

# Dorset Down Newsletter

## October 2018

Hello everyone!

What a great spring we are having throughout the country. We've been fortunate to have a few showers of rain maintain the spring growth, with many farms recording good lambing percentages and the sheep in good condition.

We are seeing good returns at the sales, and let's hope that prices remain at these levels this coming season – especially for the upcoming ram sales.

### **New Zealand Agricultural Show**

The entries are looking very good in all classes for the 2018 Christchurch Show, we hope to see many of you there.

Make sure you add **Wednesday 14 November** to your farm diaries and calendars, for the breed dinner at Trevinos at 6.30pm. This is a great night out and a good time to catch up with fellow Dorset Down breeders. Please RSVP to Christine Busch 027 419 9089.

### **Christchurch Ram Fair**

This year the ram fair is on the **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November**. There are a good number of entries, and a high calibre of rams available. It would be great to see an increase of breeders supporting and attending this event.

### **Ram Lamb Trials**

Please support your local club ram trials!

These trials show that we are actively working to insure the best genetic gains for yield and growth rate across the breed. Many of the top ram lambs from these trials are used in studs, and the trials increase confidence in the Dorset Down breed for the commercial buyer.

### **Breed Committee Election**

Calling all those young breeders out there – we want you!!

Over the past few years we have not been doing much promotion to lift the profile of our breed. We need young breeders to come forward and help drive our breed forward. Please put your name forward for next years breed committee election – we need you!

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### **2019 Dorset Down Tour – MOUNT COOK MUSTER**

Brace yourselves – the 2019 Dorset Down Tour planning is underway! On the Mount Cook Muster you will get to see some of the South Islands most picturesque scenery, as well as being hosted on farm by a number of our South Island breeders.

#### Sunday 28 April

- Annual Meeting @ 4pm, Ashburton Hotel

#### Monday 29th April

- visit Busch, Letham & Miles on the drive to Mount Cook

#### Tuesday 30th April

- Visit Dodds, on the drive to Oamaru & Kurow. Annual dinner at Oamaru.

#### Wednesday 1st May

- visit Cairds, Hawkes & McCulloch on way back to Ashburton

### **General**

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish all our breeders good luck with their ram sales this season. Keep up those good quality rams.

I hope you have a good spring and start to the summer, and if we don't see you at the Christchurch Show or upcoming ram fairs, have a wonderful Christmas and New Years.

*John Burrows*

President