

**NEW ZEALAND SHEEPBREEDERS
ASSOCIATION**

**POLL DORSET NZ & NZ DORSET
HORN BREED SOCIETY**

BREED NEWS

Confirmation of Breed Committee - Speed McIlraith, Rick Lee, Gary Illston, Ian McCall, Barry Rae, Cliff Deery, Ken Haywood and Ryan Carr.

A special welcome to Ryan who has replaced Warwick Boon.

**POLL DORSET CONFERENCE –
2017
VENUE – QUEENSTOWN
DATES – 9-10 MAY 2017
Mark these dates on your
calendar Now! – Itinerary &
Registration Forms out early next
year.**

National & Trans-Tasman Across Flock Analysis – currently there are 17 members who are involved with the Trans-Tasman analysis.

President's Report - Well another year is well underway.

The weather has been varied all over the country, with some areas in drought; North Canterbury is still very dry whilst some areas are having a great year.

I think the meat companies keep coming up with reasons why they cannot pay anymore for lamb. I am not sure Silver Fern Farms are on the right track!!!

Barry Rae is working on the next tour – Good Luck Barry.

The Royal Show was in October 2015; the Sheep Section was not well organized. This year we need to have some positive input to make it run better. There were four exhibitors in the Poll Dorset Section; two being from the far North. **Some more are needed to make it a better shop window for our Breed.**

Stud Sales – Christchurch was not good with ten entries, nine selling, with only one as a stud. Feilding was better with fifteen entries, thirteen selling.

I have heard that the pre lamb scanning is showing high percentages so all the best for a successful lambing and a more positive year farming wise.

Speed

President – Speed was re-elected

Vice-President – Rick Lee.

NZSBA Councillors – Ian McCall and Gary Illston

National Trans-Tasman Across Flock Analysis Facilitator – Ken Haywood

Promotions Coordinators – Gary Illston & Ryan Carr

CPT Facilitator – Ian McCall was appointed.

Promotion - The television advertisements were discussed. It was agreed that a wider audience had not viewed the advertisements. Agreed for this year – Breed to go on facebook/ no further television advertisements/advertise with printed media

Clubs to organize a story - Each Club to organize an article to be run with advertisements.

Breed Webpage – Committee members are encouraged to send to the office any Poll Dorset news, so it can be added to the webpage.

Article on a Commercial Breeder – Superior Lambs

“With a policy of buying in 2 year ewes and mating to terminal sires and fattening all lambs having mixed results, I observed the Poll Dorset sired lambs to be tougher and stronger at lambing time and with poor returns for wool a decision was made to run a purebred Poll Dorset commercial ewe flock producing heavy fast maturing lambs.

With slow early spring growth being the major limiting factor and dry summers we needed a ewe with fast growth rates. Our initial ewes were purchased in the form of ewe lambs from both Brooklands stud (Southbridge) and the Lochaire stud (Killinchy) with all lambs mated to Poll Dorset rams and all ewe lambs retained to gain numbers.

Now we only keep the best 200 twin reared ewe lambs, which are all mated to lamb on September 1, with any dry hoggets killed in July after scanning. The hoggets have weaned between 110% and 120% for the past 3 years to hoggets mated. The early single lambs from the hoggets are killed in the 1st week December between 18 and 20kgcw, and the rest of the hogget lambs are gone by mid-January in excess of 18kgcw. All hoggets are weaned in mid-December to allow them to recover and grow out before mating as 2-tooths.

Given slow early spring pasture growth rates on heavy soil we now lamb the mixed age ewes from mid-August. The ewes currently produce 150-160% lambs sold or retained to ewes mated. All single lambs are run separately after lambing to allow for the twin and triplet ewes to be preferentially fed. The single lambs are all killed off mum at Labour Weekend (70 days) averaging between 19 and 20kgcw for the past 3 years. The twin ewes are weaned and drafted in mid-November (90days) with 80% killed in excess of 18kgcw.

The ewes get a shower dip and an iodine (lamb survival) injection pre mating Nilvax pre-lamb along with the normal Campyvax and toxo immunisations. They are pre-lamb shorn in early May. They are currently being mated using Neville and Dianne Greenwoods (Adelong stud) rams. The main key advantage of the Poll Dorset ewe is her superior milking ability and the fact that in tough conditions she will sacrifice body condition in order to keep milking. With these attributes allowing for faster lamb growth rates meaning more lambs killed at weaning, we are currently investigating the possibility of milking some of the ewes this spring”.

Royal Show – Hastings – 19 – 21 October.

Royal Show Judge - Ryan Carr appointed

NEW FLOCK – We welcome F 579 Tim Wilson, Waipukurau and F 578 Zaine Gray, Owhanga.

BREEDERS CLUBS REPORTS

No 1 District – A Field Day was held recently visiting the properties of Ken Haywood and Warwick Rapley, attended by 10 breeders and also a meeting was held.

No 2 District – There was a good clearance of rams at sales. Rick Lee judged at the Dannevirke Show where there were strong Poll

Dorset entries. Poll Dorsets won the Interbreed Ram and Ewe Lambs.

The CPT Trial is strongly supported by members in the No 2 District.

No 3 District – A recent Field day was attended by 24 breeders, visiting the properties of Neville Greenwood and Speed McIlraith. A barbecue and meeting followed. The Ellesmere A & P Show will feature the Suffolk, Poll Dorset and Black and Coloured Sheep Breeds.

No 4 District – Currently involved in organizing next year's Conference.



30 June – out of season lambs on Gary Illston's property

Dorset Horn – Promotional Levy – It was agreed that Dorset Horn members be exempt from paying promotional levies.

Future CPT Costs - \$2,000.00 be allocated to be reimbursed and divided up for breeders on the number of rams nominated by the Breed Committee.

CT Scanning – That \$1,000.00 be made available to reimburse ram lambs and 2-th rams that are CT scanned, so as to assist in the selection of rams for the next year's CPT Trial.

Proviso – All rams subsidized by the Breed must be made available to membership.

MEMBERS – Please contact a Breed Committee member if you identify top ram lambs.

Let's hope the lamb market improves to give us more confidence in what we do so well – that is producing a quality product.
See you on tour in Queenstown.

