WHARETOA GENETICS

Superior Genetics for Greater Profitability

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

The breeding of rams to meet the requirements and expectations of our clients is more challenging each year. We continue to use all the technological and scientific resources available, to breed Maternal and Terminal Sires to meet expectations.

The past 12 months have again truly tested farming systems and breeding programmes for all of us and at times put serious pressure on our businesses both internally and externally.

90% of our income from sheep now comes from the sale of red meat and one of the Key Performance Indicators in our businesses is MEAN KILL DATE.

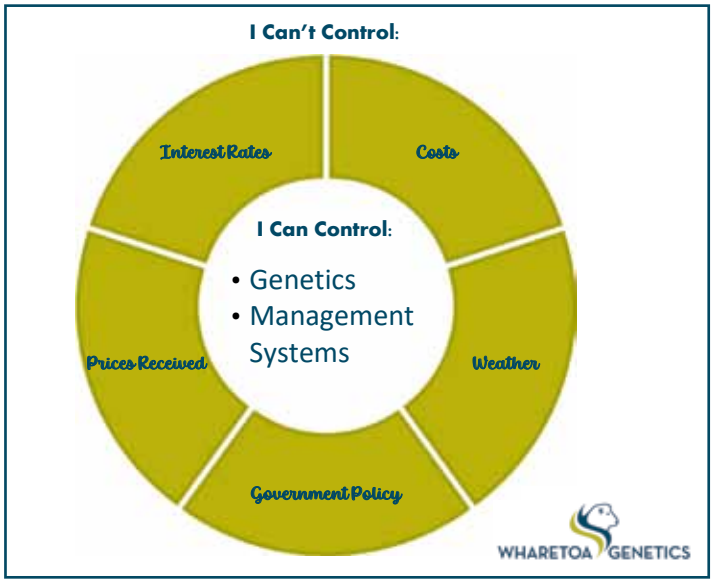
By killing lambs early we have flexibility and create opportunities within our businesses to improve the bottom line:

- Grow out ewe lambs for successful hogget mating.
- Grow remaining works lambs to heavier weights eg; 18kg to 22kg, an extra 4kg @$8/kg = $32/lamb x 1500 lambs = **$48,000 EXTRA.**
- Put extra weight on cull ewes eg; 28kg to 34kg, an extra 6kg @ $6/kg = $36/ewe x 500 cull ewes = **$18,000 EXTRA.**
- Maintain weight on our ewes ready for Autumn mating.
- A reduced stocking rate if we have a dry Summer and Autumn.

At Wharetoa our commercial ewes are exposed to all the extremes that we all face on farm…. Dry, Wet, Costs etc. This puts us in a strong position to breed rams whose progeny will meet the physical demands brought upon them and also have the production to meet the financial expectations of our clients.

A good ram will add value to your farm business.

Genetics and management contribute 50%/50% to your flocks performance. The performance potential of your flock is governed by Genetics, the level to which that potential is captured is governed by management practices.



We should focus on the factors that we can control 100% (inner circle) and try not to get stressed by those we cannot control (outer circle).

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this Newsletter, I don't find it easy to write but try to bring you as valued clients up to date with what is happening at Wharetoa.

Please feel free to call anytime (027 273 7037) to discuss, and Chris and I look forward to hosting you at our Annual Open Day (Friday November 25) and our On Farm Auction (Friday December 16).

Many thanks for your continued support and Best Wishes to all of the farming community during these turbulent times.

Garth Shaw

www.wharetoagenetics.co.nz

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Technology

As ram breeders it is very important that we use all available resources to breed rams whose progeny will give our clients the best possible financial returns.

EID Tags;
Have increased the accuracy and efficiency of the data recorded.

DNA Testing:
- DNA test for parentage (using Zoetis Shepherd Complete) in our Wharetoa Maternal and Suftex flocks:

- We can multi sire mate ewes
- Increases the accuracy of the pedigree
- No tagging of lambs at birth means minimal shepherding

- **DNA test for the Myomax meat gene** in all progeny (male & female):

- Ewes carrying the Myomax meat gene tend to have a more robust conformation enabling them to maintain body condition better than non carriers.
- We can make superior gains in meat yielding characteristics.

- **The Fertility GDF9 gene is identified**… 1 copy of this gene increases fertility by 20%

Clutha Valley Lions tailing and DNA Testing

Genomics

Ensures that young rams have added accuracy on their eBV's and Index Values because their own actual DNA has been sequenced and identified for trait performance. We and our clients can select sires from a pool of young rams with increased confidence knowing that this extra layer of information is included. **This means that our genetic progress and that of our clients is enhanced and sped up! Your genetic progress will follow ours.**

- **Facial Exzema (FE)**
- North Island breeders have done extensive work on breeding sheep that are tolerant to FE outbreaks.
- With current climatic changes I believe that it may be advantageous to introduce this trait into our southern sheep flocks and am moving forward with this in mind.

IntraMuscular Fat (IMF)

As 90% of our income comes from meat this demands special attention genetically.

Meat companies are saying that the eating qualities of meat can be/are measured by the level of intramuscular fat in a lamb chop. Small premiums are appearing for IMF (eg; Alliance Hand Picked Lamb).

Identification of IMF in live animals is in its very early stages. It is vital that a reliable and accurate system is developed to measure the IMF in live animals so that breeding values can be created by SIL.

As a starting point, last Autumn when Eye Muscle scanning, I asked Matthew and Rohan Farmer (Stockscan) to identify the animals with any degree of IMF. There were some that had a lot and others that had none however it was present in both our Maternal and Terminal Flocks.

This years sale ram's sires are ranked in the sale catalogue for IMF.

Methane Emissions / GHGs

Global Warming and methan emissions are definitely the topic of the moment.

Beef and Lamb Genetics NZ have a "Methane Trailer" that is set up to allow the measurement of the amounts of methane that any one animal will discharge. From this data a breeding value can be predicted to use in selection criteria. There is currently only one Methan Trailer for all of NZ with another coming.

AgResearch senior scientist Dr Suzanne Rowe comments from the limited work to date " Low emitting animals may have greater economic value through decreased fat and increased meat yields".

Lincoln University Animal Health scientist and vet, Jim Gibbs says in an article titled 'Faster kill weights an answer?' …."the realities of breeding such traits into the industry herds and flocks of NZ while keeping the genetic gains they already have, means any such tool is a generation away". He also suggests another solution… " if the animal
achieves that (killable) carcase in a shorter life cycle because they have been fed better, then the methane output per kg of that food product is less. **Fewer days to slaughter equals less methane output". Another advantage of an early mean kill date.**

How the Methane Trailer works:

The animal is put into a portable accumulation chamber (PAC) with a Methane Reader for 1 hour. Data is collected and SIL can then create breeding values for individual animals.

We have the Methane Trailer booked in for the Autumn and will advertise when we have a date so that clients can see it in action.

Blackdale 85/20 … Texel Investment

In January 2022 we purchased the top Texel ram at the South Island Premier Ram Auction for the investment of $20,000.

Peter Black has long been a role model, friend and mentor and it was an honour to purchase his and Marion's last sale sire as they passed Blackdale on to family.

This ram is very pleasing to the eye and is structurally very sound but he also has unique hidden features:

- A totally new bloodline on his sire's side (Grand Sire was the top Texel in the UK in 2019)
- EMA scan March 2021 was 28.03 @68kg.
- Myomax Gold.
- Dam Fertility of 200%.
- 1 copy of GDF9 (a ewe with 1 copy will have 20% more lambs).

How did we use him?

- Mated to Wharetoa pure Texel ewes
- Mated to Wharetoa stud Coopworth ewes and progeny will be screened into the Wharetoa Maternal flock
- Mated to a small number of Wharetoa Maternal ewes to improve between flock linkages.

10 months on and with lambs on the ground, I am extremely happy with the progeny. 85/20 is still structurally very very good.

We are looking forward to having his progeny ready for our 2023 Auction.

At Wharetoa it is always our intention and goal to produce a ram crop that is better than the previous years one

I do believe that we are doing this and that we are producing rams for every sale that keep pace with our clients needs.

The production of our commercial ewes and the progress of all the recorded flocks under some very trying conditions, give us encouraging results.

The latest Genetic Trend Graphs for all our recorded flocks are on the Wharetoa Genetics website.

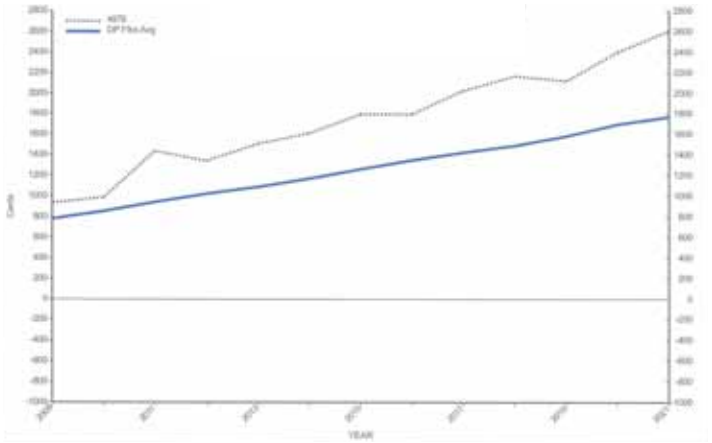
These particular GTG's show the genetic gain over the years of our **Wharetoa Maternals** for Index, Lamb Growth and Meat Yield.

The 2 sets of graphs here are calculated using maternal and terminal REV's:

MATERNAL REV's

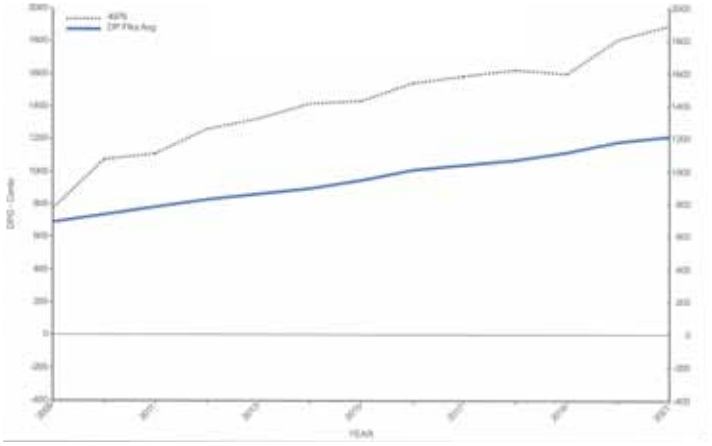
Genetic Trends for Flock 4976

NZ Maternal Worth with Meat (MW+M)



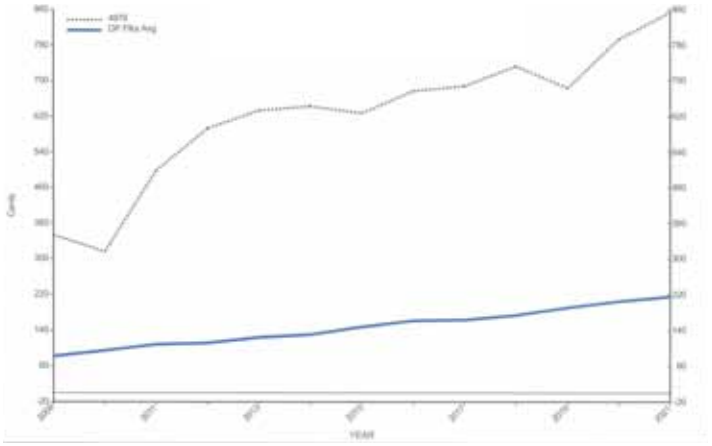
Genetic Trends for Flock 4976

SIL Dual Purpose Lamb Growth



Genetic Trends for Flock 4976

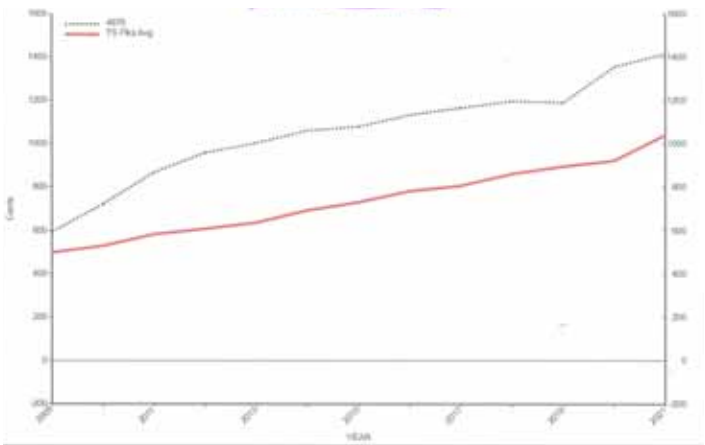
SIL Dual Purpose Meat Yield



TERMINAL REV's

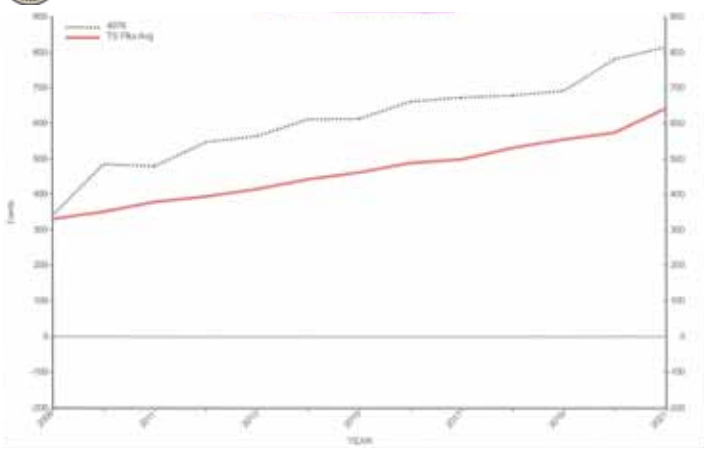
Genetic Trends for Flock 4976

NZ Standard Terminal Worth (NZTW)



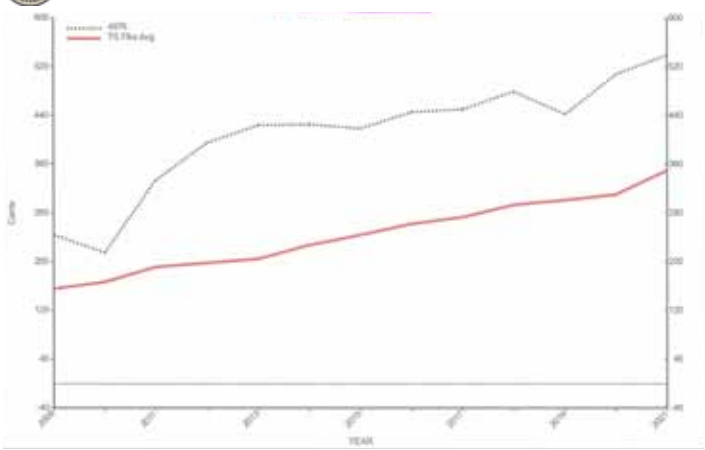
Genetic Trends for Flock 4976

SIL Terminal Sire Lamb Growth



Genetic Trends for Flock 4976

SIL Terminal Sire Meat Yield



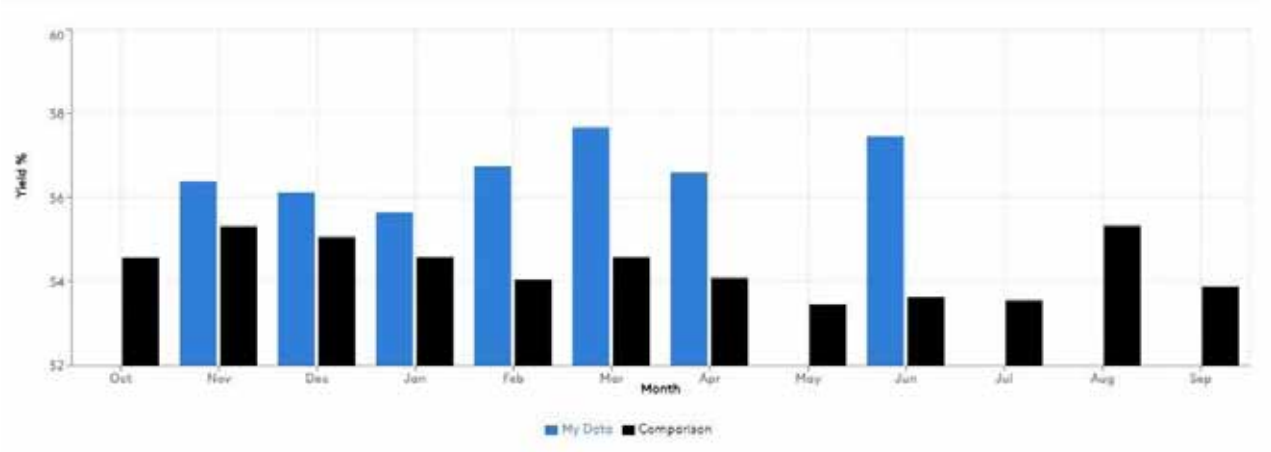
Our commercial flock

Production has continued to be pleasing even in trying conditions.

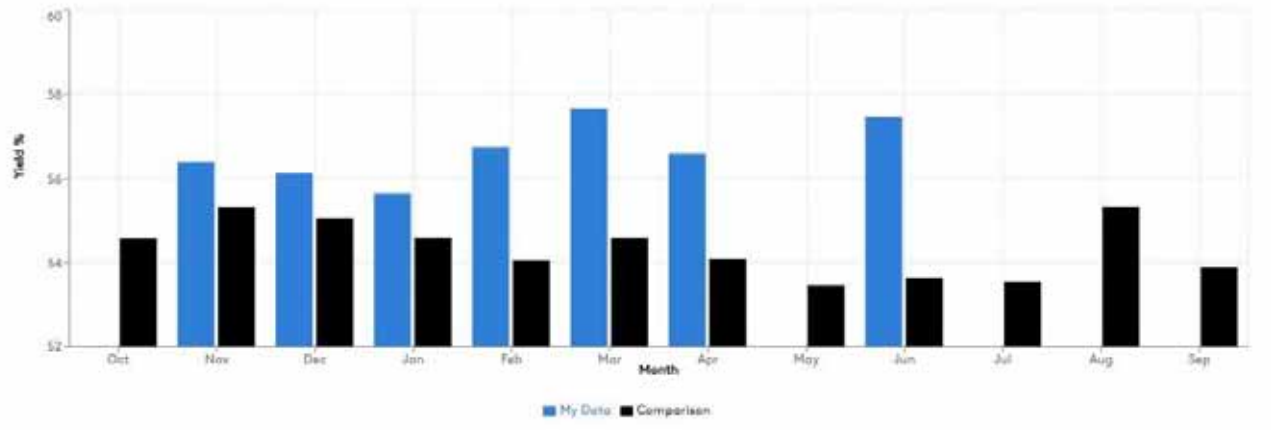
All ewes mated to Wharetoa Terminal rams.

- Average Lamb Weight = 19.04kg
- Average Ewe weight = 33.80kg
- 3% sold as stores
- 60% lambs killed at weaning
- Average kill date = December 17

My Average Total Yield vs My Livestock Reps Clients - Lamb, 2021 - 2022



My Average Weights vs My Livestock Reps Clients - Lamb, 2021 - 2022



Wharetoa Genetics Breed Profiles

Maternal

Wharetoa Maternal (1/2 Texel ½ Coopworth)

The Maternal breed with serious growth and meat genes.

- Bred for Maternal Goal Traits;
  - NLB, • survival, • growth, • meat, • wool
- DNA recorded using Zoetis Shepherd Complete (minimal shepherding).
- All rams sold with Myomax status.
- 550-600 ewes in the recorded flock;
  - consistently scanning 195-200%
  - Weaning 40kg av Lambs @ 120days
- All sires of sale rams are ranked for IMF
- We are introducing low FEC and Facial Ezema tolerant genetics into our breeding programme.

These rams will put serious meat genes into flock ewes to produce fast growing, high meat yielding lambs.

Ewe lambs retained will have excellent conformation enabling them to withstand environmental extremes. They will produce consistently year after year.

Texel

Our breeding objectives for our Texels are Maternal focused.

- Recorded on SIL using Goal Traits;
  - NLB, • Survival, • Growth, • Meat, • Wool.
- All rams sold have a high fertility background
- Progeny are exceptionally vigorous at birth.

When mated over Romney and Coopworth ewes the ½ Texel progeny will; - show exceptional lamb vigour
- produce high meat yielding fast growth lambs.

Ewe lambs retained will have excellent body conformation that enables them to maintain a consistent Body Condition Score.

Texel cross progeny have an inherent tolerance and resistance to Internal parasites.

Terminal

Meatmaker (Poll Dorset x Texel)

- Recorded on SIL for Goal traits;
  - Growth, • Meat, • Survival
- Our 250 recorded ewes will produce lambs that have;
  - fast growth rates
  - high meat yields
- All sale rams sires are ranked for IMF.

Suftex

- Recorded on SIL for Goal Traits;
  - Growth, • Meat, • Survival
- Our 450 recorded ewes are DNA profiled and parentage is identified through DNA.
- All progeny retained, (both male and female) must carry at least 1 copy of Myomax.
- All rams sires are ranked for IMF

These rams will produce progeny that are fast growing, high meat yielding and show exceptional muscling in the carcase.

Meatmaker x Suffolk

- Recorded on SIL for;
  - Growth, • Meat, • Survival.

This cross has enabled us to introduce the superior meat characteristics of our Meatmakers into our Suftex flock. I am happy with what we have achieved here.

Now many of our Suftex ewes have a small % of Meatmaker in them.

OPEN DAY

Friday November 25th 2022, 10am - 3pm
All Sale Rams will be yarded for inspection.

2022 Commercial lambs sired by Suftex rams and Wharetoa Maternal rams will be yarded for inspection.

ON FARM AUCTION

Friday December 16th 2022
12 Midday. Inspection from 10am
Lunch and Refreshments

bidr

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

PGG Wrightson

Warwick Howie 027 437 5276
Callum McDonald 027 433 6443

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