



# One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSLETTER No. 82  
January 2010

Come and join us at **Waimumu Field days**, February 10 to 12, 2010. Our site is number 473 which is midway along the east side. We will have penned sheep, food and drinks. Please call, you will be welcome.

Two tooth rams are still available from OSRS. Reasonable numbers of all genotypes are still at three SI and two NI sites.

Anybody requiring rams is still sure of a good selection. Farmers appreciate the number of stabilized breeds marketed. Pricing and selection based upon SIL rankings has made choice simpler.

Staff and rams enjoyed a Xmas/New Year break after months of intensive activity for man and stock.

Ram sales throughout NZ are growing again as farmers build up sheep flocks. For the fourth successive season OSRS ram sales have been 75% to established clients and 25% to new clients.

OSRS ram sales usually cease in May.

Texel Marketing Group (TMG) is moving surplus ewes and hoggets between farms now.

Because OSRS has eight contact people and six sites with rams, marketing and selection throughout NZ is much simpler. Larger volumes of rams will still only come from major sites but it is now possible to get the odd 'extra' ram if so required, locally.

All sites report of client's positive comments about the quality of the rams offered for selection. Many comment on how tough the rams are, how long they live, how dag free are their high yielding progeny.



*One Stop Ram Shop sires. Texel genetics are obvious.*



*Spring sown pastures. Perfect.*

*Nov, 09. Tarata.*

## Predictions

- Wool.... going, going, gone.
- Sheep numbers are increasing.
- More PR,: to make stake- holders 'feel good' about poor performance.
- Wool Grower Holdings and Primary Wool Cooperative will merge; sooner or later.
- Sheep farmers will stop growing dags on sheep; Sheep do not have to grow dags.



*Robin Hilson, David Ritchie, Nick Nicholson (Wool Exporters Ltd) at the Parliamentary "woolfest". Removing the wool levy focused attention on the desperate industry.*  
*1st Oct 09*

**Kirsten Bryant** is candidate for the Western North Island in the February 2010 election for a seat on MWNZ Board.

Farming in Kirikau (KC) and Fordell (Wang.) in partnership with Paul has given her a pragmatism that is often only found in back-block farmers. She may be inexperienced in some areas but she is perceptive and learns fast. Kirsten has a sense of humour and beavers for answers.

With Paul, she won the KC Farmer of the year award.

Kirsten chairs the Ruapehu Meat and Fibre section of Federated Farmers.

Kirsten will strive to ensure levy payers get value.

Kirsten has intensity and commitment.

Vote for Kirsten, you will be pleased you did.

Robin Hilson, OSRS.

## They Said.....

"Greetings Robin, thanks for the ram, he looks good as usual."  
Marlborough

"Thanks for picking our rams – they look very good."  
Marlborough

"It is amazing how they (the rams) last. It's incredible how they carry on." (Arthur docked 140%. In Nov., one metre of rain fell) Arthur Masters, Taranaki. 14-12-09  
(OSRS rams last. A Kurow farmer had ten years out of a Texel Suffolk and stabilized Finn Texels have achieved this in Central Hawke's Bay and Northland.)

"We have had three fine days this week so it's starting to feel like summer has started."  
Waipahi. 22-12-09  
But did summer start really?

"Thanks for calling us for a catchup while down south."  
Tapanui. 25-12-09

"Those Texel Suffolks do you out of a job; they never die or grow old."  
Alister Pearson, Collingwood. 12-10-09

After a Marlborough Monitor Farm Day:  
"Why go, when all they talk about is 'closing up' little areas? I want to know what I can do with Corriedales. A useless day."  
North Canterbury farmer

David and Barbara James. Owen River, Murchison.  
In 2009, 802 of their lambs were processed by Alliance in Nelson for an average carcase weight of 16.38 kg. 74% (590) achieved the premium of \$5.25 which was worth \$3097. One draft of 161 had 88% premium grading.  
This quality bonus comfortably pays for the genetics which make the result possible. David's flock is stabilized Texel, ° Finn.

"The old Romneys would never have graded like this. With good feed, you really get results. It was a pretty average season."

Peter and Helen Chamberlain. Norwood, Burnham.  
2967 ewes, 5038 (170%) lambs tailed, 3000 gone by Xmas at 18+ kgs. Hardly any dags.  
83% Texel cross lambs got yield premiums (others breeds 53 to 57%).  
"We've had the best spring for about 20 years. One lamb was 61 kg at weaning (Finn Texel cross)."

"Since I've changed to your rams the lambs stay noticeably cleaner – they never need crutching. When drafting, the whitefaces are never far behind the blackfaces. They don't look ready when in fact they are." Canterbury. 10-09-09

"Until the value of sheep meat per kilogram equates to the milk solid price there will still be dairy conversions. I go to sheep and dairy discussion days and there is a twenty-year older guy at the sheep one." South Canterbury

"You took a long time to get here. We drove behind you for miles through the Cromwell Gorge; but you didn't see us." Cromwell sighting, 22/10. Dipton visit, 24/10.

"We all gave up on getting rich on the stuff (wool) but

we don't want to give it away."

Annoyed Southland farmer. 24-10-09

"I get your newsletters and really enjoy them. When they are read I give them away to others in the district. My dad reads then and really loves them."  
Redan, Wyndham

It was cold, very wet and windy near Invercargill.  
A guy was racing round the garden yelling for his son. Panic. We all called and scurried about. No answer. More panic. Adults everywhere. Vehicles hissed along the nearby highway. Nothing around the garden, nothing but a parked car.  
Then I noticed a little man behind the steering wheel **wearing dad's earmuffs**, driving the stationary car.  
**Found.**

"I have got to congratulate you. When you take photos of your sheep you get their excellent backsides and great structure. They are really excellent. Well done."  
Barbara Gordon, Allenton. 27-10-09  
*Praise from one who is an outstanding judge of stock.*

"Is this the same car? Can I pat it? I will need to wash my hands first?" – said Becky's mother.  
"You may pat RAM 4U. You will need to wash your hands **after** doing so." RAM 4U was very dirty.  
Raglan, 17-12-09

"I sorted the rams up and now have only your breeding (FT and TS). Four are fine Texel Suffolks. Then another turned up and it is into its ninth year – it looks totally sound and is in great condition."  
Waikato. 17-12-09

"Thank you; very handsome rams."  
Canterbury

When last here (ram selection 2008) you asked: "How did I get rid of the foot problems which plagued my early texels and romneys?"  
"I moved up into the top price bracket for FinnTexels and the problem disappeared almost instantly. Now there is no problem with feet what-so-ever and I wean 150% (ewes to ram) annually. Finishing stock has never been easier."  
Barry Burge, Rotorua. 27-11-09

"Robin. I look forward to catching up; at the rate we miss each other it might be in Mexico when I cycle the Pan-American Highway."  
James Costello, Hawarden

"Great rams, thanks."  
Onga Onga

"I used to get some dags (on ewes) by Xmas but if they were daggy by June they were culled. Now I do the odd animal; it is the same with lambs. Nothing is dagged for shearing – others round here dag the lot. My drafter picked the milk lambs and cannot get over how clean they are."  
Graham Northcott, Urenui, Taranaki.

"Rams are an investment, not a cost."  
Geoff Nichol, Landcorp geneticist.  
OSRS has said this for years, but also said Texel should be present in all maternal breeding flocks (now fully recognized by scientists and farmers) and recommends a dash of Finn to guarantee repeat high performance. OSRS clients do look after their 'investments'.





Gavin Petterson's Texel Finns.

Oct, 09. Takaka.



Peter Chamberlain's ewes and lambs, Norwood. "Best spring for years."

Oct, 09. Burnham.



High tide marks, picturesque Wanganui Inlet. Collingwood.



Dick Bragan. Finn Texel ewes and lambs.

Kowai Bush.



Spectacular limestone. Texel Finns managed by Nigel Clark.

Patarau.



Blair Gallagher. Perendale rams are bred here for NI and SI farmers.

Oct, 09. Mt Somers.



David Haldane's Finn Texels.

Oct, 09. Bainham.



Ian Orr. Lambing Finn Texel hoggets.

Oct, 09. Balfour.



David James signing Neil Henderson's sensible petition.

Oct, 09. Murchison.



Poor farming practice I; plastic bale rap everywhere.

Oct, 09. Southland.



## Five Liners

As predicted in 2000 by OSRS, water will become 'the issue' of the 21st century.

"Virtual water" is the volume used to make a product.

Glass of milk: 200 litres of water. Cup of tea: 35 litres. Cup of coffee: 140 litres. Hamburger: 2400 litres. UNESCO

*NZ uses under 1% of its available water for making food fibre and products.*

World record price for a Texel lamb at Lanark Market. NZ\$ 577,500. Daily Telegraphy 29-08-09

*Texels are UK's most commonly used sires.*

**Prediction: Most NZ ewes will have texel blood.**

British supermarkets promise to measure carbon foot-prints of food they sell. NZ food production and delivery are low carbon users. Chill lamb usually goes by ship. Now 100's of tonnes of chilled cuts are being flown to UK; paid for by supermarkets. Christmas demand is strong (and profits). *Spot the hypocrisy!* Dom-Post 10-12-09

Fish and Game claim 32000 geese are equivalent to 1200 cows (RN, Oct 09) Canadian Geese, paradise ducks (they are geese), swans and ducks all inhabit our waterways in ever-increasing flocks causing pollution. Restricting cows and larger introduced birds from waterways is necessary along with management of native geese.

Apologies: still at it. Vanuatu cannibal descendents have apologized for eating Rev John Williams, 170 years ago. Dom-Post 09-12-09

*OSRS. As a descendent of Jedburgh Hilsons, when in UK next I must apologise to some-one for relations who pinched Henry VIII's cattle. Actually he pardoned the Hilsons, but I should apologise anyway.*

Apologies: more. BritishTV produced a show 'I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here'. They apologized for the death of a **rat**, killed by contestants, although who not know it was an offence. Celebs were charged for animal cruelty by Australian authorities.

Puha: naturally carries trace amounts of 1080 (as does tea). A 70 kg person would need to eat 9.3 tonnes of puha at a single sitting to have a 50% chance of dying from poisoning. Forest and Bird

A tsunami 500 years ago, struck NZ from the north. The wave was 25m high and surged inland reaching 32m in height. Archaic Maori culture was wiped out with the loss of many skilled coastal craftsmen. The quality of artifacts declined after the disaster. Bruce McFadgen, 'Hostile Shores'

At last; air inside aircraft will be cleaner. 'Air Manager', which uses less power than a light bulb, zaps almost all bacteria, viruses and biohazards in cabin air. It removes smells. Economist, Sept 09

By 2050 the aviation industry has promised to cut its carbon emission to 50% of 2005 levels. This industry is responsible for 3% (nearly) of global emissions. Algal based fuels could eventually cut emissions by up to 80%. Economist, Sept 09

*Sceptical?*

Here comes 'functional' food; food modified to make it healthier and more nutritious. A shift to organic, 'natural' and 'whole' food has led food giants to speed development of functional

food. eg: Iodised salt: added iodine prevents goitre.

Economist, Sept 09

*Watch out for all the hype.*

Americans spend \$39 billion annum on alternative drugs and therapies. Scientists and conventional doctors scoff; not the public. In 1999 The National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine was set up with US\$100m annual budget. A decade of testing by scientists and doctors have found nothing worked, **nothing**. Brockie, Dom-Post



*Last rays of sunlight play on Fairlie hills. Burkes Pass. Oct, 09.*



*Finn-texel ewe and lambs.*

*Russell Brodie, Rangitata Is.*



*Mt Michael, Lowburn Station has OSRS genetics.*

*Oct 09. Cromwell.*



*Historic Wedderburn railway shed. Ranfurly, Central Otago.*





*Belching steam trains kept HB pastures burning for decades.*



*Adoring rail enthusiasts oil every joint. Oct, 09. Oamaru.*



*The "best" SI lambs seen in spring. Superb lambs grown by Doug and Fraser Avery. Bonavaree, 30 Oct. Seddon.*



*Poor farming practice II; sheep don't need to grow dags. Nov, 09. Southland.*



*Texel Suffolk ewes and lambs. SFF works. OSRS Takapau.*



*Colin Burlace, Dayanne (Brazil) and Lena (Germany) tailing. Nov, 09. Tarāta.*



*Kearins brother's Finn Texels. 11 Nov. Te Kuiti.*



*600 cattle are farmed, but never photographed. OSRS.*



*Robert Carter with his facial eczema tolerant sires. Nov, 09. Taumarunui.*



*Hedge-hogs should climb through, not over, deer fences. 12 Nov. Forgotten Highway, King Country.*





Scott and Bruce Wills with Robin. Openday, 10 Nov. Takapau.  
An Openday was also held at Robert Carter's. 9 Dec. 09.



Peter Kettle, Forbes McKenzie (Canterbury), Guy Bell (CHB) and his sons with Robin. Sheep talk. OSRS Openday.



New garden.

Paratu.



Azalea in full flower. Gaudy brilliance.

Paratu.



25 Chinese from Guizhou Province visited. Tim Harvey, Massey University, ran the day. 17 Nov, OSRS.



Challenging questions were asked; everything was photographed. An interesting visit, which **we** enjoyed.



Jeff Moss had a well attended OSRS Openday. 20 Nov, 09.



OSRS rams patiently waiting for visitors. 19 Nov, 09. Haldane.



Beautifully muscled Finn Texels thriving in the poorest of spring weather. Outstanding survival. Chris Casey, Haldane.



Yes, this is Fortrose in spring. No feed, cold, windy and lots of dejected stock. 21 Nov, 09. Southland.





Nursery sign. A reminder, as if we needed one.  
16 Dec, 09. Taihape.



Ancient rata protected from possums. 18 Dec. Coromandel.



Dorper hoggets with lambs. Justin Nelson, 18 Dec, Te Aroha..

OSRS killed 50 ram hoggets born Sept, 2008 at Takapau, SFF, 23-09-09. Average weight 27 kg. PH 15, YM 25, TH 2, FH 8. Price \$118.62/hd. Only 10 were fattish. One at 34.9 kg graded PH.

*OSRS genetics perform at normal carcase weights as well as at exceptionally heavy weights.*

Elders Primary Wool Ltd

OSRS wool auctioned, in 10 sales 23-08-07 to 10-04-08, 215 bales, 28,132 tonnes, \$64,777.25 net proceeds. Average price per kilo \$2.34.

*Super wool; awful price.*

Elders Primary Wool Ltd

31-12-09

8 bales AE, high bulk 30 gms/cc, micro 30.2, VM 0, Yield 77.3, Colour Y 65, Y-Z 2.7,

Valuation Greasy 311, Clean 402 c/kg \$309.2/bale

Sold: 331, 428 c/kg (buyers wanted good bulk)



A huge local rain dump caused 43 slips which are visible in this photo.  
Wanganui River, Taumarunui.



Michael Nation farms Finn Texels at Hikuai. Attractive country.  
18 Dec. Coromandel.



"Sheep whisperer", John Taylor from Wairoa, moving rams gently.  
Paratu.



Peter Kettle with researchers Richard Shaw and Mike Tait who met to arrange the use of the Carla™ test upon OSRS sheep before industry release.  
Paratu.



### Changing to One Stop Ram Shop Genetics

OSRS rams increase the productivity of farmer's flocks.

OSRS genetics improve lamb and ewe survival. Ewes live longer, have few bearings, convert grass to meat efficiently, require less food to maintain body weight, do not need flushing in autumn and grow few dags.

More lambs are reared at faster growth rates. Lambs are higher yielding and grow few dags.

**OSRS genetics put more money in farmer's pockets.**

Changing to any of the stabilised breeds is quite simple, just choose the ram from the catalogue which will achieve the farm objectives and use it over homebred ewes. The resulting progeny will show many of the improvements, but not at the level of the stabilised ram. Successive generations consolidate the traits sought.

This is the easiest way to make a breed change as any management changes maybe undertaken while the flock's genetics alter. Changes we've seen involve different selling patterns with more lambs killable at weaning, fewer ewes required to generate replacements therefore more are crossed with prime sires, successful hogget mating, no need for flushing crops, much less drenching and crutching.

To make a breed change is easy, quality rams are available. A farmer with experience of these sheep is a neighbour. OSRS is always available to offer advice and help with the sale of surplus stock. Nationwide there is a shortage of OSRS sheep.



Oct. born Finn- Texel hogget lambs. Sires were FE tolerant Robert Carter rams. FE (field) tolerant mothers. Dec. Tarata.

### At One Stop Ram Shop

As with all NZ it has been extraordinarily cold at times. Hot days (up to 33°C) were hot and usually followed by cold days. Wind never stayed away.

Summer feed crops have been the best for years. Selection for survival and growth rate has provided practical evidence of genetic gain.

Ewes withstood the rigours of drought, snow, winter and incessant gales because they are tough. Lambs weaned in good numbers. Weaning weights were good for both ewes and lambs although 'finishing' is difficult. Now they are 'away'.

Hawke's Bay with its 'turn-on, turn-off' climate, pressures sheep and is an ideal environment for testing OSRS breeding programmes.

### One Stop Ram Shop activities for autumn 2010

An exhibit (third) at the Southern Field days

Embarking on a 'wormwise' monitoring programme overseen by HB Vet Services veterinarian Richard Lee

Participating in pre-release testing for the Carla™ saliva test

Artificial Insemination of Dorper ewes with imported semen.

Embryo transfer programme

Tupping eleven sheep genotypes

Continuing to mate Dorpers every 73 days



Stabilized 1/4 Finn 1/4 Texel 1/2 Perendales. Born 20 Sept.



Shorn 3/4 Texel 1/4 Finns ewes and lambs.

Dec. Tarata.



Stabilized 1/4 finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 Romneys. Lambs born late Sept 09.



Texel ewe lambs, born late Sept.

Dec. Tarata.