

Hello Members,

Well, we've made it to issue #10! A BIG THANK YOU to all who have sent written and photographic contributions for the newsletter; especially Ian McCall, for his continuing supply of photos.

Recently I attended a seminar arranged by a local vet firm but including a couple of presentations by Beef+LambNZ. I am always disappointed that more "real" farmers don't turn up to them. There are usually several 'small farmers', an ex corporate or two who now own a farm (they are always keen to learn about farming matters) and then a few who just like to keep in touch with what's new or being done better in the farming scene. It was very pleasing to see a few young shepherds, male & female present too this time – obviously bosses are prepared to give them time off.

This particular gathering covered various methods of combating worms in sheep; the likely arrival of the tick born disease *Theillera orientalis* Ikeda in our area (now as far south as Eketahuna) in our cattle herds; a talk on mycoplasma bovis and how MPI and their vets are handling it and possible outcomes if it can or can't be contained, and a presentation by Beef+LambNZ on handling the competition from non-meat proteins.

Previous seminars I have been to have covered condition scoring for ewes; selecting a new herd sire (beef cattle) and how to read the EBV's; use of drones in farming; health & safety etc. All good useful stuff.

Next time you receive the Beef+LambNZ email telling you what's on, make an effort – you can afford an afternoon off, you will learn something and you can run any worries past an "old hand" neighbour who's probably seen it all before.

Google Beef+LambNZ for resources on managing livestock, flood support, their new alternative protein strategy; recipes and so much more. Get some value back from your meat levies!

Taenia ovis (sheep measles) is in your area. Are you on the monthly drontal dosing programme with your dogs? Sign up at your local vet and the pills (not free though) will be sent out automatically. Don't leave them on the bench – they actually have to get into the dog to work!!!!

*Helen McKenzie*  
**Editor**

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

### From The President

As I write my notes it is good to hear the rain on the roof after a prolonged dry period which has taken its toll on farming in large areas of both islands. We all look forward to good Autumn growth so we can put some condition on our ewes for mating.

For many it is Autumn show time where many breeders will be displaying stock and discussing farming's ups and downs of the past and present. It is also a chance for mingling with urban people to explain how we farm and why we do it in our special ways.

I read with interest an article in The New Zealand Farmer [6/2/18] from Russell Welsh, whose view is all registered breeders should be on S.I.L. I take from this article he means compulsorily. I know of some breeders who also think foot rot scores should be compulsory. In my opinion, yes it could be a good thing, but on the other hand, how many small and new breeders starting off would be put off with the extra costs which would probably make them shift to an unregistered flock where they will still sell rams and not contribute to our organization. Russell mentioned the Coopworth Society as an example. In my view Coopworths are struggling as a breed and I know one breeder who told me he struggles to find a good stud sire these days. I would hate to think Sheepbreeders would over-regulate as we know most things become over-regulated these days.

I also read Ike William's article [29/1/18] in The New Zealand Farmer and I think he hit the nail on the head. His concern about a general forum so young people can learn stock judging is very valid. We have an opportunity to do this with the Agri Kids NZ and Teen Ag Competition and I would like to see this competition supported by the Sheepbreeders' Assn next year. It runs in seven areas throughout the country so some planning is needed to organize judges etc for these days.

Attending the field days at Waimumu last week I saw several breeds exhibiting their sheep to the public. This is a great way to get exposure for your breed.

I also spoke to one unregistered composite breeder who informed me he is able to put a sheep in the CPT trials. This amazed me as he has no linkages like they require of registered breeders to get their sheep on the CPT trials.

Are there two standards here??

Well about enough from me and hopefully all breeders have a successful year.



*Jim Berney*  
**President NZSBA**

## From The General Manager

Well Canterbury has had a great summer, with plenty of sun and moisture, but who knows what winter has in store for us.

At this time of year those breeds that are holding conferences are sending their tour itineraries to be circulated to members. I really urge your members you to attend as these get-togethers are beneficial in meeting fellow members, viewing stock, as well as other interesting places.

The Dorset Down Society are visiting Australia later this month, as they have a biennial conference and feel there should be a year when they take a break from touring New Zealand.

Late last month Romney NZ organised a Breeders' Forum for their members in Christchurch. They had a list of topics for discussion and Professor Dorian Garrick was in attendance. He really added value to this event, as he is a very interesting speaker, and has a wide knowledge on animals and agriculture.

The feedback from members who attended has been incredibly positive.

One of my most difficult tasks is contacting members who haven't paid their fees to the Association. This time of year just before the end of our financial year late payers are contacted and asked for payment, or it is suggested they set up a piecemeal payment scheme. Please pay any account outstanding as I'm sure you all pay your electricity account! If any members owing money are in a difficult situation, please contact me so we can together work out a payment structure.

Technology problems – our office changed to fibre recently. I was assured there would not be a problem..... result - 3 weeks without being able to use internet and phone lines. Our Server has just gone down for a day – why? Apparently we had a rogue update? What does that even mean? Just more money for an IT guy to fix it. Technology continues to frustrate.

Annual Return time – please complete your Annual Return as soon as possible because this enables the Flock Book to be produced earlier.

Here's hoping for a short winter.

*Greg Burgess,*  
**General Manager, NZSBA**



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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.”

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Helen

I read your editorial at the start of the Summer Sheep NewZ with some interest and feel some critique is required.

I disagree with you that animals of a certain size are more efficient than animals of another size. Firstly though, I assume that by “efficiency” you mean the relationship of productive output to inputs, because it is common to not look past maintenance requirement – which is mostly related to animal size. All science has shown that there is a wide range of “efficiency” between individual animals, but measuring intake of the individual grazing animals is not possible for us breeders yet. Labelling one size of sheep as most “efficient” is not really valid and assumes a lot of averages.

People have bred larger sheep and cattle for a very long time, because larger framed animals will have more meat at mature age than smaller framed animals, and will have less fat at any lesser age because they are not as mature. I am sure that many generations have pondered what optimum mature frame size to breed for. But breeders of any farmed animal struggle to produce animals that will fit all environments at all times.

Sixty years ago it was acceptable to breed sheep with a sub-cutaneous fat level that is not marketable today. So breeders selected against that fat and as a consequence lost some carcass lean meat and intra-muscular fat attributes, that actually seem to aid animal resilience. This type of single trait selection has been done many times with different species and traits and always leads to some issues, because animals are a multi-trait organism and messing with one trait will have consequences for others. Sheep in New Zealand today are not the same as 60 years ago and probably won't be the same in 60 years time.

Sheep numbers have dropped by more than half in New Zealand in the past 30 years and we have seen average sheep size, and production, increase as stocking rates decrease. And to give that perspective, the first Merino sheep bred in New Zealand averaged around 25kg live weight for ewes. And people are larger today than 200 years ago!

You might as well blame the breeders of yesteryear for the larger sheep of today.

We breed Suffolk sheep and have found that rams will reach 130kg live weight even though we have not been selecting for mature size, rather our primary selection is on EMA at around 120 days of age. SIL asks that lambs be EMA measured at 200 days of age and puts 70% of emphasis on growth rate, getting a similar mature size to our sheep. Go figure.

You mention dystocia problems as if they are more common in larger sheep. The opposite should be the case with larger ewes. Dystocia problems are most likely caused by an imbalance between the size of the ewe and the lamb it is giving birth to. So farmers need to use some logic as to what rams to mate to what ewes (and hoggets).

It is easy to say that breeders present their sheep in “show condition”. I say blame the judges. Breeders know very well that judges favour the biggest and boldest animals, even if that is not the best in many other areas. So why waste time in showing sheep that will clearly be outshone???

Sheep judging is an area for amateurs in today's world – there is no formal training, no formal judging criteria and no peer reviewing. So no wonder that breeders present sheep in “show condition” and hope for the best. I have seen judging that ranges from competent to incompetent to downright bizarre. I have seen judges given objective measurements on animals, that they ignore and base their decisions on their own subjective opinions. Don't slam the breeders too much in a pot luck situation.

I think it is great for breeders to take their animals to A&P shows, to promote sheep farming in a changing world. However breeders should define their breeding and showing objectives; just as A&P associations should define why they are maintaining sheep sections and how to best cater for those people.

**Kerry Dwyer**  
Oamaru

*Thanks to Kerry for this thoughtful response to my column. It is great to get some well considered feedback. As Kerry so rightly points out dystocia should only be a problem if lack of thought is given to size of dam breed compared with the sire's size background – especially with ewe lamb mating.*

*Helen*



## Feature Breed

# DORSET HORN SHEEP & POLL DORSET



## Dorset Horn



Modern English Dorset Horn ram – Sam **Photo from UK Dorset Horn & Poll Dorset Sheep Breeders' Association**

The origins of the Dorset Horn are a bit hard to find, with most articles I found saying they descend from the old Portland (a small tan faced breed from Dorset) crossed with early British importations of Merino. Another article surmised that they also had some of the neighbouring sheep found in Somerset, which had 'the pink pigmentation, the nice curl of horn and the big frames, which the Dorset Horn features today'. [I could find no authoritative reference for this. – Editor]

Dorset Horn antecedents were apparently known for their ability to breed out of season as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Dorset Horn Sheep Breeders' Association was established in 1891 for "the encouragement of the breeding of Dorset Horn Sheep at home and abroad and the maintenance of the purity of the breed". By 1892 the breed was firmly established and the first flock book was published.

Dorset Horns were imported into the USA in 1860. A "Polled Dorset" was developed in the USA by the North Carolina State University. The American breed differs in both name, "Polled" not "Poll" Dorset and origin, as the polling was the result of a genetic mutation within the Dorset Horn breed rather than cross breeding with other polled breeds. In 1949, four hornless lambs were born in the NCSU flock. Those ewes were mated to a horned ram and eventually a set of twin rams was born, one of which was hornless – NCSU 402.

The first "Polled Dorset" was registered in 1956 with the Continental Dorset Club, formed in 1898. Within 20 years, 70 percent of all registered Dorsets in the USA were polled.

## ORIGIN & HISTORY



The **Poll Dorset** Breed was developed in Australia by three prominent Dorset Horn studmasters who saw the advantages of eliminating the horns from this great breed, but were determined to retain all its qualities.

Trials were started in 1937 with a purebred Corriedale ram and a purebred Ryeland ram, mated with pure Dorset Horn ewes. The resulting polled progeny were then mated with purebred Dorset Horn ewes, to eliminate all characteristics of the introduced breed except the poll factor.

This practice was continued until 95 percent pure Dorset Horn blood was attained. In 1947 future matings were poll on poll, therefore creating the double poll sheep and the Australian **Poll Dorset** Breed was registered.

The New Zealand **Poll Dorset** Breed was founded in 1959 with the importing of a number of these double polled Australian sheep, by a group of New Zealand Dorset Horn breeders. In the following years, the New Zealand **Poll Dorset** Breed evolved to become the biggest terminal sire breed in the country with New Zealand genetics even being sold overseas.

A recent development in the breed has been the identification of a gene for increased muscling in the loin region of the animal.

Continued selection by breeders, performance recording and new DNA testing will ensure that the **Poll Dorset** remains at the top of the New Zealand sheep breeding industry.

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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."

## BREED DESCRIPTION

Polled, open white face, pink nose and lips free from pigmentation, long carcass, good hindquarters, well muscled and free of excess fat. Narrow in the shoulders with a good head set. White wool, free from kemp.

**Location:** Found throughout New Zealand

### Bodyweight

#### Rams:

- 80 – 120 kgs
- reach puberty at an early age
- Pheromone effect

#### Ewes:

- 65 – 75 kgs
- exceptional mothering and milking ability
- 130 – 180 percent lambing

### Meat

Its high growth rates, superior muscling and leanness make the **Poll Dorset** an ideal choice for today's market requirements. Additionally, the meat is succulent and tender.

### Breeding/Lambing

Provides high lambing percentages, exceptional mothering and milking ability and an aptitude to breed over an extended breeding season, producing out of season lambs and 3 lambings in 2 years

### Numbers

Approx. 10,000 stud ewes [2017] plus commercials.

### Wool

The biggest attribute of Poll Dorset wool is it is free of black fibres. Poll Dorsets also produce higher wool weights than any other terminal sire breed. The wool is of medium micron, with high wool bulk. This allows **Poll Dorset** wool to command a premium over other meat breed sires.

## STUD PROFILE # 1

**Castlerock Poll Dorset Stud, Flock #478**

**Established 1996**

**Owned by Steven & Cara McCall**

The Castlerock Poll Dorset Stud was founded in 1972 in Central Southland by my Grandfather, Father and Uncle with the prefix of Heatherdowns. In 2009 it was relocated to Pleasant Point in South Canterbury, and I am the third generation to manage it.

It is run alongside a Suffolk (founded 1983) and Charollais (2013) stud and 600 commercial ewes and 500 Angus and Charolais cross cattle, on a 483 hectare dryland farm.



*Some Castlerock rams*

**Photo: I W McCall**

Myself and my father, Ian, are both passionate about performance recording, but as a stud established before mainstream performance recording we are also very strict on structural soundness. We do show on a limited basis, for fun more than anything, as I don't see this as an important part of breeding stud sheep.

Our flock is recorded with Lambplan in Australia rather than SIL and we have a significant number of trait leaders (top 10%) for many traits. We are the only flock in NZ which records on Lambplan.

The stud currently numbers 300 ewes and each year 75 ewes are AI'd to the top genetics available from Australia; every second year we import a new ram's semen. Of the 5 Australian rams I have used in the last 9 years only one has been used in any other New Zealand flock, giving us quite a unique gene pool. The reason for doing this is to keep us linked with the Australian flock, which I need, to have accurate across flock and across breed ebv's.

When selecting a ram for AI he has to have been used in a number of Australian flocks, be a trait leader for WWT, post WWT (autumn WT), EMD and have a positive fate ebv. Lambplan also has IMF and shear force ebvs that we are able to keep a watch on.

Our sheep are a smaller, deeper type of animal than most Poll Dorsets due to heavy selection for phenotype and for muscle ebv's (whilst not neglecting other important traits).

This ensures a hardier animal which I believe is necessary as all my stud ewes are treated very commercially, being run on steep rocky country, all in one mob with the commercial ewes from December to June (except for mating).

By selecting for EMA ebv's, over the last few years our actual eye muscle scans have improved at a great rate and it is now common for ram lambs scanned at 6 months to have an ema/lw ratio of 0.450-0.500. The real benefit of this is being seen with the improvement of our viascan results with all our lambs being supplied to Alliance.



## STUD PROFILE # 2

### *Te Kawa* Poll Dorsets Flock #2

Established in 1959

Owned by Andrew & Naomi Clifton



*Te Kawa* Poll Dorsets was founded in 1959 by my Grandfather Eric.

He originally ran a Dorset Horn flock. In 1957 he travelled to Tasmania with another farmer, RV Pratt and purchased six Poll Dorset ewes and two Rams. From then on he continued to poll his horned flock. This flock was continued on by my father Stuart.

Our family has farmed *Te Kawa* for over 100 years under the Ruahine foot hills at Rangiwahia 700-1000 asl. Although *Te Kawa* is a summer safe property with grass growth slowing in May, it can make for a long hard winter.

Once SIL was introduced we began to performance record again. In early 2000 we joined with 12 other breeders to form Megameat Poll Dorsets. Currently there are 6 breeders still involved. This has allowed us to create links between

the flocks and utilise proven sires, either our own or ones that have been bought in. As a group we have been involved with the CPT trial since 2011 with encouraging results. In 2014 & 2015 *Te Kawa* Poll Dorsets were finalists in the Genetic Trait awards for SIL-ACE Terminal Sire for Lamb Growth section in Beef + Lamb New Zealand Sheep Industry Awards. *Te Kawa* is continuing to be involved in the B+LNZ Genetics Terminal Next Generation Progeny Test at Maraetotara.

The type of ram we are aiming for has a high growth rate, is compact and meaty. After EMA scanning we select rams to take through the winter with the final selection in October-November. Only the top percentage rams will be taken through for sale. Because of the climate and altitude *Te Kawa* Poll Dorsets have to perform under testing conditions - for that very reason any progeny should be able to adapt to any environment.

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Facebook: @tekawapoll:orsets

Website: [tekawa-polldorsets.weebly.com](http://tekawa-polldorsets.weebly.com)

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Below top, *South Suffolk* rams lambs & bottom, *Charollais* ram lambs. Photos taken by Anne Berney at the recent Waimumu Fieldays



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## FRANKLIN SHOW, PUKEKOHE by John du Faur

On the 17th Feb Franklin A & P Show was held at Pukekohe. It turned out to be a lovely day but crowd attendance was down due to other local events. A shame Pukekohe had to have other major events on the same day.

The numbers of sheep entries were down due to members moving out of the district or having retired from stud breeding or simply other reasons. However, the quality of the sheep were generally in good condition and excellent summer feed in the region obviously helped.

Mating is in full swing and the rams were probably pleased to have a rest. The Poll Dorsets held their own; winning the first four placings in the Ram Lamb Interbreed Class and beaten by Suffolk and Southdown in the Ewe Hogget Interbreed Class. **Sheep of the Show** went to the **Border Leicester ram**.



*Photos of Ram Lambs in the Interbreed class at Franklin Show*

**NO. 1 POLL DORSET CLUB VISIT** is on 26-27th May in the Far North. Visits will be to: -

- Betsy and Ray Duncan -Shalimar Stud, Paihia, Bay of Islands.
- Brian and Jean Clements Forest View Stud at Marua, Hikurangi, Whangarei north, and to
- Alex and Delwyn Clements (Manu Stud), and
- John du Faur (Glenbrook Stud) at Purua, West of Whangarei..

*John du Faur*

## POLL DORSET STUD FOR SALE

**CS & ME Irwin - Woodbine Poll Dorset's Registered Flock #558 Waiuku**

We have for sale (*Approximately*)

2 Stud Rams  
70 Mixed aged Ewes  
30 2 Tooth Ewes  
All ewes running with a Stud Ram



*A sample of the advertised ewes*

These are top quality sound Ewes that are well muscled and bred on exposed coastal hills.

The ewe flock was founded on Lochaire and Brookland Studs in 2003.

Top sires have always been used. From Leland's, Brooklands, Adelong, Grafton, Craignure, Hillden {NSW Australia} Forest View, and Owners' Studs.

Owners are trying to semi retire!

If interested please contact owners –

Colin or Margaret Irwin on mobile 021 2707608

**PGG Wrightson Livestock**

# “YOU CAN’T MAKE A SILK PURSE OUT OF A SOW’S EAR!”

By **Jonathan Hickford**, Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Lincoln University

“If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing right”. A good idea, but how many of us think that way about wool? Is your emphasis on wool quality and can you accurately describe how good your wool is? Can you say your wool is outstandingly good and are buyers falling over themselves to get it?

It is too easy to dismiss wool as inconsequential, to take minimal care in its production, but then to also wonder why it is as good as worthless. Here’s a novel idea then: if you are going to be a wool producer, then do it exceptionally well. Don’t be second best. If you aren’t prepared to make the effort, then forget wool entirely and focus on meat.

Why would I have this view? It’s simple really. I see, and by that I mean I have seen wool testing results that tell me we have far too much low quality wool. The worst offenders are in the cross-bred industry, and it is not breed-specific. What do I mean by low quality? The list is quite long, but it includes the presence of black and medulated fibres, MFDs that are over 45 micron, FSDs over 10 micron, excessive variation in fibre length within a fleece, low bulk, etc. If you don’t recognise some of these terms, then I would argue that you probably shouldn’t be a wool producer, at all.

If you think I am being unrealistic, then you need to realise that no one who buys wool owes you a living. It isn’t like meat or milk where you are producing food, but instead you are producing something that can easily be replaced in most situations with an alternative fibre, and often at much lower cost too.

“But that’s cheap synthetics”, I hear you say. Well then define cheap. Does cheap mean perfectly uniform light weight fibre, of a particular and uniform colour, with the ability to absorb little to no water, and that can be phenomenally hard wearing. Those are some of the attributes of synthetics, and that is why they are popular. Don’t get me wrong though, wool is fire retardant, feels warm when damp and vice versa, resists bacterial growth and odour, and has an enduring natural lustre that can’t be beaten. The problem is that it is a highly variable natural product and if care is not taken in its production, that variability and other faults can make it close to worthless.

To be more specific, we have recently measured cross-bred fleeces with individual fibres spanning 8 to 80 microns. The small fibres will break and fall out of carpets and the large fibres are like horse hair. If the high micron fibres are

medulated, they don’t take up dye well and visually stand out in carpets. You don’t get that with solution dyed nylon!

We have also measured cross-bred fleeces that have a MFD under 30 microns and with low FSD. Given that these traits are heritable, then we can quite easily breed for better cross-bred wool. The current SIL recording system that rewards wool weight only, won’t facilitate that. What is the point in breeding for more and more, low quality wool? What-is-more, ‘blind’ selection based on wool weight will likely have the undesirable effect of increasing MFD. There is no value proposition in that.

It is also too easy to blame ‘the market’ for low wool prices. The problem is the market typically doesn’t care. It will pay what it needs to, to get the product it wants. In the carpet industry, we have seen a headlong rush to compete on price with synthetic carpet. It is a race that is being lost. What if more emphasis was placed on competing on quality? Rather than aiming to supply wool carpets at under \$100 per broadloom metre, go in the other direction and aim for over \$500 per BLM, or more. Woollen carpet at this price does sell, and given the cost of other building materials, it is still actually a reasonable price. You might find this hard to believe.

You can’t make great carpet with poor wool though. To pick up on another saying: “you can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear”. Do wool well, or think about doing something else.



*Adelong 650/07, Supreme Champion Poll Dorset ram in his finery at the 2009 Canterbury Royal Show*

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## Quest For Quality Pays Off At Sale

Rural Life Otago Daily Times, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

Story by Sally Rae, Photos: Ian McCall



*Poll Dorset breeder George Lowe, from the Windermere stud, near Ashburton, and his grandson Hunter inspect the yarding of Poll Dorset-merino-cross lambs at Castle Ridge Station's annual on-farm lamb sale in the Ashburton Gorge*

**CANTERBURY high country farmers Paul and Kerry Harmer always strive to present the best stock they can. And that quest for quality was very evident at their recent on-farm lamb sale at Castle Ridge Station in the Ashburton Gorge.**

A top quality line-up of more than 8000 Poll Dorset-Merino-cross lambs sold in just over 20 minutes to average just under \$120. Amid a picturesque location, the top priced pen of 235 ram lambs sold for \$166 while a pen of 418 ewe lambs made \$155.



*The top priced pen of Castle Ridge Station's Poll Dorset-merino cross ram lambs which sold for \$166*

Hazlett Rural Livestock auctioneer Ed Marfell described it as one of the "premier days" in the Canterbury sales calendar, saying the lambs were an "absolute credit" to the Castle Ridge team.

It was Mr Harmer's father Peter who started using Poll Dorset rams several years after buying Castle Ridge in

1992. It was a way to get around the challenging climate and terrain; at lambing time, Poll Dorset-cross lambs were "up and running" as soon as they hit the ground and thrived in the environment, Paul Harmer said.

They were a good terminal sire across a merino ewe and it was a quick turnaround, as they were only on the ground for four months before being sold. The result of the lamb sale vindicated that the breed was "definitely doing the job", Mr Harmer said.

All Castle Ridge's mixed-age ewes went to the Poll Dorset while 2-tooth ewes were mated to Merino rams. The Harmer family has been buying Poll Dorset rams from George Lowe's Windermere stud, near Ashburton, for about 20-odd years, and they bought 20 rams a year.



*PGG Wrightson Mid Canterbury area manager Greg Cook auctions a yarding of ram lambs at Castle Ridge Station.*

When it came to ram selection, Mr Harmer looked for good length, good growth rates and a sheep that was not too wide in the shoulder.

"As soon as you put it over a Merino, you're asking for trouble if the shoulders aren't right," he said. Despite the extensive nature of Castle Ridge, they put in a lot of effort into lambing time which was a "fairly intensive" period for them. Every lamb saved was important as their lamb cheque was almost half their income. Castle Ridge was just under 6000ha and wintered about 16,000 sheep, 800 cattle and about 250 deer. The homestead was about 650m above sea level and the climate could go from a good spring to a very hot, dry summer very quickly. Winters could also be quite hard and they grew a lot of winter feed and baleage. The good thing about the Poll Dorset-cross lambs was they were away early and feed could be put back into the ewes, Mr Harmer said.

Castle Ridge was originally part of Barossa Station. The Harmers also bought part of neighbouring Clent Hills when it was sold and, when Barossa went through tenure review, they bought what was left of that. Both Paul and Peter Harmer had worked on Castle Ridge

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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."

before Peter Harmer bought it. This year marked their 13th annual on-farm lamb sale. Previously, lambs were trucked to Tinwald Saleyards and sold. While they sold "alright" there, Mr Harmer felt they could probably present them better at home and keep a better eye on what went on. It also prevented the need to truck the lambs to saleyards before the sale. "I don't really like seeing anything stressed more than it needs to be," he said.

For all their stock, they always wanted them to do well for whoever purchased them and, from the feedback they were receiving, they were achieving that. But that was no cause to

rest on their laurels. "You're always wanting to keep pushing, to keep things as good as you can. I think once you get a bit of a name going for stock, you want to keep that going. The only way to get that is from feedback from buyers down the line," he said. Straight after the Castle Ridge sale, another yarding of quality Poll Dorset-Merino-cross lambs was offered at neighbouring Mt Arrowsmith Station, on the shores of Lake Heron, where the top price was \$156 for a pen of 246 mixed-sex lambs.



## THE PUZZLE COMPANY

### SHEEP WORDSEARCH

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 E I K A H A M O G K Q F I U E M O D  
 P J V S S H T X Y G U S G E Z N W Q  
 P I T T I S L A N D K L M T X Z N F

ARAPAWA	DRYSDALE	PERENDALE
AWASSI	FINNSHEEP	PITT ISLAND
BORDERDALE	HERBERT	POLWARTH
CHEVIOT	JACOB	RAGLAN
CLARENCE	KARAKUL	ROMNEY
COOPWORTH	LEICESTER	RYELAND
CORMO	LINCOLN	SHROPSHIRE
CORRIEDALE	MERINO	SOUTHDOWN
DOHNE	MOHAKA	SUFFOLK
DORPER	OMAHAKI	TEXEL
DORSET DOWN	OXFORD	

This puzzle was kindly supplied to the Sheep NewZ by the **Puzzle Company**.

When complimented on the diversity of New Zealand sheep breeds incorporated into the puzzle, Doug Hendry, from the company said, "My wife made the puzzle: she was farm reporter at the Manawatu Standard when we both worked there in the 90s, so knows her sheep breeds."

I would like to thank the company for their generosity in allowing us to make use of their puzzle. These puzzles have a wide variety of subjects and can be found in our area (Wairarapa) in the Saturday edition of the Dominion Post. - Editor



"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."

## THE DORSET HORN AND POLL DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM

Article supplied by the Dorset Horn & Poll Dorset Sheep Breeders' Association, UK

The Dorset Horn sheep is one of the earliest recorded breeds of British Sheep with the first Flock Book being established in 1892, and its adaptability was soon recognised worldwide.

The Australians, noted for their shepherding skills, soon realised the potential of the sheep to improve their existing stock and imported the Dorset Horn. With their vast acreage and minimal management techniques the viability of producing a hornless Dorset was of prime interest. This, they achieved and the Poll Dorset emerged to provide the sheep now so much in demand throughout the world.

In the mid 1950s a far sighted Dorset breeder, "Bunny" Lenthall, decided to investigate the potential of the Poll Dorset and, after a visit to Australia, returned with two stud rams. In the UK the Poll Dorset now out numbers its illustrious ancestor but all the attributes of the Dorset Horn still apply to both.

Today, the breed has moved on retaining all the same characteristics but is assisted by up-to-date techniques of record keeping such as that provided by Signet.

The Association's first Patroness in 1892 was Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and with this strong foundation it has grown worldwide to promote the breed internationally via shows and the media to maintain the breed's profile.

These are challenging times indeed for the flock master who has to face increased costs and lower profit margins.

What can he do to protect his interests and face the future with hope?

The obvious answer is to look for a breed of sheep that will improve profit margins, reduce overheads and fit in with other farming enterprises. Ideally it should be prolific, easy to handle, hardy, versatile, able to breed at any time of the year and not reliant on a high level of additional nutrition.



*Bennachie stock rams* Photo: Dorset Horn & Poll Dorset Sheep Breeders' Association, UK

If you are looking for a sheep that is adaptable to any climate or altitude, with a fleece that many breeds would like to aspire to, then this is your sheep. The sheep will provide a regular cash flow by producing lambs frequently, if you wish, three times in two years. It has an economically produced carcass sought after by the retailer and housewife, whose discerning taste is the ultimate challenge.

If you prefer cross breeding, choose a ewe or ram that will pass many of the above characteristics on to its first cross females, hence improving your profit margins on your existing stock.

If this is your aim, then look no further than the Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset Sheep. The Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset Sheep Breeders' Association goes from strength to strength towards new frontiers, promoting the ultimate breed in the twenty first century.

The **Annual May Fair** is the premier Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset Sale when a large selection of top quality rams and ewes are available. The Fair takes place in May over a two day period with the Show on the first day and the Sale on the second day and provides the spectator with a view of the best stock available. All the sheep entered in the Show are subsequently sold through the ring on the second day.

Many of the Association's breeders are involved in Registered Health Schemes for Maedi Visna and Scrapie Monitored Negative Accreditation and are able to provide stock for the home or export market.



"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."

**NIGEL JAY, New Bureau Manager For NZSheep.**

*Hopefully by now you will have caught up with the personnel change within the NZ Sheep Performance Recording Service.*

*Namely, I have taken over from Mandy as manager and Lyndsay will continue to provide back up in the office, with Data entry.*

*It is my aim to enhance Performance Recording and provide good service to breeders, through NZSheep.*



I arrived in New Zealand in February 1967 and started work at Lincoln College soon after. My aim in coming to New Zealand was to further enhance my interest in sheep breeding. My job at Lincoln College was as a technician with Professor Coop and Vern Clark. I was soon involved with performance recording, and was there at its conception in New Zealand and though to the present day.

During my time at Lincoln, I offered a commercial service for embryo transfer and artificial Insemination in sheep and from 2007 ran the Lincoln CT service, particular for ram breeders.

In 2010 I established a Charollais flock at Ashley Dene, Lincoln University, with the importation of semen from Australia. Following Lincoln's decision to sell the Charollais flock to Elite Charollais in Feilding and my 'retirement' from Lincoln (2012), I have continued my interest in sheep breeding and Charollais sheep, namely with two Charollais flocks , Elite Charollais and Lochee Genetics, where my role is with the performance recording and breeding decisions. With Murray Smith of Lochee genetics I have been able to run a few sheep of my own, at Cust

When I am not involved with sheep, I try to swim four times a week, 2kms each time. I am a member of Jasi masters swimming club. I have two grandchildren who live in Lincoln, and require dropping off and picking up from school four days a week.

**Some of my thoughts on Performance Recording:-**

It is not a case of us and them, subjective versus objective, or traditional versus performance. Both are required in the selection of sheep. Firstly you must have a visually sound sheep, but it is now performance recording comes into its own.

I often ask those breeders who are not performance recording, "How do you know you are making progress?" As yet I have not had a satisfactory answer.

Breeders must do what they can to promote performance recording not only to get stud breeders to record traits, but educate commercial breeders to use data when selecting rams. One way possible to do this is to have a ram selling price structure based on SIL Index. Pedigree breeders and ram buyers can benefit from an objective way of assessing the genetic potential of rams.

Performance recording can be a useful tool in flock management and genetic selection, but like many things you only get out what you put in. The more accurate the input data the more reliable the output information will be.

I look forward to meeting sometime those of you that are currently recording with NZSheep and please call me if you require any assistance with recording issues and for those that are not recording have a really good think about what performance recording could do for you over and above your current skills.



Australian Poll Dorset ram bred by R N Davies, *Wrattenbullie stud* **Photo: IW McCall**



2000 Poll Dorset Merino X lambs sell at Arrowsmith Station Mid Canterbury to \$146 **Photo: IW McCall**

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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."*

## NZ Marsh Sheep

White Headed Marsh originated in the North Sea marshes of West Germany.

Their beginnings can be traced back to the mid 1800s when North German Marsh sheep, the local milk sheep, and imported British long wool breeds (including the Cotswold) were crossbred. The White Headed Marsh sheep brought to N.Z. were selected by Professor Coop (he developed the Coopworth breed) and imported by LAMBXL from Denmark.



*NZ Marsh Two tooth ram*

In 1990 we purchased 11 Stud White Headed Marsh ewes and 10 Stud Rams with a variety of blood lines from the LAMBXL elite flock in the North Island. In Denmark and North Germany, the WHM live outside in very wet and cold conditions. They are known for their hardy natural immunity, easy-care nature and excellent meat and wool. They naturally lamb at 180% in Denmark. They are similar looking to Romneys or Coopworths, but much larger with meaty hind quarters and wide deep loins and rack (the most valuable cuts). Their wool is mainly between the fine 26 to 46 Hair type micron range. They are no relation to Romney Marsh sheep.

We bought other studs of Marsh Sheep of other bloodlines. Then in 1996 we faced up to the fact that the Marsh is a much better breed of sheep for our organic farming than Romneys. So our Mangapiri Romney stud ewes were mated with stud Marsh Rams to breed up and grade up more Marsh ewes. Our Romney stud was established in 1980. It was sad to give up on the Romney but for so many years the breed's performance was based on chemical props. The Marsh ewes are very fertile, and good mothers with an extremely high milk output. They have great longevity: many retaining productivity for over 12 years.

From 2001, we mated all our commercial Marsh Hair ewes and pure Hair Marsh ewes to Wiltshire Hair rams to breed up an interesting new Hair strain of Wiltshire, our trademarked SHIRE® breed, from our strong Organic Marsh & Wiltshire base.

*Right: NZ marsh ewes and lambs*



### For Sale – Unique Opportunity

Our NZ Marsh stud breeding flock is up for sale as we are moving out of shearing and wool completely. Going fully Hair Meat Sheep with our Shire® breed! I bought our Marsh sheep from the Lamb XL German White Headed Marsh importation from Denmark in 1990. I bred them organically since 1990 and they have not been drenched, dipped or vaccinated.

The Marsh is an amazing old breed and 2nd largest breed in northern Europe after the Texel.

This Hardy strong breed lives outside and has great longevity many retaining productivity for over 12 years.

We would like to see this breed continue to be bred organically.

Anyone interested in them, let me know now please as hope to sell them before the end of the year, if I can't find an organic breeder they will be sold to the conventional Stud market.

Sale sheep include 20 odd registered m/a ewes, 10 or so two teeth plus some ewe lambs.

Also a selection of stud sires.

Kind Regards

*Tim Gow*

Mangapiri Downs organicstud farm®

Ph 03 225 5283 Email [tim@organic-rams.co.nz](mailto:tim@organic-rams.co.nz)

Website [www.organic-rams.co.nz](http://www.organic-rams.co.nz)



“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.”

## BUSHY DOWNS RYELAND FLOCK

The *Bushy Downs* Hereford Stud that is so well known as one of the longer established herds in New Zealand, with 73 years of breeding, has also been the breeding nursery of a flock of Ryeland sheep. This flock was established by Martin and Robert Port in 1969 and brought together Herefords and Ryelands. History tells us that both breeds were improved by the same breeder, Benjamin Tomkins, of Herefordshire in the UK back in the 1700s. The Ryeland wool was sold at a premium there for many years. The development later of Merinos in other lands took over that role, however Ryeland meat was the strength of the meat industry and was held in very high regard.

This year at *Bushy Downs* the time has come for a change to be made in the farming business, as Robert and his wife Marian have moved to a small lifestyle block near Te Awamutu and son Kelvin, and wife Cynthia and family, take on the operation at *Bushy Downs*.

Robert said it has not been an easy decision to hand the reins over, however he has given all his life from school age till now and that is over 54 years full on plus a busy childhood helping his father, Martin, get on his feet. Kelvin is keen to take the Herefords on to a higher level, and also the sheep, but wants volume, not so much a specialised little flock to farm alongside a flock of 900 ewes, with 500 Herefords on 340 hectares. Robert still helps out on the farm and was glad to put away the silage baler after the summer harvest recently.

So this is the background to the Ryeland flock that some years ago was the source of Ryeland rams for an annual sale.

*Bushy Downs* flock history shows importations of a ram and 9 ewes from Australia, and in 1972 they purchased the late Geo. Gumbrell's entire *Rangitata* flock, that was also the source of the foundation sheep of the *Bushy Downs* flock. Other out cross rams have been purchased and ewes were added from the flocks of Buddo's *Kinburn* flock and 3 other flocks. Stud and flock rams have been sold, and also a ram was exported to New South Wales.

*Below: historic photo of their Ryeland ewes & lambs*



Robert said the Ryelands do cross very well with other maternal breeds, and were used successfully in the

establishment of the Poll Dorset sheep breed. Another feature of Ryelands is the absence of black fibres in their fine wool. It measures around 30 microns and is favoured by spinners. Ryelands have a unique temperament, and are intelligent animals. They also forage differently from Romneys, and have developed a taste for a more fibrous diet. For pets they are second to none.

In New Zealand the Ryeland section in the Sheepbreeders' Association is now one of the less numerous breed of sheep, and this is also what happened in Britain, and it was when the Ryelands were officially recognised there as a rare breed that the interest really took off. So great was the resurgence that the breed has gone on from strength to strength and has left the rare breed category well behind.

The *Bushy Downs* flock is now the oldest Ryeland flock in New Zealand, and Robert would love to see it taken on by a keen breeder and hopefully keep the 40 females together. Otherwise for the survival of the breed it is hoped they will find new homes in existing flocks.

*Some of the sale ewes pictured below*



### FOR SALE

Total dispersal of *Bushy Downs* Ryeland Flock  
NZSBA # 240 Registered 1969.

Including the following ewes & two stud sires

Year Of Birth.	2012	3 ewes
	2014	8 ewes
	2015	10 ewes
	2016	6 ewes
	2017	13 ewe lambs

Contact: Robert Port  
07 872 2715

Email: [rmporta@hotmail.com](mailto:rmporta@hotmail.com)

# Why is everyone so in love with "Fat & Shiny"

February 2, 2018

*Nathan Scott* (Australia)

There is something that has always confused me about buying rams and bulls. The one thing that consistently influences buying decisions is how “fat & shiny” an animal is. Studs have to work hard to make sure that rams are presented to the expectations of the purchasers. But what exactly are these expectations based on?

Most of the visual expectations that people have when it comes to selecting rams and bulls is born from the original show ring days. A time where bigger was better.

The reality is, however, that one of the most common causes of a ram or bull breaking down is foot/leg injury. The most common cause of feet and leg injury, particularly foot abscess, is excess size/weight of the animal, which the foot simply cannot sustain over time, particularly under wet conditions.

I won't focus on rams as the example here. A client of ours recently purchased some young rams with excellent ASBVs, but the rams are nowhere near as well grown as other rams they have at home. We have great faith in these breeding values, which indicate that the likely performance of these ram's progeny will be excellent. We also sleep easier at night knowing that these rams are much less likely to experience the feet issues of other rams in their team.

Don't get me wrong, I am still a stickler for good structure when selecting rams. But I also believe our industry is unnecessarily compromising rams by growing them out to a ridiculous size and fatness in order to meet the expectations of an old-school mentality. An expectation of visual appearance which has no correlation with actual performance.

We have a number of clients who purchase ram lambs annually. While these rams can present their own challenges with a higher propensity for summer pneumonia and other issues, they generally result in a smaller, lighter ram over their lifetime. This isn't necessarily anything to do with their use as ram lambs, but more to do with the fact that they haven't been fed up on stud rations after reaching maturity. This presents some advantage for avoiding foot abscess throughout their life.

There is another catch however. Buying ram lambs opens up the risk of structural issues developing after purchase, as the ram's live weight continues to increase as he matures. These structural faults often simply can't be identified by the stud prior to sale, as the issue is yet to present itself. Any responsible stud selling ram lambs offers a comprehensive replacement policy for these reasons, and so I see this as less risk than a lifetime of feet issues caused by a team of over-sized rams.

So, as you put your rams out this year, perhaps take a moment to consider what is really important to you. Big pretty rams, or moderate, fit rams with the genetic potential to perform over a number of years. We now have the tools to predict the performance of progeny bred from a ram, and should no longer be obsessed with how well a ram is “presented”. Make sure he is structurally sound, has the genetic potential to provide the performance you need, and the ability to actually deliver over a number of years.

Fit, not fat.

It is 2018. Buy (or sell) rams in a way that reflects that.



## VALAIS BLACKNOSE

### Another New Sheep Breed Arrives in New Zealand

This breed is thought to have been in existence since the 15<sup>th</sup> century but was not officially recognized as a separate breed until 1962. The sheep are large framed with rams weighing 80-130kg and ewes 70-90kg. Both sexes have horns.

In their native Switzerland they graze on the steepest and stoniest mountain slopes in summer and were brought down to the lower slopes for winter. They generally get shorn twice a year as they grow a long coat of around 30cm annually of about 38 micron in the adult sheep. It has a slight lustre. Although described as more of a carpet wool type it has uses for handcraft.

*Valais lambs at Masterton A & P show in February*



Recently this new breed was featured at the Masterton A & P show. They drew a lot of attention – especially because of their innate docility. There were 4 lambs on display, two ewes and two wethers. These are owned by the Remarkable Valais Breeding Group based in Feilding and Woodville. Members of the syndicate went to the UK to see the sheep and meet with other breeders. They then imported embryos.

The main aim is to export embryos overseas, particularly to the USA, where they are not available yet. The 2017 Borderway Mart (UK) sale saw the top ram selling for \$7,100 guineas (6 rams averaged 2,835gns) and top female 4,500gns (9 females averaged 2,817.50gns).

*Valais fleece on display at Masterton show.*



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## Shearwell New Zealand Ltd - Advertorial

The best-selling RFID sheep tag in Britain and Canada, known as the SET tag, is now available in New Zealand.

Shearwell New Zealand supplies direct to farmers and offers livestock tags, EID readers, software, weigh crates and drafters.

The one-piece sheep tag has a wrap-around design that's light enough to be inserted into new-born lambs and strong enough to last for life. It was designed to give the best possible retention. The latest trial work in Canada shows 99% retention in 50,000 tags over a 3-year period. With these exceptional retention rates, SET tags are gaining popularity in Australia, Brazil, USA, Canada and now New Zealand.

Shearwell's revolutionary tag design allows this lifetime tag to be used as both a visual identification tag and a low-cost method of electronically identifying sheep. The tags can be applied to sheep at any age, and are also suitable for identification of other species. They are available in 11 colours (yellow, green, white, orange, grey, blue, purple, pink, black, red and brown).

Another useful tool is the Shearwell Stick Reader which has been developed for speed of use and accuracy. One of its helpful features are the green and red lights, green to show the animal is being read for the first time and red if it has already been scanned which is a real plus when pen reading.

This is the ultimate farmer-friendly tool – simple to use, rugged and versatile. It reads all types of EID ear tags and boluses, and can hold up to 16,000 records! It links by Bluetooth to mobile printers and weigh-heads. Another unique feature is the ability to interface with both android and iOS apps, which means it will greatly assist farmers to meet their NAIT requirements.

The Shearwell Weigh Crate or Automatic Drafter takes the pain out of handling large groups of sheep. The race reader and digital weigh-head are linked to a handheld stock recorder so data collection is easy, fast and accurate.

Knowing the pressures on costs, Shearwell is committed to bringing value for money to the marketplace. Talk to us about the best solution for your farm.

For more information go to [www.shearwell.co.nz](http://www.shearwell.co.nz) or call 0800 79 99 89.

## National Suffolk Tour

Hosted by the Northern South Island

Suffolk Breeders' Club.

It's our turn to host the National tour for NZ Suffolk Breeders. This tour will visit many of the Suffolk Studs in our region, providing the opportunity to view a large number of top class sheep in their home environment and showcasing our beautiful region along the way. There'll be a little something for everyone!

The tour departs from Christchurch 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and returns 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018; it will cover Central and North Canterbury.

A ewe hogget trial is being held in conjunction with this tour and these hoggets will be up for sale on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Loffhagen property, while the tour visits. This will provide the opportunity to purchase well bred quality ewe hoggets from many different studs.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Penni Loffhagen,*

President

Northern South Island Suffolk Club

**FARMERS  
WEEKLY**  
*farmersweekly.co.nz*





# Stud Merino Tour

CENTRAL OTAGO – 2018

Thursday, 15 March and Friday, 16 March

Thursday, 15 March TARRAS AND ALEXANDRA BASIN		Friday, 16 March MIDDLEMARCH AND MANIOTOTO	
9am	NINE MILE, Lucas Family	9am	MATARAE, Jones Family
10.30am	MALVERN DOWNS, Gibson Family	11am	Lunch at STONEHENGE, Hore Family
12.30pm	Lunch at EARNSCLEUGH, Campbell Family	1.30pm	ARMIDALE, Paterson Family
2.30pm	MATANGI, John Sanders Family	6pm	TOUR DINNER in conjunction with Otago Merino Association AWARDS at the Cellar Door, Centennial Avenue, Alexandra
4.00pm	LITTLE VALLEY, Lindon Sanders Family		
6pm	BBQ Dinner at LITTLE VALLEY		

EACH PROPERTY WILL BE OPEN FOR APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS

## TOUR INFORMATION

**Tour Fee - \$20.** Fee includes lunches for both days and bbq dinner on Thursday. Fee applies whether attending one day or two.

**Tour Dinner, Friday Evening - \$100.** Combined with Otago Merino Association Awards. Otago Merino Association – Lesley Muir, email [lesley@administrationhq.co.nz](mailto:lesley@administrationhq.co.nz), ph 03 409 2222

Tour is self-drive. Directions to Studs will be provided on registration. Please collect your name tag and tour book on Thursday morning at the participating studs.

### Accommodation

A list of motels in Alexandra is included, participants to make own accommodation arrangements. March is a busy tourist season in Alexandra, it is recommended you book early. If you are traveling from overseas we are happy to assist you with your accommodation requirements. Please contact the secretary at the address on this form.

## INCLUDE THE WANAKA A&P SHOW IN YOUR TRIP

Make a week of it and include the A&P Show at Wanaka on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March, then spend a few days relaxing (or not) in Queenstown, or the many other tourist spots in the area, before heading off on the tour.

The Wanaka A&P Show is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest agricultural show in New Zealand and includes merino sheep and wool competitions. Just 1 hour from Queenstown and 40 minutes from the start of the tour, it's a great opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues in the merino industry.

### TOUR SECRETARY AND CONTACT

Mrs Jenni Sanders, 1173 Little Valley Road, RD 2, Alexandra 9392, NZ  
email [sanders.lvs@farmside.co.nz](mailto:sanders.lvs@farmside.co.nz), ph & fax +64 3 448 6575, mobile +64 27 272 4872

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## REGISTRATION – 2018 Central Otago Stud Merino Tour – 15/16 March

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Property or Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TOUR DINNER REGISTRATION** - The Tour Dinner is a combined event with the Otago Merino Association Awards. If you are registering for the Tour Dinner on this form, **DO NOT** register with the Otago Merino Association **OR** if you have registered with the Otago Merino Association **DO NOT** register for the Tour Dinner on this form. Seats are limited – it is recommended you book early.

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:** (tick which events attending)

First & Last Name	ALL		Day 1	BBQ		Tour
	EVENTS	OR		Dinner	Day 2	

**Tour Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Flat fee whether attending one day or two

**Tour Dinner** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Booking made with Otago Merino Association

**TOTAL PAID** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Chq / Int Bank / Pay on Arrival (overseas visitors only)  
(COSMB is not GST registered) (please circle)

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Bank Details: Rabobank 03 1353 0368788 00, enter name used at the top of this form for a reference

**PLEASE EMAIL (OR FAX) FORM IF PAYING BY INTERNET BANKING OR POST WITH CHEQUE. SEE CONTACT AND MAILING INFORMATION BELOW. OVERSEAS VISITORS MAY MAKE PAYMENT ON ARRIVAL.**

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 26 FEBRUARY**

**TOUR SECRETARY** - Mrs Jenni Sanders, Little Valley Station, Alexandra

**EMAIL AND PHONE** - email sanders.lvs@farmside.co.nz ph & fax +64 3 448 6575 mobile +64 27 272 4872

**MAILING ADDRESS** - Central Otago Stud Merino Breeders, c/- Little Valley Station, 1173 Little Valley Road, R D 2, Alexandra 9392, NZ

Please note 3-10 March (inclusive), I can only be contacted through my email or mobile, or alternatively contact the Otago Merino Association – Lesley Muir, email lesley@administrationhq.co.nz, ph 03 409 2222

**PRESIDENT** – Mr Simon Paterson, Armidale Stud, ph +64 3 444 9716

“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.”

## A BIT OF HISTORY

Dominion 16 July 1908, National Library Papers Past

### TWO LAMBINGS PER ANNUM

#### ARE DORSET HORN SHEEP DOGPROOF?

A "New Zealand Subscriber" has written to the "Farmer and Stock Breeder" (England) as follows: -

"Sir, - Could you kindly give me, through the columns of your valued paper, 'F. And S.' any information regarding following.

"I am interested in Dorset Horn sheep, and as there are none in New Zealand, I would be thankful for information from one who knows them. I think that, from what I can gather, they would be likely to take here, for several reasons. I have read somewhere that on account of their horns they are absolutely proof against dog worrying. If that is so, it would be a great recommendation to them in many parts here. I would very much like to know if this is really the case. I have heard of their prolificacy and fine wool.

"I have written to the secretary of the Dorset Horn Breeders' Association for information regarding cost, etc., in England.

"I may state that I am a breeder of registered Romney sheep here, and a subscriber to your paper. I am near a town, and all flockowners here suffer greatly from dogs, which makes me anxious about what I might have heard regarding Dorset Horns in such a case. - I am, etc.,

#### "NEW ZEALLAND SUBSCRIBER."

To this letter the editor of the "Farmer and Stockbreeder" replied as follows:- "We have not heard that the Dorset Horn is proof against dog worrying, but horned sheep are at an advantage in this respect. The Dorset Horn is famed for producing the earliest lamb in England, and the ewes are such good mothers that they are capable of carrying two crops of lambs in one year."

## NZ EWE HOGGET COMPETITION

Entries are open for the 2018 NZ Ewe Hogget competition. Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> successful year.

Information and entry forms are available on the NZ Sheepbreeders' Association website - [www.nzsheep.co.nz](http://www.nzsheep.co.nz) or ring the NZSBA Office to get them to send out the forms to you 📞 03 358 9412



## Note: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Free advertisements are available for member breeders with surplus stud ewes/rams for sale.

Let others know that you have spare ewes. Maybe enable a new flock or two to start.

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 [nzsheep@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzsheep@clear.net.nz)

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Wallplanners & Sheep Breeds posters are available at the Office.

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

The **Closing Date** for next issue of the newsletter will be **20<sup>th</sup> May for the June 2018 newsletter.**

Next **"FEATURE BREED"** will be **ENGLISH LEICESTERS**

If you would like to be part of this section, **photos and stud histories of all breeds are accepted at any time.**

Email or post to the Editor – see front page for address details.

## Published by NZ Sheepbreeders' Association

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**Sheeple:** This is a derogatory term to refer to people who are foolish and easily led (mislead!). For example, "We live in a nation of sheeple, and by the time they wake up to what's going on it will be too late."

Sounds like the wool industry to me! - Editor