

As a ram breeder it is important that we remain focused on breeding rams that have the genetic traits (growth and meat) that return our clients maximum financial returns.

The table on the right is an example of how fast growing lambs can impact on financial performance. These growth rates are totally realistic.

A 43 kg lamb weaned on 15 December grows at 413 gms per day.



High Growth Rate vs Low Growth Rate

Birth 15th Sept to 15 Dec	
LAMB 1	92 days @ 350 gm/day = 37kg
LAMB 2	92 days @ 200 gm/day = 23.4kg
Birth 16th Dec to 16 Feb	
LAMB 1	60 days @ 250 gm/day = 15kg
LAMB 2	60 days @ 150 gm/day = 9kg
LAMB 1	High GR 52kg
LAMB 2	Low GR 32.4kg
LAMB 1	52kg 45% YIELD = 23.4kg
LAMB 2	32.4kg 45% YIELD = 14.58kg
Difference is 8.82kg @ \$5.70/kg = \$50.27 over 3,000 lambs = \$150,810	

Productive sheep farming is based around; Feeding • Animal Health • Genetics

The 2016 report from AbacusBio (see our website) evaluated the genetic merit of our Meatmaker and Wharetoa Maternal sires. It confirms that genetics do have a major impact on profitability.

This table below takes a flock of ewes with ; 140% lambing, 18.1 kg lambs, 70kg ewes and compares results when mated to;

The NZ average maternal sire (identified using SIL genetic trend graphs)

A high genetic merit terminal sire (Wharetoa Meatmaker)

A high genetic merit maternal sire (Wharetoa Maternal)



Financial Impact of using Superior Terminal & Maternal Rams

Ewe Flock	Ewe mated to Terminal Sire	Ewe mated to Maternal Sire	Financial Advantage
Base Flock; 140% lambing • 18kg lambs • 70 kg ewes		100% NZ Average Maternal	\$0
Base Flock	40% Meatmaker	60% NZ Average	Plus \$28,000
Selected Maternal Ewes (Wharetoa Maternal)	40% Meatmaker	60% NZ Average	Plus \$66,000
Selected Maternal Ewes (Wharetoa Maternal)	100% Meatmaker		Plus \$83,000

The financial advantages come from faster growth and higher yielding lambs that bring the average kill date forward by up to 5 weeks creating other opportunities in your farming enterprise.

These days accountants are analysing our performance in terms of; **mean kill date • % of lambs killed off mum at weaning • Kg of meat per hectare.**

Our commercial ewes all mated to our Suftex and Wharetoa Maternal ram lambs are consistently killing 45% off mum at weaning @ 18.5kg average.

Last year we produced;

- Average lamb slaughter weight: 20.69 kg
- Average cull Ewe slaughter weight: 31.2 kg
- Total kg meat per hectare: 284.1 kg

Looking forward

As progressive ram breeders we will be using DNA technology more extensively in our Suftex and Wharetoa Maternal flocks. This will give us more robust Breeding Values so we can select sires with more accuracy and make faster genetic gain.

A Complete DNA Package driving Value behind the farm gate, and beyond.

The genetic merit of livestock is the foundation of modern, high performing and profitable flocks – and it's all in their DNA.

Genetic improvement is vital to the Wharetoa business of course because they are driving to produce the best product possible, but also because they too are commercial farmers and see the direct value that genetics has on profitability. Each year Garth and Chris are looking at ways they can keep accelerating and enhancing their genetic package, along with maintaining their consistent structurally sound rams. Wharetoa use the following DNA technologies, offered by Zoetis Genetics, to give them the edge on selecting better rams, more often.



Shepherd Plus:

One of the aims at Wharetoa is to keep improving, and as such I am excited to help them incorporate Shepherd Plus to the mix of DNA technology in 2018. A huge factor in driving genetically more impressive animals is accurate pedigree. Using Shepherd Plus, Wharetoa will know exactly which lamb belongs to which sire and Dam. DNA parentage has benefits to Wharetoa in terms of flock and pasture management, but it definitely also adds value to sale rams due to accuracy being a key factor in increasing genetic gain.

Sheep5K:

Sheep5K is a genomic test which estimates, from DNA, future performance. For Wharetoa, Sheep5k means more informed selection decisions can be made on traits that are key to driving on-farm profitability. For the ram buyer you can be assured that as the Wharetoa genetic progress doubles, so does yours.



MyoMAX:

Breeding and farming sheep which are better at converting feed to produce a higher value carcass will improve the profitability of lamb producers. MyoMAX® is a gene known to increase a lamb's carcass weight and muscle yield. Single copy MyoMAX® lambs have 5% more muscling in the leg and loin and 7% less carcass fat. MyoMAXGold® lambs have up to 10% more muscling and 14% less carcass fat. A DNA test for this gene helps Wharetoa to increase the incidence of MyoMAX in their own flock, and also helps their buyers understand what they can expect in their own flocks.

This COMPLETE package of DNA testing is certainly not a cheap exercise! However, Wharetoa know that when they invest in their flock, it means they are also investing in you - their valued customer.

Johanna Scott, Technical Services, Zoetis Genetics



Beef and Lamb Genetics

Beef and Lamb are promoting NZMW (NZ Maternal Worth) and NZTW (NZ Terminal Worth) and saying that you can compare animals between flocks and the higher the Index the better.

That is OK providing there are sufficient linkages between flocks.

In our 5 SIL recorded flocks we don't have strong linkages because we don't use a lot of outside sires and we don't own rams in partnership with other breeders.

We use mostly ram hoggets and breed rams in one flock for use in another using rigorous selection criteria.

Our genetic trend graphs and the performance measured in our and our clients commercial flocks show that we are making significant genetic gain without these linkages.

Open Day, December 1, 2017

Our Open Day gives everyone the opportunity to view all sale rams as well as commercial ewes and lambs sired by Wharetoa sires.

This year we will have a short (12 to 1) lunchtime seminar, "Profit from Performance Recorded Rams" with guest speakers Annie O'Connell from Beef and Lamb Genetics and Jo Scott from Zoetis. Garth will talk about production in Wharetoa's commercial flock.

Lunch will be available during this.

Our Open day is always a good day for us to catch up with our clients and for you to have a good look at this years sires. We hope that the short lunchtime seminar will add value to the day for you.

**On Farm Auction, December 15. 12 midday,
Inspection from 10am. Lunch and refreshments**

Wharetoa Genetics Breeding

Terminal



Meatmaker (Poll Dorset x Texel)

- High yielding
- Exceptional muscling
- Excellent carcass conformation
- Myomax tested



Meatmaker x Suffolk

- High yielding
- Exceptional Muscling
- Superior Growth
- Myomax tested.



Suftex

- Excellent terminal sire
- High yielding
- Fast growth
- Easily identified progeny
- Myomax tested

Maternal



Wharetoa Maternal (Texel x Coopworth)

- High fertility
- Excellent mothering ability
- Exceptional carcass conformation.
- High meat yielding lambs
- Myomax tested



Texel

- 200% fertility
- High lamb survival
- Very good growth
- Very good meat yield



Coopworth

- Exceptional fertility
- Quality wool

Superior Genetics For Greater Profitability.



OPEN DAY

Friday December 1, 2017, 10am to 3pm

"Profit from Performance Recorded Rams"

Lunchtime Seminar (12noon to 1pm), lunch provided

Annie O'Connell (*Beef and Lamb Genetics*); Your Genetic Plan.

Garth Shaw (*Wharetoa Genetics*); Production in Wharetoa's Commercial Flock.

Jo Scott (*Zoetis*); The advantages to the commercial farmer of your breeder using Zoetis Technology.

ON FARM AUCTION

Friday December 15, 2017, 12 midday

Inspection from 10am

• Lunch and Refreshments •

**PROVEN Breeder of High Meat Yielding and Fast Growth
Rate Maternal and Terminal Rams**


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WHARETOA GENETICS

Superior Genetics for Greater Profitability

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