



One Stop Ram Shop



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Dorper ewe and frisky lambs.

Tarata, Sept, 2009



*Texel-Suffolk ewe with triplets. Good mothers. Burnside,
Sept, 2009*



Sunrise.

Paratu. Aug, 2009.

Thanks to all those people who supported our call for the 'NO' vote. We will continue to push for accountability in MNZ. We are not going away.

It is going to be impossible to visit the usual number of farms in the next months because of our commitments to the Minister David Carter etc. More visiting will take place in January but anyone who needs a visit soon, please make contact and it will be arranged.

An open day will be held at OSRS, Burnside on Tuesday 10th November. Starting at 10am, finishing at 4pm. Friendly and informal we provide food and drink. Join us anytime throughout the day. An open day is being considered for OSRS South, abo.

Ram selection. **Please return your freepost order cards asap.** On your selection day bring a trailer if possible. If the rams go straight home after selection it is kinder to them. *It's more peaceful on your farm than at OSRS in Nov – December.*



Footprints. It snowed heavily at Tarata. Just as lambing was peaking, only 320 died.

24-25 Sept



Colin Burlace preparing quality Finn-Texel meat for a delegation of Chinese importers.

May 2009

One Stop Ram shop (OSRS).

Dorper and Texel-Suffolk flocks are an option for increasing sheepmeat production. A move to the use of wool-less terminal ewes is gaining momentum. Both these breeds produce plenty of lambs which survive and grow fast.

176 Finn-Texel ewe hoggets who had survived severe facial excema exposure at Whatawhata (Waikato) and passed a blood test at Tarata, were mated with highly FE tolerant rams from Robert Carter on 18-5-09. Teasers were not used. Rams were out for 25 days. 17 only, scanned dry. Wet hoggets; 115%.

Drought, FE, grass-staggers and still got in lamb!

Breeding for resistance to parasites (low faecal egg count: FEC) versus resilience (growing, despite a challenge).

At Ballantrae (Woodville) resilient lambs weaned 7.2% heavier with a 30% higher FEC than the resistant lambs reared together.

OSRS used FEC monitoring extensively but decided resilience (getting on with it) as the simplest and most effective selection trait. Resilience without dags is a priority. It works.

Planting at OSRS has been significant this season again. Oaks (Eastwood Hill) to provide autumn reds were planted in plantations. Many native trees, notably totaras were dotted everywhere. Planting had slowed due to a huge increase in hares who chopped young trees to pieces, even azaleas were grazed.

300 hare protectors have solved the problem.

Lean Meat Yield premiums have arrived.

(OSRS has been pursuing this since 1987)

The right genes can produce up to 8.1kg more lean meat than from traditional carcasses on the same farm. Payment for growing meat cuts rather than just carcasses is possible. Marker tests are part of a breeding solution. These and the next tool, the SNP chip, will speed up selection for profitable traits, something breeders have always sought.

"Real profitability will come from improving a variety of traits".

Tricia Johnson, RN, Aug 09.

Central Progeny testing and SIL-ACE Terminal Sire programmes show no breed has overall superiority but

Texels always

rank well. Many more sheep need testing before scientific conclusions may be drawn.

Texel Marketing Group work with meat processors gave OSRS insight into the potential of yield and this has been built into all OSRS breeding programmes. Buy OSRS rams and you buy into 'premiums' for the processed carcasses.

OSRS has used technology but has made sure that breeding ewes are still able to do all the sheep things well, i.e. survive droughts, conceive well, don't produce dags, live long lives and are pleasant to farm. OSRS will not produce muscle bound, 'processor delights' which need constant attention to survive.



Planning for an emergency. MAF biosecurity staff could be faced with 1000's of stock to euthanize, one by one. MAF training day at Paratu woolshed.



Wairarapa College annual visit to One Stop Ram Shop. Sept, 2009



Taratahi Agricultural College, Masterton, fieldtrip to OSRS. Sept, 2009

CAPITALIST FOOLISHNESS

Why the world-wide fiscal collapse has happened.

1987. Reagan wanted free marketer Greenspan, in charge of the Federal Reserve. Caution went as Greenspan produced heaps of money (and associated inflation). Banking forgot about the obligation to stability and got involved in mega bets e.g. which way the dollar will go, i.e. derivatives. No censure came from the Securities and Exchange Commission because they were deregulators letting the market rule.

1999. After a US\$300 million lobby by Banks the Glass-Steagall Act was repealed which had separated Commercial (stable) and Investment (speculative) Banks. The act had prevented conflict of interest in the two banking systems.

2004. Because markets 'would' self regulate, the Security Commission altered the debt to capital ratio, a move from 12.1 to 30.1. Fiscal failure threatened but Greenspan squashed a call for regulation.

2001. Tax cuts increased liquidity and lowered interest rates. War was costly and oil expensive; the Federal Reserve did nothing. Capital gains tax was reduced. Gamblers who won were taxed less. Interest was tax deductible. Bush's Administration invited excessive borrowing and lending.

2002 July: Enron failed. All US accounting firms were involved, but were not prosecuted. Stock options and bad accounting pushed up share prices. Rating agencies (Standard and Poors) were **paid by those they judged**; they gave good ratings to their 'clients'. Toxic mortgages now became OK for pension funds and commercial banks. Ratings backed by no substance led to the Asian financial collapse; **US took no notice**.

2008 October. Bush and the Federal reserve thought growth was close – it wasn't. Financial collapse saw some Banks bailed out but not others. Paulson (with US \$700 billion) did not address any problems and wanted to personally control the bailout. After Joseph Stiglitz, Economist, Nobel Laureate.

Regulate banks. Markets do not self-regulate.

Banks pay low dividends. When banks collapse shareholder's capital is wiped out. Employees have taken their money (salary and bonuses) each year. Lehman paid \$55 billion in a decade to staff to the end of 2008. Shareholders earned cumulative profits of zero, and lost all their capital. First six months of 2009, Goldman Sachs, paid \$4.4 billion profit to shareholders and \$11.4 billion to staff.

Here we go again. Economist 18-7-09.

Rating firms are owned by the financial institutions they "just happen to anoint". They themselves are anointed, protected by regulations; they make heaps of money. Investors flock to top ranked stock. e.g. AIG.

What value has a rating agency if it is not independent?

Economist 25-7-09.

It is not disease or war or an election that plunges the (world) economy into crisis, but a combination of bad lending decisions and the excessive leverage of banks. H1N1 (Swine flu) will have to be very powerful to match the force of sub prime lending. Economist 25-7-09.

MWNZ likes 'leverage'; this word should be banned.



Mountain rivers are home to many fish. This male is floating over his nest. San Xavier, Baja



Dayanne, our Brazilian intern, loves dogs; dogs love Dayanne.



A wild cat at Paratu. Many are trapped, many are shot, as this was. Cats are everywhere.

Five Liners

○ Keas are around again. Alpine shrub lands are not burnt, pest control is better and farm animals have gone.
More feed for keas, more breeding success.

○ Pups are expensive. Kennel, bowl, registration \$750.
Annual costs; registration (\$100), food (1200), vet (\$100) toys and treats (\$500), medicine (\$150), holiday kennel (\$120/week) training (\$100).
Total \$2270 per year. Dom Post.

Untrained dogs can kill. Do you really want that lovely little puppy?

○ Britain's Food Standards Agency commissioned research of 162 scientific papers which proved organic food is not healthier than normally produced food.

A scientific study at Otago University produced similar conclusions; organic food produced no nutritional or health benefits.

○ John Key; "Agriculture is the key driver of NZ's economic engine". National established a \$190 million, Primary Growth Partnership Fund. \$50 million has also been allocated to NI Maori settlements and the same to the National Walkway Fund. Labour also called agriculture the economic engine and established the Fast Forward Fund of \$700 million to back their faith in primary research, now scrapped.

National needs to prove its support of agriculture. Agriculture Minister David Carter is a strong, enthusiastic, friend in Wellington, for the rural sector.

○ Crown Research Institutes (CRI) get \$1074 million annually. Government wants a 9% return on CRI equity.

"Why has the focus of the scientific system (moved) to survival rather than ensuring out-puts and economic contributions? Innovation cannot wait".

Prof, Sir Peter Gluckman. Mr Key's Scientific Adviser.

Levy paying farmers should also be entitled to a 9% return but MWNZ 'investments' in WEL, Ovita, WPH etc have seen equity disappear. If MWNZ was a CRI it would be scrapped.

○ Niwa has a new super computer which will make predictions faster. Wrong predictions faster, according to the Climate Science Coalition which disputes the climate change models used.

Scientific evidence to prove human's role in world-wide climate change will never be found. Meanwhile humans lurch from one doomsday prediction to another.

○ Drought 2007/08/09, cost NZ Farming \$3.5 billion. MAF report.

Costs derived from the drought are still rising. Only 33.14 million sheep remain in NZ.

East Coast again looks ominously dry.

Farmers are not ignoring the signs, they are preparing.

○ Once it was a footprint, then carbon print, then food miles, then newsprint, and now "water print".

We need vigilance to recognise concerns and to refute them vigourously.

○ Rational Don Nicolson (Federated Farmers, FF.) regularly expresses fears for all NZ agriculture about climate change and the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) scam.

Why are ungulate animal emissions part of the ETS when they have been on earth for 40 million years and not destroyed it?

Is Rotorua region going to be taxed for hydrogen sulphide emissions? How crazy it all is!

○ "To the annals of global warming lunacy, add this gem from NZ: according to a parliamentary committee, Kiwis should accept a lower standard of living to protect the national image aboard".

Wall Street Journal, 7-9-09.

How naive Kiwi leadership can be?

○ 87% of urban people surveyed believe the Ag. sector was significant to the economy. 25% had a growing appreciation of the rural contribution. 42% took frequent visits to farms. 64% of rural people thought urbanites did not understand their economic contribution. MAF survey.

Farm Open Day's will only help this growing goodwill. Positive action by FF's again.

○ Agricultural and Pastoral (A&P) shows keep rural activities in front of urban populations, but they are going as rural exhibitions. Ask an urban relation to stay, it will be good for both of you.

○ Mark Weldon (NZX, CE) "NZ's farming sector is the only industry with the necessary traits on which to build a national business strategy". A world emerging from a recession and away from abject materialism will favour this sector and healthy, safe food.

OSRS newsletters have stated this over and over again. NZ's only business is farming business; everything associated with the land.

○ It's getting very hot in London's underground rail system. The Central Line is a balmy 32°C and air-conditioning cannot cool it. Engineers are considering having trains carry freeze blocks and pumping cool aquifer water alongside the tunnels. Surely such a constant heat source should have an industrial use?

○ Portugal: Drugs are not legal, but since 2001 possession and use of drugs has been decriminalised. Trafficking, overdosing, deaths and disease transmission have declined. Dissuasion Commissions provide health assistance to users. The policy is a huge success.

US spend \$468 billion annually on drug abuse and control.. Similar programmes could succeed in US too?

○ "God, Guns and Guts and American Pick-up Trucks" is the slogan for Max Motors in Missouri. For each pick-up traded the buyer receives a voucher for an AK 47.

Truck sales have doubled. Have too the sales of AK 47's?
The Times.

○ USA: Keith Griffen, Florida, blamed his cat for downloading porn when he left a room. The cat jumped onto the computer and he later found 'strange things' on it.

Of course, the cat was after the mouse.

Peter Kettle, Western Australian July 2009.

Peter visited stud properties from which OSRS will purchase new genetic material.

Some observations he made: Farms for sale:
(all in Australian dollars)

Busselton	122ha,	\$1,950.00	Cropping.
Geraldton	156,000ha	\$1,550.00	1500 Dry sheep units.
Murchison	68,000ha	\$1,050.000	650 cattle.
Kojonup	1,392ha	\$5,500,000	850 cows, cropping, and water .

Food: Full cooked breakfast, under \$10.00.
Steak (sirloin) meal, under \$14.00.

Government incentives:

50% (up to \$500,000) for properties off the national grid to set up wind/or solar power generation.
\$12,000 cash, when first home building.
\$14,000 cash, when buying first home which is preowned.

Cheese:	1kg Mainland Tasty Cheddar.	
4-7-09	Coles, Bunbury	NZ\$15-62.
13-7-09	Coles, Kalgoorlie	NZ\$11.19.
21-7-09	New World, Waipukurau	NZ\$16.99.

Katanning Sheep sale: 7-7-09.

Wether hoggets	Xbred	\$75 – 152.
	Merino	\$56 – 114.
	Live shipment	\$75 – 100.
Top ewe hoggets	Xbred	\$42 – 90.
	Merino	\$45 – 115.

Petrol: 92 octane \$1.32 – 112/litre.

Agricultural subsidies as a% of gross revenue

	1986-8	2006-8	\$ billion
Norway	70%	62%	3.7.
EU	40%	28%	150.
USA	22%	8%	23.3.
NZ	5%	1%	.1.

Subsidies are far from gone.

Economist, 25-9-09.

Sheepmeat consumption in Argentina and Brazil.

Brazil	(North)700gms	(South) 35kg.
Argentina	(North).800gms	(South) 48kg.

Meat consumption per head. Beef 70kg, poultry 30kg, pork 10kg, Sheepmeat .7kg.

Argentina has 14 million sheep; wool is the main product.

Source, Norberto Teran. OSRS visitor 5-5-09.



Bus shelter. Porangahau Rd. CHB



Stupid motorists smash OSRS fences. Most do not pay for the damage but many do. About 3-5 smashes annually.



Tarata snow. Every paddock has shelter without which losses would have been horrific.

Sept, 2009



Snow fell gently but it was followed by a icy blast with rain and temperatures plummeted. Colin and Dayanne kept away from lambing stock.

They said.

When loading NL 76-77 into RAM4U from the printer.
 "I liked the photo of the snake".
 "Do you look at the newsletter?"
 "We all do. While printing everyone reads it.
 We all love it. My mother worked here for 4 ½ years and she showed us the dog (Ra) and the car (RAM4U).
 She took the newsletter home. Everybody reads it.
Well, well well!

"I know your sheep they're always clean and perfect".
 "What do you mean?"
 "I was a freezing worker before I came here and whenever your sheep came through they were always clean and perfect. Clean outside when we opened them and perfect inside; never any faults."
Nice eh?

"The ewes have all lambed now, and have done better than ever before. From 22 ewes we have 52 lambs tailed, which equates to 245% lambing, which is pretty impressive. And only 1 pet lamb. The two ewes which came in the car have settled well, one had twins and one had triplets, but ended up twins. There are two ewe lambs and two ram lambs, so this will provide us with a good ram for the next 2-3 years. The lambs are eating now, and I had to purchase extra hay."
 Dawn & Rob Mills, Taranaki.



*Log trucks are not easy to pass, especially so for motorbikes like these.
 Tangawai, Jan 2009*



Unlicenced, city dog damage at 'The Glen'.Culprets are dead



Canadian Visitors. Graeme McKillop, now a medical doctor, visited after a 25 year gap. He worked at Tarata one whole summer.
 Paratu, Jan 2009



*Roadside memorial? Once there was a snail, now there is a frog too. Backblocks humour.
 Otanui, KC, Feb 2009.*



Truck canopy. More bashful than Pam Anderson, Waipukurau.



*Refurbished main cattle-yards at Tarata. Old power poles lasted 30+ years.
 Sept, 2009*