



# One Stop Ram Shop



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Iranian farmers drafting ewes. All new infrastructure. March 2015.



'Spitfire' brassica. Eight genotypes. Ram lambs were relaxed for visitors. Paratu.



Ambassador Mianji spent the day with Iranians at 'The Glen'. Wellington, Sat 7th March 2015.



Breed characteristics of Ross Berry's Texel Suffolks were explained. 'The Glen'. Wellington.



Persian fat tail X Dorset meal. Kebab, chop. Iranian experts approved of the quality. Dorper from OSRS.

## IRAN AND OSRS

September 2014. There were meetings and visits to the Caspian and Tafresh area. Contact was made with private enterprise cooperatives.

March 2015. A delegation of farmers who had already met Robin came to NZ. This group was a very significant 'first' for Iran. It was educational and interesting for everybody. Stock, their management, crops, infrastructure were demonstrated on farms from HB, Wairarapa to Wellington.



OSRS performance records explained to Iranian scientists by Tim Harvey, Clare Callow (consultants). May 2015



Massey visit to Prof Hugh Blair (2nd LHS), Dr Rokni, head of Iranian livestock (4th LHS). Palmerston Nth.

May 2015. A group led by Dr Rokni, Deputy Minister responsible for Iran's Livestock Affairs, came to OSRS. Business sessions, visits to Prof Hugh Blair (Massey), Fonterra (Pahiatua), Progressive Meats and Parliament were informative. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Iranian Ag., Ministry and OSRS was signed. Cooperation between Iran and the NZ Government was started by meeting with Minister Guy.

August 2015. Joy and Robin visited Iran. Another MOU was signed, this being between a Research Station and OSRS.

These two agreements are major commitments.

It has been interesting to be involved with such hospitable people of another culture. For OSRS, the work involves use of the years of experience to aid an industry which has thousands of years of experience. Humbling. It has been rewarding to host Iranians on our patch. Iranians are enjoyable company.



Parliamentary visit. Establishing contact for the Islamic Republic of Iran and New Zealand. May 2015.



Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Animal Breeding Centre of Iran and OSRS.



Desert mirrors capturing solar energy. Colorado.



Fracking. Utah is dotted with drill sites.



New York. Friendly, extravagant, scary. June 2015



Boston Common. A street named Joy.



Liberty hooked. Right arm with a camera for selfies, left hand has a 'tablet'. Broadway. NY.



Meals of lamb use one million dollars worth of sheep. 'Black Seed' eatery. Boston.



Greenwich Village Park. NY people use parks. Cities need parks.



Business is not brisk. NY, London; all cities had big sales. Shops were empty.



"Which hair would you like trimmed sir?" New York



Pets. Dogs generate 100,000 tonnes of poo in NY each year.



Guggenheim Museum; spectacular entertainment centre. Central Park. NY



Queues are not fun!



Queues to see modern art? Made in China?



Real art. Greek terracota masterpiece. Metropolitan Museum. NY.



Boston Memorial. 'Dog Tags' from locals killed in Iraq and Afganistan. Horrible, nearly 2000.



Modern man - Classical man.  
British Museum. London.



Trafalgar Square. Street Art. London



Lamb is popular. Welsh lamb rack NZ\$71.94/kg.  
Edinburgh.

## UNITED STATES

American cities lack original names. Settlers added the word "new" to regions or town of UK. So names like New Brunswick, New Jersey, New Rochelle, New Haven, New London, New Hampshire, New England and New York.

Kiwis were less inclined but still have New Plymouth, New Brighton and New Zealand!

Words spoken by a black maid at the Omni Hotel, New York after the Charleston shooting and Police killings. " We are all humans, we want respect! We don't want to be shot (by Police) before any questions are asked"

"Hey .Can I help you?" Polite people went out of their way to be helpful. Central Park, New York.

Two business partners met in the bar at Trump's Tower for a Happy Hour drink. One was always on the phone, sometimes both. Occasionally one went outside to speak. Sometimes one was on two phones at once.

During our 40 minute gin and tonic, they talked together for under a minute.

Museums are big business in New York. They have collections of other people's culture procured by wealthy collectors for status. Galleries have mostly portraits of the collector and 'masters'. Crowds buzz about paintings if the artists name is recognised. Exhibitions are worth seeing if queues and expense is not a worry.

Will wealthy Chinese buy American Art for museums in China? Las Vegas will certainly be worth collecting.

New York has plenty of pet dogs. Each averages 125kg of waste per year. 100,000 tonnes of pooh costs NZ \$15 million to bury. Digesters are



David and Jenny Norgrove. 13 years ago David 'wwoofered' at OSRS. June 2015. London.

being trialled in the London Borough of Barking to produce biofuel from the pooh. USA has 40 million pet dogs. Humans produce half as much waste.

## LONDON

London is familiar to Kiwis.

Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace delights every Commonwealth visitor and mystifies anybody from elsewhere. Splendid red jackets, polished boots and funny hats, the magical parade is a wonderful anachronism, a piece of past glory.

### Long may it last.

London's elegant tourism is enhanced by lots of young women wearing the shortest of dresses or pants, above legs covered in tanning fluid.

London's many museums and galleries are entertainment centres which are not amusing any more. Expensive, crowded and brimming



Stoney eyed sphinxes dare not be critical of twenty first century man. British Museum. London.



Texel 'type' rams ready for sale. Stirling, Scotland.

with marvellous relics they are hard work to enjoy.

Any urban expansion gobbles up farmland which gets buried in concrete. This happens to 40,000 ha/yr. Once built-up, then lights burn all night. Progress?



Culled Lamb. Too much dag. OSRS. Paratu.



Kevin White (SFF Agent) 'picking' Texel-Suffolk lambs. Culled, because they were singles. OSRS. Paratu.



Paula's outstanding Texels. Superb stock.  
Forssa. Finland. July, 2015.



Anne's Finns. Finland's top rural reporter interviewed Robin who could not read one word of the paper report.



Marga-Leena (Scientist), Tapio Rintala (Chair of Finnish Sheep Assoc) with all his 'biological' Finn meat products.  
Forssa. July 2015.



Finn ewes three mobs lamb at separate times of the year.



Finn hoggets are slaughtered at 50kg live weight.



Finn lambs hoeing into chopped pasture and minerals.



Meat ready for Farmers' Markets.  
**Rack NZ\$83.85/kg. Back Strap NZ\$66.38/kg.**



30 wolves live within 20km radius. Electric fences and these dogs deter them.



Poor hay. No sun and lots of rain. Cereals are yellow.



Red squirrel. Beautiful, wary.

## FINLAND REVISITED.

Finnish Landrace are popular and breeding ewes are increasing in numbers annually. Their lambs are numerous and grow well. Their ability for non-seasonal mating allows farms to produce all year and satisfy 'Biological' markets. Farmer's markets are an 'add value' outlet for organic Finn lamb produce. One farm mated ewes in February, April and September for all-year supplies of sheep-meat.

Texel ewes are attractive. 180% lambing is typical.

Arable soils were under stress from a poor, sunless, wet spring. No respite from cropping is producing weedy, yellow pastures. Artificial fertiliser cannot replace the organic qualities of soil. Finnish pastures need livestock to rebuild soils. Surely this is the 'biological' condition that 'Farmer's Market' customers think they are supporting on the farm?

Dogs and electric fences protect stock from wolves. Large numbers reside within all farming areas and to be unprepared is to experience a major slaughter eventually. 30 wolves were living in a twenty kms radius of one visited farm.

I met the Vice-Chairman of the Finnish Government when at the Forssa Farmer's Market. She had negotiated the Greek entry into the EU. She was absolutely furious with the Greek bail-out, blaming Greeks for their financial incompetence. An interesting conversation. Finns are politically alert.

Putin frightens Finland. Finns remember Russian invasions well. Tears welled in the eyes of a Finn when talking about confiscation of a family farm by Russians seventy years ago.



Wool Samples from Left: \*wool seven months.  
1/4 Finn 1/4 Texel 1/2 Corriedale 2008\*  
Finn from Finland 2002  
Iranian. Tabriz University sample 2013  
OSRS Finn scoured for Australia 2014\*  
Quarter Finn Texel 2015\*  
Texel 2015\*



Organic fields in Germany. Thistles galore. Ruhr.



Ryecorn. Big, omniverous slugs reduce organic crops.

## CENTRAL AND NORTH EUROPE

These stable countries are attractive and full of polite people who have a purpose in life. Their magnetism is understandable.

Parents are older, it being difficult to decide if it's father or grandfather walking the kids. Evidence of IVF, ie., twins and 'aged' parents is widespread.

Genuine antiques are pouring out of Russia. Muskets, duelling pistols, icons, paintings etc; they seemed to be genuine reproductions (fakes).

Horses and a few cattle dot EU countryside. Only Scotland had quantities of sheep.

West Highland terriers were the most common breed of dog.

**EVERY** farmer on the whole trip spoke of falling ground water levels. Water is wasted in all countries, leaking pipes, useless basin plugs, faulty taps. OSRS can improve its use of water too!

## GERMANY

Solid, clean. Germany draws any displaced person.

Consumers here too want organic produce. They don't have to pay more other than to do more driving to get to the favourite shop.

Strict building codes are enforced. Refurbished buildings highlight their ancient origins cleverly. Modern shops with their old exposed timbers or worn stones show how proud Germans are of tradition. Pedestrian city centres are the norm.

## CRUISING

Life on a cruise liner for 12 days was easy, pleasant. Accommodation, food and unobtrusive service excellent. Sight-seeing tours were well organised and always interesting.

5528 kms (Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, Greece), eleven ports from Barcelona to Venice. 2000 tourists and 800 minders, is a lot on one boat.

Seas and ports were all brimming with plastic rubbish. Visibility was limited by a haze which never cleared. It was very hot on land, warm at sea.

Many hectares of land are not farmed when cut off by roads, rail, rivers and irrigation channels. Farmers concentrate on easy land. Isolated areas become wildlife refuges amongst all the chaos of intensive land use. Wild animals are thriving in these many havens.

Many major civilisations grew, thrived and failed in the area visited. Why they failed is very obvious; all lost 'food security' then weakened. Strong neighbours were willing to take revenge on Rome, Athens, Istanbul and many others not so prominent in history. Surfaces of agricultural land covered in salt crystals told a story of centuries of irrigation in dry climates. Salinization led to crop declines documented in Babylon but still happening in Turkey at Ephesus, once more important than Istanbul.

Rebuilding Rome and Athens from what is left of the past magnificence is only just in time. Rivers were green polluted trickles in the heat of another dry summer. Statues reflect past glory. Lithe, athletic bodies of naked marble heroes contrast the modern pot-bellied photographers milling about at their feet. Themes are gruesome; lots of stabbing and decapitating.

Commercial religion is not nice. For all the glorious churches of these countries are there congregations?

Billions of selfies are taken daily. If only the Romans had cameras! Think what we could be looking at in museums today? Selfies in the colosseum!

"Today was the opposite to what I expected the Greek Islands to be" Advertised as idyllic, with white housing, expansive blue seas Mykonos was the only poor tour. Joy's words were true. Lazy people maintain nothing. It was smelly and polluted. White paint hides deteriorating buildings.

### Another cruise? Definitely!

No tipping

No money changing

No language problem

Access to interesting sights

Cruising is travelling in a mobile home with a competent driver.

## CONCLUSIONS

There are too many people in the world.

Too many are obese, as are their children.

Too many people smoke.

People walking, talking, texting are not skilled, they're stupid.

Walkers wired to radio and phones will be killed by cars.

People litter. Few care about the environment.

Biological food (organic) is safer, healthier, tastier? Science does not prove this.

Roaming cats were diseased in all 15 countries visited.

Free-range livestock are becoming rare

Graffiti is over everywhere. It is vandalism, not art.

Continually cropped soils of Europe are losing their structure.

Weeds tolerant to sprays are an emerging issue for arable farms.

Old fashioned irrigation has wrecked many soils by salinization.



Island Princess. 100,000 tones, 2000 tourists.



Tour liners tower over Venice. 520 liners are coming in 2015.



Happy Kiwi.



St Marks Basilica. Monument to religious power, wealth of traders, skills of craftsman. July 2015



Sinking Venice. The heart; Tower, Square, Doge Palace. No building is vertical.



Europe's largest ceiling without support. Splendid Doge Palace. Venice.



Four liners: 9000 tourists. Big business. Kusadasi, Turkey.



Bosphorus. Ships everywhere. Istanbul. August 2015



Topkapi Palace. Ottoman Empire heart. NZ Cabbage trees, a century old, in the Harem garden. July 2015.



Well-farmed, dry landscape. Florence, Italy.



Large areas cutoff by road and rail are weed patches.



Spectacular sunset after hot, hazy Mediterranean day.



Prime land covered in solar panels. Near Rome.



Graffiti is everywhere. Greece is poor, but people still buy spray cans and cigarettes. Athens.



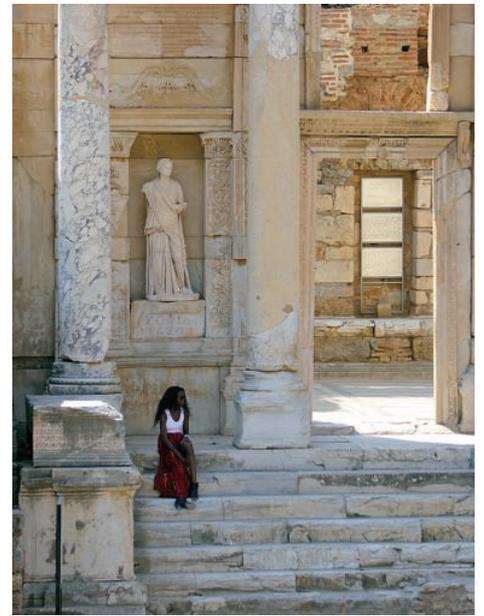
EU's flag design behind Mary. Duomo Cathedral Florence.



Spectacular ruins of a major city. Ephesus, Turkey



Once the main Asia - Orient link city, Ephesus.



Rare moment. Nubian model, no crowd, Ephesus.



Irrigation salt destroys soils. No Food, people moved. Turkey.



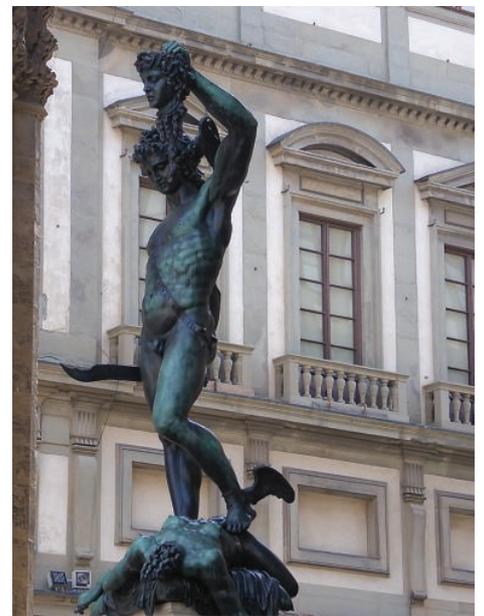
Selfies. Confident, sweaty (arrow) adults and bemused parents.



Advertised as shoulder, this lamb leg was yummy. Barcelona.



Arturo Sanchez ham. Acorn food, mostly. NZ\$345.90kg. Barcelona, Spain.



Heroes have been chopping off heads for centuries. Florence



Italians adore smart cars. A Lamborghini distracted them from selfies; they took the car instead. Rome



Polluted Arno river. Florence.



Polluted ocean and ports. Toulon, France.



Green, waterless Tiber from Ponte, St Angelo. Rome.



Kiwi spend. Dress, belts (2), watch, fruit, kettle, purse. NZ\$78.60. Toulon, France.



Earth's expanding population.

City	Meal	NZ \$
Boston •	Stewed shank	35.78
New York	Three lamb chops	69.75
London	Welsh lamb shank	64.77
Helsinki	Chops and chocolate sauce	52.55
Barcelona	Lamb shoulder (it was leg)	31.85 (beta lamb)
Tehran	Twelve chops	38.75
Brisbane	New England Lamb	53.37

Country	Meat	NZ \$ per Kg
England – Tesco	Lamb leg steak	33.58
Scotland - Sainsbury	Boned leg steak	34.28 (NZ)
	Boned leg steak	33.58 (Scottish)
	Boned leg steak	35.98 (English)
	Boned leg steak	38.38 (Organic)
Scotland - Waitrose	Boned leg steak	45.55
	Lamb rack	71.94 (Welsh)
Finland – Forssa (Farmer's market)	Boned leg steak	48.91 (Biological)
	Chops	41.92 (Biological)
	Back strap	66.38 (Biological)
	Rack	83.85 (Biological)
Spain – Barcelona	Rack	29.52
	Loin chops	27.77
France - Toulon	Leg	22.53
	Chops	21.83
Spain	'Arturo Sanchez' three year pig, free range, only fed acorns	345.90

• 'Black Seed Eatery' Tremont Street, Boston. "Sheepmeat is popular"  
 An 18 Kg carcass costs the owner NZ \$429.66. Annually, 2080 carcasses are used.  
 This little eatery uses close to a million NZ dollars worth of sheepmeat each year.

## OBSERVATIONS OF SHEEP-MEAT IN 15 COUNTRIES!

The table shows a range of prices for restaurant eating and in shops.

Lamb racks sold for NZ\$83.85/kg in Finland and NZ\$29.52/kg in Spain. Quality differed, but demand was strong in each country.

EU consumers lack discretionary money, business is **not** brisk. Lamb is top quality meat to chefs.

NZ product must aim to be the best of the million tonnes of sheep-meat traded internationally; best of the five million tonnes used world-wide. In our opinion, NZ is at the top. This opinion is not shared by French chefs.

There are a growing number of super-rich who love Mary's Little Lamb. They see sheep-meat as a natural product which if eaten will give them a healthy, long life. Price is not an issue if the product is 'right'

This is the market for NZ lamb.



Finn-Texel ewe lambs at weaning. All multiples. Paratu. 2015.



Semen export team. Finn-Texels and Texel-Suffolks. Proven top sires (TS) from B&L progeny tests.

Texel Suffolk ewe 2048/11 had twin ram lambs which weaned at 46 kg and 49 kg on day 110; **95 kgs of lamb exceeded her body weight** by many kilograms.

Texel Suffolk ewe 2293/12 also had twins, a ram 40.5 kg and ewe lamb 39.5 kg. **80 kg of weaned lamb exceeded her body weight** also.



OSRS Pauatahanui is the sunshine area and can be viewed from 'The Bach'. May 2015.



A lasting impression of Europe. Selfies.

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 Southland

## PLEASE HELP OSRS

- 2015-16 ram orders sent early.
- Confirmation of your email address.
- Any change of road address or errors from our mail-outs.