



NEW ZEALAND CORRIEDALE NEWS

www.nzsheep.co.nz

SPRING 2017

Hello All

While the Corriedale is viewed as a very commercial sheep breed these days in NZ, it is important to keep up a bit with what's happening elsewhere in the world as will be evident in the article about an American breeder toward the end of the newsletter. Things are done very differently over there!

Photos and items/articles are welcome to be sent to me at any time for publication twice a year. If you visit overseas breeders or attend shows abroad or here in NZ please try and take a few photos for this newsletter. Don't forget to get the info about who bred the animal/s too!

Helen

Phone: 06 372 7842

Email: rosemarkie@wise.co.nz

Notices

CHRISTCHURCH SHOW DINNER

Wednesday 15th November at the "Chateau on the Park" commencing at 7pm.

Contact the Office with numbers please!



2018 NZ CORRIEDALE SOCIETY CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held the first week in May, 2018 at Kaikoura – more details to come.

President's Portion

We have gone from one extreme to the next in north Canterbury. Eight months has reminded us what mud is and how to use wet weather gear. Since we arrived at Glenafric, near Waipara, we have had over 1200ml. We had been banking on an annual average of 1000ml. None of that rain fell during February, our first month here, and things were a drastically different picture then to what they are now.

Most people are reporting great clover levels and with lambs already over \$7.00/kg the mood is generally positive. Beef returns are not quite where many thought they might get to but is still well ahead of what has historically been considered normal. I am regularly reminded that crossbred wool is the only fly in the ointment and I am relieved to be able to counter that Corriedale wool is well ahead and in demand.

While we have the cure for the average farmer's wool returns, our reputation continues to suffer because of the number of underperforming Corriedale flocks. I know of three commercial ewe flocks that have changed hands in recent years with lambing percentages well below average. Unfortunately, the new owners often dismiss the entire breed when they take these sheep on and quickly move to an alternative.

Those of us staying with Corriedales know that there are breeds within the breed and that the sheep cannot always be blamed entirely for poor performance. New management often ushers in a new breed and a new way of doing things. The subsequent increased performance should be put down to a number of factors – not just the change of sheep breed.

We do have Corriedale stud breeders and commercial farmers consistently weaning 150% on easier country and 130-140% on hill country. The success and management of these flocks needs to be promoted because too often the breed is judged on the poorest examples of what our sheep have to offer. A Corriedale ewe weaning 150% with a valuable fleece, on dry land, is a profitable proposition. Alternatives might offer a

higher lambing percentage but shearing moves from the income column to expenditure.

In November we will host a young Australian as part of our exchange programme with Australian Corriedale breeders. Next year we will be looking for a young New Zealander to send to Australia. Please take the time to consider anyone suitable to represent us (under the age of 35) and contact Tom Burrows or Greg Burgess if you have any suggestions.

Stud breeders take pride in what we do and we will endeavour to keep developing our breed for the realities of commercial dry land sheep production. We look forward to your feedback and support.

James Hoban

ewe hogget competition



Alistair Studholme judging at Dave and Rosie Clark's farm near Rangiora. They run the ewe hoggets that breeders enter in one group from Jan/Feb until Christchurch show time. The hoggets are shorn after arrival to even them all up and then shorn now as a hogget (last Friday, 13th October). Alistair judged them as woolly hoggets a few days before that.

Malcolm Mackenzie will judge them as shorn hoggets in the next week or two. Ross McGuckin is judging their fleeces for wool style/quality and as a separate category the fleeces will be ranked on commercial value. The fifth category was eye muscle scanning in the Autumn.

Twenty eight hoggets were entered this year (January) and the top 10 will go to the CHCH show where results will be announced.

CLOVER DRIVES CORRIEDALE PERFORMANCE

Jo and David Grigg are no strangers to drought.

In 1997, El Nino weather patterns meant the Marlborough couple received just 200mm of rain on their hill country farm near Blenheim and had to spend \$200,000 to keep their capital stock alive and develop a reticulated water system.

Recognising that, under climate change, droughts were likely to occur more frequently, Jo and David knew that their farm system had to change and that they needed to transform pastures, stock policies and their attitude.



Jo Grigg

Back then the farm was in large blocks, making spring pasture control difficult. Pasture quality was therefore poor, lambs were slow-growing and ewes were light at weaning. It was a downward spiral.

The farm was over-sown with clover in the 1950s and 1970s (along with some sub-division) but it had not been able to flourish under the old management regime.

In 2000, the Griggs became Meat and Wool New Zealand's (now Beef + Lamb New Zealand) monitor farm for the region and, with the assistance of clover expert Dick Lucas and local veterinarian Pete Anderson, began an overhaul of their farm system.

They invested in 30kms of fencing, spent \$150,000 on a water scheme, reduced Corriedale ewe numbers by 400 and added 100 cattle

But the most important change was learning to manage the subterranean clover endemic in their hill country pastures.

"It was sown by my father—but it was Dick Lucas who showed us how to manage it," says David.

The clover can produce at least 3000kg DM/ha annually but in a drought year this is reduced to 1800kg DM/ha.

To encourage the clover in a specific block, the grasses are put under grazing pressure by cows and calves through January and February.

Once it rains in autumn, most of the resident, buried clover seed strikes and grows. David says to help preserve the plant, it should not be grazed until the five-trifoliate leaf stage.

This change in pasture management has seen the performance of their Corriedale ewe flock improve significantly and they are now consistently lambing over 135%.

Using the subterranean clover, lamb pre-weaning growth rates can hit up to 450g/day and the average Corriedale weaning weight is 34kg.

The couple stress the importance of growing lambs quickly in a drought-prone environment.

“We’ve got to have lambs growing from day one,” says David.

Jo explains that, after scanning in June, they identify the twin-bearing ewes and put them on the now lush clover and grass pastures-behind a hot wire.

The break is shifted daily and cows follow the ewes to clean up residuals. This reduces grass competition for the clover.

The high-quality feed ensures the ewes are maintaining a minimum body condition score of 3 going into lambing; and having the clover blocks means the Griggs can spell the lambing areas and build pasture covers.

The Griggs have not over-sown any more clover onto their hills.

“It’s there. It was just a matter of learning how to manage it,” David says.

“It’s money for jam.”

Clover uses rain more efficiently than grass-based pastures and being able to grow stock well on hill country means there are no pugging issues from grazing the heavier soils on the flats.

Photo below – *some of the Grigg’s challenging Corriedale country*





Brief overview of the Congress Tour



Monday 9 July – arrive in Sydney, visit the Opera House, cruise the Harbour or climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Field trip to Belgenny Farm to see Corriedale sheep from New South Wales studs.

Thursday 12 July – fly to Adelaide.

Friday 13 to Tuesday 17 July – travel to Bendigo. Tour the wine district, participate in a whisky and cheese masterclass, visit a variety of studs and the National Wool Museum at Geelong. Many other places of interest will be included and are detailed on the website.

The tour will be of interest to partners as well as the delegates.

Wednesday 18 July – Congress in Bendigo.

Friday 20 to Saturday 21 July – Australian Sheep & Wool Show.

Pre-order congress merchandise which can be viewed on the website below.

Register your interest at:

www.conferences.com.au/corriedalecongress
by 30 November 2017 to be included on the mailing list.

Enquiries: mail@conferencedesign.com.au or
Phone Di MacKinnon +61 (0) 408 915 355

Australian Corriedales: Your Passport to the World

WILFIELD LAMB PROGRAMME

By Dave McKinnon

Reprinted with permission from the Hazlett Rural Ltd newsletter; Autumn 2017

(It is with regret that we note that the Stock agent mentioned in this article, Mr Craig Miller, died unexpectedly in March, after the original article was printed. We offer our condolences to his family, and to the Wilsons, for whom he was a long time agent and friend.)

Some years ago David Hazlett was chatting to Robin and Pip Wilson about their Corriedales. “How many ewes would your ram clients put to rams that they’ve bought off you? Would there be twenty thousand?”

It was an exercise Robin had never done before. “We got a huge surprise when we worked out that about 100,000 ewes go to our rams every year.”

That was the seeding of the Wilfield Lamb Programme, which aims to finish lambs to optimum live weights when the market is at its traditional seasonal peak, in September-October.

Wilfield Corriedale Stud is a 500-ewe stud run by Robin, Pip and Gavin Wilson alongside three other studs of the same breed – giving a total of 1200 stud Corriedale

ewes – on around 380 hectares at Halkett plus what remains of their original home farm at West Melton.

HRL partners with Alliance Group in various innovative programmes that procure and grow stock for processing in that company’s plants. Another such scheme was obviously bouncing around in DH’s head as he asked that question.

The WLP works like this: the Wilsons approach their flock ram clients offering to buy any male lambs sired by their Wilfield rams. The price is what the parties agree is the current store market rate plus a fixed premium.

Lambs purchased are then placed with contract finishers on the Canterbury plains who are paid a flat fee plus a share of the wool to have them up to an agreed carcass weight by the spring.

The Wilson’s long-time stock agent Craig Miller manages the stock movements and monitors their progress.

The lambs are shorn around the end of August. The wool is sold at auction and each year so far the same South African buyer has taken it all. Wilfield wool is

highly regarded and it was the scheme's potential to maximise its value, as well as that of the carcass, that DH used to sell the concept to the Wilsons in the first place.

If, upon processing, the animal generates a surplus, a share of that is paid back to the producer of the lamb.

Robin Wilson describes the scheme, now entering its fourth year, as a "win-win for everyone":

Wilfield will grow its business through increased customer satisfaction: "It's definitely getting traction with our breeders."

The 20 or so breeders get a premium for their store lambs; they don't have to plan to carry them into summer, yet they retain the opportunity to participate in any returns from the lambs being finished to maximum value;

The 7–8 finishers get their lambs landed at their farm without having to pay for them — and being Wilfield lambs, they are sound in the feet — and they get a cheque at the end of it, with no market exposure;

Alliance Group gets the lambs.

The Wilsons are clearly very happy with the way this is shaping up.

"There's no better feeling in this business than seeing progeny of a ram you've produced that look outstanding and the guy who's got them thinking they're fantastic. When you see customers happy with us, happy with the product and happy with their returns, that's what it's all about."

They know the breeders are happy because they know their customers well — all rams are sold by private treaty — and work hard to build strong relationships with them. Fair dealing plays a big part in this. Last year a North Otago breeder agreed to sell the programme 300 lambs at \$2.45 a kilo. Within a week, Craig advised Robin that the market had moved to \$2.50; Robin rang the breeder and advised that the price would be \$2.50.

Robin is confident the finishers are happy with the scheme, as he visits them all about May to discuss it. One Mid-Canterbury finisher started with the programme last year, running its lambs alongside others from elsewhere. This year he indicated that he wanted all his lambs to be from the WLP — and he wanted 4000 of them!

However, the Wilsons say there is a lot of work involved — and teamwork as well. Besides Craig Miller, Jo Manson in the HRL office partners with Pip Wilson to keep the paper trail under control, and that is substantial as both breeders and finishers are on written contracts. One breeder had never signed such a contract in his life but Peter Engel of HRL says it is essential: "If something goes wrong with the animals — deaths or whatever — you need to be clear whose responsibility that is, and not be relying on a conversation some time back. That may not be the old way but it gives everyone some protection."

There is still a degree of risk for the Wilsons as there is no forward contract with Alliance, just a gentleman's agreement that they will take the stock, and there is also the weather-related risk that they might end up with more store lambs at Halkett than they are able to handle.

"Some years have not been easy, and we know that some years will not be easy in the future," says Robin.

Like any scheme that involves co-operation between farmers, it is essential that the personalities connect well. Pip enjoys the fact that most of those involved with the scheme are people that they have known for many years. She says it functions more like a network than a supply chain: "It's all about people. That's what gives me the buzz."

The Next Generation



Photo: James Hoban
Alice, 6 and William Hoban, 3 ready to feed lambs at Glenafric.

CORRIEDALES BRED FOR ARID AND DRY SOUTH ISLAND CONDITIONS *by Pat Deavoll.*

(From the Timaru Herald 23/05/2017. Reprinted with permission from Fairfax Media/NZ Farmer)

Corriedale breeders are being pointed to lost opportunities where the hardy sheep breed would thrive.

PGG Wrightson wool representative Peter McCusker told a group of the breed's enthusiasts gathered in the Marble Point woolshed near Culverden that breeders should be taking a vested interest in opportunities to increase their numbers further south.

"We are seeing opportunities these days for Corriedale breeders," McCusker said.

"Through increasing fertility and switching out of merinos into half-bred flocks, and a Corriedale is really a stabilised half-bred, there is an opportunity there for Corriedale growers to be promoting the breed in areas like Central Otago and Ranfurly where we traditionally see more half-breds.

"Why couldn't they be running a Corriedale?

"There is the opportunity for some breeders to do a little more work in these areas."

A lot of merino growers were trying to increase their lambing percentage and had been disgruntled with wool prices the last few years, although not at the moment as there was a 20-year high, he said.

"I know of certain farms that have traditionally run half-breds where Corriedales are now being run.

"They are getting better production and wool out of the Corriedale than some of the traditional half-bred flocks."

The gathering was part of a Corriedale Society field day which also included presentations by ASB rural manager for Canterbury, Kelvin Hore and AgResearch's, David Scobie. There was also a 4WD farm tour.

"North Canterbury and Marlborough is a big Corriedale area that's been in drought mode for three seasons. "Corriedale growers have not been immune to this," McCusker said.

"From a wool perspective, I did notice that the Corriedale sheep still provided wool and stores to sell through the drought.

"Corriedales were in a lot better shape than other breeds on restricted feed and the wool quality didn't noticeably drop off all through that period.

"It's a credit to the growers that kept these sheep going."

The Corriedale breed was originally designed to be a hardy animal for the dry arid east coast conditions.

McCusker said he noticed with the more modern high-performance cross-bred sheep that when they didn't have feed everything took a hit and the wool took a hit as well.

"There was a lot of tender, very dusty crossbred wool coming in," he said.

"The suint [natural grease of the wool] and the yield over the hot dry months dropped right off. "The suint goes right up and dust gets stuck to it. "We didn't see much of this with the Corriedale wool and this was a positive in the drought period."

The way the Corriedale bounced back post-drought had been a credit to farmers and the genetics of the sheep, McCusker said.

"They tended to respond pretty quickly, and didn't drop down to the same lows as other breeds.

"A lot of them probably didn't have to be grazed off quite as much.

"That's one attribute of the Corriedale breed."

There is quite a premium for 25-27 micron wool, he said.

Some breeders are trying to fine their Corriedale flock off or adding other initiatives, mixing up breeds to soften the wool a bit to give clients other alternatives. "It's a bit of a catch 22.

"Some of the better fertility flocks are probably sitting in that 29-31 micron range with slightly bigger, slightly broader sheep.

"It's always a challenge to breeders to fine wool up but maintain those traditional Corriedale characteristics. But it can be done.

"There are the genetics and science out there to do it. "It's probably easier done through cross breeding and a lot of young farmers are looking for a quick fix these days."

A lot of North Canterbury clips were coming off now, McCusker said.

"There are still some substantial Corriedale clips out there, one of them being Marble Point.

"It's important to class out that medium line- that 28 and higher if you can identify those wools.

"As soon as you punch into that 29, 30, 31 you are starting to get into the fine crossbred which is being affected by the Chinese lack of participation in the market at the moment."

There are about 20 Corriedale studs in the Canterbury /Blenheim area. Details are on the New Zealand Sheep Breeders' Association website.



Corriedale Society members at Marble Point

Photos by James Hoban



Stud sire, Glenovis 228-13 on the May AGM tour



Above & below - Views of Marble Point Station



Marble Point ewes

ECONOMIST QUESTIONS IF \$6/KG TRIFECTA POSSIBLE FOR LAMB, BEEF & DAIRY by Pat Deavoll

(From the Timaru Herald 23/05/2017. Reprinted with permission from Fairfax Media/NZ Farmer)

The prices of beef, lamb and dairy appears to be racing towards a \$6 "trifecta".

ASB rural manager for Canterbury Kelvin Hore raised the question if \$6 a kilogram was possible for beef, lamb and dairy at a corriedale field day at Marble Point Station on Thursday.

"Will we see \$6 for lamb, dairy and beef,?" Hore asked his audience of 50 Corriedale devotees, perched on wool bales in the woolshed. The farmers had just completed a two hour four-wheel- drive tour of the farm and Hore had to shout to be heard above the din of a downpour on the iron roof as rain fell outside.

"It is very rare in New Zealand to have this number of agricultural commodities leading the race." The first leg of the trifecta was lamb, he said. This year there had been a change in the normal trajectory and prices touched on \$6/kg for a 17.5kg lamb. "The reason for this was the strong grass market we've all been experiencing through the autumn, and a really high early kill season up 22 per cent on last year for lamb.

"We have got into a situation now where there is less lamb about and more grass. So the market has changed quite significantly. And demand has also improved. There is a really strong signal there."

Overall, there was a 3.2 per cent fall in lamb volumes being exported, Hore said. The reduction in sheep numbers was creating good demand which was driving the price up. With improving demand, the price of lamb was expected to stay above recent averages.

The second leg of the trifecta was dairy, Hore said. "It has already hit \$6 and is looking like it will continue to somewhere in the \$6.20 mark. Looking forward to next year, it could reach \$6.75. The really good news is the dairy perspective after some really tough years. Supply and demand seem to have balanced out the market. The cyclone in the North Island, while devastating for those few farmers, from an overall dairy perspective it helped button off the overall milk production in this season."

At the start of the season farmers were looking at being 5 per cent down on milk production, he said. After a strong autumn this had come back to being 1 or 2 per cent down. Extra wet conditions in the North Island had topped production from getting any stronger, resulting in a good supply balance. "Our fundamentals are really good. We are looking at \$6.75 for next season but it could be \$5 or it could be \$7. Productivity in dairy is alive and well," Hore said.

The third leg of the trifecta is beef. "The question here is can we get to that \$6 mark and the answer is yes but not until August, looking at the market at the moment. The fundamentals of demand in Australia and New Zealand are very good. Prices are really high and we are looking for a continuation of those dynamics into the next season."



CROSSBRED WOOL GROWERS
Want to improve your
wool returns by \$20/head?
PUT
NEW GENERATION
CORRIEDALE
GENETICS
INTO YOUR FLOCK

Stud profile

WATTLEBANK STUD Flock # 316

c/- R W Wilson

Stud was founded in 1944 by Arnold Bain.

In 1961, after William E (Bill) left school and came home to work on the farm, he took a great interest in the Corriedale Stud. The Stud, at that time, had only 60 ewes, being good heavy carcass types. Wool at that time, was a lot stronger than today. Bill was always keen on wool quality, and set his sights on improving both the quality, with style, and colour.

By the late 1960's, the stud started to show their stock more extensively, and in 1969, were awarded with the champion ram at the Otago A & P show, beating "Bushy Park" whom at that time was the top stud both in Otago and Canterbury.

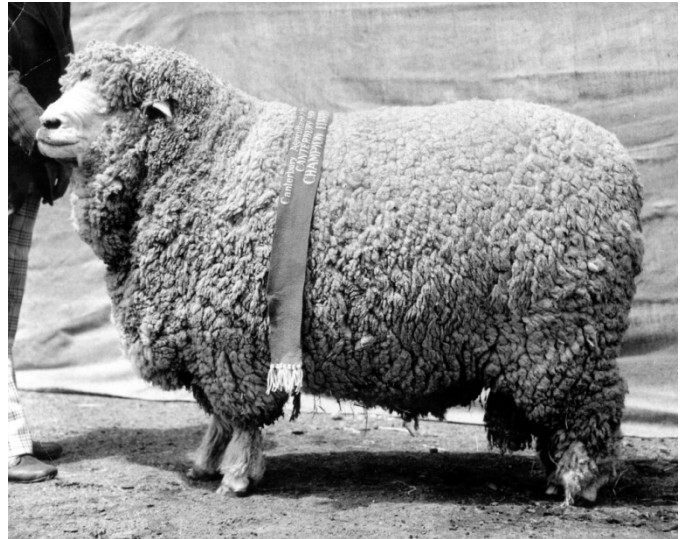
In 1974, *Wattlebank* started showing at the Canterbury A & P show, taking 2 shorn rams that both won their respective classes. The next year, *Wattlebank* entered their first woolly entry – WB 414-72, which won the ram championship at the 1975 Christchurch World Conference show. We then started showing ram hogget's and in 1978, WB 188-77, won the ram hogget class. The stud continued to show ram hogget's and have won this class numerous times. *Wattlebank* has also won the best woolled sheep of the show at Christchurch on 4 occasions.

Wattlebank has also topped the stud ram fair for the last 20 years.

Wattlebank has always believed that our ewes must perform and do it on their own, preferably rearing twin lambs that wean good weights.

Wool has always been very important to the stud and it has used a number of imported sires. *Quamby Plains* 117-83, was one sire that helped to improve the wool quality.

Wattlebank's main ambition has always been, to breed a type of sheep that would shift, survive and produce progeny that our commercial farmers / clients, were proud of. We have clients of over 40 years support.



Wattlebank 414/72



Wattlebank 188/77



Wattlebank 44/02

Corriedale Breeder's Viewpoint

by Doc Sidey

Jan and I visited the UK in 1995, and in our travels around the sheep grazing areas, we were taken by the multitude of breeding options on display in their ewe flocks. We were also given ample evidence that producing wool of any quality, or any quantity, was a very low priority.

Sheep farmers just seemed to be moving on to the "next flavour of the month" as they decided on their next intake of breeding rams. To be fair the lambs were plentiful and thriving although the ewes themselves looked quite scruffy. We were witnessing hybrid vigour in action!

For generations, New Zealanders have prided themselves on the standard of their purebred flocks, none more so than my own Hawarden/Waikari area, where the Corriedale breed absolutely dominated the scene through until the late 1990's. We, ourselves, live on a road that services 14 farming properties that were all Corriedale-populated, and no less than seven of those farms had stud flocks. Nowadays the change is considerable with the rather incredible feature that no two of those farms have the same breed or breed mix as their own preference. These preferences range from super-fine wool Merinos, through all the wool types until we arrive at the near wool-less Wiltshire.

This local example is replicated throughout New Zealand and the calculated move to cross breeding, or "composite" breeding, has become the "in thing". As a national consequence lamb production has been stimulated by hybrid vigour and wool quality and wool quantity has been thoroughly butchered!

Our own farm retains the purebred Corriedale flock on our hill tussock country where its performance under drought stress in recent drought seasons would not be surpassed by any other breed alternative. Mixed age ewes with tailing yard percentages over 140% consistently, and producing these figures as 8 year olds, is great going.

However, on the flat improved land we have developed our own composite ewe flock of 700 ewes that suit our property and our climate. These ewes are 50% Corriedale, 25% Poll Dorset and 25% Texel in their makeup. The Texel influence gives us hardiness at birth

and good muscling in the finished lamb; the Poll Dorset input gives us improved fertility and milk output and the Corriedale background gives us the added insurance that longevity, drought tolerance and acceptable wool quality all are retained without losing any wool quantity.

I expect that the way of the future for us in New Zealand will follow the UK example, where sheep farmers utilise hybrid vigour as their best stimulant for increased flock production of sheep meat per hectare.

Currently crossbred wool producers, a term that encompasses Romney breeders and all the wool fibre stronger than the mid-micron category, are receiving wool cheques that barely cover the cost of their wool harvesting. Forward thinking crossbred wool producers will turn toward improving their wool quality and the lower micron Corriedale breed is well positioned to provide that boost, with improved wool returns up to \$20 per sheep easily returnable.



Glenovis Corriedale cross ewes on the May AGM Tour



Glenovis purebred Corriedale ewes on May tour

REMINDER: Corriedale Contacts

To ensure supporters of the Corriedale breed are kept abreast of news, the Council would like to develop a database of anyone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter.

Currently the newsletter is sent to stud breeders and a small number of breed supporters and commercial flock owners. To grow this list we need anyone who currently receives the newsletter to send us names of others who you think would be interested.

If you can help with this, please contact Greg Burgess, at NZ Sheepbreeders' Assn.

"COUNTING THE BLESSINGS OF SHEEP"

When I googled Corriedale sheep in Japan, it came up with a newspaper article which included a reference to a Japanese couple who have some Suffolk & Corriedale sheep. The article is called "Counting The Blessings of Sheep" and is by C W Nicol who writes a regular column called "Old Nic's Notebook" for the Japan Times newspaper.

I quote from the newspaper's website:-

'C W Nicol is a Welsh-born Japanese citizen who first came to Japan in 1962 to learn martial arts. He has published over a hundred books in eight languages. He is a forester, a cook and a maker of fine whiskies'.

Although only marginally about Corriedales, his article is interesting as are some of the other non-sheep related columns of his up on the paper's website. They may fill a rainy hour or two on the farm!

Editor

CORRIEDALE FLEECES AT THE ROYAL SHOW IN HAWKES BAY

Fleecewool section at the Royal Show in Hawkes Bay 19th & 20th October, 2017.

The exhibitor for both fleeces was "Timahanga". This station is owned by the Roberts family who farm on the Napier-Taihape road.



Photo: H McKenzie

First & second prize fleeces in the Corriedale Woolly Hogget

MORE HISTORY

METROPOLITAN SHOW Sun, November 1914
(National Library, Papers Past)

By far the largest sheep entry, the Corriedales were quite a centre of interest, and the two judges employed had a particularly difficult task in making the awards, as there were in many of the classes more than 20 exhibits.

As the Corriedale is yearly becoming more popular, the number of stud breeders increases. This year was a record number of entries, as the following table indicates:- 1911, 134; 1912, 152; 1913, 144; 1914, 156. The catalogue contains the names of many breeders who have played a particularly prominent part in evolving what has become known as Canterbury's "own breed". The Moeraki Estate, C H Ensor (White Rock), Leonard White (Rakaia), John Stringfellow (Chertsey), H Ensor (Rakahuri), Owen T Evans (Woodgrove), and G D Greenwood (Teviotdale) all competed, though the latter only exhibited a couple of entries for the Corriedale Breeders' Association.

The championships for the past six years have been awarded as follow:

1908- N.Z. and Australian Land Co., ram;

George Stringfellow, ewe.

1909 - J Stringfellow, ram and ewe

1910 - N.Z. and A. Land Co., ram and ewe

1911 - C. H. Ensor, ram and ewe

1912 - Leon. White ram; NZ and A Land Co., ewe

1913 - Leon. White, ram and ewe



Champion Corriedale ram & ewe at the Hamilton Sheepvention in August, 2017 from Sweetfield Corriedale stud, Mount Moriac - Bron and Leigh Ellis.

Both these sheep went on to be Supreme Interbreed Longwool Ram and Ewe of the show.

Thanks to Ian Turner, "The Muster" magazine (Australia) for this photo



A CORRIEDALE FLOCK IN THE USA

[I emailed Ryan for a story & some photos after seeing his name in the USA Corriedale breeders on line. Editor]



Would you like to tell me who is holding each sheep – you and your wife?? I assume they are both yours.

I, Ryan E. Craig, am holding the ewe and my older sister, Amy Dufelmeier, is holding the ram. We have been showing Corriedales for 25 plus years. It is truly a family event for us. My Aunt, Marcia Craig, is the breed association secretary here in the US. I showed at 20-25 fairs during the summer when I was a kid and now my oldest son, Brady Craig, started showing here in junior shows and my younger son, Dylan, is soon to follow. My wife, Rachel, and I are expecting in April and we look forward to keeping the tradition.



Why Corriedales?

My uncle gave me four ewes when I was 15 and we have grown from there. We currently have 45 brood ewes and lamb half in the fall and half in Jan & Feb. We like the breed for the dual purposedness as well as their mothering ability.

Also what prices for Corriedales (stud and commercial value), and their meat and wool, are like at the moment.

We have a strong lamb market being close to large cities like Chicago, Indianapolis and St. Louis. We have a very small market for wool so we typically don't separate it or grade our fleeces. A stud ram will sell from \$1500-3000 dollars and a yearling ewe like the one in the picture could bring the same amount. I currently get about .35-.45 cent per pound of wool. Lambs weighing 150 pounds are worth \$1.65-1.85 per pound.

What is your role in the USA Corriedale Society?

I am a past president and board member of the American Corriedale Association. We serve a 5 year term when elected by our peers to the board.