



WHARETOA GENETICS

Superior Genetics for Greater Profitability

Specialist breeder of Maternal and Terminal Sires that produce fast growing and high meat yielding lambs.



The last 12 months have not been great.... this time last year prices for lamb and mutton were at record highs but as we all know Covid 19 has turned the world upside down affecting everyone in some way.

To add to this, severe spring storms have affected so many sheep farming clients and friends and our thoughts have been very much with them.

With wool prices being the worst in living memory, we as sheep farmers are solely reliant on lamb and mutton for our income. Hopefully overseas markets will continue to see the nutritional value of red meat and will pay us accordingly.

Genetics is a major contributor to your flock's performance (most agree 50% genetics/50% nutrition & management). We continue to breed rams that provide genetics to maximise your financial returns from your sheep farming business.

This newsletter is to bring you up to date with the progress of our 5 recorded flocks and of our commercial flock.

We have some new genetics this year at Wharetoa.... 6 F1 (half) Valais Blacknose ewe lambs and a pure ram lamb called Benji. These are 'just for fun' but Garth believes that there is some potential to add value with traits of survivability and growth rate!! This little flock will be penned on Sale Day for those who are interested to take a look at them.

We are always available to discuss your breeding programme and goals and how Wharetoa Genetics can assist you to meet these goals.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to hosting you at our Open Day and On Farm Auction.

Our very best wishes for the season ahead and hoping that 2021 is a better year for all.

Garth and Chris



Increase your EBIT by 35%

In 2016 we engaged AbacusBio to analyse our Maternal and Terminal Genetics to put a financial value on the gains that commercial farmers could make by fully utilising our genetics.

In the last year or two the industry has been recognising the advantages of getting as many lambs as possible away at weaning and hence bringing your mean kill date forward. So this report is still very valid and of interest.

Example; From a baseline of; 140% lambing and 18kg lambs from 70kg ewes (3000 ewes) mated to NZ average white face rams.

Step 1; mate 40% to high merit Meatmaker terminal rams

Gross Margin increase of \$27,000

Step 2; plus if the maternal flock is Wharetoa Maternal

Gross Margin increase of \$66,000

This report highlights that with the use of superior terminal and maternal rams significant financial gains can be made.

The main drivers are;

- bringing your mean kill date forward
- Increasing carcass weight and yield



There are still opportunities for sheep farmers to greatly improve the profitability of their business from within the existing sheep farming enterprise and therefore without the capital investment or other systematic changes required to shift to other enterprises.

Example; Farm killing 3000 lambs;

A/ Mean Kill Date; December 20

50% lambs (1500) Value Weaned lambs 18.00kg @ \$6.40 = \$172,800

Balance lambs (1500) 22.5kg @ \$6.00 = \$202,500

Total Income = \$375,300

B/ Mean kill date; February 20

Value Weaned lambs 18.5 kg @ \$6.00/kg = \$333,000

Total Income = \$333,000

Possible Financial Gain = \$42,300

The full AbacusBio report is available on our website. Also in this report is a full financial analysis of running a 100% terminal flock and buying in ewe replacements. (Good reading).



Body Condition Score (BCS).

BCS has become a recognised tool promoted by consultants and vets.



Accountants are saying that the main drivers of profitability are Mean Kill Date and live lambs on the ground.

For ewes to milk well and have a bit of cover to survive environmental extremes a BCS of 3.5 – 4 is needed.

Increased selection pressure for meat yield has given us better ewes with better BCS. In today's world where we are solely reliant on lamb and mutton for our income, I believe we must have superior meat and growth genes in our maternal flocks.

There is a strong correlation between carcass weight of lambs and mature ewe size.

While the larger ewes have higher maintenance requirements, the AbacusBio calculations using the bio-economic modelling tool, Farmax, found that the productivity gain and the opportunity to use feed saved through earlier sales more than offsets the extra feed demand.

Maternal ewes of up to 50% Texel definitely do maintain better BCS that enables them to handle the extremes that Mother Nature tends to throw our way.

Lamb Carcass Weight VS Lambing Percentage

Which is best? A high lambing %
 A High lamb carcass weight

The consensus usually always favours a high lambing %.

2 examples of a 3000 ewe flock lambing at 153% or 140% and export lambs killed at 18kg and 20kg respectively.

A/ Lambing at 153%; Total; 4590 lambs
Retain; 700 lambs
Saleable lambs; 3890 @ 18kg @ \$6.00/kg
\$420,120

B/ Lambing at 140%; Total; 4200 lambs
Retain; 700 lambs
Saleable lambs; 3500 @ 20kg @ \$6.00/kg
\$420,000

This example shows that it is very easy to make financial gain through increased carcass weight.



ON FARM AUCTION: Friday December 18, 2020

Wharetoa Commercial Flock “Proven by Performance”

We expect our commercial flock to perform at the top of the industry and to rigorously test our genetics in a commercial setting.

Over time we have developed our genetics to breed rams to meet the current financial and physical requirements of modern day commercial sheep farming enterprises. Having a commercial flock to benchmark our breeding policies and having a day to day hands on approach allows us to evaluate and adjust our breeding objectives accordingly.

Genetic make up; Ewes – Wharetoa Maternal (ewe lambs retained from recorded dams).
 Rams – Suftex and Meatmaker ram lambs.

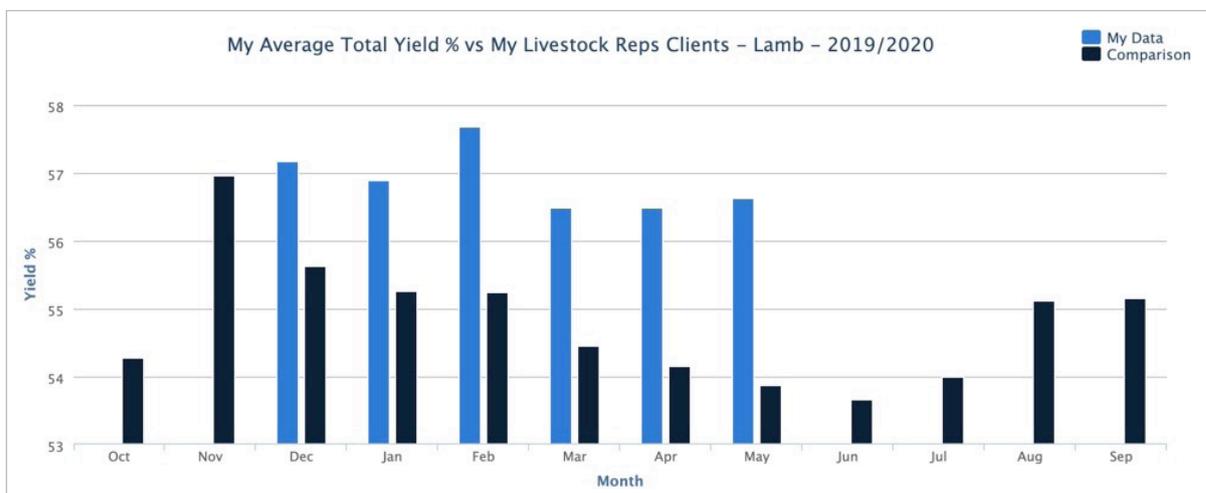
Current production; 145% lambs sold / to ewes mated.
 50% lambs away at weaning.



Weaning draft December 2019. 50% of lambs away. 2 truck and trailer units.

The following bar graphs show the performance of Wharetoa’s lambs and ewes in the 2019/2020 season.





Short to medium term objective;

- 145% lambs sold / to ewes mated
- 75% lambs away at weaning.
(100 days @ 18.5kg) (balance 22-23 kg).

How will we achieve this?

- Lamb the Freezer Ewes 10 days prior to the main mob
- Mate all ewes to terminal rams
- Leave 75% with long tails
- Shuffle graze (shift ewes and lambs every 3-4 days).

Myomax

The Myomax Gene is known to increase carcass weight and muscle yield.

Now that all lambs born in our SufTex and Wharetoa Maternal flocks have a DNA sample to verify their parentage, all lambs (male and female) are tested for the Myomax gene. Our Coopworth, Texel and Meatmaker flocks are also tested for the Myomax gene.

A lamb carrying a single copy of Myomax will see an increase in muscle yield of 5%. A double Myomax (Myomax Gold) carrier will see an increase of 10%.

In our SufTex flock (male and female) only Myomax carriers are retained.

In our Wharetoa Maternal flock the majority of sale rams will have the Myomax or Myomax Gold gene.

All of this DNA technology comes at a significant cost to the breeder but we regard it as an investment that will guarantee us significant genetic gain which our clients will benefit from.



Performance Recording (Genomics)

We continue to use all the latest technology that is available in order to breed rams that will sire lambs that will be profitable.

In our Wharetoa Maternal and Suftex flocks we use the Zoetis Shepherd Complete programme. This uses DNA technology to record parentage. Correct pedigree along with improved accuracy means that you can fully rely on Wharetoa's figures as a good prediction of the rams future performance. **With no tagging at birth we are lambing these flocks in conditions more aligned with a commercial breeding programme.**

In the Shepherd Complete programme is another tool called Sheep 5K. This programme analyses the ram's pedigree and predicts his potential future performance. This means that you can select a ram lamb to breed from with confidence that his progeny will perform.

Flocks using Sheep 5K correctly will grow genetically 50% faster than the industry average.

Our Coopworth, Texel and Meatmaker flocks are fully recorded on SIL and I continue to tag these lambs at birth. These flocks are not currently part of the Shepherd Complete programme owing to expense but all rams are tested for Myomax prior to the sale.



Sire selection for our recorded flock;

Each Autumn before mating we spend a great deal of time selecting the sires which will be used to breed the next generation of lambs.

SIL (Sheep Improvement Ltd) Sire Summaries provide data that is a summary of a rams productive performance. We use ram lambs over 95% of our recorded ewes. When selecting these ram lambs we select the best lambs from the best sires and endeavour to select different bloodlines to aid in future matings. This selection programme ensures that substantial genetic gain can be achieved.

The main Goal Traits are;

Maternal

- No. lambs born
- Survival
- Growth
- Meat

Terminal

- Survival
- Growth
- Meat



Rohan Farmer of Stockscan, Eye Muscle Scanning
February 2020

OPEN DAY: Friday November 27, 2020, 10am – 3pm

Wharetoa Genetics Breed Profiles

Wharetoa Genetics has 6 different breeds of sires for sale. I do believe that each has a distinctive role to play in the NZ sheep industry.

Terminal



Meatmaker (Poll Dorset x Texel)

Selected for Terminal goal traits (growth, meat, survival).

- Fast growth rate
- High meat yielding
- Exceptional muscling
- Myomax



Meatmaker x Suffolk

Selected for Terminal goal traits (growth, meat, survival).

- Fast growth rate
- High meat yielding
- Black colouring for ease of identification
- Myomax



Suftex (Suffolk X Texel)

Selected for Terminal goal traits (growth, meat, survival).

- Fast growth rate
- High meat yield
- Excellent muscling
- Black colouring for ease of identification
- All Myomax carriers
- DNA Shepherd Complete

Maternal



Wharetoa Maternal

Maternal breed with serious growth and meat genes.

- Bred for maternal goal traits
- Exceptional stabilised Texel X Coopworth
- Produces fast growing high meat yielding progeny
- High fecundity
- Exceptional Conformation (to retain BCS)
- DNA Shepherd Complete



Coopworth

Bred for Maternal goal traits.

- Multipurpose / dual purpose maternal breed
- Some ewes are mated to Texel rams to generate sires to use in our Wharetoa Maternal flock
- Pure Coopworth rams are available



Texel

Bred for maternal goal traits.

- An ideal sire for maternal cross breeding to increase/improve – survivability of lambs
- Tolerance to internal parasites
- Ewe conformation (better BCS)
- Strong meat characteristics in maternal ewes



OPEN DAY

Friday November 27, 2020, 10am – 3pm

All Sale Rams will be yarded for inspection.

2020 Commercial lambs sired by SufTex rams and Wharetoa
Maternal rams will be yarded for inspection.

ON FARM AUCTION

Friday December 18, 2020

12 Midday. Inspection from 10am.

• Lunch and Refreshments •

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



Warwick Howie 027 437 5276
Callum McDonald 027 433 6443


WHARETOA GENETICS

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