

Hello Members

It was gratifying to receive so many positive comments on the first issue of the newsletter so I hope it will continue to please! I met a few of you at our local A & P show in Masterton last month and the feedback was good.

Our show committee sent printed schedules to all NZSBA members in the lower North Island. Several said they would enter next year if we hold specific classes for their breeds. Breeds at this year's show included Dorset Down, Poll Dorset, Texel, and Shropshire (21 entries) from NZSBA members as well as a couple of Southdown breeders, and also a healthy Black & Coloured section with 28 entries. All A & P shows need sponsors and stewards. If you can't, or won't show, offer to be a steward or donate some prize money to sheep classes at your local show. Encourage the firms you deal with to consider it.

While I realise there are a lot of commercial buyers who seem to rely solely on SIL figures, they are not the 'be all and end all', of a good sound ram. We also need to be breeding functional animals of good constitution and longevity.

There is a comparatively recent field of scientific research called 'epigenetics'. As it was explained to me "DNA is the stuff that is written in ink and the epigenetic stuff is written in pencil" and may be altered. I imagine that is the equivalent of genotype and phenotype, but phenotypic effects can be intergenerational, not just affecting that individual at that time.

My inference is that breeding rams raised on over-fed dams, and grown out on extra good pasture, may pass on traits that mean their progeny will be genetically adapted to expect very good food all their days.

For those on computer try googling 'epigenetics for dummies' which I found when I looked. It's reasonably understandable. For those without a computer your local library may be able to source a helpful book.

There is nothing smarter at a show than a beautifully presented sheep in good condition – not over fed - as any buyer needs assurance his newly purchased ram can foot it, in the perhaps less than ideal conditions, down on the farm.

Helen McKenzie

Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From The President

Summer seems to want to go on and on, particularly on the east coasts of both islands, with temperatures more akin to life on the beach than sheepfarming.

With tupping underway in some areas and on the horizon in others the climate at the moment is making it a bit difficult to get that rising plane of nutrition and lift in bodyweight to obtain high conception rates.

As some breeders are now into the practice of leasing rams and ram lambs to clients I thought I would mention the importance of quarantining these rams on their return home. The risk of brucellosis rearing its ugly head is always a reality when rams are leased. On their return these guys should be put well away from your other rams until you have the results of a clear blood test. Ask your vet for the optimum quarantine period before blood testing.

I have raised this topic because the risk is always there if ram leasing is practised. An outbreak of brucellosis in a ram breeding flock is financially costly to eliminate as well as the infected seed stock slaughtered let alone the mind games it would play on the studmaster.

Hope the mating goes well and the autumn rains arrive.

Ian Stevenson

President NZSBA



From The General Manager

Thanks to the Border Leicester breeders for supporting the Feature Breed section this time. Remember this newsletter also goes up on our web page and so can generate a lot of publicity for your breed!

For those of you with commercial sheep farming clients, how about encouraging them to enter the NZ Ewe Hogget competition? Details are on the last page of this newsletter. Any queries get in touch with our office.

What happened to the sale results and Show photos? The latter were well supported in the first issue.

Greg Burgess

General Manager NZSBA



Feature Breed

BORDER LEICESTER SHEEP



A New Zealand Border Leicester

Photo: NZ Border Leicester webpage

Brief History

(Thanks to UK Society of Border Leicester Sheep Breeders)

The origin of the Border Leicester breed was as a descendant of the Dishley Leicesters which were bred by Robert Bakewell of 18th century agricultural innovation fame. He segregated males & females to enable controlled mating and developed a system of breeding termed 'in and in', or line breeding as it's known today. His sheep quickly became popular with surrounding farmers for improved meat quality and production through 'prepotency'. In 1760 he hired rams out for 17 shillings and 6 pence per ram; by 1786 he let 20 rams for 1000 guineas and the price rose to 1200 guineas for just three rams in 1789. The equivalent of roughly \$NZ 190,000 today!

The improved Leicesters were soon established on both sides of the Border with Scotland. Some breeders were crossing with the local Teeswater sheep whereas others were crossing in some Cheviot blood. The two variations were nicknamed the "Bluecaps" and the 'Redlegs'. Border farmers preferred the hardier Redlegs and by about 1850 this variant became known as the Border Leicester.

Arrival in New Zealand

According to the 1902 NZSBA flock book the first Border Leicesters arrived in NZ in 1859, imported by the New Zealand and Australian Land Company, Limited. Their first shipment arrived in the "Cheviot" at Port Chalmers in 1859 and consisted of 9 ewes and a ram. Three more shipments arrived over the next three years. The NZ & A Land Co., Ltd owned the first five flocks listed in the flock book; based at various locations from Southland to Canterbury. In 1901 flock #1, Clydevale Estate, had a total of 1800 ewes.

The earliest mention of Border Leicesters found on looking in National Library's Papers Past, was in 1873, when the "North Otago Times" of 7th January 1873 noted the importation of 2 lots of Border Leicesters. They were mentioned specifically as being imported on the 'Margaret Galbraith', from the Clyde. The sheep for Messrs Gillies & Street of Oamaru consisted of ten ewes – seven from the flock of Mr William Purves of Burnfoot, Kelso and 3 from

Mr Geo. Torrance of Sisterpath. One ram was from the flock of Lord Tweeddale (he won 1st prize Shearling at the Highland Society Show, Kelso, over 60 other rams) and the other ram was bred by Messrs James & Thomas Clark. A second lot on the same ship consisted of 30 rams and 20 ewes destined for NZ & A Land Co.

The Borders became very popular for crossing with Merinos. The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, 1966 says the Border Leicester was 'the predominant fat lamb sire until 1910'.

The oldest flock in the current NZSBA flock book is "Abbo" of Gregory's; flock number 51 registered first in 1895. The flock is now down to 25 ewes.

According to "Sheep Production Volume 1: Breeding and Reproduction" edited by G A Wickham and M F McDonald in 1901 there were 67 flocks with 12,836 ewes; in 1960, 347 flocks with 18,573 ewes, and in 1977, 320 flocks, with 34,801 ewes. Currently in NZSBA flock book Volume 111 of 2015 there are 31 flocks (3 with 'no annual return') and a total of 2,424 ewes.

In total 18,871 Border Leicester rams have been single entered into the NZSBA flock book. The peak of ewe numbers was reached in 1980 with 35,933 registered ewes.

Border Leicesters have contributed to the founding of two home-grown NZ breeds:-

The **Coopworth**, developed at Lincoln College in Canterbury during the 1950's and 60's; registered in 1969. Named after Professor Ian Coop, who initiated the performance recording and selection on which the Coopworth Society bases its strict breeding requirements.

The **Borderdale**, being a fixed Border Leicester/Corriedale cross. The NZ Borderdale Sheep Society was founded in 1977 although the commercial cross had been in use since the 1930's. This breed also had strict mandatory performance criteria. The highest flock numbers reached seems to have been 44 registered flocks. There are now no registered flocks listed with NZ Sheepbreeders' Association but there may well be commercial flocks still in existence.



Border Leicester ewes

Photo: NZ Border Leicester webpage

BREED CLASSIFICATION

Large, long-legged, with a pronounced Roman nose.

A comparatively prolific breeder.

A dual-purpose breed.

Principally used for cross-breeding to improve the fertility and performance of other breeds.

Location: Stud flocks are found throughout New Zealand with the majority being found in the South Island.

Bodyweight
Ewes: 55-65 kg (121-143 lb) Rams: 70-85 kg (154-187 lb)
Breeding/Lambing
Very good mothering ability. 110-160 percent.
Numbers
110,000.
Wool
Long, strong and lustrous. Individual staples are easily separated and end in a small curl. Fibre diameter: 37-40 microns. Staple length: 150-200 mm (6-8 inches). Fleece weight: Range 4.5-6 kg (10-13 lb). Average 5.5 kg (12 lb). Uses: Upholstery. Hand-knotted and machine-made carpet yarns.



STUD PROFILE #1

“Morton Mains” Flock #696, Invercargill.

Owned by James Pirie

This stud was founded in 1910 by William Pirie. In 1951 the flock of 420 ewes and 100 ewe hoggets was taken over by James.

A long and distinguished showing career with his sheep started at Wyndham and Invercargill Shows in 1950 but James did not then show again until 1956 from whence he has continued until now. Shows he has exhibited at over the years include Wyndham, Gore, West Otago (Tapanui) South Otago (Balclutha), Milton, Taieri, Otago (Dunedin), Ranfurly, Omakau, Upper Clutha (Wanaka), Tutatapere, Winton, Invercargill and Otautau.

His sheep have won about 425 Champion and Reserve ribbons. Of late he has found it less taxing to enter his fleeces rather than his sheep. He has entered every year in the area where the Golden Fleece competition has been held.

Recently James featured in a newspaper story that was syndicated to several papers. He had just won his ninth Champion fleece award at the Gore Show.



James with one of his prizewinning fleeces.

Photo: Southland Times

James states that the first mention of Border Leicesters in Show Reports was at Mataura Valley show in Mataura, in 1876, when McKerchars railed their sheep from Longbush (near Woodlands). He has also judged at shows outside the areas he was exhibiting in and is a judge for the Border Leicester Breed.

In his role as an inspector for the breed he inspected sheep for sale both by auction and for export. Among highlights, he recalls that he and Bert Edwards inspected a ram at Kennedys that was being exported to Russia.

James sent 130 sheep, mainly ewe hoggets and some ram hoggets, to Australia during 1957 & 1958. They were shipped in small numbers from both North and South Island ports. He mentions that his father had exported sheep to Australia about 15 years earlier. He also had sheep, along with other breeders, in shipments to Peru and USA (via Canada) and later, a plane load to China.

Currently “Morton Mains” flock has 118 registered ewes and the sires used in 2015 were Crystal Creek 372/12(tr) bred by DHJ Horrell, and Morton Mains 108/11 bred by the owner.

Some Reminiscences from James

‘I met James Edwards, then Chairman of the NZSBA, in Gore. He had some exciting news to tell me. He said to increase ewe numbers because Lincoln College had discovered that crossing Border Leicester and Romney was

the best thing that had ever happened to NZ sheep at that time, and when made public, there would not be enough rams to cover the demand. That statement proved to be so true. Just about every sheep farmer wanted some Border Leicester rams and I went away to walk the Milford track to keep away from it all after selling out of rams.

The phone had also been going at the local Wrightson's office, "We have a man here from Gisborne who has just come off a plane without contacting us first. Could he come and see you?" So he came with his farm boots on. The rams were put on a railway truck with a one day stop for a rest at Lincoln. Then another enquiry from Dargaville, "We are on some fairly rough country here with mostly cattle and these Border Leicester sheep will be just what we need." So another railway truck away, with stops for rest at Lincoln and Palmerston North.

Australia wanted ewe hoggets for breeding up to cross with Merinos. The few clients I had searched the country for anyone with spare stud ewes and they too were now having rams for sale. My own rams for sale peaked at 290 each year for three years. In my lifetime I worked out that I have sold around 9,890 Border Leicester rams!

The North Island breeders' clubs had asked to be able to see some sheep when they came to Christchurch for the meetings. So flock tours started and when Southland's turn came we had 3 full bus loads. These farm tours lasted for many years and many great friendships formed too. With the Border Leicester breed districts divided into five areas it was wonderful to see almost the whole of New Zealand while on flock tours each year.

When the flock tours started, one I remember well was an evening meeting, held in the Ruddenklau's historic homestead at Waimate. But where were the two new representatives from the North Island? They had not been on the flock tour. Just before the meeting finished, they turned up, after hitch hiking from Christchurch. So Percy Letham offered them a ride back to Ashburton, and let them out, where they stayed until 5am, when an early milk delivery truck picked them up!

One thing I had to learn about breeding and farming sheep early on was that I must feed sheep with my eye. All of the best breeding in the world is of no use if the stock is not well fed. An example of this is that Bill Kennedy decided to have an overseas trip. His position and knowledge was so great, the secretary of NZ Sheepbreeders' even met him on his return at the airport. Later, as usual, he took the top honours at Southland Show. He said afterwards that the same sheep had been in a very poor condition when he returned from overseas.

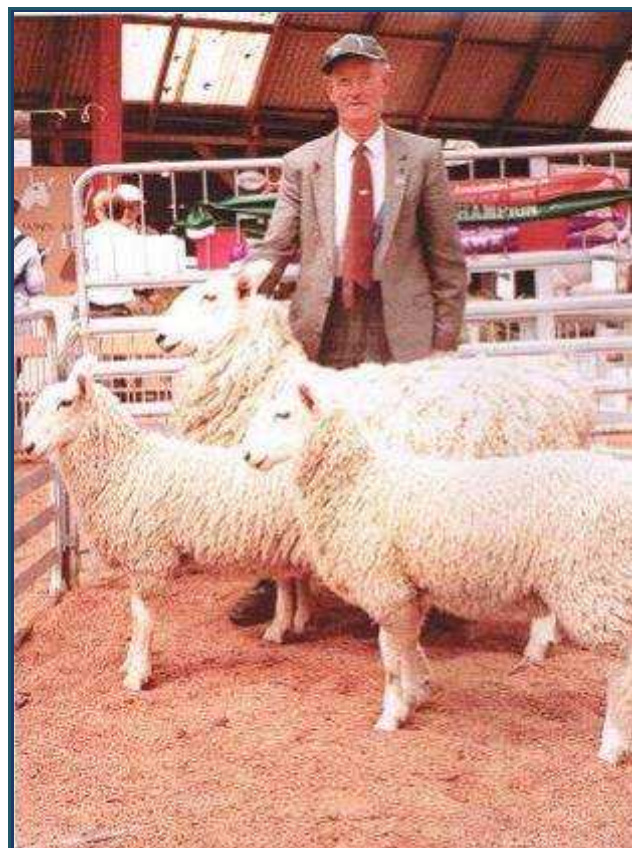
The first council meetings I went to were always held in Christchurch and I can remember milking the cow very early in the morning and flying to Christchurch and back very late at night to milk it again.

In 1988 the breed districts had flock numbers as follows: - northern North Island 15; southern North Island, 24; northern South Island down to Ashburton, 41; central South Island to Omakau, 34; and southern South Island 52.

This large number of sellers meant that newer stud owners reduced their prices to try and make sales; down to a level that when, after paying vet inspection and sheep registration fees, most studs made a loss and had to rely on other farm income. It was only the love of Border Leicesters that kept them selling and breeding.

I represented the Southern Districts for 35 years at Border Leicester flock level and during that time was on the Sheep Breeders' Council for 15 years.

Percy Letham went to Massey College to get help to put together a way of recording the fertility rating of each sheep. The highest number of lambs I tagged in one season was 1400 off 900 ewes. Too much hard work! My wife did say I spent more time with the sheep than her.'



James with one of his show champions and her lambs

Photo: Pirie family

FARM FACTS

Beef+Lamb NZ Compendium, 2015

- In 2012, 44% of farms were mainly sheep & beef.
- Sheep numbers have dropped from 39.27 million in 2004 down to 29.56 million in 2014.

STUD PROFILE #2

Ravah Stud, Border Leicester Flock #1139, Timaru

Owned by John G. Campbell

This flock was founded by John in 1968. Until recently the stud was known as 'Lainglee'. With 198 ewes registered in the last flock book it is among the bigger Border Leicester studs. The name of the stud was changed to 'Ravah' last year.

John started off with some cast for age ewes from Billy Kennedy (Flock #190) of Otautau. Billy's flock was the leading flock in the country at the time, with rams such as Studleigh 8-57 and sons, Studleigh 4-60 and Penders 5-59.

John began breeding Border Leicesters because the first cross ewes out-produce Romney ewes, mainly because of 'hybrid vigour'. They have a quiet temperament and there was a good market for rams. He says it's really only a hobby now. The commercial ewe flocks that bought rams have all but disappeared around him; a combination of farms now running mainly composite sheep breeds and increased dairying.

John purchased Haydowns 80-65, bred by Jim Thompson (Flock #710) of Kia Ora, Oamaru. He used a ram by him, out of Studleigh 6-60, triplet of a leading stud ram in the North Island, Studleigh 7-60 of Owen Ellerm's (Flock #858).

Studleigh 6-60 had 18 lambs in 10 lambings and the dam of Haydowns 80-65, Haydowns 16-59, had 18 lambs in 8 lambings in North Otago, during a period when North Otago had six years of very bad droughts. She was Jim Thompson's highest producing ewe out of which he used another ram, Haydowns 1-61. Haydowns 16-59 was by Stoneylea O78-56. The latter ram was by Aberdeen 104-53, which was one of the top breeding rams in the country at the time. The well known and well respected "Aberdeen" flock belonged to Bob Lowe, of Methven.

Among others John also bought ewes from John Gunn at Darfield.

He considered that the next most influential sire he used was Glenstrae 70-74, bred by Neil Scott, (Flock #568) of Coldstream. 70-74 twice set the record price for a Border Leicester ram sold within NZ.

In 1987, John and his family shifted, to South Canterbury. The farm is 100 metres above sea level, 20kms inland, from Timaru. He uses what he calls 'dry land technique on the downs', as he doesn't have irrigation and the annual rainfall is less than 550mm per year. This technique involves cropping; growing feed wheat, feed barley, seed peas, mustard or cabbage for seed and sometimes ryecorn for spring feed, and hopefully, also for seed. He also grows about 14 acres of lucerne.

Three Stoneylea rams were used in the 1990's, two of which had some influence on the flock; the last one being by a 'Te

Taumata' ram of Jim McWilliam's, Masterton. He was the grandsire of a ram he used quite a lot, 129-02. Ram 348-06 was a ram lamb out of an in lamb ewe he bought from David Kennedy's dispersal sale at Gore.

In 1997 John tried a worm host resistance blood test on his ram hoggets, but this later proved to be unreliable.

In 2005 he began doing DNA footrot scores with Lincoln University. Today most of the rams he uses in the stud are either 1,1s or 1,2s. The two came from Amberlea 28-00 from David Simpson of Oamaru. He was a 2,3. John says his flock, and rams he bought, were either 3,3s; 1,3s and 1,1s.



'Lainglee 403-12,' Champion Ram, Ashburton Show, Nov. 2014 & Reserve at Canterbury, 2014 Photo: JG Campbell



Champion ewe, Waimate, 2015 Photo: JG Campbell

John says in 2011 UK had 1555 ewes in 116 flocks. Average flock size 15, largest 60.



Top priced ram at the Lanark Sale in 2010. Made £4,800.

Photo: UK Border Leicester Flock Book CXIII

STUD PROFILE # 3

Te Taumata, Border Leicester flock # 836

Owned by McWilliam Stud Stock, Masterton

Supplied by Eileen McWilliam

The McWilliam Family began a multi-generational passion for Border Leicesters over 60 years ago. Farming on rolling hill country in Gladstone in the Wairarapa, Alistair and his teenage sons, Jim and Bill, started the Te Taumata prefix in 1958. The flock was developed with ewes purchased from Bob Low's Aberdeen Stud near Methven. Prior to starting the stud, Alistair had a sheep breeding and fattening operation based around a Border Leicester x Romney ewe flock. Border Leicester first cross ewes were widely regarded for their fertility, mothering and milking ability and Alistair's commercial experience showed him that the ewes were top performing fat lamb mothers. In 1960, the family started a Romney stud to provide clients with a complete cross-breeding programme. In 1961, Aberdeen Stud and Te Taumata imported 2 rams, in partnership, from the highly regarded Kelso Park Border Leicester Stud in Shepparton, VIC Australia. These imported rams had a big influence on both partners' flocks.

Under the management of Jim and Bill, the Border Leicester flock peaked at about 300 ewes in the late 1970's, before dropping to the current 150 ewes to make way for more beef cows on the farm. Jim and Bill exported Border Leicester rams all over the world, including Chile, Nepal, Bulgaria and Australia. Recent semen exports to Australia have resulted in sale topping progeny. An Australian sire, 'Geraldine Clarkson', was imported from Ian Baker's Geraldine Stud, Victoria.



Te Taumata 2 tooth rams, 2012 Photo: McWilliam family

Like most sheep breeds, Border Leicesters have made significant genetic gain over the years. Modern Te Taumata ewes are more moderate in size and exhibit strong constitution, bone, longevity and carcase characteristics. Quality wool is also factored into the breeding programme. Wool must be shorn, so it makes sense to achieve the highest returns possible by selling a top quality product. Border Leicester crossbred ewes still attract high prices at saleyards and form highly profitable ewe flocks. First cross lambs grow quickly to ideal prime carcase weights and are high yielding.

The McWilliam Family continues to sell rams throughout New Zealand, with Jim's son, Alistair, taking the lead. Nationwide, the number of Border Leicester rams bred and sold has declined over the years as new breeds were imported and a trend away from traditional crossbreeding to composites. But the McWilliam Family believe that the modern Border Leicester is still one of the best maternal crossbreeding options and will be providing top quality rams to commercial clients for many years to come.

Below: McWilliams 2 tooth Ewes Summer, 2016



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MATINGMARK



SOUTH SUFFOLK NZ

Breed Tour/Conference Masterton, May 2016

Could breeders please note that the tour has been confirmed for May, and will be based in Masterton, beginning Monday May 16th 2016.

Further details to breeders shortly.

Contacts: Alan Evans ☎ 06 372 4852
Simon Prouting ☎ 06 374 3661

AROUND THE SHOWS

SUCCESSFUL COMPETITION *Report by Editor*

The Wairarapa 'Gate To Plate: Lamb On Hoof, Hooks And Plate Competition', run by Masterton A & P Show last month (February) was very successful. The new co-ordinator, Gretchen Saulbrey, built on the good work of the previous co-ordinator and increased the profile of the competition dramatically. There was over \$7,000 in prizes, including \$1700 in spot prizes.

Several of the 10 lambs in the final were a three way cross, being by a purebred terminal sire out of first cross white face ewes, one half generally being Romney. I understand the 3 way cross gives the best growth rate using hybrid vigour.

I found the following in an article by David L. Thomas, a professor of Sheep Genetics & Management at Wisconsin-Madison University, USA

'A purebred ewe mated to produce crossbred lambs is expected to wean 17.8% more weight of lamb than a purebred ewe mated to produce a purebred lamb – the HVI effect. If we use crossbred ewes to produce crossbred lambs, we get an additional 18.0% increase in performance from HVM, or a total increase of 39% over production of purebred lambs'

The competition was initiated by Alan Williams, a local Dorset Down breeder, and current President of Masterton A & P Show.



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The following is a short piece from the recent obituary of Joe Henson, a British founding member of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, published in the Trust's "Ark" magazine.

'Joe used to tell the story of how traditional Cotswold shepherds were buried with a hank of wool in their hand so that St Peter would know that it was because they were tending their flocks that they could not always get to church on Sunday.

When Joe was laid to rest by Gill, his wife and partner for nearly 60 years, and family he was holding a hank of wool from the best Cotswold ewe in the Bemborough flock and, just for good measure, he was resting in a coffin made of British wool.'

THE HERBERT SHEEP -

The forest breed ideal for woodland

- Of feral origin recognized in the 1970's
- As taken from the Rarebreeds Conservation webpage
- Our experiences

"Wild" sheep or "bushies" have long been known to occur in the area around the headwaters of the Waianakarua River, inland from Herbert and Hampden, in North Otago. This area is at the southern end of the Kakanui Mountains and the northern end of the Horse Range. They originated from "stragglers" that escaped muster on sheep farms, and although occasionally shot, were largely left alone. From about the 1970's serious efforts were made to eradicate these feral animals, partly to facilitate development of some of the land, and partly because of the perceived damage they were causing to patches of native forest. About this time, some were "redomesticated", largely for their novelty value.

Although these sheep are generally referred to as the "Herbert" breed – named after the Herbert Forest plantation of exotic pine trees planted in the foothills – they have also been called "Waianakarua" sheep from the river that flows through the area, and even "Kakanui" from the southern end of the mountain range, part of which forms the catchment of the River.

About a year ago Philip Simpson contacted me to find out if we knew of a new home for his Herbert sheep as he was looking at a flock reduction. We were very keen to have them at Avonstour so we could breed and study this feral breed as we have for many other breeds in the past. The things we look at are do the breeds consume foods that differ from other breeds. Do they naturally shed their wool under farming conditions; parasite resistance and anything that stands out.



Herbert sheep at Avonstour Heritage Island Photo: J Earney

We have a flock of only 16 that are all coloured. As you see in the photos the range runs from dark to patchy but they are not black; they are genetically moorit. This is brown Dark brown which is their birth colour and colour when shorn. The patchy gene comes from the Merino base and both Merino and Dorset hold this gene.



A shorn two tooth

Herbert Ewe

Photo: J Earney

The wool is very similar to fine halfbred and is soft and free of kemp. The skin is very thin for shearing, but completely smooth

with no wrinkles and they do not shed wool as some breeds do. Only the rams are horned. I would put them as $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ Merino but after at least 60 years or much more self selection they are now Herbert's with fixed genetics.

We run our Herbert sheep as a gene pool with rams and ewes together all year with no docking as they would in the wild. But it will become hard as our limit for each breed is 20, so we will have to take the older ones out and the spare ram lambs in the future.

They are an interesting breed that move around and graze as a close flock not spreading out as individuals. They spend a large amount of time in the scrub and bush where you can walk past them ten feet away and miss them (not unlike fallow deer). The complete flock work as one and move around very close to each other.

They do not mix with other sheep and the flock is controlled from the master ram or even an older ewe. I think this trait has contributed to the purity of the strain. They are very vigorous and will climb river banks and slips other breeds cannot. But they are easy to muster and are calm in the yards etc. They have lambed over the complete year, all singles that have grown well, with not one loss.

Their diet is interesting as they eat trees and shrubs and are the only breed we have that will ring bark willows and some other weed trees. They will also eat blackberry at will but will not eat yarrow that our other sheep fatten on. They will be seen eating the rank grasses over the fresh growth and prefer the grass within a wooded area.

This year (2015/2016) has been a hot and humid year with a high incidence of fly strike in our area, BUT not one Herbert struck. The flock remains undrenched and is dag free and fat. We have yet to see what the meat is like, and I hope they are as good as they look, as other feral breeds are good for the table. The wool will make very good spinning fleeces.

An interesting experiment would be to use a ram as a terminal sire to see what hybrid vigor is given and which survival traits are passed on. "Avonstour" is not big enough to do this, but we hope to find some share farmers who are prepared to give it a go.

John Earney

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A BIT OF HISTORY

Auckland Star 22 April 1939- *National Library Papers Past*.

High Class Sheep Consignment for Dominion

Received 10a.m. SYDNEY, this day

A consignment of high class Dorset Horn stud sheep for Mr H Besley for New Plymouth is aboard the 'Awatea'.

The sheep were personally selected by the purchaser from a prominent stud in New South Wales.



AUSTRALIAN SHEEP

NZ Herald 31 October, 1938- *National Library, Papers Past*

SHIPMENT BY WAITAKI MERINOS AND SUFFOLKS

SOUTHERN STUD PURCHASES

[BY TELEGRAPH – OWN CORRESPONDENT]

DUNEDIN, Saturday

One of the largest shipments of stud sheep brought from Australia to Otago for some years arrived by the Waitaki to the order of prominent Central Otago studmasters. The importation comprised about 125 stud Merino rams from proved South Australian flocks, one stud Suffolk ram and 25 Suffolk ewes which are destined for the Canterbury Seed Company's stud at Leeston. The sheep were imported under the direction of Dalgety and Company, Limited.

The Merinos were a good, even lot of quality sheep of the big-framed, open-faced type, carrying a heavy fleece of attractive Merino wool, and the introduction into Otago flocks of the new strains they represent should have a beneficial effect on Merino quality in this province. The bulk of the importations were bred by the Kalabity Pastoral Company, Limited, one of the foremost Merino studs in South Australia, and the remainder were drawn from the Anama Pastoral Company's flock, which occupies a no less prominent position in the breed in Australia and which has contributed largely in the past to shipments to Otago.

Interest in the Suffolk breed of sheep is growing slowly but steadily in New Zealand, but too few of the type have been seen in Otago. The 26 head which have arrived by the Waitaki have been trucked to their new owners, the Canterbury Seed Company, at Leeston.

They are attractive looking sheep and said to be typical of a breed that has grown rapidly in usefulness and popularity in Australia. They were bred by and purchased from the Pembury stud of Mr A C Duval, who is recognised as an Australian authority on the breed.

New Zealand Ewe Hogget Competition 2016

This nationwide iconic competition is now in its 20th year and entries are welcomed.

What the Judges are looking for:-

Flock Performance

50 points

You need to supply background information on the farm, stock numbers and productivity

Wool Quality/Production

15 points

Wool will be assessed for meeting breed specification, suitability for processing performance and end use. Also, wool characteristics.

Breeding and Selection Objectives

15 Points

Consistent breeding objectives over your flock. Selection objectives need to be related to market trends and objectively measured where possible.

Phenotype (Breed Type)

20 Points

Breed characteristics, conformation, structural soundness and type to be consistent with breeding objectives and allow for new breeds and crosses to be compared.

The Press Release on this year's competition, entry form, and judging criteria are all available on the NZSBA website:-

www.nzsba.co.nz or

contact the office on

☎03 358 9412 to get a printed copy sent to you.

'Anyone who believes in infinite growth on a finite planet is either mad – or an economist'.

David Attenborough

The closing date for next issue of the newsletter will be 20th May for the June 2016 Newsletter.

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SUFFOLKNZ AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR 2015



The most pleasant aspect of Debbie Holmes being awarded Suffolk Ambassador 2015 was her genuine surprise.

Presenting the award, Stewart Morton, Chairman SUFFOLKNZ, described Debbie as the hidden worker behind the scenes. In receiving the award Debbie commented that she enjoyed her work. Such a pleasing comment to hear. So often people are 'pushed' into office while others sit back and reap from their contemporaries labours, and so often it is those sitting back who are first to come forward with criticism. Thus Debbie's enjoyment has been rewarded.

It is said if you have no enemies you have never challenged. If there isn't challenge, there isn't progress. It is how one challenges.

Debbie and her husband Brian formed the Studholme Suffolk Stud in 2003 and thus began an intense involvement in our organisation. This year is their first year with an entry to Feilding Sale and we wish them success.

My first impression of Debbie is of an effervescent personality with a desire to question and learn. From this our organisation has benefitted. Debbie is best known for her newsletters, unlike the author of this document, has managed to tread a path free of the barbs that are associated with journalism.

Debbie has been Northern North Island Representative on the national Breed Committee since 2007 and started the newsletters in 2009 with a two-page document. Debbie had commenced similar roles with the Northern Suffolk Breeders Club committee prior. Newsletters are time consuming and while one is enjoying composing such letters time seems to fly; they are a task. Newsletters are one of the best forms of keeping an organisation active,

progressive and unified. While some people might take exception to the odd comment it brings matters to the fore rather than hiding the matter for the subject to become gossip and disruptive. Debbie has been innovative with recipes, jokes and information on our counterparts overseas.

We thank you Debbie for your tireless labour and look forward to many more newsletters. Believe it or not Debbie, you are a worthy ambassador for the Suffolk industry.

Michael Howie, Glenwood Stud, Oxford

OTHER BREED TOURS OR GET-TOGETHER'S THIS YEAR

English Leicester Hororata 26 April

Dorset Down North Canterbury – 1 – 4 May

Suffolk – Otago 11 May – 13 May

Dorper – Fairlie 13 – 15 May

Charollais – Lawrence 24 May

Texel – Napier 31 May – 2 June

East Friesian 18 April Taupo

Always a great time for all involved.