

TEXEL NEW ZEALAND

Chairman's Newsletter, August 2013

Breed Committee Meetings:

Since Texel NZ's last Breed Committee elections there have been two Breed Committee meetings. Unfortunately due to a last minute flight cancellation from Queenstown, I was unable to attend the inaugural meeting of the new Breed Committee, held in Napier, May 6, 2013.

However I can report that all other members were in attendance.

The Meeting observed a minute's silence in respect for Mr. Don Tate, Life Member of Texel NZ, who had recently passed away.

In my absence I was nominated and duly elected Chairman, which I accepted for an interim period of one year, while new Breed Committee Members settle into their roles. Your new Vice-Chairman is Geoff Howie.

Paul Gardner was elected as the Breed's NZSBA Council representative.

As you will already be aware, the other members of Breed Committee are Ian McCall, Rob Forsyth, and Gary Latta with the BC being able to co-opt any persons with the necessary skills if and when required.

Discussion followed regarding the 2013 AGM and Conference and possible reasons for the poor response and subsequent cancellation of these. It was agreed that the annual conference continue next year but North Island members have declined the opportunity to host it. The General Manager is in discussion with the Southland Club regarding the possibility of them hosting in 2014. Future Conference Organisers will be invited to submit their programme and itinerary to BC, before they are circulated to members.

As to the AGM cancellation, the General Manager, Mr. Greg Burgess, advised that Breeds belonging to the NZ Sheepbreeders Assn are affiliated and the Incorporated Societies' Act only states that the NZ Sheepbreeders Assn must hold an AGM. This means there is no requirement for Texel NZ to hold an AGM and as such the meeting voted that this would be the case for 2013.

The next Breed Committee Meeting was held in the Sudima Hotel, Christchurch, 29 July. Here the individual roles of BC members were defined (again with power to co-opt). For your reference, they are listed below:

CPT: Gary Latta will take care of matters relating to the CPT. He is keen to organise ram trials and will approach Jon Hickford, Lincoln for assistance with this. Clubs are responsible for nominating rams for the CPT Trial. Clubs are to have a contact person and Gary will liaise with each of them. Gary will write up a protocol and circulate this to members.

Promotion/Website: Ian McCall requires articles from members to help with this and we are hoping for a more enthusiastic response to this than in previous years. Ram breeders are asked to submit names of their top clients for possible articles. Ian will endeavour to get articles and pictures of interest out on the website and into publications for all to read.

Across Flock: Rob Forsyth, liasing with Clare Callow

Microphthalmia: Alistair McLeod

Sponsorship/A&P Shows: Geoff Howie, including Hoof & Hook Competition, Glammies etc.

Texel Ram Sale Rep: Paul Gardner, as overseer for Texels.

Please support your Breed Committee members who have been voted in by you to work for the Texel Breed as a whole.

Other matters of interest

Texel National Ram Sale - Mrs Jo-Anne Campbell was recently thanked by the BC for her work as convenor over the years. She has recently resigned due to work commitments. By now, many of you will know that the date of the National Ram & Ewe Fair (all breeds) has been changed from January '14 to November this year (29th Nov 2013)

The sale upset price is to be \$700 and with a transfer price of \$2000. There was brief discussion but with no definite decisions made as yet, as to whether Texel breeders should continue to support this sale, or have a 'stand alone' sale and whether or not the National sale had run its course for Texels. Southern Texel Breeders have passed a motion stating that they will in no way support the sale at this new date.

Microphthalmia Accreditation Programme – The Chairman advised there were seven members in the programme. Breed Committee continues to encourage members to join the scheme, although it remains voluntary.

CT Scanning Sponsorship – The General Manager advised that this year there are funds held that had been advanced by Alliance in 2009/2010 that were not utilized and will be available to members by way of subsidy.

Subsidy	-	South Island	-	\$15.00 per ram
	-	North Island	-	\$25.00 per ram

Robert Gardyne has advised that he is happy to approach and liase with Alliance regarding on-going funding of CT Scanning. The General Manager informed the Meeting of the statistics regarding the number of rams and breeders utilizing this facility. With regard to approaching Alliance for funding, Alliance would be advised that the top influential rams in the Breed are being CT scanned.

CPT Trial Update: It has been suggested that a stricter protocol is required for rams to be nominated. Clubs should be encouraged to run their own progeny trials and nominate rams. CPT now uses two hill properties.

Texel Across Flock: Rob Forsyth said that anybody who wishes a fuller understanding of how to interpret reports should contact Clare Callow. Rob also informed the Meeting that only TAF members can vote on TAF issues.

TAF Remits - As there was no AGM this year, TAF members are asked for any remits which can be discussed and voted on. Remits are to be received by end of November and members will be given two weeks to vote on remits.

TAF Policy/Direction: Members can make own decisions on direction/policy of TAF under the auspices of the Breed Committee.

Beef + Lamb NZ Awards – Congratulations to the sheep breeders and associated sheep industry people who were represented in the recent Sheep Industry Awards. In particular it is great to see many who scooped awards are associated in one or another with the Texel Breed. Special mention for their top performances go to George and Kathryn Smith, Tamlet Texels; Hamish Bielski, Mt Linton SufTex; Peter & Marion Black, Blackdale Coopworths; and Clare Callow. They are cream of the crop with their production and efforts in the industry and their recognition is well deserved.

Coming Events:

Canterbury A&P Show - 13-15 November 2013

Royal Show 2013 – Feilding, 7-8 December

25 Years of Texels in NZ – The NZ Texel Breed Society was formed in 1991. It has been suggested that a celebration be centred around the Canterbury A&P Show time.

The recent celebration of '20 Years of Texels in Australia' was attended by a group of 16 kiwi Texel Breeders who enjoyed the Bendigo Show where Texels were the feature breed. It was indeed interesting to see the Australian Texel stock and talk with breeders about their visions for Texels in the future.

I believe that only by working together as a Texel Breed, making good use of the technologies we have at our disposal and keeping close focus on the main attributes Texels offer the sheep breeding industry will we continue to make good progress with our breed in New Zealand. We need to remain very proactive and promote the breed for all it is worth, and a bit more.

Wishing you every success with this lambing season and the Breed Committee looks forward to hearing from other Texel breeders from around the country with your suggestions and success stories.

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Texel NZ

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