

# TEXEL NEW ZEALAND



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** **AUGUST 2016**

Last month I attended the Beef + Lamb NZ Genetics Sheep Breeders Forum in Dunedin, where they updated us with SIL developments. Their main emphasis is on the NZ Genetic Evaluation which will replace the old SIL-ACE Evaluation. With the updated genetic evaluation software and analysis they will be able to analyse more animals and more flocks in a single run faster. These reports will use the NZ Maternal Worth and NZ Terminal Worth Indexes.

They have revised the lamb survival EBV, to eliminate extremes. They are releasing two new EBV's for Maternal traits:

- **Stayability (stay)** – how long ewes stay in the flock
- **Body Condition Score (BCS)** – the trait is defined at the time of mating, but can be recorded at other times in the year.

On the Terminal Worth Index, meat yield is being revised. They are developing a module that better defines carcase merit with more emphasis on meat eating qualities.

There was also a discussion on Best Practice in Performance Recording for SIL Genetic Evaluations with talk of a star system for each SIL flock, the better the recording of traits, the more stars. Another option was if you don't record data for a certain trait, you don't get an EBV for that trait.

As usual to make this all work correctly, connectiveness was discussed within the Texel Breed.

If each Club selects a ram hogget to go into the Central Progeny Test, that ram hogget could then be used as a 2th ram the next year for natural mating amongst Club breeders. Thus eliminating the need for artificial insemination and improving the connectiveness within clubs and the Texel Breed as a whole.

I would encourage breeders to continue Microphthalmia testing their flocks. Remind breeders if they are selling ewes/ewe lambs to non-registered or to new breeders, that they must be inspected before sale.

Finally I wish all members a favourable lambing season.

Garry Latta

## **NEWS FROM BREED COMMITTEE** **AUGUST MEETING**

### **Members who have not furnished their Returns:**

Some members haven't supplied an Annual Return for a number of years.

It was agreed that those members who have not furnished an Annual Return for two or more years be notified that they have 30 days to send their Returns to the office. No transfers nor registrations of their sires will take effect, and if they have not complied by 30 days, then they will be put in an Appendix Flock.

**From AGM – TAF Webpage** – 'That activities and costs of the TAF webpage be the responsibility and cost of Texel NZ'.

This motion acknowledges how TAF benefits the Breed.

**Request to Breed Committee** – 'That the Breed Committee co-opts a member of the Southland Club onto the Breed Committee'.

It was agreed that the Breed Committee does not co-opt a representative from Southland but revisits the Breed Election process before next year's AGM.

**Promotional Levy** – It was agreed that first a project be identified then notify membership before members be levied.

**Promotion:**

Farmers Weekly to be utilized for Breed advertising.

- To attempt to place advertisements very close to 'Sales Talk'. Advertisements to run mid-August – February (every second week). To utilize caption underneath – to add sale dates.
- suggestion – 'Registered Breed Microphthalmia Testing' – point of difference from composites.

**Microphthalmia - Article** – John Bates and Prof Jon Hickford (Lincoln University) are interested in writing an article on Texel NZ's Microphthalmia testing.

**TAF** - The recently held Beef + Lamb Genetics Breeders' Forum was discussed.

**Peer Review** – Agreed to look at the feasibility of undertaking a peer review of TAF, subject to costings.

**CPT 2017** – Agreed that the Breed will discontinue funding any costs resulting from the CPT in 2017.

**Each Club to Nominate a Person** – Each Club to have nominated a representative to liaise with Rob Forsyth by 25 November, when the Breed Committee next meets.

**Wool - Farm Direct & PGG Wrightson** – still require Texel wool.

## **NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE**

**Monday 1 May to Thursday 4 May 2017**

2017 Texel Conference will be held in Central Otago, based at the Golden Gate Lodge in Cromwell

The proposed general outline -

**Monday 1 May**

Breed Committee Meeting early afternoon with Conference Registration from 3 pm. Evening meal and socialising at own discretion with list of dining options available.

**Tuesday 2 May**

AGM @ Golden Gate.

Bus to Alexandra/Everetts, morning tea, view Texel stock, speaker. Bus to lunch venue, visit winery on Earnscleugh Rd, Touch Yarns in Clyde, dam overview, dinner in Clyde and bus back to Cromwell.

**Wednesday 3 May**

Bus to Hoglund Art Glass Studio. View Texel stock@ Queensbury, morning tea, speaker, then tour of Queensbury Ridges farm with talk.

Lunch @Queensbury Ridges property. Bus to Wanaka Airport area with variety of activities on offer, afternoon tea at own cost. Bus to Cardrona, visit Whisky Distillery, tour/tasting then Cardrona Hotel for dinner with speaker. Bus back to Cromwell.

**Thursday 4 May**

TAF meeting and then choice of heading for home or joining us at Highlands Motorsports Park for Go-Carting Challenge, or viewing Motor Museum, Cafe, Hot Laps or whatever blows your hair back!! - (own cost)

Programme may be tweaked a bit, but this is the general plan.

**PLAN NOW TO BE THERE IN 2017**