



**NEW ZEALAND
SHEEPBREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
SUFFOLK NZ
OCTOBER 2018**

Greetings Again Suffolk Members,

I hope that you have all had a stress-free lambing? In my region, we have had a very mild winter with only a couple of inclement days, so it made for a very easy lambing. Farmers in the North are hoping for some decent rain. We did have a good drop a week or two back, but the Polar blasts that followed it dried the pastures out very quickly. We definitely need lots more to spirit the grass away. I hope you Southerners were all able to keep your new-born lambs nice & warm behind a hedge or somewhere out of the cold while that polar blast was happening.

Yes!!!! 😊 The lamb schedule is something decent again & the outlook for Prime Lamb \$\$\$wise is looking pretty positive. \$8 kg is the order of the day, & many lambs at the saleyards are making \$200 +. Absolutely wonderful for sheep farmers, but I am hearing of some housewife resistance because chicken & pork are cheaper, especially Donald Trump's 'made in the USA' pork! Perhaps we need Beef & Lamb to erect a big fence between us & the USA? lol...

Ewe schedules are also looking VERY attractive, so if you have any old girls that haven't lambed, MARKET THEM NOW & make the grass available to your new lambs as no doubt the works will try to drop the high schedules asap.

I guess some of you are shearing, preening & appraising your sheep for the upcoming shows which aren't very far away now. The NZ Royal A & P Show is in Hastings again, it would be nice to see some Suffolk's entered in this show to promote our breed. Such a hectic time of the year with docking, weaning, weighing & drenching your lambs & making hay while the sun shines. Don't forget that in 2020 the Tour proposed is to Australia, so start saving for your fares now. As always, I am looking forward to my sojourn in the South, hope to catch you at the Canterbury Show & the Canty Sale. *Debbie*

BREED COMMITTEE NEWS:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:



The Breed committee has been very quiet since the last newsletter.

Stewart Morton, our Publicity Officer is again organising a series of adverts to be run at strategic times in the Farming Weekly.

Lambing is over and ram sale season is quickly approaching. Get your rams vet checked and cull rams that are not up to standard before they cut their 2 teeth, while they still grade as a lamb.

Sheep farmers should be happy to pay good money for good quality Suffolk rams this year.

I have said before if the commercial sheep farmer spends the value of 8 lambs to buy a commercial ram:

8@ \$120 = \$960,

the Ram Breeder should spend the value of 8 rams to buy a Stud Sire:

8@ \$960 = \$7680! Food for thought!!

If you have any spare rams available, please advertise them on the ram sale data base.

SIL are again changing their indexes and this will come into action in November. This will be known as the 'single step'. I am still trying to get my head around this, I hope it is not just a change for changes sake to justify its existence.

The Suffolk NZ Across Flock

We only have 16 members in this. It would be good to get more SIL recorded flocks to come on board and this should help you improve your indexes, especially if you link with other flocks. This won't improve your sheep physically, but it would make

your indexes more relevant. NZTW is the NZ Sheep Industry's only nationally recognised yardstick.

If our breed is not well linked on SIL, we will struggle to get rams in the CPT in the future. I personally would be unhappy to see our breed lose the Across Flock. If you wish to discuss SIL or Across Flock contact either myself or Rob Tennent our Across Flock Co-ordinator.

There appears to be consumer resistance to the high price being paid for lamb at present, with one of our big Co-ops saying they are losing \$20 a lamb at the moment. I hope we don't see the boom and bust of 2012. After saying that, outlook for lamb is still pretty good. The international price for grain is 30% higher than it was a year ago, so the price of pork and chicken will have to improve also which will hold up the lamb price.

Chris Hampton, Chairman, SUFFOLKNZ

COMMITTEE NEWS:

The Breed Committee is to meet again on Friday, 30th November after the Christchurch Ram Fair.

BREED COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

All members will receive their nomination forms in December this year. Nominations must be received to NZ Sheepbreeders office by Friday 8th February.

If there is to be an election, you will receive your voting forms by Friday 15th February, and they must be returned to NZ Sheepbreeders office by Friday 8th March.

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR.

NOW is the time of the year to voice who you would like to nominate for this prestigious award.

Please contact Chris Hampton, ph. 03)6143330 before November 1st with your nomination/s.

WELCOME TO NEW FLOCKS:

Flk. 1028 'Long Lee', SE Hughes, RD2, Ashburton

2020 TOUR TO AUSTRALIA

This is in the process of being coordinated now & you will be informed of progress as soon as decisions have been made.



UPCOMING SHOWS



NZ ROYAL A & P SHOW HASTINGS

17th - 19th October 2018

WAIKATO

27th - 28th October 2018

THE NZ AGRICULTURAL SHOW (CHRISTCHURCH)

14th - 16th November 2018



😊 **IT'S SHOWTIME** 😊

Click the link below to purchase show tickets before Nov.2nd at a discounted price.

<https://www.theshow.co.nz/key-information/tickets/>



NATIONAL RAM FAIRS



CANTERBURY RAM & EWE FAIR

Friday,
30th November 2018
12 NOON

ALL BREEDERS

The Suffolk section will start at 2pm.
Breed Committee meet at 4pm straight after the sale at Yaldhurst Tavern.

A social get together - Drinks & Dinner,
will then be held at approximately 5pm after the meeting.

For more details, contact Norm Carr
03)3036134 / 0274701068



FEILDING RAM & EWE FAIR



Tuesday,
11th December 2018



GORE RAM FAIR



Wednesday,
16th January 2019

LAMB BORN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA USING FROZEN IN-VITRO TRANSFER.

ABC RURAL CASSANDRA HOUGH, 1/9/18

Little 'JIVET' was born using speed-breeding technology known as juvenile in-vitro embryo transfer.

South Australian stud White Suffolk sheep producers have bred what is believed to be the first lamb of its kind in the world.



Photo: Nette Fischer

The lamb has been born using speed-breeding technology known as juvenile in-vitro embryo transfer, or JIVET. Stud owner Troy Fischer said the reproductive technology allowed breeders to harvest eggs from juvenile female lambs about 6 weeks old. Those eggs are then fertilised in-vitro (in a test tube) and then transplanted into the recipient mothers. The eggs of the young lambs, generally 6 to eight weeks of age, are used because this is the peak period for egg production in female sheep.

JIVET technology has been used for several years now but what makes this lamb unique is that it was born from a frozen embryo. "Some of the JIVET embryos were frozen at the time of implant. We had such a success rate that we didn't have enough recipients to put all the embryos in and so froze, or vitrified, some of the embryos," Mr Fischer said. "It's never been done before but basically, six months later, we thawed those embryos and transplanted them into surrogate mothers & we ended up with a live lamb, which has never been done before."

Mr Fischer said one of the challenges with the JIVET technology was that it required out-of-season breeding so if using frozen JIVET embryos were possible it would allow the technology to be used during a more conventional breeding period.

"If freezing is another way to utilise this technology you could potentially freeze those embryos and transfer them at a time that's a more conventional breeding period. That's a genuine possibility & could improve the applications and relevance of JIVET," he said.

POTENTIAL FOR PROGENY

ABC NEWS: TONY HILL

The Fischer's were one of many farmers in the Wasleys area, north of Adelaide, who lost livestock in the Pinery fire in 2015.



The technology has helped them rebuild their flock by speeding up the rate of genetic gain. "The real benefit of this technology is that by the time the lamb that donated those eggs is six-months old, she's actually got progeny on the ground," Mr Fischer said. "By the time she's 12 months she's a grandmother & has two crops of progeny, & by the time she's 18 months, when she would have had her first lamb naturally, she's a great grandmother with potentially hundreds of descendants on the ground."

"JIVET has been one of the many technologies we've employed after the Pinery fire that came through, we've used JIVET, we used conventional embryo transfer extensively, as well as artificial insemination and conventional breeding. We have tried to employ as many technologies as we could to breed the best possible sheep as quickly as possible."

It's not a technology without risk and requires genetic testing and structural assessment are done to assure the eggs are from the best lambs are harvested.

"The donors that we utilised were all around the top one per cent of the White Suffolk breed, so were essentially multiplying those genetics faster than what is possible through natural means, so were really just speeding up the rate of gain," Mr Fischer said.

The work was done in conjunction with the University of Adelaide & South Australian Research and Development Institute & key scientists were Dr Simon Walker, Dr Jen Kelly & Dr David Kleeman.



NZ SUFFOLKS TO JAPAN

In April 2017 a line of Paki-iti Suffolk ewe and ram hoggets were airfreighted to Miyagi, Japan. This was an area that had radiation poisoning due to the local nuclear reactor leaking during the 2011 earthquakes that devastated much of Japan. This resulted in the purchaser having to slaughter all of his stock. He received compensation from the Japanese government to re stock his property and subsequently ended up in New Zealand purchasing Paki-iti Suffolk's. This was followed up this year with 23 in lamb ewes being airfreighted to Miyagi. *Stu Morton, Paki-iti Suffolk Stud.*

BRUCELLA OVIS (BRUCELLOSIS) IN RAMS

Anne Ridler, Society of Sheep and Beef Cattle Veterinarians

Brucellosis is a disease caused by the bacteria *Brucella Ovis*. Its main effect is epididymitis (lumps around the ram's testicles), which causes a permanent reduction in fertility and, if lots of rams are affected, will reduce ewe pregnancy rates. However, for most flocks the main cost is in ram wastage – new rams are likely to get infected shortly after arrival and so are no longer able to contribute to flock genetics or a crop of terminal sire lambs.

Transmission requires close proximity, often by sexual contact, and is typically by direct ram to ram contact or from ram to ram by mating the same ewe. It will only affect ewes for a short time and they clear the disease by the following mating period.

The exact number of infected flocks in NZ is unknown but unfortunately there are still relatively high numbers of commercial rams that are never examined – some of these are likely to be infected. For flocks that have been recently infected it is usually possible to eradicate the disease by repeated blood testing and culling or in some cases it may be more practical and less expensive to replace the entire ram flock.

Common causes of new infections are as follows:

- Stray rams (e.g. from neighbours who don't get their rams examined yearly or feral sheep in scrub/forestry blocks)
- Untested bought-in rams e.g. cheap rams from a neighbour or dog tucker rams from a sale. Local ram fairs can sometimes be a risk, as entry requirements are variable and are sometimes slack.
- Winter ram lambs. Although lambs are free of the disease when they are born, as soon as they become sexually active they can become infected

and very rapidly start spreading the disease around and between farms.

The best way of being confident that the rams you buy are free from brucellosis is to buy them from an Accredited Free flock.

Some golden rules for rams:

- 1. Never buy a ram without seeing a current *B.Ovis* Accreditation Certificate.**

There are still a reasonable number of rams being sold around the country from breeders with no accreditation program in place. Don't assume, and don't just take a verbal assurance that the rams are 'Vet Checked' – confirm that the Rams and Stud are actually Accredited Free of brucellosis and have a current certificate issued by their veterinarian.

- 2. Don't buy dog tucker rams.**

A high percentage of these are infected (this is often the reason they have been culled).

- 3. With stray rams, if you are in a risky area, shoot first and ask questions later.**

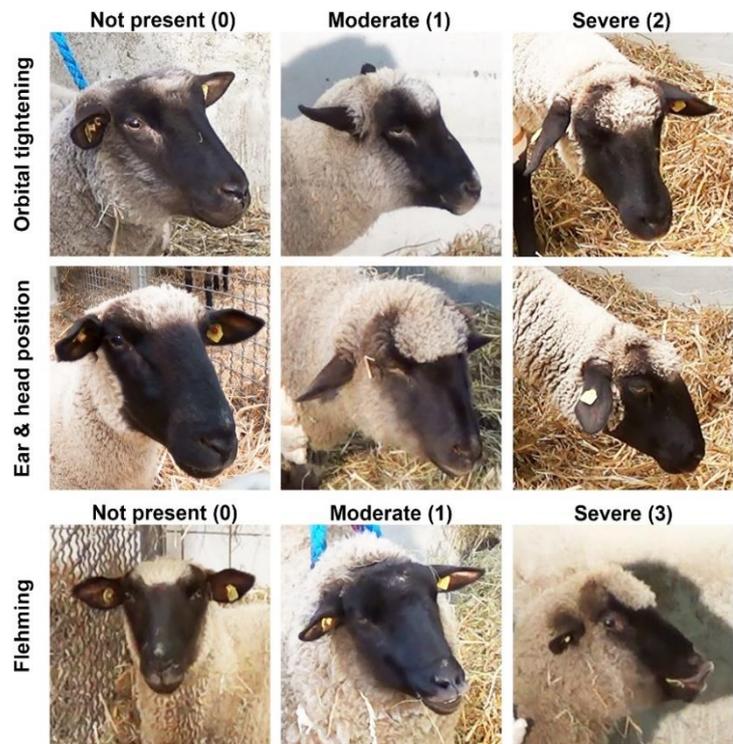
Treat any stray ram as infected. If you see a stray ram, remove him as quickly as practically possible (by any means necessary!). If the stray has been in the mob for a while it may be a good idea to get the ram flock tested.

- 4. Get your rams palpated by your local Veterinarian every year.**

If you are unlucky enough to have your flock infected, the sooner this is identified the sooner steps can be taken to reduce the impact. Keep your new rams separate until you have the flock checked each year. In high risk areas, many farmers choose to blood test the entire ram flock every year.

Compared to many diseases, Brucellosis is an easy one to keep on top of with some good habits and a community approach. At the very least, make sure the rams you buy are Accredited Free from Brucellosis.

SHEEP GRIMMACE PAIN SCALE



LAMB PIE WITH CHEESY MASH CRUST. Easy Peasy...

Serves 4

www.recipeideas.co.nz



Ingredients

- 500g lean Quality Mark lamb mince
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 large onion diced
- 1 packet Continental Rich Beefy Mince Recipe Base
- 1 large carrot peeled and diced
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups mashed potatoes
- 1/4 cup grated reduced fat tasty cheese

Method

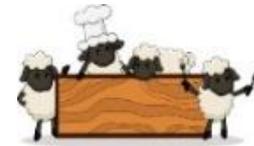
Preheat oven to 180°C.

In a large pan, brown mince and onions, add Recipe Base, carrot and water; stir well.

Cover & simmer gently for 10 mins, stirring regularly. Combine mash potato and cheese.

Divide mince mix between 4 bowls, topping each with the potato mix.

Place in oven and bake for 15 minutes, or until tops are golden.



For any information required from NZSBA, Greg Burgess & his team are always ready to help at greg@nzsheep.co.nz Phone 03) 3589412.

Don't forget you can download forms at the NZSBA website

www.nzsheep.co.nz



This Newsletter is only as good as EWE make it...

If you have any other topics that you wish to discuss, News Updates or anything interesting pertaining to the Suffolk Breed in general, please send direct to me at email:

studholmesuffolks@xtra.co.nz

or

Debbie Holmes ☺,

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DISCLAIMER: The Editor & New Zealand Sheepbreeders' Association accept no responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained in this Newsletter.