

Shropshire N Z News

Winter Edition
June 2017





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Closing date for next newsletter is November 20th, 2017
(Will be published if enough copy forward.)

Cover: Rangitukia Ewe #148 and twins

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NOTICE BOARD



Show Calendar with Shropshire classes:

Royal Show 2017 Hastings 19-20 October, 2017

Email events@showgroundshb.co.nz

Wairarapa A& P, Carterton; 27-29 October, 2107

Email office@waiaps.org.nz

Canterbury Show 15-17 November, 2017

Email mel@theshow.co.nz

Masterton A & P Show 16-17 February, 2018

Email admin@theshowgrounds.nz

FROM THE EDITOR



Thanks to those of you who have supplied material for this issue of the Shropshire News.

Welcome to new members and breeders: -

Tammy Hendra, Marton with the flock prefix "Somersal". Her flock number is 314. Her flock is named for the road where the late Sydney McDonnell had his flock from which Tammy bought his last ewes and a ram.

Also welcome to **Chris Wratt**. Chris will be the third generation from his family to breed Shropshires in New Zealand. Chris's prefix will be "Ovca".

Helen

PATRON'S PIECE



Old age is catching up with me a bit, especially when it's cold as at present.

It is encouraging to see that the Shropshire is being recognised for its attributes as a "beneath tree" grazer. They can certainly survive in most places – I see they've even gone to Spain.

The piece about the UK exports to the Continent is certainly heartening to read. After a life time exploiting the hardiness and thriftiness and well flavoured meat of the Shropshire I welcome the increase in numbers both internationally and here in NZ.

It is also good to see two new flocks coming into our Flock Book with committed owners, who hopefully, will ensure the increase and survival of the breed in New Zealand as the older ones retire from breeding.

*Regards
John*

SHROPSHIRE NEW ZEALAND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016-2017

It is with much pleasure that I present my annual report for the Shropshire breed for the past year.

A bit quieter year, this past twelve months. The two main shows Canterbury and the Royal at Hastings had fewer entries than last year, but the judges were pleased with the quality of sheep on display.

As I stated last year we are starting to get classes into a few A&P shows. If you don't have a Shropshire section at your local show then try and encourage them to run an "any other breed" section – a few A&P's have started this; gives a breed like ours an opportunity to at least compete.

It is disappointing to note that we have lost four studs in the last year - and down approx. forty ewes; something to work on and encourage anyone you know that has Shropshire's that aren't registered to seriously consider it!

I recently had the privilege of meeting up with Lorne Kuehn in Christchurch and presenting him with his Life Members badge. We had a great meeting reminiscing on the Shropshire breed - most breeds have personalities within their ranks and are always a valuable source of nostalgia – Lorne being no exception!

Nothing much changed in the lamb producing scene these past twelve months - the drought that affected most the eastern seaboard relinquished during the spring – but came back to haunt us again through the summer months, getting really dry during this period. Recent rains (especially in the North Canterbury area) have alleviated the situation, we just need this pattern to continue.

The freezing companies and meat exporters still continue to play hardball - it was only at the end of the season that someone decided there was a shortage of lamb that, untraditionally for this time of the year, the price/kg actually rose! It is a real worry that most of our producers are struggling to make the breakeven point in producing a prime lamb. It is also very frustrating that we

as producers of sires for this industry have improved the product we on sell to our producers, but the so called marketers have failed us! The prime lamb sire of today is a much more efficient product than that of yesteryear. All forward thinking breeds & breeders today have the sophisticated tools to measure and analyse their stock, which in turn has given the prime lamb producers of New Zealand many different types of rams to fit their situation. Just about without exception these rams that are offered have a myriad of data to help the farmers of today produce a lamb that is a top end product. We can argue that we as producers of terminal sires have bought the technology into this century for our producers to deliver a product that is second to none in the world. What we need is a system that rewards both the producer of the sires of the future and more importantly the producers of this very good product (lamb). If there isn't some sort of a dramatic lift in the end price for lamb then I am afraid it could be a case of last one out turn off the light! One last thought on the subject, how is it that for basically the same product our counterparts in Australia get paid twice as much/kg as we do?

The import of embryos/semen hasn't come to fruition as we thought it might- the main consideration I think is cost, does it have a benefit vs cost for the industry and more especially our breed ? The prices I had quoted, turned out to be no!

On a personal note we have had a good clearance of sires this year-selling fifty five into the hogget mating sector. This is an aspect we need to pursue through some sort of a marketing programme (good discussion point for the AGM!)

A big thanks to firstly Helen McKenzie for her huge input into our breed-the newsletters that she produces are invaluable and secondly to Greg Burgess and the team at N.Z.S.B.A. for all the work they do throughout the year for our breed.

In closing off this report I would like to convey my personal thanks for the privilege of being your breed Chairman and wish all Shropshire breeders a successful and prosperous year.

Tom Burrows
Chairman Shropshire New Zealand

AGM HELD AT MASTERTON 9TH MAY 2017

Only 5 in attendance, so a fairly quick meeting (Presidents Annual Report is included in this booklet). All office bearers etc remain the same as last year. It is a pity that a few more locals could not make it to the AGM. My idea of moving the AGM around the country is so the breeders in that area can have a say and get to meet at least once a year.

The timing for an AGM in May is ideal, the weather is generally a bit warmer, the rams are either still out or have done their job for the year, in a normal year feeding out hasn't started and it is good to get the AGM out of the way before winter.

Tom Burrows
Chairman



*Dr. Lorne Kuehn receives his Life Members badge
from Shropshire NZ Chairman, Tom Burrows.*

Lorne founded his flock, #296, "Waitangi", in 1997 with ewes from the Rosemarkie, Te Mahara and Natures Pace flocks. Lorne had 34 ewes in his flock when he retired and the bulk of these were dispersed to other Shropshire breeders.

SADDLE HILL SHROPSHIRES – Report Autumn 2017

The Saddle Hill Shropshire flock is founded on three key blood lines, Kuehn, Rosemarkie and Aberchirder (via Adrian Rackley). We put 23 ewes to the ram in 2017, 7 of which were 2-tooths bred on our farm. We have 40 acres on the side of Saddle Hill about 220m above the Taieri plains immediately to the south of Dunedin. A lot of the property is in native bush – we have a 16 acre QE11 covenant on part of the property – but we have about 10 acres effective steep grazing. The adult Shropshires thrive on the hill, but we need to look after weaned lambs carefully on the better ground to get acceptable growth rates in late summer and autumn. We are in a snow zone so choose to feed hay and nuts from about mid-June to mid-August. This year we expect to start lambing on the 21st August, which is a little earlier than previously as winters seem to be becoming shorter and less severe. The early born lambs always seem to do better than the later born in any case.

Like a lot of New Zealand we have had a fairly cool but very wet summer and autumn. The grass has never stopped growing and we have managed to grow up 12 lovely ewe lambs to add to the flock as we build up numbers. Until a few years ago we ran a Perendale flock as well, but found that the breeds did not mix well and we sold out of Perendales in favour of the Shropshires. We find the Shropshires easy to care for – no bearings (touch wood) or foot trimming needed, easy to handle in the yards and easy lambing. They are a smaller breed but that suits our small paddocks and frequent handling and stock movement.

We are planning to build up to about 40 ewes and replacements, which we should more or less reach about 2019. We are mixing the bloodlines – our top sire now is Kuehn/Rosemarkie, and we hope to have most crosses in the flock before too long.

Jimmy, Sandra and Moira Suttie

RANGITUKIA REPORT MAY 2017

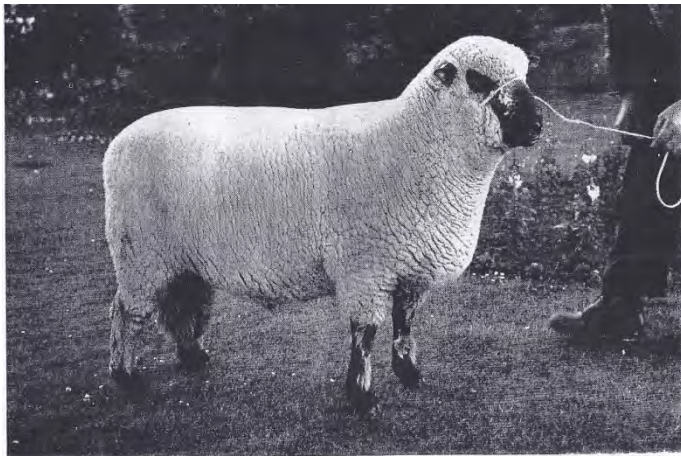
The popularity of Shropshires in the Wairarapa continues to grow; especially with those looking for the right sheep to graze in their organic orchards (apples for cider and olives for just about everything). Repeat customers, and a new breeder, have purchased ewes and the services of rams to establish, grow and/or strengthen their flocks.

Our first trip to a New Zealand Royal Agricultural Show was a positive one, with the rams in particular doing well across all classes. It was positive also to see a number of the North Island Shropshire breeders in attendance.

Summer was wet and lacking in sun. Great for the apple and feijoa crops; less so for getting lambs up to weight in the usual time. Prices for cull ewes have balanced that out somewhat.

Welcome to the new breeders and our best wishes to all for a successful lambing season.

Nan McDonald and Sue Kingsford



SHROPSHIRE SHEARLING RAM.
TERN NEWCASTLE (16935).

Photo by G. S. McCann

Winner First Prize and Champion Medal R.A.S.E., Newcastle upon Tyne, 1956.
Winner Second Prize, Shropshire and West Midland Show, 1956.
Bred by Mr. J. Gibson Whittles, Tern, Wellington, Salop.

Photo from UK Society Studbook. Reprinted with permission

ROYAL SHOW, HASTINGS 20TH OCTOBER, 2016 - RESULTS

(All classes shorn)

Ram Over 18 months (2 entries)

1 st	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia H31
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie J81

Ram Under 18 months (5 entries)

1 st	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia J21
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K46
3 rd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K50

CHAMPION RAM:

Rangitukia H31

Reserve Champion:

Rangitukia J21



Ewe Over 18 months and her suckling lambs (3 entries)

1 st	Stirling Shropshires	Stirling H3
2 nd	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia H41
3 rd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie J24

Ewe Under 18 months (4 entries)

1 st	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K42
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K21
3 rd	Stirling	K501

CHAMPION EWE:

Stirling H3

Reserve Champion:

Rosemarkie K42



SUPREME CHAMPION SHROPSHIRE:

RANGITUKIA H31

(See back cover for photo)

WAIRARAPA A & P SHOW, 29TH OCTOBER, 2016 - RESULTS

Ram Over 18 months (1 entry)

1 st	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie J81
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Ram Hogget Under 18 months (3 entries)

1 st	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K50
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K46
3 rd	Stirling Shropshires	Stirling K502

CHAMPION RAM:

Rosemarkie K50

Reserve Champion:

Rosemarkie J81



Ewe Over 18 months and her suckling lambs (2 entries)

1 st	Stirling Shropshires	Stirling H3
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	J24

Ewe Under 18 months (3 entries)

1 st	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K21
2 nd	Stirling	K501
3 rd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K42

CHAMPION EWE:

Rosemarkie K21

Reserve Champion:

Stirling K501

NO SUPREME AWARDED – Only two exhibitors

CANTERBURY SHOW REPORT, November, 2016

Ram over 18 months

1st	Lucy Burrows,	Highley
2nd	Helen McKenzie,	Rosemarkie G49

Ram under 18 months

1st	Lucy Burrows	Highley 507/15
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CHAMPION RAM

Lucy Burrows Highley 507/15

Reserve Champion Ram

Lucy Burrows (Over 18 months)

Ewe Over 18 Months & Lamb(s)

1st	Lucy Burrows	Highley
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Ewe under 18 months

1st	Lucy Burrows	Highley
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CHAMPION EWE

Lucy Burrows (Under 18 months)

Reserve Champion Ewe

Lucy Burrows (Over 18 months)

SUPREME CHAMPION SHROPSHIRE

Highley 507/15

Canterbury Ram Hogget Shropshire scanning class

1st Lucy Burrows:- 507/15, 108kg, EMA 33.54, Ratio:- 36.22

Right:

*Lucy Burrows
&
Highley
507/15*



Masterton Show, 18thTH February, 2017 - RESULTS

Ram Over 21 months (2 entries)

1 st	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia H31-14
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie G55-12

Ram Over 12 & Under 21 months (4 entries)

1 st	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K20-15
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K13-15
3 rd	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia

Ram lamb (3 entries)

1 st	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia K7-16
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie L17-16
3 rd	Stirling Shropshires	Stirling

CHAMPION RAM:

Rangitukia H31-14

Reserve Champion:

Rosemarkie K20

Ewe Over 21 months (3 entries)

1 st	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia F27-12
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie J28
3 rd	Stirling Shropshires	Stirling J514

Ewe Over 12 & Under 21 months (4 entries)

1 st	Stirling	K501-15
2 nd	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie K30-15
3 rd	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia J32-15

Ewe lamb (3 entries)

1 st	Rosemarkie Partnership	Rosemarkie L8
2 nd	N McDonald & S Kingsford	Rangitukia K53-16
3 rd	Stirling Shropshires	Stirling L514

CHAMPION EWE:

Rangitukia F27-12

Reserve Champion:

Stirling K501

SUPREME CHAMPION SHROPSHIRE:

RANGITUKIA F27

HIGHLEY SHROPSHIRE REPORT AUTUMN 2017

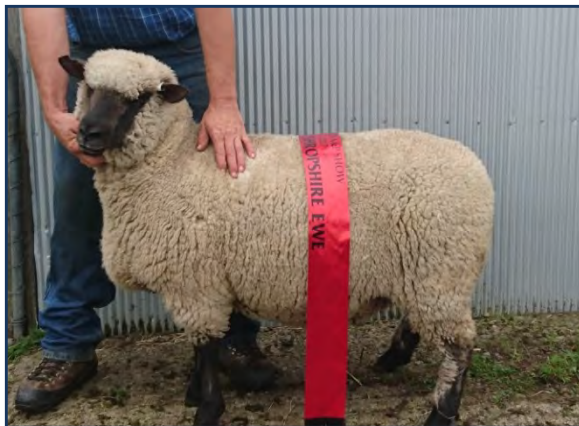
What a difference six weeks and 225mm of rain makes. At the beginning of March we were parched and very dry- we dusted the cobwebs off the irrigator and started watering a couple of young grass paddocks – then the rains arrived, firstly 100mm then followed in April with 125mm. I don't think I have ever seen autumn growth like it, lush clover and grass everywhere. It means we are going into winter/lambing with great grass growth in front of us.

We mated 104 ewes this year using 3 rams, Rosemarkie E42/10, Highley 338/14 (used last year as a 2th and has some very promising progeny on the ground) and Highley 477/15 our best scanning ram hogget by Waitangi 1037/12. The ewes were in reasonable condition at mating (24th Feb) and are now enjoying the abundance of feed! They will be scanned mid-May. Hopefully we will be able to winter the hoggets at home this year - we are taking 33 through to the 2th stage. We sold 55 ram lambs this year – mainly for hogget mating.

It is good to close off on a positive note –especially with lamb prices at a good level, just hope it lasts a lot longer.

The Oxford & Hawarden shows were the only shows we attended this season Lucy was the only Exhibitor at both - so she achieved first in each class and both championships.

Burrows Family





Highley Shropshire & Xbred lambs at weaning 24th November, 2016



Some of the Highley "keeper" ewe lambs from 2016 drop

ROSEMARKIE REPORT

The weather has certainly become more Wintery but we are still welcoming the rain as the past two Winters have been pretty dry and the water table's well down so hopefully this lot will replenish it. It can stop before lambing in August though!

We've had a good year, with several commercial rams sold, 1 stud ram and 10 stud ewes. We've also sold small numbers of ewes and a couple of rams to people who may buy some registered ewes at a later date once they know how they like them.

This year we have kept 76 ewes. We've been trying to reduce our numbers a bit to accommodate more Ryelands but Alistair's *Stirling* flock seems to have crept up on us a bit (21 ewes) and there are still around the 100 mark on the property counting a couple of culls that are due to go to the dogs shortly.

We took the rams out from the ewes the other day and I can report we did not even have one mating disaster this year in the Shropshires. The Ryelands were not so fortunate as it looks like a Ryeland ram hogget went into the neighbour's and he, ever so kindly, put raddle all along his back and threw him back over the fence into one of our two Ryeland mating mobs; fortunately, not into the one with my few ewes without any recent Australian blood, that I am trying to build up the numbers for.

We will have to get any ewe lambs we want to keep out of the mixed up group blood tested, along with their two possible sires – more money. It would have been better if it was a Shropshire out with them because at least they colour-mark their progeny!

We have kept about 30 ewe hoggets so if anyone is looking for a ewe or two do let us know. We will be keeping at least 20 for ourselves. The culls made good money at the local sale.

Helen & Warwick

OVCA REPORT

Have got 13 mixed age ewes to the ram with another 15 hoggets and two toothys.

I have acquired the ram, Rosemarkie G49-12, from Lucy Burrows.

Here's a couple of photos of my ewes showing a good amount of feed compared to this time last year.

Chris



STRONG EXPORT DEMAND FOR SHROPSHIRES FROM THE UK

By Pippa Sellwood, UK

Pippa has been greatly involved in the running of the UK breed society, holding the post of Secretary for four years, including the SSBA's first World Congress in 2007. She was the Publicity Officer for 12 years and President from 2010 to 2012.

Over the past decade, the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association in the UK has seen a marked increase in export demand for pedigree livestock and ram semen.

Ewes and rams have been sold mainly to Northern Europe, where the breed is popular for grazing in Christmas tree plantations. Exports have been made successfully to Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Denmark, where the sheep are sold to flocks that are grazing in conifers. More recently, large orders have been received from France, with smaller consignments going to Belgium, the Netherlands and – for the first time this year – Spain. In these countries, Shropshires are in demand for grazing in fruit tree plantations and cider orchards.

Most of the exports are managed by the breed society, with sheep going in one large transporter from a farm in Herefordshire that is a Government-registered Export Assembly Centre. The farm concerned is owned by the SSBA's export officer, Sue Farquhar. There is a lot of paperwork involved in sheep exports and all Shropshires have to pass a breed society inspection before being accepted for society-led overseas sales. Sue is assisted by the society's sales officer, Claire Jakeman and a small team of export inspectors. Private export sales are also made, where sheep selected by the buyers themselves move straight from breeders' farms to the buyers' holdings.

In both types of export, a levy of around 5% of the sale price of the sheep is paid to the breed society. Export prices are set annually by the SSBA and are generally higher than home market prices to take account of the extra vets'

fees involved and the high health status required for livestock destined for export.

Shropshire ram semen has also been sold to breeders in Canada, the USA and Norway. Individual countries generally have their own specific health requirements for ram semen collection, but these can usually be catered for.

Over the past eight years, the value of export sales of live Shropshires has amounted to nearly £164,000. Export orders for 2017 are around the £15,000 mark so far.



Consignment of Shropshire sheep arriving in Switzerland in 2012

CLARENDON SHROPSHIRE STUD #230 IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Owned by Marilyn Mangione

Clarendon Shropshire Stud #230 in Victoria, Australia, is based on my first ram, Clarendon. My stud is in the Strathbogie Ranges in Victoria. Lots of rocks, frosts, cold and hot weather depending on season, very similar to terrain in Scotland. Sometimes can be -5 deg during bad frosts in winter.

I started with Clarendon (a Royal Melbourne Show winner as lamb with previous owner). I purchased two ewes from Geoff Baker, Merriyong Stud. That was the start of my flock. Clarendon Rock 2007/60 is still working this year; excellent temperament, not a grumpy bone in his body. His only failing is he does not have the ARR/ARR Scrapie Tolerance gene, but he has the best Cold and Footrot genes of all my rams. Dear old Rocky produces excellent lambs. He joins with all ewes produced by new rams that I purchase from other studs in Australia.

Health wise, Rocky has never had a worm burden, never had his feet trimmed. His face is probably a bit fluffy, but it has never caused him any problems. Excellent shaped feet. Lancaster, my number two ram, has the ARR/ARR scrapie tolerance gene, but he comes in just after Rocky for Cold and Footrot tolerance. This year all ewes by Rocky are being joined with Lancaster ewes, and Lancaster with Rocky ewes. Really hoping for a bumper crop of lambs.

I have semen from both Rocky and Lancaster, for domestic and NZ use. Yes it's expensive at around \$100 - \$150 a straw, but here in Australia, some breeders ask anything from \$500 to \$1500 for one ram. Which is really cheap, compared to the cost of rams of other breeds. The wool here in Australia is sold to a processor who sells for stuffing cushions, toys, saddles, and any other use that Shropshire wool can be used for. I spin, knit, and hope soon to be weaving from 100% Shropshire wool. Garments keep shape, wash well, and of course don't wet felt. Great for work socks.

Am so glad I followed my instinct to breed Shropshire sheep. Several reasons pointed me in this direction; Jill White, who was looking for a good home for Clarendon, as a gift; my father, who served in the navy on the HMAS

Shropshire, which sailed the oceans from Manzk, Pacific, Coral Sea and many other areas. My father came from a farming background, his father bred, Ryelands. Guess it's in the blood.



Photo: *David Rizzoli, Rural Media Services (Australia)*

Marilyn Mangione's 2 ewes she showed at the country town of Clunes show last November. This is the first time in their memory that Shropshires have been shown there.



Bendigo ASBA

The winning Shropshire group was shown by Marilyn Mangione (centre), Strathbogie stud, with the support of Tintern students, Audrey Middleton (left), Laura Mitcham (2nd left) & Chelsea Regan (right), while the Judge Colin Taylor (2nd right) looks on.

Photo: *Wayne Jenkins Photography (Australia)*



Photo: *Wayne Jenkins Photography (Australia)*

Marilyn Mangione with her ram, Clarendon Lancaster, 2011



Photo: *Farm Weekly Newspaper (Australia)*

With the champion Shropshire ram of this year's [2014] IGA Perth Royal Show was Waters Upton Shropshire stud principal, Stephen Davies, Mt Helena, Western Australia.

Alderton Flock Profile (UK)

The Alderton Flock, owned by Peter and Pippa Geddes, is based in the breed's original home county of Shropshire in England. In fact, Alderton Farm is just one mile away from the estate where the very first breed society secretary for Shropshire sheep lived in 1882, when the Shropshire flock book was first established.

"There were Shropshires all around this area from the late 19th Century until the 1940s, but by the 1970s the breed had become rare in the UK," says Pippa. "When we decided to start our flock in 1999, there were very few Shropshires left in the County they are named after.

"Luckily one or two sizeable flocks still existed elsewhere in the UK and we were able to buy 25 ewes and a ram from the Sidedowns Flock in Devon. We've not bought in any females since 2004 and have bred all our own replacements since. Nowadays we use mainly home-bred rams too, although we do occasionally purchase males from other flocks to bring in new bloodlines – the most recent purchases have come from the Ushers Flock in Leicestershire and the Hayne Oak Flock in Devon.

"We chose to keep Shropshires because they produce good butchers' lambs from grass alone and we also wanted to support the local breed and help to make it more popular again. After we had bred Shropshires for a few years, we realized that they are very good commercial sheep and didn't deserve to have become rare at all. Their wool is also good quality – which has enabled us to start a small subsidiary wool business alongside the main sheep enterprise selling knitting yarn and knitted gifts."

For more information visit www.flockofages.co.uk

The Geddes' flock currently numbers around 50 breeding females. They also run 15 Devon Ruby Red Cows in a small suckler herd, selling beef boxes and occasionally pedigree breeding stock.

The Shropshires lamb indoors in late December and January. Ewes will breed early without the use of Regulin (hormone) with a lambing percentage of

around 150%. Pippa notes that it was much higher (175%) when the flock lambed in spring. However, the winter lambing enables meat lambs to be finished early for the lucrative Easter market. A high flock health status is maintained: the flock is accredited free from Maedi Visna and is also monitored by an official government-run scheme to ensure it remains free from Scrapie. The cost of these schemes is quite high but enables Alderton sheep to be exported for breeding. Stock has been sold to France, Germany and Ireland – as well as to flocks throughout the UK.

Pippa has been greatly involved in the running of the breed society, holding the post of Secretary for four years, including the SSBA's first World Congress in 2007. She was the Publicity Officer for 12 years and President from 2010 to 2012. The highlight of this was to see Shropshires come off the Rare Breed Survival Trust's Watch List in February 2013 when the number of breeding ewes in the UK Breed Society climbed above 4,000.

Alderton - Group of Three, Burwarton 2011



Pippa continues as a Council Member, still produces the Society's newsletter and is also the coordinator of the Shropshire Breed Improvement Scheme. This was started in 2006/7 and the Alderton Flock has been recording the performance of its stock ever since.

"Since we started weighing our lambs and scanning them for back-fat/muscle depth, we have seen some very tangible improvements in the profitability of our lamb crop," says Pippa. "All our meat lambs are now finished well before the end of June, when before we always had some stragglers that never left the farm until early autumn. We are also able to pinpoint our best ewes – because the recording system evaluates females for their Maternal Ability and prolificacy too."

Below: *Ewes and lambs of the Alderton Flock with the Breiden Hills in the background, UK*



Peter and Pippa have been showing their sheep since 2003 and have had considerable success. They have won many breed championship including one at the prestigious Royal Welsh Show. "Showing is very important to us. It's easy to get a false impression of how nice your sheep are – but when you line

them up against the cream of the crop from other breeders, you quickly find out,” explains Pippa.

Peter and Pippa are optimistic about the future of the breed in the UK – and around the world - thanks to its commercial attributes and its status as the “tree friendly” sheep.

“In the UK and northern Europe, we have seen a growing interest in the use of Shropshires for grazing in tree plantations, because Shropshires are able to do this without damaging the trees. With growing concern about use of herbicides and the oil price making mowing a less attractive option, Shropshires have a bright future as the economically and environmentally friendly method of weed control. They also produce a very good lamb carcass, so it’s a ‘Win Win’ situation,” Pippa concludes.



Alderton Sherlock

A Bit of History

IMPORTED STOCK [excerpt from this article] from the NZ Herald, 3rd October, 1907. *National Library, Papers Past*

A very valuable shipment of stock arrived at Lyttleton this morning by the New Zealand Shipping Company's steamer, Ruapehu....

There were a number of stud sheep for Canterbury breeders. These included one Shropshire yearling ram, which was bred by Sir Robert Cooper, of Shenstone, Staffordshire, and which took second place at the Royal Agricultural Show, and three Shropshire yearling ewes, bred by Sir Victor Corbett, Shropshire. These were imported by Mr Leonard White, of Rakaia....

The sheep will be sent to Quail Island to undergo the customary period of quarantine. All the stock were in good condition after their long trip, which was a very rough one.



PHOTOS BACK COVER:

Top: **2016 Hastings Royal Show**
Supreme Champion, Rangitukia H31

Bottom: Rosemarkie J36, photographed recently at James Brown's Strathburn Stud at Otautau in Southland. J36 is by Waitangi 871 out of Rosemarkie C12, by Rosemarkie Y85 (Twin).
He is one of the few rams with none of Rosemarkie B006-83 in his background.

