



One Stop Ram Shop



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Low rainfall makes irrigation crucial to grow feed for lambs.

Bahia, Brazil, June 2012



Salvador city, capital of Bahia State, known for its saint's festivals, street carnival and historic places. It's one of the oldest capitals of South America (500 years old).



The worst drought in 60 years has devastated the semi-arid region with in Bahia State. Dorper cross sheep cope well. (also found in NZ)



'Palm' Cactus plantations are the main source of stock food for the arid west of Bahia State.

NE Brazil, June 2012



Brazilian sheep are penned at night to be fed chopped 'palm' cactus.

Bahia, June 2012



Animals walk 6 kms to the only water trough on the farm. Bahia, June 2012



Mobs are often mustered with horses.

Bahia, June 2012

BRAZIL REVISITED, JUNE 2012

After our last trip to Brazil in March 2011, One Stop Ram Shop (OSRS) has been receiving a lot of feedback from the Brazilian sheep farmers who contacted us through our Portuguese website.

In the beginning of June, I, as OSRS's South America Marketer, went back to Brazil to talk to farmers, academics and consultants in three different provinces over a six week period. There is still a lot of interest in NZ sheep farming practices although no one is actually ready for a change.

Previous unsuccessful attempts to farm NZ breeds have made Brazilian sheep farmers very sceptical about NZ sheep farming. Just a few minutes before one presentation started I was told "be careful with what you say, we do not have the state-of-the-art sheep technology that NZ has".

I lectured about crossbreeding, animal performance recording, farm monitoring and sheep selection based on performance. "I didn't come here to say we have to farm like NZ. In fact, I came here to show you how NZ progressed to become a top country in lamb production. NZ is 32 times smaller than Brazil."

"Twins? They are hopeless. I culled all my ewes that had twins." Changing the mind-set of sheep farmers to a production-orientated system is not easy and it requires a lot of time. Sheep meat demand increases exponentially in Brazil although farmers are unable to supply it.

Showing sheep is a main focus as it brings a lot of money to ram breeders. As a consequence of lack of selection, high death rates and poor paddock performance, commercial farmers are starting to turn away from expensive animal auctions and exhibitions. "That was my main point during my speech. A ewe should be compared as a tenant on your farm. She needs to pay the rent." I said.

Farmers were very interested in what I said as I was direct and 'colourful'. "You are too young to be so professional" a farmer said.

"It's always a pleasure to go back to Brazil and still talk about NZ. NZ fascinates me and it has been my destiny."

Dayanne Almeida



Sheep handling with a lasso. Bahia, June 2012



From left: President of Ipirá city Farmers Syndicate, President of the Agriculture and Livestock Federation of Bahia State, Agrobahia Agriculture Company Coordinator, Dayanne Almeida (OSRS) and Secretary of Agriculture of Bahia State. 'Together for a better quality of life in the semi-arid area' conference.



Dayanne talked crossbreed performance to experienced sheep farmers. Many stayed an extra two hours after finish to hear more.

Central SP, June 2012



"Be careful with what you are going to say. We do not have the state-of-the-art sheep technology that NZ has." Advice to Dayanne. Central SP,



Professional ram manicure.

South Brazil, June 2012



Field days are the most efficient way for information transfer. Participants understood well Dayanne's point: "how long are you farmers going to keep unproductive sheep on the farm?"

Central Sao Paulo (SP), June 2012



Dayanne lectured graduate and post-graduate students about the importance of links between research and farming.

Central SP, June 2012



Dayanne gave five presentations. Sheep enthusiasts were interested in how NZ has reached a top position in the world. Crossbreeding is still taboo. South Brazil



Southern pastures are Brazil's best. Clover is sprayed out; it's a weed.



Lambs graze irrigated paddocks by day then join their mothers at night. Bahia, June 2012



Remote places hide youngsters who know sheep but not a camera. Bahia, June 2012



Rubbish (mainly plastic) is thrown onto road. Wind blows. It becomes part of the landscape. No one cares. Bahia, June 2012



New sheep farmers learn by 'trial and error'. Much capital is lost before professional help is sought. West São Paulo (SP), June 2012



Even with good fencing, the 'neighbour's' paddock looks always greener. West SP, June 2012



Farmers and consultants walked through paddocks and discussed pasture management. Central SP, June 2012



Poor feeding practices are an issue in Brazil. Central SP, June 2012



New born lambs and ewes are penned and looked after. Central SP, June 2012



Typical pasture, rank with dead matter underneath. Central SP, June 2012



Long, poor quality grass is grown. No cattle. Central SP, June 2012



Raining, so back inside. Rams are protected from adverse conditions. No pressure is permitted.



Semen quality is improved by feeding pumpkins at collection centre. South Brazil, June 2012



Ewes, lambs and rams, all kept inside. South Brazil, June 2012



Curitiba's parks also have roaming capybaras, the biggest rodent.



Remarkable Dayanne on top. The Remarkables. Queenstown, Feb 2012

5 LINERS

- o School parties, Taratahi and Massey students visit OSRS annually. International visitors from Brazil, Uruguay, Australia and China come to talk sheep. 50 to 100 people annually.
- o OSRS business phone 06 855 8335 was omitted from the Hawke's Bay phone book. This was no deterrent to an automated Asian phone centre. Six calls a night is common. Telecom is helpless. Nasty. Some naughty words get spoken.
- o Ram hogget weights on 13 May were 2.4 kgs heavier than last year's record weights. This represented an extra tonne of liveweight for the Texel Suffolks. All maternal sire rams are multiples and no hoggets kept had dags.
- o Scanning. One single mated mob's ram failed so dries at 3.7% were up. 66% of the ewes will twin and 16% have triplets. 85% of lambs born will be multiples. Having masses of multiples and few triplets is normal for Finn Texel ewes.
- o OSRS gave a ram to Gavin MacPherson of Waianawa, Southland. His guess of show ram weighs was closest to being correct. He entered 590 kg, the correct weight being 588 kg (for six). Entries exceeded 250 at the Waimumu, Southern Fieldays in February.
- o What is the difference between the TAB (Totaliser Agency Board) and NZX (NZ Stock Exchange)? Investing in shares is **gambling**. Betting on results is **gambling**. In neither form of betting can the punter influence the result.
- o Meat processors and farming media headline any lament about paying the farmer too much for lamb.

There is no comment when companies pay too little for lamb. Reminder: It's the "expect less for lamb this season" time of year.

- o Phosphate gives soap its bubble—it also stimulates algal blooms. NZ has 2.4 million hectares (?) of gorse which releases nitrogen into waterways, also stimulating algal bloom.

Nitrogen from gorse which enters waterways far exceeds the volume attributed to dairy farming.

- o Energy used by USA air conditioners exceeds the total energy used by the African continent.
- o It's official. Mermaids are not real says the National Ocean Service (USA).
- o If all countries had US's level of obesity the world's biomass would increase by 20% which represents a billion more average-sized earthling's. (Economist 23-6-12)
- o Why should the rich world have cheap food? Regulations make production more and more expensive. We watch it being prepared. We read about it. We talk about it. But we grizzle about its cost.

- o Fancy ear tagging terrestrial animals for food safety reasons and to please customers.

All fish should be earmarked too. After all, 120 million tonnes is harvested annually. Regulations only apply to that which is visible.

- o There are 1,040,000 sheep worldwide. 7 million tonnes of sheepmeat is consumed annually.

How many of these sheep will be tagged?



Sid Edwards, Robin, Errol Pederson. Sid (Northland) has used ¼ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Romneys and Texel-Suffolks for 20 years. Errol (Ormondville) buys Texels. Paratu, Dec 2011



Impressive ¼ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Perendale hoggets. Robin, Peter Sorenson, Glen King. More lambs, better finishing, excellent wool. Profitable sheep. Coast Road, Pongaroa. April, 2012



Dayanne got hopelessly bogged at Paratu. With Lass driving she hauled the ute to solid ground. Well done, each Lass. Paratu, March 2012

"Daughter. Does Robin know you're here?"

"Yes Dad"

"ARE you sure? Don't upset Robin"

"Dad, I'm going to be away for 40 days. I'm sure he'll notice it". Dayanne in Brazil, talking with her father