

TEXEL MARKETING GROUP

ONE STOP RAM SHOP HAS A WEBSITE www.onestopramshop.co.nz

This is a practical, no fuss website which is updated regularly with descriptions of OSRS/TMG activities, newspaper articles about clients and our business. Have a look, you'll be interested.



Spring. Paradise duck, sheep, curious cattle and mist. 'Paratu', October 2004

TMG has marketed actively throughout the 04/05 season. To date thirty transactions have been arranged. Some thousands of two-tooth, mixed aged ewes and ewe hoggets have moved within each island and ewe lambs between islands.

Demand for genetically superior breeding stock continues. TMG is uniquely positioned to facilitate these trades. TMG has a number of purchasers seeking annual supply of ewe lambs and m.a. ewes. TMG has facilitated contract rearing of ewe lambs also.



Front page Dominion-Post. Photo taken at the top of Maire Hill (800m) during the major September snowstorm. Manager Colin Burlace trundled the photographer up the hill in bitter cold snowy conditions. 'Tarata', 17-9-04

SHEEPMET IS IN SHORT SUPPLY FOREVER.

2004 35.3 millions lambs were tailed.
25.1 million will be harvested.

World markets want more, much more sheepmeat.

Prof. Robert Thompson (University of Illinois – a leading trade authority). "By 2050 three billion extra people will be around. Agricultural product needs to double (this is possible) to feed everyone. Farming uses 70% of the world's consumed fresh water however urban demand is outbidding farmers for water rights. So production doubling will occur using less water. My message is one of optimism for the future of world agriculture. NZ is ideally placed to take advantage of the opportunities. Half the demand will come from the 3 billion mouths and the rest from the rising incomes of developed countries."

(Straight Furrow)

OSRS offered fifteen breeds of sheep for sale as two tooth in 2004/05. Eleven categories were completely 'sold out'. This has never been achieved, by OSRS, before.



So much work. Paring feet. LHS merino, RHS North Canterbury farmer. One only has good feet. Oxford, January 2005



OSRS ¼ Finn, ¼ Texel, ½ Perendale rams being transported across a major Gisborne river. They are not stressed as there is plenty of head support. Surplus ewe lambs were marketed by TMG, to Northland. John Hindrup, Makarika Station, Ruatoria



Brains Trust. Clare Callow (Animal Breeding Trust), Robin Hilson (Helmsman), Robert Carter (OSRS West; NZ Sheep Council Chairman) and Garry McLennan (OSRS Operation Manager) meeting at 'Paratu'. November 15, 2004.



½ Finn ½ Merino ewes with lambs at Omarama. John Lory, January 2005



Argyle Station tops. Spectacular, interesting, well managed Southland, January 2005.



Matariki ewe hoggets. Excellent surplus ¼ Finn, ¼ Texel, ½ Perendales are sold to NI farmers, by TMG, annually. Dennis Meade, Nelson, January 2005



Peter Cloughley and an ancient (1996) OSRS Texel Suffolk ram; still sound. Waimate, January 2005



Redesigning OSRS office procedures. Friendly, new programs with rapid support service are now operational. Robin Hilson, Sandra Anderson (OSRS/TMG Secretary) and Richard McChesney (Reboot Ltd – programmer). Dannevirke, 17-12-04



Bruce and Jean McClymont. Victorian farmers who have OSRS Finn and Finn-Texel genetics. Son John, a student from Marcus Oldham College, Victoria, is working for Colin McDonald. 'Burnside', March 7 2005

INTERNATIONAL

USA - For the first time in 50 years the US will import more food than it exports (2005). Food producers were paid US \$15.7 billion in subsidies. 70% of the subsidies go to 10% of US farmers.

ENGLAND - 100,000 farmers receive subsidies. Many of UK's wealthiest people get subsidies of over 1 million pounds. Tate and Lyle, a sugar exporter, received 233 million pounds.

AUSTRALIA - Of 80 million merinos, half are breeders and a quarter go to meat sires. 10 million merino crossbreds and 4 million meat breed ewes produce prime lambs. 150,000 lambs are consumed domestically each week. Australians eat 10 kg of lamb each per year (NZers 8 kg).

A Dubbo woolshed was closed by Occupational Safety because a yellow line was not painted on the floor around the grinder and press to highlight a hazardous work area. NSW.

If a contractor died when his spreader rolled, the farmer is guilty of Industrial Murder if everything has not been checked beforehand on the truck and on the farm to prevent the accident. NSW.



Welcome; welcome swallows. Fledglings about to leave the nest. 'Paratu', December 2004

QUOTES

Simon McKay, Namoi, Alfredton.
 "I don't order more (Texel Suffolks) because I don't need more. They just don't wear out. Yes, I've culled a couple."
 Simon has used OSRS rams for six seasons.

Gerald Martin Greenlands Farm, Napier
 "I know how well the lambs are going to 'pick' by the number that jump out (of the yards). None of the PD's jump. More of the Texel-Suffolks lambs jump; but neither do as well as the (jumping) Texel sired lambs."
 Gerald has used OSRS rams since 1993.

Murray Schofield Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island
 Southern Ram. "At the south-end of State Highway 1 is a Finn-Texel ram from OSRS. His main task is to keep 15-20 acres tidy with his 20-30 wives. This, he does admirably although at times his head becomes adorned in bidibidi. The OSRS ram has been a great success on pastures very different from those upon which he was bred in the North Island."
 November 2004.

Peter Reveley, Mt Somers, Ashburton.
 Two dorper texels and two coopworth rams were mated to coopworth x ewes. The dorper mob lambed 142% (vs 165%) but were 2 kg lighter for weaning and post-weaning weighings. Dorper cross lambs required no assistance and were tolerant of extreme cold; no lambs died. 3% of the ewes mated to a coopworth ram ewes were assisted and lamb losses were 2%.
 Dorper cross lambs of ewes grew at 500 gm/day and from hoggets at 350 gm/day. All lambs yielded 49%.

Derek Marr, Otio, Timaru
 First draft of lambs averaged 17.1 kg CW and were worth \$80.40, (02/11/04).
 Top Texel-Suffolk rams were used over PD x Texel ewes.

Robin Quigley, Manager for Kevin O'Connell, Hadlow, Timaru. February 2005

"You've got to watch these salesmen. But Robin is more than a salesman, he knows the sheep well."

Six year old Finn-Romney ewes from Kaiwera were too good for a terminal sire and were mated to $\frac{3}{4}$ Texel $\frac{1}{4}$ Finn rams whose progeny will be $\frac{3}{8}$ Texel $\frac{3}{8}$ Finn $\frac{1}{4}$ Romneys.



Idiots have wrecked signs. \$100,000 damage in Marlborough, Nelson and West Coast alone. Canterbury, January 2005

Roger Sutherland, Balfour, Southland
 "Lambs from your rams were the first to be drafted. 147 lambs averaged 17.8 kg off their mothers. Lamb survival was excellent. Look at the line of ewe lambs – **they're the best ever.**"

Philip Smith, Rangiwahia, Manawatu
 Scanned 161%; docked 142%. Ewes were not scanned for triplets. Lambs survived 'horrible' conditions.
 A Manawatu monitor farm scanned 226%; docked 130%.
(OSRS matches genetics to the farm, ensuring survival better than this!)

Alan and Craig Little, Ohoka, Wairoa
 Gentleman Alan could fill this newsletter with his observations about farming Finn-Texel-Romneys. "They have got fantastic vigour. We docked 159%, the real percent of ewes out with the ram."
 "I've been buying rams here since 1997 and they last and last. I have just lost one, the other day, the first."
 Upon buying a Texel-Suffolk ram. "That puts a bit of colour in the mob."
 10/12/04

Peter Lynam, Rissington, Napier
 Aged Romneys are mated to Oxford-Texel rams. Late July lambing. Docking 132% (ewes to ram). 7/12/04, 313 lambs (from 630) hung up at 16.7 kg. This was three weeks later than normal. 'I have been steadily getting more and more killed at weaning. Now I have 50% going. My best ever result.'
 Peter first bought rams in 1992.

Russell Hewson, Brancepeth Station, Masterton
 "Finn-Texel sired lambs are all gone two months ahead of the tail-end Romneys we used to farm. Tail-enders used to be about 25% of the total lamb crop in those 'Romney' days."
 6/12/04

David James, Owen River, Nelson
 'I stopped in a gateway and a two-tooth (3/4T 1/4F) walked right up to me. She stayed just away from my hand. Meanwhile the whole mob moved up to me. Some of these sheep have 'attitude'. They will go straight through you – I like that'.
 18/04/05



Pongaroa notice board. Party time. January 2005

OSRS lambs wool was auctioned at Napier, 3 February 2005. A lamb. 23 bales, MIC 29.7, Yld 82.9, SD 81.8, Vm 0, Y-Z .2 Price 313 c/kg greasy, 383 c/kg clean.
 A top price for attractive wool.

OSRS hogget mating. Texel Suffolk ram X Texel Suffolk ewes averaged 44 kg LW when mated in May 2004. Lambs survived horrible spring weather. Feed was always short. All lambs were weaned at 56 days average age. LW was **23.9 kg**. Growth rate 355 gms/day. (A generous 4kg birth weight was given each lamb).



Ram selection. Jamie Holmden full of grins. Jamie has bought rams for a decade. These ¼ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Perendale rams are for his Kahuranaki Farm. Hawkes Bay, OSRS, December 2004



Ram selection. Peter Kettle (Stock Manager) assisting Barry Burge from Rotorua who has been buying Finn Texels since 1991. OSRS, 7-12-04



Ram selection. Simon McKay (Alfredton) and Daniel Edmonds (Wairarapa) selecting terminal sires. OSRS, 23-11-04

HORSE RACES.

Recently I went to my first race meeting. I noticed jockeys always raised the whip to the excited crowd. **Wrong.** Etiquette requires jockeys to salute the judge.

I had noticed the crowds were always excited. **Wrong.** Race over and everybody is back into the race book. I had observed huge, milling crowds at races. **Wrong.** A few thousand pouring over books, eating, drinking and occasionally talking.

Excitement is for the winning owners to talk every stride through with 'their' jockey. "How it could have been".

Betting.

Joy up \$3.50. Robin down \$2.00.



Dorper cross lamb from a Finn Texel hogget. Born mid October. No lambing troubles and negligible losses. 'Tarata', December 2004

'Countrywide' (Nov) articles discussed the risks of using ram hoggets as sires. Many vets do not recommend the practice. OSRS sells two-tooth rams which are mature and have completed 15 months of competition with their peers. Recording is completed, wool type, confirmation and size is consistent. All rams are palpated before sale. Ram hoggets are sold when some specialised genetic combinations are in short supply.

NEW ZEALAND IS FOR SALE

Labour plans to reclaim (buy) 1.3 million hectares along the eastern flank of the Southern Alps. 94,500 hectares has changed to Crown ownership now.

Carter Holt Harvey is to sell 41,000 hectares of forest land. This is New Zealand's biggest land sale. Offshore giants will be interested.

Landcorp has purchased 25,700 hectares of forestlands and much will be converted to dairy farms.

Everywhere farmers are expanding their farms.

New Zealand has 139,000 lifestyle blocks on 75,300 hectares.

Family business's tend to be 'best' environmentally and socially. Would it not be in New Zealand's best interests to cut up Landcorp now and assist young farmers onto 'first' farms? Agribusiness's ultimately fail and are bought by offshore companies. This will happen to Fonterra.



Hastings races. No excitement, few spectators, no talking. January 15, 2005

FIVE LINERS

- m What a cheery, informative newsletter is put out by Vet Services (HB) Ltd. Most vet newsletters are dull.
- m Goat flocks harbouring parasites totally resistant to the best drenches are widespread. *Get rid of goats*, they accelerate sheep parasite problems.
- m Grassgrub. Affected paddocks at OSRS have stock pressure reduced so plants can recover from the grubs grazing their roots. It works and the grasses survive. *Note: An amoebae in Takapau soil annihilates dense grub populations, i.e. a natural pathogen.*
- m 'New' grasses. Widespread dissatisfaction with new grasses is causing experienced farmers to seek the permanent pasture mixtures of yesterday. *"New" grasses were marketed before testing for longevity.*
- m That marvellous triangle. Ohura to Piopio to Taumarunui is the best 'value for money' pastoral land in New Zealand. Green grass, mild climate, reliable rainfall, OK contour and healthy soils.
- m We farmers use terms upsetting to many. We *bowl* muttons, *slit* dog-tucker's throats, *castrate* bulls, *dock* lambs, *spray* flystruck lambs.
- m Auckland roads. Everybody needs to contribute to improving them if only to save fuel expenditure. Then, make Aucklanders pay totally for their own new roads. *Will new roads make Auckland drivers more polite?*
- m RAM4U has travelled 435,000 kms. Surely it would be fair to turn the odometer **on** because the car has crossed Cook Strait so many times?
- m Spitting has become perfected by sportspeople. They spit after scoring, when carded, when substituted etc. *Spitting is revolting.*
- m Weekends for farm kids used to be the highlight of the week. During February 2005 whilst driving backcountry South Island, many children were observed watching computer or television screens. *Progress? Degeneration? Definitely sad.*
- m Such huge quantities of nocturnal moths, flies and lacewings were flying around alpine roads that windscreen wipers could only just cope. These flights are a sign of a healthy ecology. February, SI
- m Clever sparrows. Robin saw Oamaru sparrows hop behind car grills to feed on insects ensnared in radiators. Finches are clever. New Zealand sparrows are derived from six French sparrows released in 1850(?).
- m NZ Trends 1981 to 2001. Population increased 19%, dwellings increased 35%, energy use by 61%, cars increased 67%, urban land area 78%, GDP 55%.
- m OSRS prediction of a record 2004 lambing, was correct. Officially 123% (Newsletter 47, September.)
- m Conned. NZ people buy \$27 million of 'pure' water in plastic containers. *Ridiculous, fancy not drinking tap water.*
- m 'The Sun' reported Cherie Blair's bloopers during an Auckland address. Twice she called New Zealanders, 'Australians'. Such gaffes did not please a 'bored' audience in seats costing up to \$1019.

- m Mass extinctions. Animal and plant species are being lost at a rate comparable with that of dinosaurs' extinction. Massive population declines are occurring in animals like Katipos. *No such mass decline in the number of public servants which now exceeds 300,000.*
- m By driving into deer, 130 Americans are killed annually. A US company proposes putting jellyfish fluorescent genes into deer so to illuminate their coats when in a car light beam. *Possums with the same genes would be easy night targets.*
- m An economic gain of \$100 million per annum may be achieved by the wise use of nitrogen on hills. This topic is now being researched. *More pollution? Farm consultants punctuate their speeches with the word nitrogen. OSRS does not use nitrogenous fertiliser.*
- m Ancient Egyptians built houses of hemp. Now Australians are preparing to do so. Hemp is light and insulates well. *A potty idea which will probably go up in smoke.*
- m Churchill Pet Insurance (UK) has reported that the average dog costs \$53,190 to keep for a lifetime.
- m Lightning strikes. New Zealand averages 53,511 per annum. USA has 30m/annum and 100 people are killed. *Falling coconuts kill more; 130 worldwide.*



The Joy of picking mushrooms. Plenty for friends. Warm March rains bought on this seasonal delight. 'Burnside'

HITCHING TO A RISING STAR.

Craig Norgate has plenty to learn about the sheep industry. Linking Wrightsons to a ram producing entity is foolish.

Richmond formed similar links which were quickly terminated by PPCS with everybody trying not to look too foolish.

Wrightsons previously bought Ag NZ and its consultants. This failed. Consultants were displeased and farmers more so.

"Talk about shooting oneself in the foot". Perhaps Norgate is a shooting star.

How often supposedly wise heads know so little.



OSRS West: first sale. Maria and Robert Lupton selected four Texel-Suffolk rams from Robert Carter. 13-11-04



Colin McDonald (OSRS South) visited Robert Carter (OSRS West) for the November Open Day. Steep, ash covered King Country hills grows grass. 'The Poplars', King Country, 13-11-04

NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC BOOM.

Economic success has little to do with good governance. It is all to do with the primary sector producing quality products. Many products face huge competition.

Forestry - products are good, but the world has an oversupply of softwoods.

Deer - quality product; but 'Bambie' is still eaten only seasonally.

Pipfruit - wonderful product; but produced cheaper everywhere else.

Fishing - continued harvesting of breeding populations is curtailing this industry.

Viticulture - the world is awash with wine.

Dairy - products are many and of high quality. The industry supplies quality products 'on time' but competition will keep prices down.

Sheepmeat - this quality 'health' food is in undersupply internationally forever. There is no chance of major competition. Prospects have never been better.



Sexy Pure Finn ram amongst his harem. 'Burnside', 14-4-05

OSRS rams are found throughout all New Zealand. **Survival** of OSRS stock has been outstanding in spite of atrocious weather from August to December. Clients regaled OSRS staff everyday, at ram selection, with stories of 'practical' successes. Enough stories to fill 'countrywide' for a year.

'Commonsense' selection policies established in the 1950's still are applied at OSRS.

OSRS WEST NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2005

Friendly greetings to readers of the OSRS newsletter, from the team at Kirikau, Robert, Suzanne, Travis and Seamus the wonder dog.

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank those clients who came to Kirikau to purchase rams in our first season of operation, we appreciate your custom very much and we hope you are happy with the ram boys; they should all be out by now doing what they are designed to do!

I thought I should bring you up to date with a couple of things that I'm involved with in the Sheep industry.

Recently, I became National Chairman of the Meat & Wool New Zealand Sheep Council, an honour for me and an opportunity to further the work that Sheep Council does on your behalf.

Sheep Council is one of the producer councils set up to provide a grass roots connection within Meat & Wool NZ (M&WZN) and one of our main objectives is to provide a group of practical, technically oriented farmers to look at Research and Development programmes as they go through the process from concept to being funded, through to on-farm application.

This is very interesting work and one of the aspects of Sheep Council that all members enjoy immensely.

I guess the key reason for that is that we can help make sure that R&D is focused on the needs of the farming community and not just research for research sake.

M&WZN has just finished a very comprehensive process of finding out farmers' regional needs and some key issues have been highlighted.

One of them is lamb survival and already regional Sheep Councils have organised very good seminars covering this subject. I hope you have been able to attend one of these in your area.

There is a great opportunity to reduce the wastage from conception to weaning and doing the basics well pays very big dividends to you.

These seminars will be repeated in the future, probably in the form of a M&WZN Sheep flock master programme similar to the Pasture Quality and Forage Master programmes already in place.

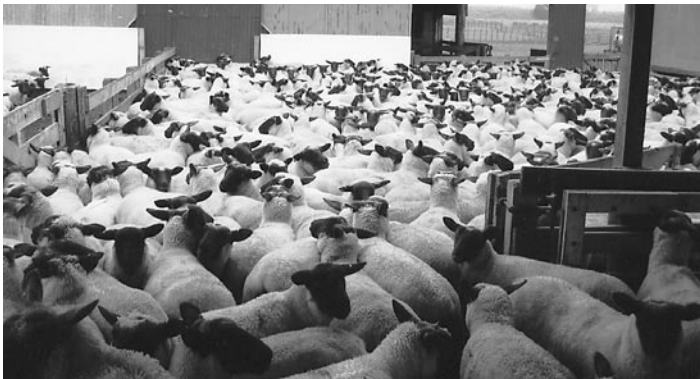
Space precludes me from writing more, contact your local Sheep or Beef Council rep for more information or have a look at the M&WZN website www.meatandwoolnz.com.

In the next newsletter I will share some interesting and exciting developments coming out of Ovita, Loinmax™ and Myomax™. Good things you will be able to add to your sheep for more profit.

Robert Carter.

PREDICTIONS

- m More plantation clearance for pastoral farming. (First predicted in 1996.)
- m Sheep numbers will grow.
- m Two-tooth ewes will sell for \$200.
- m Someone will be seen playing basketball on a Mormon Church forecourt.
- m Sheep will come down from the hills and regain the flats.
- m NZ's sustainable sheep industry will become the envy of the developed livestock world.
- m Down. Wrightsons takeover of Williams and Kettle.



Hundreds of Texel-Oxford-Suffolk replacement ewe hoggets.
'Burnside' March 2005



Finn-Texel ewes with lambs at Block IV. Maire hill in background.
'Tarata', December 2004



OSRS South roadsign. Pope Road, Slope Point, Southland.

WELL, WELL. WEL (WOOL EQUITIES LIMITED)

Another loss 2004; to be followed by another loss also, 2005.

Another commercial focus (a majority stake in Canensis). Another set of explanations.

WEL is an example of people using other peoples' money (OPM) to do something they would never do with their own money.

How long can our levy money (taxes) keep this company afloat?

STOPPRESS - WELL, WELL. WEL has abandoned Tectra six months after saying it was absolutely committed to Tectra.
27-04-2005

GLOSSY MAGAZINES

"What do you think of 'Meat and Wool'?" (the magazine)

'Coming in for a ten minute cup of coffee; it doesn't last two minutes before it's thrown in the waste paper basket.'

Chris Morris, Kaiwera, Otago

Widespread sentiments.

'Meat and Wool' started as a monthly. Now it's a quarterly. Soon, most hope, it's gone. What a shocker. This magazine is a complete waste of farmer's levy money. Glossies keep coming. Pretty, colourful, costly.

SPELLING

Along with the excitement to sell packages of land comes masses of colourful advertising with spelling mistakes galore. Mistakes occur in news articles regularly.

- Straight Furrow 29/03/05. 'Tironui' is north of Feiling (Feilding?)
- Farmers Weekly 29/03/05 Page 30. 'Southland Stong Breeding and Fattening unit (Strong?).
- Farmers Weekly 05/04/05 Page 4. 'Clams at dairy goat co-op stay shut.' Wise clams! (Claims?)

Harmless - maybe. Unprofessional - yes.
There are just too many mistakes.

'TREATY PRINCIPLES' - A DREAMT-UP SCAM

Frank Haden, columnist, Dominion-Post

The principles are no more than an idea dreamt-up in 1986 by Sir Hepi Te Heuheu and Geoffrey Palmer. The words 'treaty principles' were incorporated into every statute with any advantage to the treaty industry.

Unfortunately parliament failed to say what the principles are, so the courts have had to invent them as they go along.



Views; OSRS South. Sweeping vistas and good-looking, grumpy sheep.
Slope Point, February 2005



Front page in NZ Herald. A neighbour's dead ewe under the OSRS sign on State Highway 2.
January 26 2005



International croquet. Luke (England – employed by OSRS for 3 months), Tine (Denmark – visiting friend), Polleke and Thijs (Dutch Wwoofers – stayed for 3 months).
'Paratu', January 2005



Wwoofer John Little's sixth visit to OSRS. John completely refurbished the interior of the neglected, but basically sound, woolshed which will become the main OSRS ram selection venue.
'Paratu', February 2005

TMG – OSRS OFFICE.

Please contact Sandra Anderson with any queries about accounts, records etc. Recently updated office programmes will allow faster and more accurate service.

Postal Address: PO Box 147, Dannevirke.

Telephone: 06 374 9862 – am, Monday to Friday.

E-mail: cwsouthgate@xtra.co.nz



Stabilised 3/8 Finn, 3/8 Texel, 1/4 Romney Two-Tooths.
'Tarata', March 2005



Stabilised 1/4 Finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 Romney, Two-Tooths.
'Tarata', March 2005



Stabilised 1/4 Finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 Perendale, Two-Tooths.
'Tarata', March 2005



Farm 'invasion'. Thieves left only seven heads after killing OSRS lambs next to State Highway 2 on the Takapau Plains. Very public.
'Burnside', 23/12/04



Stabilised 3/8s and Finn-Texel Rams at Tarata. March 2005