



# WHARETOA GENETICS

*Superior Genetics for Greater Profitability*

You will be receiving this newsletter earlier than usual so we wish you a successful Spring season and look forward to seeing you later in the year.

I am always available to discuss any ideas raised in this newsletter or around your breeding programme.

We have a new and improved website so encourage you to have a look [www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz](http://www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz)

Best Wishes + Regards,  
Garth and Chris Shaw



Last seasons prices for lambs and mutton ended up being above most of our expectations. Not many farmers dodged the dry January 2017, many of us having to sell store lambs for the first time for a very long time. Fortunately, there was a demand for them and at a reasonable price for those of us selling.

This coming season also looks to be very positive for lambs and mutton. Inventory supplies are low, and demand is strong.

Accountants and Rural Bank Managers are making the observation that farming businesses that kill a large percentage of their lamb crop early in the season are the most profitable so this should give the commercial farmer a good incentive to bring forward their mean kill date.

As I have mentioned many times before, successful lamb finishing is governed by:

- Nutrition • Animal health
- Genetics

Our breeding objectives for our Terminal flocks (Meatmaker and Suftex) are:

- Growth • Meat
- Survival

Our Maternal flocks (Wharetoa Maternal, Texel, and Coopworth) breeding objectives are:

- Fertility • Survival
- Growth • Meat
- Wool



*Texel ewe and lambs*



*Meatmaker*



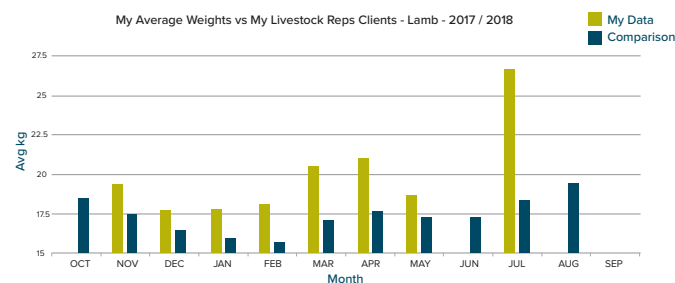
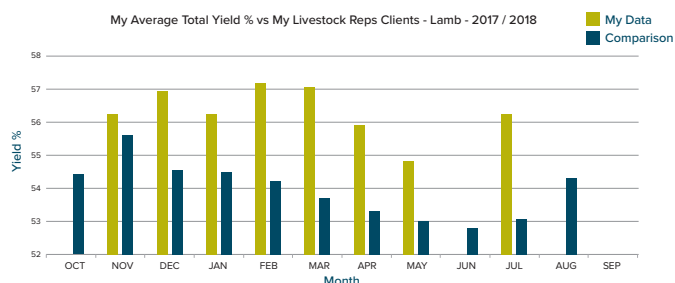
*Texel*



## Proven by Performance.

We continue to monitor the performance of our commercial flock in order to evaluate the performance of our rams (rams used over our commercial ewes are all ram lambs; 90% are sold as two-tooths at our annual On Farm Auction.)

These two graphs show the performance of our export lambs compared to the average of my Alliance Livestock rep's client's lambs, for weight and meat yield.



Last season even with the dry we still killed 45% of our commercial lambs at weaning at 18.00kg.

We sold 14% store.

Season average slaughter weight was 18.65kg.

These 164 lambs (pictured) were out of a single mob of 320 ewes with lambs.

They were killed on 4 December 2017 (86 days old).

- Average weight 18.51kg
- Average meat yield 56.26%
- Growth rate 400 grams/day



## Technology

### DNA:

To keep improving the genetics of our stud flocks, it is important we use all the scientific aids available to us. Superior sheep genetics are now best identified in the DNA. By using DNA technology we get more robust breeding values so we can select sires with more accuracy and speed up genetic gain.

This year in our Wharetoa Maternal and Suftex flocks we are using "Shepherd Plus". This identifies the parentage of the progeny from these flocks, so we don't have to catch and tag them all at birth (Approx 1400 lambs). We will tag and DNA sample the lambs at tailing.

Through the DNA we can also use Sheep 5K. This is a genomic test which identifies future performance, so superior animals can be identified at a younger age.

There is more information about Shepherd Plus and Sheep 5k on our new website. [www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz](http://www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz)

### Myomax:

Myomax is a meat gene identified through DNA. We will have all the Myomax information for both ram and ewe lambs at weaning.

It is my intention to cull all progeny that don't carry the Myomax meat gene.

### Electronic Identification (EID) Tags:

This year we are using EID tags in all our five Sheep Improvement Limited (SIL) recorded flocks.

To get accurate information out of a computer you have to put accurate information into it. By using EID tags we will gather more information, more accurately and transfer it more easily to our SIL bureau.

They will also be a valuable management tool.



# 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



### Coopworth

- Exceptional fertility
- Quality wool



### Texel

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

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## OPEN DAY

Friday November 30, 2018, 10am to 3pm

All Sale Rams will be yarded for inspection.

2018 Commercial lambs sired by Suftex rams and Wharetoa  
Maternal rams will be yarded for inspection.

## ON FARM AUCTION

Friday December 21, 2018

12 Midday. Inspection from 10am.

• Lunch and Refreshments •

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

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Warwick Howie 027 437 5276  
Callum McDonald 027 433 6443

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[www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz](http://www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz)

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**Proven by Performance**