



One Stop Ram Shop



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Jeff, Colin and Dayanne at the top of Jeff's farm. There are stunning views in every direction of some of NZ's best pastoral land. Clinton, Feb 2012



Jeff Mosses' 1/4Finn 1/4Texel 1/2Perendale hoggets sheltering in Tussock. Ram used... Dorper. Clinton, Jan 2012



OSRS team. Colin Burlace (Mgr Tarata), Dayanne, Robin, Sue and Jeff Moss (OSRS South) at the Southern Fieldays, Waimumu, Feb 2012.

PREDICTIONS

Sheep meat is short supply forever.

Many Brazilian visitors/farmers to OSRS.

NZ sheep farms are **developed**, future changes will only be associated with new technology.

Paul Kenyon will realize that Finnsheep have longevity, fecundity, premium wool, non-seasonal mating, facial eczema tolerance, high protein milk, no bearings, no need for flushing – everything he is seeking, in one package; ready for Massey's Centre Sheep Excellence.

Dr Jock Allison received an award from Beef and Lamb for his significant contribution to the sheep industry. Interview points from The Farmers Weekly 20 Aug 2012: Scandinavian sheep breeds, released in 1991, provided a huge impetus for increasing productivity.

OSRS: Finns and Texels drove the increase

Research Institute science is no longer independent. Research is undertaken which makes money.

Crown Research Institutes should promote technologies which help farmers to produce more, with better efficiency.

The sheep industry should drive its own destiny. Also it should make policy for serving institutions.

OSRS: As in exports of sheep genetics, page 2

Geneticists should apply their skills to improve productivity.

NAIT is the solution for a non-existent problem.

Climate change: "is just so much fiction."

ETS: much political rhetoric on ETS is nonsense. Little will come from methane research. More methane comes from rice paddies and natural sources than from ruminants.

OSRS: Ruminants have been around 40 million years in roughly similar numbers without destroying Earth

NZ needs to deal with nitrogen and nitrous oxide emissions. This is a possible task.

OSRS: All very significant points made by Dr Allison. Almost all of which have been made in OSRS newsletters regularly.

MORE INTERESTING COMMENTS

In an inspirational May address Paul Kenyon (Massey University Sheep Group) set targets for the sheep industry and science.

More meat per ewe lifetime.

OSRS: This is always a trait sought for our flock

Less lamb meat seasonality.

OSRS has achieved eight month lambing with Dorpers. Results have been published in the Rural Press and Newsletters for a decade

Continuing science to improve multiples performance, hogget breeding, foetal programming and researching alternative herbage.

Find the means to improve flock longevity.

OSRS: use long lived Finnsheep. Geneticists don't rate longevity; farmers do. Listen scientists!

Undertake research and trials requested by farmers.

OSRS (and Jock Allison) have always wanted this

Form industry partnerships.

OSRS. Sheepac a partnership between 43 farmers and MAF worked well. Started by OSRS in 1987. It is time for more partnerships

One Stop Ram Shop is to report about flocks on commercial farms throughout NZ. Each flock will be a different 'stabilised' combination.

Flocks will be $\frac{1}{4}$ Finn $\frac{1}{4}$ Texel $\frac{1}{2}$ Romney, $\frac{1}{4}$ Finn $\frac{1}{4}$ Texel $\frac{1}{2}$ Perendale and $\frac{3}{8}$ Finn $\frac{3}{8}$ Texel $\frac{1}{4}$ Romney. Other flocks may be added.

The aim in this exercise is to report farmer's opinions and performance away from the scientific, 'monitored' base flock at OSRS. It should be fun?

Farm location: Central Hawke's Bay, summer dry

Three years results for a ewe line that is heading from $\frac{1}{4}$ Finn $\frac{1}{4}$ Texel $\frac{1}{2}$ Perendale, towards **$\frac{3}{8}$ Finn $\frac{3}{8}$ Texel $\frac{1}{4}$ Romney**.

	2009 born	2010 born
Hogget scanning to ram	132	123
Hogget lambing % at set stocking	137	133
Docking % (ewes to ram)	93	96
Docking%(ewes set stocked)	100	105
Two tooth scanning to ram	173	177
Two tooth dry%	3.9	2.2
Two tooth triplet%	6.0	3.3
Four tooth scanning to ram	200	
Four tooth dry%	0.67	
Four tooth triplet%	16.7	

"This is probably in the top five HB scanning results for 2012."

Ewes go to the ram at 62-64kg so they are not huge- but they are well fed at critical points. As the four tooth ewes were 64kg at tupping in 2012, they have a fertility index of over 3.1- which is extremely high.

They are teased with vasectomised Finn-cross rams before entire rams join 10 March. This year 95% of the ewes had lambed by 15 August and there were **no big losses** in the super-wet conditions of late July and early August. The lambs are tough enough. Only **one bearing** in about the last **five years** too!

The high fecundity allows a maximum 60% of ewes to be mated to maternal lines as there are more than enough ewe lambs for replacements- to the point that there are also few white faced single ewe lambs retained either. The balance of the ewes go to Texel Suffolk sires, with the black face influence allowing easy identification of breed lines and also allowing ewes to lamb in mixed lines.

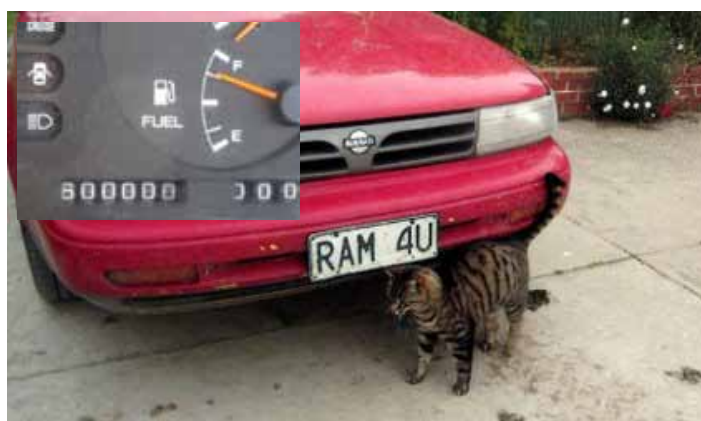
Ewes lamb undrenched and some get an oral drench at docking. Weaning weights last year were 32kg for twins (100% efficiency) and 37kg for singles, at just under 100 days.



$\frac{3}{8}$ Finn $\frac{3}{8}$ Texel $\frac{1}{4}$ Romney, 18 month ewes. Tarata, March 2012



Hobbitville. Hobbit horses, kuni kunis, cattle, chooks, sheep, goats etc. The massive regeneration programme started by Joy Gray is very evident. The Glen, Pauatahanui, 2012



'Even our cat loves your car!'

Marion Black, Southland
Now over 600,000 Kms old.

Robin wrote to Craig Foss (the minister charged to make NZ more business friendly) about issues with exporting sheep. Exporters agree with protocols but the whole process has become full of NZ created regulations and is too expensive.

David Carter (Minister for Primary Industries) replied. His thorough report outlined the situation and responses taken to offshore requests. His ministry addresses 'issues' raised by the Animal Trade Advisory Council; an industry group.

OSRS: Change is needed. Export orders are lost because it's impossible to provide accurate quotes. Changes to streamline the process will not come from those who helped create the stalemate.



Young Dorper ewes. Fast growth, extra red meat, non-seasonal mating, drought tolerant, hardy. Special breed.



Young Dorper lambs at dusk. Sep 2011



The east coast lament. "I don't know where my clover has gone." Four droughts, then Summer 2012; clover everywhere. It had been suppressed by the coarse climatic period. OSRS



Dorper sire shedding. Wool is not found in the paddock. Perhaps birds take it?



Texel Suffolk ewes. NZ's largest flock. At 100 days weaning, one lamb weighed 61 kg and many were over 50 kg live weight. OSRS



Robin has always kept frogs. Seven froglets are ready to hop out of the aquarium. Tadpoles over-winter happily. Paratu, May 2012



Semen export team. Finn-Texels and Texel-Suffolk sires ready for health tests. Oct 2011



OSRS's exhibit was visited by over 1100 adults. Our fourth show; our most successful. We enjoyed Waimumu. Southland, Feb 2012



Robin and his trusty 'huntaway, heading-dog' called Yamaha. Paratu, Jan 2012



Smooching a Finn ram. On day one this ram was **stropy**; day two it was cuddly. Waimumu, Feb 2012



"Sheepnutters". Robin, Terry McAtamane (Otago), Kerry Dunlop (Southland). Waimumu is a place for meeting old friends.



Thank you Southland. We meant it!



Ram selection. Alan Botting (Mataura) selected from these ¼ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Perendale rams. Robin and Dayanne drove down to help when Jeff was unexpectedly hospitalised. Jan 2012



Sue Moss looking anxious. Sue thought of everything. Our success at Waimumu can be largely attributed to Sue's organisation.

Ram clients become friends. Jamie Holden, Kip Kells, Duncan Johnston, Ken Elliot have all left farming but not our thoughts. Every farmer we visit and every farmer who visits OSRS contributes to our programmes. We note farmer's objectives which we combine with our experience to help future planning. This two way process works well.



Top performance Finn-Textel rams, HappyValley.
Forbes and Virginia Mackenzie, Jan 2012



Well muscled Dorper cross, 18 month ewes.
James Costello, Hawarden, Jan 2012



Solid, muscled, 1/4 Finn 1/4 Textel 1/2 Perendales.
Peter and Anne Graham, Tai Tapu, Feb 2012



1/4 Finn 1/4 Textel 1/2 Perendales and Dorper rams.
Murchison is a 'testing' sheep environment.
David and Barbara James, Owen River, Jan 2012



Prolific, tough 3/8 Finn 3/8 Textel 1/4 Romney
ewes at Cattle Valley.
Wayne and Rosemary Scarlett, Fairlie, Feb 2012



Excellent records, outstanding conformation,
1/4 Finn 1/4 Textel 1/2 Romney.
Bill and Jill Taylor, Lora Gorge, Feb 2012



Twin and triplet replacement ewe lambs, Finn
Textel Romneys.

Jan and David Riddell, Winton, Feb 2012



Lance Paganini (Wrightson) and Richard Drake
selecting 1/4 Finn 1/4 Textel 1/2 Romney and Textel-
Suffolks for Tangiteroria (Northland).



Uruguayan farmers Luis and Luis Felipe checked
1/4 Finn 1/4 Textel 1/2 Perendale sires. They wanted
to buy semen.
Paratu, Aug 2011

OSRS predominantly uses rams selected from our own genetic improvement programmes for sole use in our flocks. This makes OSRS flocks ineligible for across-flock evaluation schemes such as SILace where the basic requirement is that genetic links have to be established among the flocks in the analysis. These genetic links are established when outside sires are used and/or homebred sires are shared with other flocks. In all cases this requires a specific mating structure. It is not merely a question of using another breeder's ram; it requires that the same ram be used in both flocks either in the same year or the previous year. OSRS has confidence in its own genetic improvement programmes and feels the current limitations SILace would place on it with regards sire selection and the mating structures required would hinder rather than advance these programmes. OSRS continues to provide quality rams to the New Zealand sheep industry based on OSRS's sound selection programmes.



Road sign, Murchison. Modern spelling. Oct



Why this female weasel stayed around the kitchen was mysterious until she dragged out of the flower bed her 'kill'.



The solid, stone beauty of St Mary's Church, Merivale used to impress us as school children. Earthquakes shattered that memory. Organ exposed, stones scattered. What a sad mess. Christchurch, Nov 2011



Paper wasp nest. Over 60 nests, each with a queen and eggs were killed in one house garden and small orchard by Richard and Robin. These wasps are vicious and aggressive.

Ruby Bay, Nelson, Nov 2011