

Sheep NewZ #4 Spring 2016



Hello Members,

I hope you're all having, or about to have, a successful lambing.

For those not on email please note the closing date (20th November) for the next issue in your diary as you will not get a mailed reminder.

Warwick & I had a visit from an American Shropshire breeder, Elise Brown. She had put an ad on the Sheepbreeder's Association website asking for places to stay and/or work. I was amazed to hear that we were the only reply she had. We have met so many lovely people over the years through livestock (we specialise in a few heritage breeds - Shropshire & Ryeland sheep, Red Poll cattle and Clydesdale horses) and have also been involved in the "Farm Helpers in NZ" scheme. Of course, these days we all have to think twice about inviting others on to our properties but I'm sure, that with the normal common sense that most farmers have a good dollop of, we can still participate in schemes such as Woofers, FHiNZ and Help Exchange without compromising our farm safety records.

If you have a large mortgage and a young family it is unlikely you will be travelling overseas for a few years. These schemes are a great way to have "overseas" come to you, which expands both you and your children's view of the world. Farm Helpers scheme involves visitors working for 3 – 5 hours a day for bed and board. Some have their own transport but others we take around a few local tourist sites. You get to see things in your district you've never made an effort to visit before!

Once again A & P show time is approaching fast. Many of you are regulars at your local show but how about giving the Royal a turn, especially if you live in the North Island, as it is based at Hastings again this year. We attended last year with Shropshires and Ryelands (and a Red Poll bull) and enjoyed it very much. Of course, with not having been much in the way of livestock other than horses at Hastings Show for several years there were a few hiccups in the organisation, but please do not let that put you off. The young sheep stewards were the best I've come across, so pleasant and helpful.

Royal Show Schedules are available on line now at: www.showgroundshb.co.nz then go to "Competitions" and select the Sheep Section. Close 15th Sept. Late entries OK, but not catalogued. See you there!!

Helen McKenzie
Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

From The President

Helen asked me for a few notes on the background of my years within the sheep breeding industry.



My wife Anne and I started breeding South Suffolk sheep in 1973, as we tried to buy South Suffolk rams, but could not source them at that time. I joined the Southern South Suffolk club a few years later and was President for three years.

In 2008, I became one of the South Suffolk delegates, along with John Brown, of Ashburton. From 2009 until 2012, I was Junior Vice President, moving on to Senior Vice President 2013- 2015 and this year being elected President.

I intend to keep up the good work of our former presidents and I enjoy the companionship of the delegates.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Ian Stevenson for his three years in this position, and also for now taking on the Treasurer's position for the Association.

A big thank you, to Peter Cosgriff, for his sterling effort of being Treasurer for 33 years.

Tom Burrows has put his hand up to be Senior Vice President and we have no Junior Vice President at this stage.

There have been a few rumblings amongst Sheepbreeders' Association members, about certain unregistered sheep breeds obtaining support for research and development from Beef and Lamb NZ and government sources, to back their breeds. They feel the registered breeds are being left behind.

Sometimes, I wonder if the Romney, Perendale and Southdown breeds should unite with our Sheepbreeders' Association, to try and get a larger voice to challenge these situations.

If you have any thoughts on the matter don't hesitate to contact me or send your information to the Sheepbreeders' Association office.

Finally, may I wish all breeders all the best for the lambing, and may the year bring some reward for your hard work.

Jim Berney
President NZSBA



From The General Manager

I would like to welcome **PGGWrightson** and **Shearwell NZ Ltd** as joint sponsors of Sheep Newz; they also support our website www.nzsheep.co.nz.

Breeds have a tremendous opportunity to raise their profile by entering lamb competitions, as the publicity generated is priceless. An example is our local **Mint Lamb Competition at the Canterbury A & P Show**.

The changes made this year have brought this competition in line with the lamb industry's requirements. The organisers have removed penalty points for trimmer lambs, increasing the weight limit to 14-23kgs and creating a highest yield prize for each class.

Enter now and encourage your clients to give it a go.

The recently developed generic import protocol has changed and now sheep and goat germplasm can be imported from the EU. This has opened the door to small breeds who require genetics, but has come at a cost to those people exporting to Australia, as Australia is against this new protocol and doesn't accept this new science, and have now enforced strict guidelines for exports from New Zealand. If someone imports from the EU their property is 'ring fenced' and no germplasm is eligible for export for 7 years. AI centres also have to be careful to not deal with any imported germplasm. It was recently reported that the annual trade to Australia is 160 animals, 3,800 doses of semen and 700 embryos so the Government obviously feels the benefits of supporting this new protocol outweigh the costs.

Discussions with Australia are pending. [See article By JF McPhee BVSc near back of newsletter. Editor]

The new Association President is Jim Berney, from Owaka, in South Otago. Jim and his wife Anne have both a South Suffolk stud, *Criag-Annat*, founded in 1973 and an Oxford stud, *Lakeside*, founded more recently in 1991.

Immediate Past President, Ian Stevenson, has taken on the role of Treasurer.

This time of year the office is presently checking members Annual Returns and this information is then entered onto this year's Flock Book, and Breed Committees are continuing to meet.

The weather for lambing in Canterbury has been tremendous, but now we will need to feed those lambs, as we could very well be looking at a hot dry summer....

A big thank you to Helen who formulates *Sheep Newz*. I thank her for her passion, patience, and for producing a quality product. Helen will deservedly now be remunerated for her efforts.

Good photos of your sheep, and articles, are needed for the newsletter to be viable. If your breed is to be featured please get behind the feature and put in an advertisement (free) for your stud or a story.

If you've got a sale or dispersal coming up let the Editor know so it can be featured. Next issue will be out early December. Please don't leave info gathering til the last minute as there is an **early** December publishing date!

Greg Burgess

General Manager, NZSBA



OBITUARY

Mr Ivor Robinson

The Association has recently lost one of our Life Members, Mr Ivor Robinson. Ivor was a passionate breeder of English Leicesters and always exhibited at shows. Just for the record Ivor was on the English Leicester Breed Committee from 1965-1992. He was Chairman 1974-76.

He represented the English Leicesters on the NZSBA Council 1971-1989, was President of the NZSBA 1978-1983. A very nice gentleman, who would always help a fellow breeder, he will be missed.



Watch out for the item on NZ Sheepbreeders' Association member, Ike Williams, a South Suffolk and Lincoln breeder. He also has Romney and Southdown studs.

Ike will be featured on Rural Delivery, Saturday 17th September. Ike was a pioneer of "On Line" ram sales.

It is worthwhile "googling" Ike and seeing what some positive publicity is all about. I just entered "Ike Williams sheep" and up came some items [Editor]



Feature Breed

CORRIEDALE SHEEP



Brief History

The Corriedale was the first sheep breed to be developed in New Zealand. James Little is acknowledged as the primary developer of the breed in New Zealand although others followed shortly thereafter in both Australia and New Zealand.



James Little

Little arrived in NZ in 1863 as escort to some Romney Marsh sheep being imported from the UK for Dr Webster, of Corriedale and Balruddery Stations, in North Otago. Little worked there, concentrating on expanding and improving the Romney flock (using “in” and “line” breeding) until 1878 when Dr Webster died, and he then moved to his brother’s property at Allandale, in North Canterbury.

Dr Webster also owned several thousand Merino sheep and Little persuaded Webster to let him try some crossing of the Romneys over Merinos which was deemed very successful.

About this time breeders in Canterbury were producing Lincoln and English Leicester crossed with Merino ewes, known as “halfbred” sheep. These had heavier fleeces, better mothering ability and higher lambing percentages than the straight Merino. Little had foresight and realized that if the trend continued using the Merino ewes for crossing they would become very hard to find. He also noted that frozen meat exports to Britain were becoming a distinct possibility and wool would not be the only product required from a sheep.

According to PG Steven’s Memorial Address, “James Little and His Corriedale Sheep”, ‘Little planned a sheep which would thrive on the low rainfall hill country, produce both a profitable fleece and a commercial carcase, and most important of all, breed true. In short he wanted a new breed which would replace the future uncertainty of the cross breeding system’.

At his brother’s property, Little established a 2000 head flock of Merino ewes using lines from good quality, well established, flocks. He mated these ewes with Lincoln rams from which he picked the progeny most fitting his ‘ideal’ type. From the top 100 rams he chose 20 as sires for his breeding programme and put them over the pick of the first cross ewes. He chose to breed in unrelated ‘families’, although if he had a particularly good ram he would use him in all groups. One such, Old Jonathan and his progeny were prominent in the *Hui Hui* flock of his son H T Little.

By 1900 the “inbred halfbred” breed was becoming better known with the name “Corriedale” commonly used. In 1902 the A & P Associations’ conference in Dunedin discussed an official name for the breed and Corriedale they became.

In 1903, the NZ Sheepbreeders’ Association gave appendix recognition to the breed, with some provisos. Little’s was the first flock listed. In 1916 twenty flocks moved to full registration within the Sheepbreeders’ Association.

In 1910 Corriedale breeders formed their own association, which in 1923 became a separate body, the Corriedale Sheep Society. It issued its first flock book in 1924 with 87 flocks listed. Some members chose to stay in the NZ Sheepbreeders’ Association flock book until the late 1940’s. With the decline in the number of registered ewes and breeders the Corriedale Society members rejoined the Association in 1988. The 2015 Flock book had 5000 registered ewes in about 30 flocks. There are of course many thousands of commercial Corriedales still in NZ.

Corriedales are found in many countries throughout the world including thousands in South America (their most numerous sheep breed), the USA, Australia, Japan (several thousand exported to Japan from NZ in the late 1920’s early 1930’s much to Australia’s chagrin, but only small numbers there now) & South Africa. They were also exported to Kenya where they still thrive to this day.

The First International Corriedale Congress was held at College Hall, Lincoln, in November 1950.

Bibliography:

“Memorial Address – James Little and His Corriedale Sheep”; PG Stevens, Canterbury Agricultural College, Christchurch [*Date unknown*].

NZ Sheepbreeders’ Association Flock Book, Vol. 111, 2015

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Corriedale Breed (*Papers Past, Nat. Lib NZ*)

NZ Herald, 12th December, 1939

[By Telegraph – Press Association] Oamaru, Monday

An event of great historical interest for North Otago occurred on Saturday with the unveiling by Mr James Rodman, chairman of the Waitaki County Council, at Corriedale Homestead, Windsor, of a stone commemorating the foundation there of the Corriedale breed of sheep in 1863 by the late Mr James Little.

BREED CLASSIFICATION

The Corriedale is a flexible, medium-sized breed suited to drier environments. It has a comparatively long productive life of up to seven years. It is a dual-purpose breed, with equal emphasis on meat and wool. Rams are used for crossing with Romney or Perendale flocks to increase their body size, and to improve the fineness, weight, handling and colour of their wool.

Location: Corriedales are located in the drier parts of New Zealand. The breed is most common in the South Island, in Marlborough and the eastern areas of Canterbury & Otago, and in the drier parts of the North Island.

Bodyweight
Ewes: 65-80 kg (143-176 lb) Rams: 85-105 kg (187-231 lb)
Meat
Good length of carcase and muscling provides lean lambs for slaughter at an early age, or at a later age for heavyweight lamb grades.
Breeding/Lambing
90-130 percent
Numbers
About 2.8 million commercial
Wool
Fibre diameter: 28-33 microns (adults); 24-30 microns (hoggets). Staple length: 75-125 mm (3-5 inches). Fleece weight: Range 4.5-6.5 kg (10-14 lb). Average 5.5 kg (12 lb). Uses: Adaptable to many uses, including medium-weight outer garments, worsteds and light tweeds, and hand-knitting yarn.

STUD PROFILE #1

“Parham Hill” Flock #96, Culverden Owned by Hoban Family

Parham Hill was settled by the Hoban family in 1909.

James and Sarah Hoban began breeding Corriedale sheep in 1912 and the *Parham Hill* stud was officially registered in 1925.

The stud was continued by the late William and Margaret Hoban from 1937 until 1976, when Pat and Judith Hoban took over. James and Maria Hoban now farm in partnership with Pat and Judith. James and Maria’s children Alice (4) and William (2) are the fifth generation of the Hoban family to live at *Parham Hill*.

Culverden was centred on a sheep and cropping community until after irrigation was established in the late 1970’s. Today the district is predominantly made up of dairy farms.

The district has produced some famous Corriedale studs, including *Culverden Downs* and *Auchtercairn*. *Parham Hill* is the only remaining Corriedale stud in the area.

Today the *Parham Hill* Corriedale Stud is made up of 160 stud ewes. We also run 200 Corriedale flock ewes. The commercial flock ewes are mated to a Texel terminal sire. There are also 90 stud ewe hoggets currently on farm and 220 Corriedale flock ewe hoggets which were purchased recently.



Longevity is a feature of the Corriedale breed. Parham Hill 76-7. Christchurch Super Ewe Champion 2015. Nine years old with three big triplets who had never seen a milk bottle in their life.

In 2011, 30 top *Wattlebank* ewes were purchased from Bill and Pauline Bain, to add to the *Parham Hill* Flock. We mostly use *Glenovis* rams and have done for over fifty years.

The Hoban family has exported *Parham Hill* Corriedales to Kenya, Romania, China, Ecuador, Columbia and Peru. We have been fortunate to sell a two tooth ram to Peru two years ago (G9-13) and recently the same buyer purchased G17-15, our ram hogget which placed first at Hawarden show this year.

Pat has been a show judge for over forty years and James has also judged Corriedales at several shows, as well as representing New Zealand in Youth stock judging competitions in Australia.

James and Maria, with Andrew Rutherford from *Melrose*, were New Zealand's first ever Corriedale Young Ambassadors in 2010, when they were hosted by Australian Corriedale breeders and attended the Sydney Royal Show.

James has been on the New Zealand Corriedale Council for four years and was recently elected President.



PARHAM HILL CORRIEDALES

FLOCK 96, CULVERDEN, NORTH CANTERBURY

**Bred for fertility, constitution, wool and
conformation since 1925**



- SIL recorded
- Reducing micron while maintaining carcass traits and fleece weight
- Predominant bloodlines in recent times; Glenovis and Wattlebank

ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Pat Hoban 0064 3 315 8108

James Hoban 0064 3 315 8250

parhamhill1@hotmail.com

STUD PROFILE #2

“Eudunda” Flock #571, Rangiora.

Owned by Tom, Fiona & John Burrows

I started the *Eudunda* Corriedale stud in 1977. My father and Uncle had started using Corriedales Rams over their commercial half-bred ewe flock in 1966. These rams were sourced from Mac. Walter, a neighbour, who had a well established Corriedale stud using mainly Bushey Park bloodlines. In 1977 he decided to sell his Corriedale stud and I bought 59 ewes to start the *Eudunda* stud.

Through the years we have used mainly *Glenovis* (Doc Sidey), *Strathblane* (John Sidey), *Wattlebank* (Bill Bain) and *Toi Puke* (Spencer Clarke) bloodlines. Our stud numbers peaked in the early 1990's at 500 ewes. We have enjoyed showing and judging at all the major shows in NZ. The highlight in our showing of Corriedales was at the 1996 Canterbury A & P Show (the last show at the old showgrounds). We won both the Ram & Ewe Champions, then went on and won the Champion of Champions wool breed pair, and the Ram won the Supreme Wool Breed Sheep of the Show.

Along the way we have not only enjoyed showing the sheep; showing the wool has been a great experience as well. The highlight of showing wool came at the 1995 Canterbury A & P Show when we won the prestigious Pyne & Boyle Challenge Cup for the Supreme Fleece Of The Show.

I have been extraordinarily privileged to have had two overseas trips to Corriedale World Conferences; the first to Australia (Tasmania & Melbourne) in 1990, and the second to South America (Uruguay & Brazil) in 2012. These trips have highlighted the impact that the Corriedale Breed has had on the sheep breeding industries in these countries, especially in South America, where the Corriedale is numerically the most popular breed by far.

I have been fortunate to have been involved in the Corriedale breed from a time that when I started breeding Corriedale's they were the predominant breed on the dry East Coast of the South Island to the stage now, within the last decade, that the upsurge of land converted to dairying/grapes/other breeds of sheep and lifestyle blocks has led to the decimation of the Corriedale breed and the land that was once the breed's domain.

Who knows, with the pressure of a more sustainable land use and the overuse of irrigation and its affordability, there will still be a place for the Corriedale!

Tom Burrows

CORRIEDALE CONSIDERATIONS

By David (Doc) Sidey, *Glenovis Flock #62*




When the newsletter editor was visiting in May she expressed interest in the above painting and said she'd like to feature it in a newsletter.

The painting background was a flight of fancy I had. I did a rough sketch of what I wanted, then, along with some photos I provided, the artist was able to do the painting. Basically the scene is set in/on North Canterbury; featuring flats, downs, hills and mountain country. A fair bit of artistic licence was employed in that the nice green spring grass is offset with the golden colour of the trees in Autumn!

The sheep were real animals however. The ram at the centre of the painting is *Bushey Park* 472/60. This ram was the San Pedro Trophy winner (best headed ram of the breed) and Reserve Champion Corriedale ram at the 1962 Canterbury A & P Centennial show. The ewe behind him is *Eudunda* 41/77. This ewe was fourth in the shorn two tooth ewe class at the 1979 Canterbury A & P show – my first Canterbury A & P Show ticket. (I was absolutely stoked!)

Tom

Glenovis and Mallochvale Corriedale Studs



Yesterday's Traditions
...
Today's Ambitions
...
Tomorrow's Visions

David (Doc) Sidey "Glenovis" Hawarden Road, 7535 Ph/Fax 03 324 4377	Andrew Sidey "Mallochvale" Hawarden Road, 7835 Email: asidey@clear.net.nz
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The Corriedale breed had its origins in NZ in the 1870's, when those sheep breeders involved set out to tailor-make a breed of sheep, suited to the summer-dry regions of the East coast of the South Island. They crossed Merino ewes with either Lincoln or English Leicester rams, and then inbred the progeny to obtain the desired breed characteristics that they sought. In combining the good traits of each parent breed, they were to produce a breed that suited the majority of the world's sheep grazing areas.

The breed steadily built up in popularity until the 1950's when the breed literally became "under full sail". The Corriedale was well sought after for its dual-purpose attributes not only within NZ; there developed a thriving export trade, of both stud and commercial stock, especially to the South American continent. By a freakish coincidence, we had produced a sheep breed that had the excellent aerobic capacity to withstand the extreme cold of Patagonia, and the high altitude regions of the Andes range in Peru and in Bolivia.

This was an era when the breed expanded to become the world's most numerable dual-purpose breed, a position that it would still hold today.

Approximately 20 years ago, the unsatisfactory returns for all wool types saw the East Coast region of the South Island change to a raft of crossbreeding alternatives, to boost the numbers of prime lambs produced per hectare. A well-known fact of animal breeding is that the hybrid vigour created by crossing two independent breeds is the best promoter of animal performance. This for most, was a successful exercise, and had downturn effects for Corriedale flock ram and seed stock producers. However, it must also be conceded, that most commercial producers achieved the desired lamb production gains they had sought.

The road on which I live has 16 farms on it, all of whom would have been totally Corriedale in 1980. Now there are 16 different options available on how to produce the most productive sheep! These range from super fine Merinos on one hand, to the near wool-less Wiltshire, on the other!

The punishing dry periods of the last two years have highlighted the almost forgotten strengths of the Corriedale. They certainly have the ability to "guts it out" in the dry. They have the ability also, to recover quickly, and they can produce to optimum levels on minimal grass rations. They are also now notable for the fact that they have two years extra working life!

Those stockmen who sought change, are finding their crossbreds, in maintaining their bodyweight, are aggressive foragers, requiring more supplementary feeding over a much shorter lifespan. This season's pregnancy scanning figures locally have seen the Corriedale out-perform many of the new generation hybrids in lamb numbers.

With future attempts to combat climate change, and the distinct possibility of global warming, it is anticipated that the Corriedale can expect a resurgence in popularity.

A period of recession always causes a fall off in stud flock numbers in any breed of livestock. However, the modern Southdown is an example of how the most committed

breeders used best available breeding stock to refine their product and regain popularity.

The “new generation Corriedale” now offers greater fertility and better mothering, and has been refined to have much improved resistance to worm burdens and foot troubles.

Corriedale producers certainly now realise that the loading ramp and the butchers knife have been the best remedies for any breeds former shortcomings!



MIDDLE ROCK CORRIEDALES

Last year the Corriedale AGM/Tour Visited *Middle Rock Station*.

Wednesday 27th May, and we travelled by bus up into the Rakaia Gorge, and visited Bruce and Lyn Nell at Middle Rock.

We enjoyed their amazing hospitality with morning tea, then a farm tour followed by a lovely lunch. 5000 Corriedales are farmed on Middle Rock in an efficient and productive system.

A number of breeders will know the Nell family who showcase a wonderful example of sustainable farming with Corriedales in challenging high country. The Nell family are experienced hosts who run a popular tourism business alongside their farming operation.

Their website is worth a visit for further information on the business. <http://www.middlerock.co.nz/>

‘The health of a breed, the number of new breeders and the length of time they remain committed to a breed is often linked to a successful and welcoming society or group, a fact that should never be underestimated.’

Anon

RBST Ark magazine Winter 2016



SHEARWELL NEW ZEALAND LTD

Shearwell New Zealand Ltd are delighted to be able to provide sponsorship to the NZSBA.

We supply direct to farmers and offer integrated systems for livestock tags, EID readers, software, weigh crates and drafters.

The best-selling RFID (EID) sheep tag in Britain and Canada is now available in New Zealand. The one-piece tag has a wrap-around design that’s light enough to be inserted into new-born lambs and strong enough to last for life. Shearwell tags have exceptional retention rates (over 99.5% in Canadian trials), and are gaining popularity in Australia, Brazil the 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 same applicator is used for both. The tags can be applied at any age, to any sheep, and are also suitable for identification of other species such as goats, deer, elk, alpacas and llamas. Tags 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 main features are green and red lights, green to show the animal is being read for the first time and red if it has already been ‘read’ which is a real plus when pen reading.

The Shearwell Stick Reader is the ultimate farmer-friendly tool – simple to use, rugged and versatile. 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 run 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. This is a tough, weather-proof system for farms that takes record-keeping seriously!

Knowing the pressures on costs Shearwell is committed to bring value for money to New Zealand farmers.

For more information go to www.shearwell.co.nz or call 0800 79 99 89.

YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

By James Hoban, "Parham Hill" Corriedale Stud

Last year at the official opening of the Young Farmer of the Year Contest in Taupo, after a five hour exam, hour long interview, business plan presentation and human resources test we were handed a pair of shearing jeans, introduced to our judge Sir David Fagan and put on the back of a truck to shear for a large crowd. It was interesting that anyone who'd claimed they were a good shearer in the lead up to the contest quickly went quiet on the subject.

This year as contestants, seven of us survived three days of competition, having set a handpiece during the practical day and not shorn or crutched one sheep. We arrived at the evening venue for the grand finale, uncomfortable in our evening jackets and bow ties, to find a stage at the dinner temporarily turned into a shearing board. There was a full change of shearing clothes for each of us and a shower. Having foolishly relaxed, we were thrust in the deep end as the evening entertainment.

Having been fortunate enough to compete in the Grand Final of this competition twice I've decided that the most important element of it is being able to handle tests outside our comfort zone. All of us were thrown in the deep end a number of times over several days and the eventual winner is the person who copes with that pressure the best. I was thrilled to finish fourth last year and third this year, as well as winning two categories.

Ian Stevenson [Past NZ Sheepbreeders' Association President] was an advisory member of our Hurunui Young Farmers Club several years ago. I remember him telling us how he'd had to butcher a dog tucker ram and ride a horse around a race course on the West Coast when he'd competed. These days the obsession with health and safety would probably rule both of those things out. In its current form the contest includes intense theory sections, a large project which is marked beforehand then presented during the contest, the quiz, speeches (contestants are given their topics during the contest), the practical day, the Agrisports event and two interviews. One interview assesses community and industry contribution while the other looks at what makes contestants tick, their understanding of the world and plans for the future.

The attention that comes with the Grand Final, including hosting a TV team on farm, was a great chance to showcase our Corriedales. The comment has been made by several people that they don't often see Corriedales or a vintage tractor collection feature in the Young Farmer of the year but both were on show in our case.

The competition has been a great experience. I've enjoyed fantastic support from family, friends, other Corriedale breeders and our North Canterbury community. The opportunity to contribute to the contest in the future is something I'll look forward to and I'd encourage any young farmer to get involved.

THIS YEAR THE CHICKENS CAME
HOME TO ROOST!
WHICH DUAL PURPOSE BREED...

...maintained
bodyweight under
drought stress?

...proved to be
the least demanding
on supplementary
feed?

...is currently
tailing 135%
unshepherded on
hill country?

...gives a \$26
bonus per ewe in
net wool returns?

**THE CORRIEDALE WINS
IN ALL FOUR CASES!!**

Believe in Climate Change? Then make sure you have
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www.nzsheep.co.nz/corriedale - [www.twitter.com/NZCorriedale](https://twitter.com/NZCorriedale)

NEW GENERATION CORRIEDALES
BRED TO PERFORM

CORRIEDALE UPDATE ON WORK WITH NZ MERINO *(NZ Corriedale News, November 2015)*

New Zealand Merino (NZM) are continuing to create opportunity for contracted supply of mid micron wool.



Current opportunities include supply of lamb's wool for a felt indoor shoe produced by a Danish company (see www.glerups.co.nz – this company is selling 150,000 pairs per year globally and are growing) and premium carpet being produced by Godfrey Hirst.

The demand for the new carpet range continues to exceed expectations. Many breeders will be eligible for these contracts and can contact their local NZM area managers if interested in finding out more.

The Corriedale Council is continuing to work on developing its relationship with NZM. There are exciting opportunities for the Corriedale breed in some of NZM's work. Several

stud Corriedale rams have been used in NZM trials and it is hoped this cooperation will continue.

Further information on the NZM trial work can be found at <http://www.perfectsheep.co.nz/>

FERAL SHEEP BREEDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Sorry, Part 2 won't be until the next issue.



ANOTHER BIT OF HISTORY

HAWARDEN EWE FAIR

Evening Post 11 March 1925

(National Library Papers Past)

Christchurch, 10th March.

At Hawarden ewe fair to-day high prices were paid for Corriedale and half-bred sheep, particularly two tooth. Corriedale two-tooths sold for various vendors at 67s, 58s, 54s, and even in a number of cases at 50s. Corriedale four-year-olds were at 55s and 51s; and four year halfbreds, 45s. The market showed an advance on last week's fair at Amberley

I work the 67s out at \$318.92 using the Reserve Bank inflation calculator. Someone who is a better mathematician than me might like to double check this figure!

It would be good to get that sort of money today. Editor

PGG Wrightson Genetics

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stands for
best of
breed.**

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integrity you can
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Northland, Bay of Plenty
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Graham Sidey
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North Canterbury,
Nelson, Marlborough
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John McKone
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Helping grow the country

INTRODUCTION OF SHEEP GENETICS INTO NZ FROM THE UK

An Overview

The potential for growth of the NZ sheep and goat dairy industries is exciting but progress will be fast tracked by introduction of new genetics

Somewhere in 2013-2014 enterprising Kiwis approached MPI to encourage establishment of germplasm import protocols from the UK for sheep and goat dairy genetics. MPI did research into this possibility and presented a proposed Import Health Standard for public consultation March 2014.

Finally, after carefully clarifying any and all health risks associated with such potential imports MPI have 15th April 2016 placed on their website the formally agreed veterinary certificates allowing sheep and goat semen and embryo to enter NZ from the UK.

Sounds great! However, nothing is easy. What had not been factored in was the Australian reaction to our potential imports of this germplasm. Essentially their response has been draconian. In other words, MPI “considers their requirements uniquely risk averse and unduly trade restrictive”. The concerns are associated with the possible introduction of Scrapie into New Zealand's sheep flock.

In its wisdom the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR – their equivalent to our MPI) have effectively shut down imports of sheep and goat germplasm from New Zealand to Australia. They have done this by making import health requirements so restrictive that it is not commercially possible to meet them.

It is unfortunate that such a brick wall has been erected. However, it is hoped that ongoing dialogue between MPI and DAWR may create a viable pathway by which sheep and goat germplasm may still enter Australia from NZ. Meanwhile there is no change to requirements for sheep and goat germplasm to come into NZ from Australia.

Germplasm held in export certified storage and collected prior to UK imports of sheep germplasm into NZ will still be eligible for export. However, once such imports occur the rules will then change. This change is expected mid 2016..

This brief overview is to ensure that all sheepbreeders are aware of the background to what is anticipated to be an ongoing dialogue between DAWR and MPI to get our exports of sheep and goat germplasm to Australia back on track.

An Opinion

The Australian reaction has either political or health concern bias.

Regardless of the basis of their stance the decisions they have made will have a negative impact on those sheep

breeders who manage to attract germplasm sales to Australia. A comment from our Minister of Primary Industries (Nathan Guy) indicates “Although overall trade volumes and values from this trade restriction are low compared to the potential of developing our sheep and goat dairy industry, I acknowledge that this development has a disproportionate impact [on the sheepbreeders concerned]”.

Traditional commercial sheep farmers in NZ will not be affected by the changes. However, as the restrictions now stand stud breeders and germplasm production centres and AI technicians will all need to be aware of the impact of DAWR imposed restrictions. By taking care to avoid contact with imported germplasm and the resultant offspring individual farmers and collection centres may be able to establish protocols to allow export of germplasm to Australia in spite of the present restrictions.

I recommend that any stud breeder in New Zealand who anticipates selling germplasm to Australian buyers should maintain close contact with their semen collection centre veterinarian. In this way you will be kept informed of any progress in negotiations between MPI and DAWR. By being aware of this situation and being proactive in avoiding contact with UK derived germplasm a protocol may be able to be developed to continue exports of germplasm to Australia.

Finally, and again quoting Nathan Guy, MPI “have obligations under World Trade Organization rules to ensure our import requirements are based on scientific analysis of the risks and are least trade-restrictive. WE CANNOT CONSIDER THE PROSPECT OF AN UNDUE TRADE RESTRICTION BY ANOTHER COUNTRY WHEN DEVELOPING OUR IMPORT REQUIREMENTS”.

Hopefully DAWR will also yield to this ruling and negotiate better requirements for the benefit of ongoing international exchange of genetics between our stud breeders.

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CANTERBURY ELITE RAM & EWE SALE

Entries Are Now Open For The Canterbury A & P Show & the Elite Ram & Ewe Sale.

Canterbury A & P Show queries to:

Phone: (03) 343 3033

Email: info@theshow.co.nz

Website: www.theshow.co.nz for entry info.

Show Dates 9 – 11 November, 2016

Sheep entries close 23rd September

LIVE WOOL AUCTION

Thursday 10 November 2016 from 9.30am

Trade and Feature Pavillion at the Canterbury A&P Show, ASB Agricultural Park

The auction has support from all the major wool brokers and will be open to the public.

Now is a great time to think about saving your line of hogget wool for this sale, and for those that enter the Canterbury A & P Show Wool Competitions this is a fantastic opportunity to sell a line of your potentially prize-winning wool.

For more information contact Dave Burrridge
027 479 3779

dburrridge@pggwrightson.co.nz

Also **10th Year of Mint Lamb Competition**
which has been overhauled - for more info:

Contact: Bindy Phone (03) 343 2136

Email: bindy@theshow.co.nz

The closing date for next issue of the newsletter will be **20th November** for the December 2016 Newsletter.

THE NEXT “FEATURE BREED” WILL BE SOUTH SUFFOLKS

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

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

A BIT OF HISTORY

Sheep Imports And Exports

Imports £8711; Exports £64,852

Press 15th May 1940 [*National Library Papers Past*]

Imports of sheep to New Zealand in 1939 numbered 986 head, valued at £8711, and an average of £8.10s.6d. Australia was the principal supplier; sending 975 head, worth £7806, averaging £8 each. Canada sent six head worth £258 – a high average of £43 each. Britain sent four head but these cost £150 each.

Exports of sheep comprised 14,758 head for £64,852, an average of £4.7s.6d. Australia was the leading purchaser in value, at £33,624 for 6859 head, averaging nearly £5. Japan however, took the greatest number 7480 head, worth £23,024, averaging £3.2s. Uruguay took 268, value £13,415; Argentina, 146, value £4340; Falkland Islands, 73, value £1910; South Africa, 125, value £1653; Peru 10, value £700; United States, 3, value £362; Kenya, 4, value of £132.

The apparently low values of export sheep are explained by the fact that many were flock rams and a great proportion was ewes. As is customary New Zealand's own breed, the Corriedale, was exported in greatest numbers, and some of the highest priced sheep were of this breed. Second on the list were Romney Marsh, which are being exported in increasing numbers to Australia and South Africa, with Southdowns a good third. A considerable number of Border Leicesters were exported, and Ryelands sent to Australia numbered more than 400 head. Lincolns, English Leicesters and Merinos were exported in much smaller numbers, while Cheviots come into the picture, 10 being exported to South Australia.

A trend in the importation of sheep in which the demand for the heavy lamb has had a big effect is the importation of Dorset Horn, Suffolks, and Shropshires from Australia in increased numbers.

[Editors note: £1 in 1940 = \$93.35 today approx, ergo, import stock of £8711 would be worth around \$813,171.85 today.

Export stock valued at £64,852 would be worth about \$6,053,934 today]

Published by NZ Sheepbreeders' Association

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