Border Leicester stud recently to explore all things fore in sheep!**

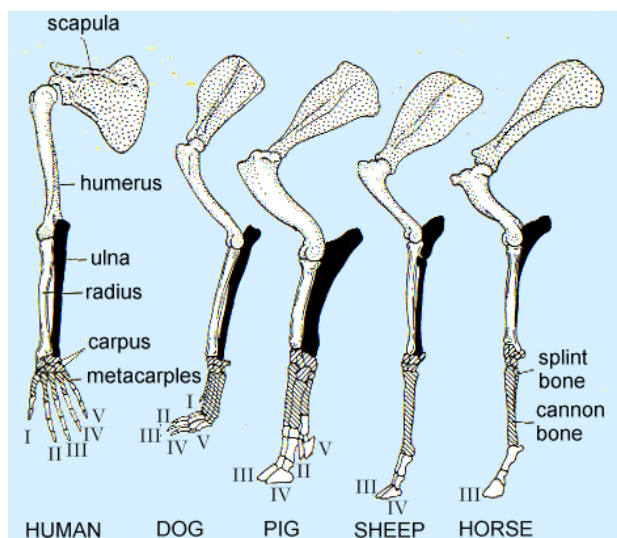
*Matt Hill is a third-generation sheep farmer and stud breeder. Matt actually breeds seven breeds of sheep, three breeds being registered ASSBA stud sheep! Matt is a prolific collector and reader of sheep books and a big podcast consumer too.*

*Matt runs Aurora Park Hampshire Down and Border Leicester stud, along with a Shropshire stud too. Matt also runs Shepherd Tech, a Laparoscopic AI services business specialising in AI in Sheep.*

## How important are shoulders?

Matt remarks that there is more pressure on the front legs as they hold up more of the animal overall. Shoulders are important for three crucial functions. These are: standing up, walking and running. As a prey animal their shoulder function is built to run away from predators—like running away from us when we walk into their paddocks sometimes! Their shoulder function is built to run and run fast!

“There are several major parts in the forelimbs in a sheep, the scapula or shoulder blade is the first. It is a triangular shaped bone that sits over the rib cage, this attaches to the humerus which is like our arm. Where they attach it creates a triangle shape, and this moves up and down allowing the limb to be stretched in front of the sheep. Once one limb is placed on the ground this activates the other limb, so the limbs move diagonally. This action means they propel themselves forward using all four limbs when they walk or run,” explains Matt.



## Big or small shoulders – what is better?

The shoulder is attached by tendons and ligaments so it can be easy for a sheep to injure a shoulder. Animals can run into things with their shoulders and a predator often goes for a sheep’s jugular in the neck so the shoulder can be a vulnerable place on a sheep. Sheep are domesticated and are bred commercially for a purpose. With meat sheep in particular, we are trying to fit as much meat and muscle on the animal as possible, however this can be a hindrance to the functionality of the shoulder. Bigger muscles on the shoulder can impact the survivability of the animal. Heavy animals may not be able to run as easily as a finer shouldered animal. Some breeders and even some sheep breeds in different countries breed for a wider fronted sheep where the front legs are further apart. This is the balance in the animal versus carcass production dilemma that we frequently run into. A wider front usually results in a wider back end. Matt prefers a tighter shoulder.

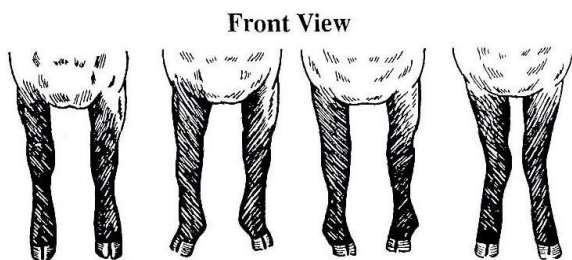
Australian and New Zealand sheep have been bred to have a modern, tighter shoulder. The benefit of this is lambing ease. Matt shares an experiment from a New Zealand Hampshire Down book which measures the shoulder width using a coin. “They would get a NZ 50 cent (Australian 20 cent), they would put the coin in between the shoulder blades and if the coin fitted then they would not breed from the sheep! They were really aiming to pull that shoulder tightly in,” Matt said.

Matt feels that the shoulder is not quite as important as people have made it out to be in lambing and that legs and head can get stuck much more than a shoulder can in the birthing canal. Longer necks in a lamb can also impact lambing. You want the neck to be as long as the toes [*sic*], so looking for balance, even in the lamb. Overfeeding ewes can also be a bigger issue than shoulders, especially in the last trimester which can cause dystocia.

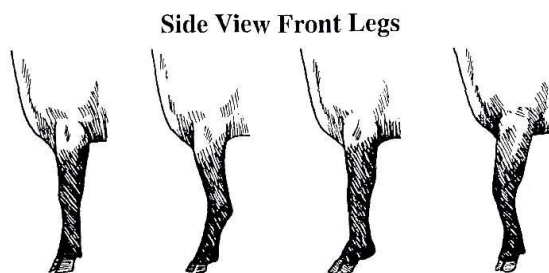
### Ewes and rams and shoulder shape

“They should be identical. Rams are bigger and stronger in the front end but the shape and position of their bones and muscles should be identical. Rams would benefit from having stronger canon bones than ewes and flex in their back and front pasterns as their role is different and they do need to mount ewes,” suggests Matt. Matt argues that we can breed animals that are too upright in their pasterns. He prefers more flex and spring in the pasterns to offer balance in the legs and structure, providing better functionality.

### So, what should you look for in structurally correct forelimbs?



L-R correct, calf kneed, weak pasterns, buck kneed ▲▼



Matt remarks that you want enough width between the front legs so a ram can physically mount a ewe that might have a wide back end. The ram needs to be able to put his legs each side of the ewe, so you do need space. Matt uses the analogy of a human doing a push up to help explain where the forelimbs should be on an animal. When your hands are underneath you, doing a push up is easier for us. The wider you put your hands out the harder the push up is and the more strength you need to lift yourself up. Matt likes balance in animals and prefers the front legs to go straight down. This makes the forelimbs the most functional.

### Rib cage considerations

Curving in at the front legs can mean a low rib cage on that animal. A deep rib cage does mean room for the gut, heart and lungs and we do want meat and muscle. It can be too much if the rib cage is too deep or low and can create stress on the animal. Rams with deep briskets can get sores under their rib cage which can result in death from infection or fly strike. Matt prefers a high up rib cage

and a wedge shape overall meaning that the sheep are more functional and can walk around in our typical Australian conditions.

### Shoulder faults

Matt comments that we see fewer shoulder faults in sheep today compared with 100 years ago. “We have bred or culled them out, or the sheep didn’t live past maturity, so we didn’t end up breeding from them”, says Matt. Even things like devil’s grip, where the shoulder blade comes up above the spine isn’t seen as much nowadays. Devil’s grip affects the shoulder function. The shoulder is too high, and the legs are a lot straighter where the scapula and humus are. The result is that animals with that break down very quickly and in some breeds, it can mean a higher risk of fly strike.

Another flaw is the shoulder can open out too much, the scapula bone doesn’t sit on the ribs enough and it can push away from the animal. You can pick this flaw in the toes of the animal, if the toes are going out on an angle the sheep is pigeon toed [*sic*]. [Should be out-toed – Editor] Often, it’s not a foot structural flaw but a shoulder placement issue.

The shoulder being too far forward is another fault. Here you won’t see a brisket on the animal. This impacts the momentum and motion of the sheep and how they function. This can be seen in a sheep that has a high head, they are stretched out too much and they also can have a dip in their back because of the flaw. The scapula is encompassing more of the rib cage than it should. You will notice this in sheep that are in good body condition score even more. Being low in pastern in the front feet can also be the shoulder blade pulling up towards the neck to compensate for the pasterns being down, again these sheep can also have a dip in the back. Matt reminds us that the pastern and top line are the typical symptoms of a shoulder structural flaw.

### Feeling the shoulders

Always use observation as well as your hands Matt suggests. Feel for where the shoulder goes outwards or if it is tight to the rib case. You are looking for a smoothness or cleanness through the shoulders when you feel them. The muscle over the scapula is the best way to judge with your hand. The wedge shape or the shoulder being smaller at the front end is the best thing to look for with your eye. Matt also likes the front end to be a little higher in the animal than the back end. Overall, even and smooth shoulders can be a good indication that your sheep will function and perform well and that they are put together well. Matt encourages us to look for balance and moderation in all aspects to breed the most functional sheep possible.

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The advertisement features a central image of a black and white cow wearing a vibrant green cape. To the left of the cow is a white plastic jug with a green cap, labeled 'QELPO™'. The background is a soft-focus green field. The top of the ad has a dark green header with the product name 'QELPO™' in large white letters. A curved banner on the right side contains the tagline 'The ultimate plant growth stimulant'. The bottom left corner features the Agri Technovation logo and contact information. The bottom right corner has a large, stylized green leaf graphic.

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.”



## Maple Genetics

### Texel - Dorper - Beltex

## Sale Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to be held at the Canterbury Park Saleyards

We have enjoyed the journey of Stud Breeding but have decided it is time to downsize as our main Lease Block will not be available to us after March 2025.

### Texel

Texel stud has been built from original purchase of 13 Ewes from the Sunny Mac Stud in 2014.

In 2019 we used UK Semen to produce a Ram that could be used in the flock, this resulted in Maple 9284/19 "Boris" from our Show Ewe Maple 684/16, he has been used very successfully to increase the Maternal value thru easy lambing and milking ability. The UK Semen also produced 3 Rams sold into Studs and 1 exported to Peru.

In 2021 we had the opportunity to purchase embryos from the Vorn Stud in the UK, these bloodlines have had a big influence in getting more meat into our flock as well as the added bonus of self-shedding.

In 2023 we used a small amount of UK Semen which resulted in the Ram Maple 23287/23 who is full UK blood line and has been used for the 2024 mating. Progeny as lambs are looking great.

Also 2024 we have used Egilshay 89/23 over mainly the UK Ewes and their daughters and Maple 23280/23 son of Boris from a UK ewe.

These 3 Rams have sired the majority of the Lambs born in 2024.

We are wanting to retain a few of the Texels, therefore, to be fair to purchasers our entire line will be offered for sale, some will be paired with

the purchaser taking their choice and the other one retained by us.

### Dorper

Dorper Stud was established in 2011 with the original purchase of 20 Ewes

In 2016 we imported Embryo's from the Dell Stud in Australia resulting in Rams that were used to give an outcross from the NZ bred Dorpers.

In 2017 we purchased 2 ewes, also from the Dell Stud in AU they were flushed with Embryo's Sired by an Amarula Ram which have had a big influence in the Stud both thru the Rams and Ewes.

In 2021 we purchased a Ram from the Amarula Stud, "Thumper" who has been used very successfully thru semen and also thru his sons.

Our entire line of Dorpers will be for sale, which will include Embryo's and Semen.

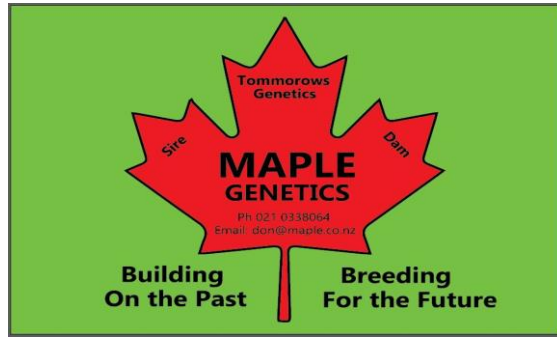
### Beltex

Our Beltex Stud has been built up using Stud Rams purchased from Beltex NZ and using the grading up system from the pick of our commercial Ewes in 2019, these were Texel and White Dorper Ewes.

On offer will be Approx. eight 94% Females which are recognised as Pure Bred

**Enquiries and inspection welcome,**

**Call Don on 021 0338064 or  
Simon Eddington (PGG) 027 5908612**



## Maple Genetics

Texel - Dorper - Beltex

**Sale Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to be held at the Canterbury Park Saleyards**

**Texel Stud** Flock # 330 SIL # 3095 - Approx. 120 Ewes and 15 Rams Selling



The matron of the Texel Flock Maple 684/16 just lambded Twins again this year, Her Bloodline features in 75% of our Texels



Our UK Texel Genetics will feature in the Sale

Self Shedding Pure Texels will be offered

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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.”



## Maple Genetics

Texel - Dorper - Beltex

**Sale Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to be held at the Canterbury Park Saleyards**

### Dorper Stud

Flock # 149 SIL # 3091 Approx. 70 Ewes and 5 Rams mainly AU Genetics



Maple 20003/20 (ET) Supreme Champion All Breeds Ashburton Show 2023



Dam Maple 20009/20 (ET) and Son, Champion Ewe and Ram Courtenay Show 2023

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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.”



## Maple Genetics

**Texel - Dorper - Beltex**

Sale Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to be held at the Canterbury Park Saleyards

**Beltex Stud** Flock # 4 and A4 SIL # 3093 Aprox Ewes 7 Pure Bred, 18 - 87% and 10 - 75%

Ram Lambs will also be offered



Maple 21083/21



Dam Maple 20087/20

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## Special NZSBA Men’s and Women’s Commemorative Sheep125 Jerseys For Sale



### ◀ Men’s Awakino –

Heavy weight merino quarter zip – this textured boucle knit merino jersey with nylon for extra strength is just what you need in the cooler months. This garment has rugged style – wear it to the game or to the pub with your mates. A very versatile style and a firm Wild South favourite.

### Women’s Merino ▶

Wild South product specifically designed for NZ Sheepbreeders, we have used our mid weight Merino fabric utilised by the NZ Defence force to create a durable, versatile merino pullover to keep the ladies warm without any compromise in style.



### Both styles made in NZ

#### Measurements in CM

WS213A Women’s Merino	8	10	12	14	16	18
½ Chest	42	44.5	47	49.5	52	54.5
Centre Back	63	64	65	66	67	68
MM047 Men’s Awakino Pullover	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	
½ Chest	56	58.5	61	63.5	66	
Centre Back	69.4	71.4	73.4	75.4	77.4	

#### COST

Men's Jersey ~~\$170.00~~ Now \$140 (gst inclusive)

Women's Jersey ~~\$135.00~~ Now \$115 (gst inclusive)

Email form to NZSBA – [greg@nzsheep.co.nz](mailto:greg@nzsheep.co.nz)

Name		Email	
I require:	Men's Jersey	Size:	Number:
	Women's Jersey	Size:	Number:
	Men's Jersey	Size:	Number:
	Women's Jersey	Size:	Number:
	Men's Jersey	Size:	Number:
	Women's Jersey	Size:	Number:

Please pay NZSBA bank account: NZ Sheepbreeders’ Assn 03-1702-0107771-00 stating JERSEY in Code

## SOUTH OTAGO SHOW



Photo: Heather Busby

**Supreme Texel and Supreme Sheep** winning the A W Moffat Memorial Meat and Wool Trophy was Heather and Brent Busby's of Cromarty Texels with Cromarty 207/21

*This ram went on to win the Ravensdown Supreme Animal of the Show which is a fantastic achievement.*



Photo: Nikita Woodhead

### **Supreme Valais**

*Woodland Valais, Nikita and Mathew Woodhead with their ewe hogget Woodland 2023/03*



### **FOR SALE, ETC**

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

Contact: [greg@nzsheep.co.nz](mailto:greg@nzsheep.co.nz)

**Note: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS** *FREE small advertisements are available for member breeders with surplus stud sheep for sale.*

**Full, 1/2 or 1/4 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](mailto:greg@nzsheep.co.nz)

The **Closing Date** for next issue will be **February 20<sup>th</sup> for the March 2025 newsletter.**

**Please get items in well before the deadline!!!**

**"FEATURE BREEDS" will be Wiltshire Horn, Oxford & German White-headed Marsh**

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](mailto:greg@nzsheep.co.nz)

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