

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



The dry Autumn of 2021 tested many farming systems and highlighted the need for management and genetics that enable you to kill your lamb crop at reasonable weights and at a young age.

This year we are focusing on profitability which has been part of our mantra since we started... "Superior Genetics for Greater Profitability" All farmers need to be running a profitable enterprise and we believe that our genetics can play a big role here.

We might ask ourselves these questions.... What? Why? How?

What do we want to achieve? (our goals).

Why do we want to achieve this? (to make more money?)

How can we do this? (Genetics? / Management?)

Accountants and consultants use Mean Kill Dates as one of their most influential KPI's for profitability. Many of our clients are now achieving a mean kill date (age) at 100 days old. This creates opportunities to generate additional income through feed saved, or to look after capital stock and maintain BCS for the coming season.

Spring has been terrible for most of us, wet with little grass growth. However prices for our lamb and cull ewes look very promising at present but history tells us to believe it when we see it!!

Major concerns remain around the worldwide pandemic and associated restrictions and supply chain problems. It appears now that the only way out of this is to have a very high percentage of the population vaccinated. So we all need to be doing this to protect our young and vulnerable and our businesses.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to hosting you at our Open day and On Farm Auction. Once again for those unable to make it on the day, this year's sale will be a hybrid auction incorporating the online auction platform bidr. Further information around bidr is in this newsletter.

In the meantime please don't hesitate to call Garth to discuss your breeding goals and how Wharetoa Genetics can be part of your breeding programme. With our very best wishes for the coming months...stay safe!!

Garth and Chris.

Looking to the Future

Our breeding objectives in our Maternal and Terminal recorded ewes

The most important factor for sheep farming is that it must be profitable. To be profitable our sheep have to perform;

Survival:

- Number of lambs weaned

Meat:

- High quality, healthy meat
- Lambs being killed at 25 – 30kg (processing is more efficient)
- High meat yielding

Growth:

- One of our main KPI's is Mean Kill date (reflects the ability to grow)
- For finishers the faster the turn around time the better
- The most effective thing sheep farmers can do to reduce the carbon footprint is finish their lambs as quickly as possible.

Labour Input:

- Have to be easy care and pleasant to work with

Commercial Ewes:

- Need to have conformation that can maintain a consistent Body Condition Score of 3.5 to 4 all year round.

Animal Health:

- Cosely monitor animal health.
- Drench when it is needed.

Mating Policy:

- Need to mate at least 40% of of our commercial ewes to terminal rams (AbacusBio on our website.)

Wool:

- Will be more profitable in the future so is still a relevant selection trait.
- Is such an excellent natural, renewable and environmentally friendly resource.

Early Lambing:

- With the hybrid grasses and nitrogen fertiliser available to us it might be worth lambing a few ewes early to take advantage of the high early season premiums that we see year on year... not only for lambs but also cull ewes.

Meat Yield and Quality / Body Condition Score

Selection for Meat Yield has been a major breeding objective over both our Maternal and Terminal flocks for a number of years.

Last Autumn when we Eye Muscle Scanned our ram hoggets I asked Mathew Farmer to see if we can identify animals with Intra Muscular Fat (IMF). Across all flocks there were rams with varying amounts of IMF so now we need to identify and multiply.

We killed a line of commercial ewe lambs with Alliance's "Hand Picked" programme. 58% met the specifications required.

High meat yielding lambs have a very distinctive conformation. They usually have a very big hind quarter with a good wide loin and have a good spring to the ribs.

One of the benefits of selecting for meat yield is that the females retained have the ability to maintain their Body Condition Score during environmental extremes. BCS is increasingly being used as a KPI by vets and consultants in relation to production and profitability.



Wharetoa Breed Profiles

Maternal Sires

Wharetoa Maternal



The ultimate maternal breed with the growth and meat of a terminal.

- DNA recorded for: Parentage and Myomax meat gene
- SIL recorded for: Number of lambs born, Growth, Meat, Wool and Survival
- 500 ewes lambing with minimal shepherding
- Consistently scanning 190 – 200%
- Fast growing and high meat yielding progeny
- Consistently weaning 40kg+ lambs at 120 days
- All rams sold with Myomax status
- Exceptional conformation (to maintain BSC)

Texel



We continue to breed our Texels with selection for Maternal traits:

- Number of lambs born, Survival, Growth, Meat and Wool

These rams are ideal for cross breeding to;

- Improve Lamb survival (vigorous lambs at birth)
- Have faster growth rates
- Increase meat yields
- Breed ewes with the ability to maintain BCS
- Breed progeny with worm tolerance.

Please Note we are no longer breeding Coopworths as we have developed our Wharetoa Maternals as an alternative.



ON FARM AUCTION: Friday December 17, 2021

Terminal Sires

Meatmaker (Poll Dorset x Texel)



Our Meatmakers are bred for:

- Survival, Growth, Meat and Myomax

Our 250 recorded ewes produce rams that will have:

- Fast growth rates and high meat yield

We are now introducing Meatmaker genes into our Suftex to take advantage of the Meatmakers exceptional meat yielding characteristics.

Suftex (Suffolk x Texel)



Our Suftex are bred for:

- Survival, Growth and Meat

Progeny have:

- Fast growth rates, High meat yields, excellent muscling and all progeny retained (male and female) carry the Myomax meat gene.

Meatmaker x Suffolk



Our Meatmakers x Suffolk are bred for:

- Survival, Growth and Meat

We have been working with this new cross to incorporate the high meat yielding characteristics of our Meatmaker into our Suftex flock. This has been very successful.

All genetic Trend
Graphs are on our
website.



Wharetoa's Investment in Technology includes DNA testing.

Zoetis Shepherd Complete uses DNA technology to record parentage.

Identifies the Myomax meat gene, known for increasing carcase weight and muscle yield. Animals with a single copy will have a 5% increase in muscle yield and a double copy (Myomax Gold) sees an increase of 10%. A ram with a double copy will pass on one copy to all progeny (male and female).

Genomics ensures that young rams have added accuracy on their eBV and Index Values because their own actual DNA has been sequenced and identified for trait performance. You can select sires from a pool of young rams with increased confidence knowing that this extra layer of information is included.

This also gives us confidence in selecting the top ram hoggets each year to use over our recorded Wharetoa Maternal and Suftex ewes.

Flocks using this technology have shown to increase genetic gain by 50% compared to the industry average.

With no tagging at birth we are now lambing our Wharetoa Maternal and Suftex flocks in conditions that are more reflective of commercial breeding programmes.



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OPEN DAY

Friday November 26. 2021,
10am – 3pm

All Sale Rams will be
yarded for inspection.

2021 Commercial lambs sired
by Wharetoa Genetics Rams will
be yarded for inspection.

ON FARM AUCTION

Friday December 17, 2021

12 Midday. Inspection
from 10am.

• Lunch and Refreshments •

For Sale: 300 Maternal and
Terminal 2 tooth Rams.

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



Warwick Howie 027 437 5276
Callum McDonald 027 433 6443



Superior Genetics for Greater Profitability

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