



One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL
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Last picture of Maxima RAM4U at OSRS.
Feb 2016.



Tessa McDonald, Robin, Sue Moss, McKenzie McKillop, Colin Burlace, Colin McDonald, Jeff Moss.
Happy for a job well-done.
Friday 12th Feb, Waimumu.



Spring flowers were insipid. No vitality. Nov, at OSRS.



Relaxation. Tramping at Te Mata Peak, Havelock North.
New Year, 2016

ONE STOP RAM SHOP RAM SALES

Ram selling is buoyant. Farmers often bought more rams than they had ordered. New farming clients and others returning (after buying elsewhere) were a regular feature of the season.

Finn Texels are increasingly being used to raise the proportion of Finn and Texel in the maternal breeding flocks. Flocks with no NZ traditional genetics will be common within a decade. Pure Finn Texel rams sold out, yet again.

All NZ ewes need a dash of Finn genetics. Finn sheep don't have bearings, live a year longer (even when hogget mated), grow soft, white wool 1-2cms longer per year, produce multiples (not twins), are facial-eczema tolerant, multiple suckle, have high yielding carcasses. Finn sheep put extra money in farmer's pockets without any management changes.

Since introducing facial eczema tolerant Finn Texels from a Whata Whata flock, (long associated with OSRS), to OSRS stabilised flocks, no known sheep in client flocks have reacted adversely to high spore counts in the NI.

SI facial eczema. Unbeknown to OSRS, rams sold to the Nelson region, were joined, in mating mobs, by NI "FE Resistant" rams. There was a major FE out-break. All the "FE Resistant" rams died or had to be killed, after tupping. All OSRS rams survived. The farm weaned a record number of lambs.

Ram lambs from eight OSRS flocks through-out NZ, arrived at Paratu from early December to mid-January. They were excellent. Regular communications and a willing exchange of ideas is creating a very pleasant 'togetherness' amongst all those involved. Some of the production results have been spectacular already. They will be outlined in future newsletters.

Dave and Jan Riddell's Texel Suffolk flock scanned 200%. Ram lambs (all multiples) weaned on the 9th December averaged 38.5 Kgs LW. When leaving for OSRS in Hawkes Bay, 6th January, they averaged 47.8 Kgs. This huge gain in 28 days, averaged 332gms /day/ ram. Highest daily gain was 447gms/day. Their 'super-charged' food was clover. Exciting viewing, after the poor winter and dismal spring experienced when visiting in October.

OSRS ram sales continue until May. Jeff and Colin are finishing sales of booked rams at present. Quality rams are still available in most genotypes. Stabilised Finn Texel rams are sold out.

OSRS is preparing two top (SIL) Texel Suffolk rams for natural mating at Maraetotara (HB) as part of the New Generation Flock programme (NGF). It involves extensive health testing by a veterinarian. This is the third occasion OSRS rams have been in progeny trials. The NGF, is the much improved CPT.



Gerry Williams, Pacific Basin Exports. Advisor for OSRS exporting. Finn semen has gone to South America this season
Oct, 2015, Paratu



Enterprising Grant and Sandra McMillan, Ongarue, selecting top Texel Suffolk Rams. Weevils are now at Ongarue eating Scotch thistles. Nov. 2015



Ross Berry. Finn Texel rams for The Glen, Pauatahanui.



Rams off to South Island farms. Nov, 2015



Rams of eight breeds. Oct, 2015



Great backsides! Bottom priced, commercial grade, Texel Suffolk rams.



Finn Texel ewes rubbing heads. Oct, 2015



Finn ram lambs. Jan, 2016



Finn Texel ewe lambs. Jan, 2016

Five Liners

- Alliance and Silver Fern Farms forecast an 18kgs lamb would be worth \$100. Few lambs got anywhere the \$100 predicted.
FW, Nov, 2, 2015
- OSRS, 29micron, white, clean lamb's wool made \$7.90 clean.
CPWool Jan, 28th
- Closure of Prime Range Works (Invercargill) is clear warning of what to expect with foreign ownership. No notice of intent, no knowledge by Kiwi 'Directors'
- 2015 lambing. 23.9 tailed, 1.7 million down in one year. Least number since 1953. Less lambs; less value per carcass. Crazy
- Ian Proudfoot, KPMG agribusiness boss. " NZ exports will hit 4100 billion in the next 20 years" Compound growth and 'value-add' products will give this.



Lamb shearing. Wool is top quality. Feb, 2016



Pictures packed for Southland. Mac (from Canada) painting happily. Feb, 2016

Premiums will come with new products. Value-add doesn't work. Nestles spent millions trying and failed spectacularly.

- Nigel and Deirdre Tomalin are finalists in the East Coast Ballance Environmental Awards. They are studious custodians of Nuhaka land. Well done.
- Nait is still a mess. Why have it? **Biosecurity** scare? Long, skinny

NZ can have roads closed in a jiffy. Any area is easily isolated. Our customers want **traceability?** Who? A Tesco manager said it gives an advantage over Sainsburys. Why are not all the fish in the oceans tagged for traceability?

- 'Data drives dollars trial'. Estimated breeding values (EBVs) were performance compared.
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IN MEMORIA: RED MAXIMA, RAM4U HAS PASSED AWAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2016

Purchased from Cochrane Motors, Christchurch for \$21000 when it had 26291 kms on the odometer. The number plates were taken off on 2nd February, 2016, 26 years later.

675092 kms driven with-out a single engine problem. It had tumbled into ditches, climbed mountains, ploughed through snow, where only 4WDs venture, on the Dunstan trail in Central Otago.

Twice it crashed. On each occasion it chose the spot to cause minimum damage and succeeded. Nobody was ever injured by the Maxima.

It once skived off by itself having not been left in 'park'. It glided downhill across the peak of a steep side road, jumped a gutter and came to rest in a netting fence preventing a five metre drop. Any car driven on the side road could not have stopped before hitting the 'driverless' Maxima. Aghast, we helplessly watched. 'Don't worry. Ram4U won't let me down' I said to Jane Hilson. It didn't.

Automatic, with a 3600cc engine it was not thirsty. It used 8.56 litres/100kms of fuel around hilly NI and 7.69 litres / 100kms on friendly SI roads. SI trips averaged 2.5 weeks and covered 4-6000kms. Cook Strait crossings; 120-140.

'Extra' cost, outside normal servicing, was recorded for each 100,000 kms. Maximum sum was \$2510. For the final eight years \$5107.14 was paid out.

Hayden from Ruahine Motors, Waipukurau. *"Still in good shape! I've been servicing this car for over 15 years. I will miss it."* **(So will I)**

Newsletter 86, APRIL 2011

"Everybody asks about RAM4U. Some especially lovely people asked after Robin"

There was no jealousy between the driver and the car, just a mutual desire to reach 1,000,000 kms, safely and together. We failed.

People suggested Nissan be contacted and told about the incredible journey. Nissan people would have enjoyed the stories and loved the pictures. Congratulations would have been offered. Their only interest would be in selling a replacement Maxima.

The 'clunk' that indicated that the third transmission failure was the death peel. I knew. Only a total transmission rebuild, at prohibitive expense could keep the car going. Reluctantly the end was accepted.

Huge loads of farm materials, maps and notices for Waimumu, 120kgs of lemons for southern families and friends were carried by the 'mobile office' cum 'workshop'. There will be no more stopping for flashing lights when people recognise RAM4U.

Two trips to Australia were won by couples 1, picking the date 500,000kms was reached. Sept 10th, 2007. 2, suggesting what should be done with RAM4U at this mileage.

*"Dear Robin. I know you have grey silky hair and I have reached the magic 500,000 kms. Both are a sign of the aged, but please keep me as I haven't **RAM**med anyone **4U**, so let's try the million together"* Your beloved Red Maxima RAM4U. *Clever car?*

The winner of the trip, now retired, upon hearing of the mourning at OSRS, **demanding that the new RAM4U be RED.** So it shall be. *Flashing lights and recognition could start again.*

I am proud that the car lasted so long and already miss its smooth handling of our NZ roads. It was economical, comfortable and willing. It never let me down. **RAM4U left the smallest environmental foot print possible.** It was a wonderful journey for 25 years.



Last farewell. "I will miss RAM4U after servicing it for 15 years"
Hayden. Ruahine Motors, Waipukurau.

*Last odometer reading;
675092 kms*



Failie to CHCh to Greta Valley. Hot. A swim removed dust and cleared the mind. Wonderful company, Virginia and Forbes Mackenzie Feb, 2016

The car ran backwards, down-hill, crossed the crest of the connecting busy road, jumped onto the footpath and stopped in the fence





WIN a RAM



Allen Dykes, Heddon Bush. First contestant. 1052 kgs, nearly 14.5kgs too heavy.



OSRS exhibit. Plenty of rams, photos and visitors.



Serious talking. Guessing the total weight of the rams



Of eight in the tent, five want a free ram



Finn ram. Rams ate hay happily for three days



Spacious, friendly frontage



Load-out. No trouble. Rams wanted to go back to Jeff's farm

RAM WEIGHT GUESSING COMPETITION; WAIMUMU, SOUTHERN FIELD DAYS, 10-12 FEB, 2016.

Participants were asked to give the combined weight of the eleven penned OSRS rams. Prize: a free OSRS 2th ram. OSRS gave four rams away.

Entries were 234, 12% increase from the previous competitions, 2014, 2012.

All former winners (4) tried again; all failed.

Six breeds (eleven rams), had a combined weight of 1037.5 Kgs.

First; **Sam Dixon** (Invercargill), 1037 Kgs

Second equal, **Colin Knarston** (Ohio) and **Allen Findlay** (Ohio), 1040 Kgs

Each winner has arranged to select a ram from Jeff.

63 entries were within 50 kgs of the winner. This was a tiny error when spread over the eleven rams. Five others were very close to the prize winners. Limestone Hills School 'Farm group' children were not close, but were delightful. Maybe

Jeff can give them a ram as OSRS's gift for their enthusiasm.

The competition was fun. Many were the laughs.

Allan Findlay, "It was an absolute guess. I haven't even got sheep scales, but I thought I would give it a try"

Colin Knarston, April 2011 newsletter. "I cut the ram's photos out of newsletters and stick them on the wall to help me decide what to buy"

Colin will only need to look out the window to see his preferred ram from now. He had better not try sticking his prize onto the wall.



Loaded. Poles, trellis's, timber, gates, silver tussocks for Robin in Hawke's Bay



Going Home

COMMENTS FROM SOUTHERN FIELD DAYS

Prime-stock prices are a disaster.

Numerous southern farmers lack clear breeding objectives for their flocks.

Some farmers, influenced by CPT results, bought rams, expecting similar productivity. They have been disappointed. East Friesian composites were frequent flops and found to be 'soft'.

Sufftex rams have differing proportions of Texel, Suffolk and even some NZ genetics, almost guarantees variable progeny. OSRS Texel Suffolk (Stabilised 25 years) produce blackface, fast-growing, identical, 'Texel type' lambs.

Continuing decline in use of Coopworth rams in both Islands.

Scanning percentages are gradually dropping in many flocks.

*Finn rams were sold (from OSRS) to more than 50 ram-producing studs in the 1990s. Few flock owners acknowledged this genetic addition. Flocks were some of the most influential in NZ and Finn genetics went nation-wide. Now a decade later the traditional genetics (and Texels) have dampened the 'Finn Effect'. OSRS newsletters predicted the current percentage decline. Stabilised OSRS Crossbreds have had no such decline. **ALL NZ sheep need a dash of Finn.***

Southern farmers have strong opinions. Each knows what is needed to return the industry back to profit. Nobody agrees how the changes should be made!

All that is needed is to get more money in farmer's pockets.

George Redditt (MIE) was able to meet farmers and relax.

John Gregan spoke with many farmers from his B&L, Central South Island electorate, in convivial surroundings.

Super 15 rugby was light entertainment for weary 'Waimumuians'. Lots of food, drink, wetting rain and flag waving. Lots of talking and a little rugby. Nothing serious; just fun.

There are numbers of qualified farm children who, upon losing employment in cities have happily returned to the farm. They have returned willingly. Good news.

Site 139, had the best **fudge** and **fruit cake** at Waimumu Field Days. No argument about this.

Conclusion: One Stop Ram Shop has been to six Waimumu Field Days, 12 years. It was first undertaken after a suggestion by Colin and Dot McDonald in 2004.

Many changes have taken place but it is the BEST, friendliest 'show' possible. Well-run, tidy, safe. 2016 was quite the best. Over **900** adults called in. Yes, it was the best. So say all of us!

Many thanks to Sue and Jeff, organisers second to none. Thanks to all who helped make it so pleasant. Those Clinton fish 'n chips are so good Sue, they helped too.

Continued from pg 2.

- The rams with highest genetic merit gave the highest financial return. The trial's 'best looking' ram (all agreed), gave the lightest lambs. It had low EBVs. **OSRS has appreciated this since EBVs were first available, 1970s**
- Wildling pines cover 1.7 million hectares. By 2025 they'll cover 22% of NZ.
- NZ has more fish species than the North Atlantic. 20% are unique to NZ. A new species, unknown in NZ waters, is found each month.
- Eight million tonnes of plastic enters the oceans annually. By 2050 the weight of plastic will exceed the weight of all the fish in the oceans.
- Four million fishing boats world-wide get US\$25 billion in subsidies. Only Alaska, Iceland and New Zealand have sustainable fisheries.
- 62 super rich, have assets equivalent in value to 3.5 billion poorest people. Their assets grew by 44% since 2010. The poor's asset fell by 41% since 2010.



Cannington (Cave) was bare in October, green in February



Opuha dam was empty in 2015, but not in 2016



John Dillon's Sheep. Riverton, Foveaux Strait



Is continuous cropping 'best practice'? Fairlie Basin.



Jeff Moss grows **whopping** fodder beets. Clinton, Feb 2016



Plantain; going to seed.



Plantain seeds scattered by hay-making



Strip grazing. Best practice.

Gavin Pettersen, Takaka Jan 2016



Texel Suffolk lambs eating 'Hunter' kale

OSRS, Feb 2016



Finn Texel lambs grazing 'Spitfire' kale.

OSRS



German Wasp Queens. Ornamental maples feed ravenous queens in spring.

Paratu



Paratu metal pit has water and frogs galore.



Only small tadpoles are aquarium reared. 55 tadpoles in one scoop.

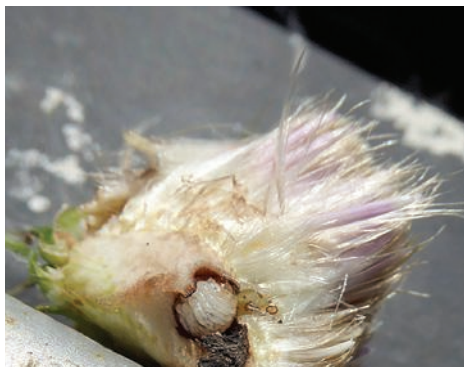


Beautiful Dragon flies. Larvae are ferocious predators of tadpoles.



Weevil power. Nodder thistle seeds are all eaten.

Paratu



Weevils consume Scotch thistle seed at OSRS



Cinnabar caterpillars. Ragwort has gone in Golden Bay. Dave Harwood released moths.

Upper Takaka, Jan 7th 2016



El Nino? Norwester clouds over the Ruahines. Nervous farmers.

Nov, Paratu



Family Christmas at Richard and Karen's home.

Nothing better!



Mr Whippy at Blackhead beach.

"A big one for grand-dad please"

OSRS SUPPORTS MEAT INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE (MIE).

At Waimumu Field Days, a banner and MIE notice were displayed. George Redditt, a local, spoke with farmers on each of three days at OSRS's site.

Support for MIE and red meat industry change, is still strong in the south.

MIE has forwarded two remits for the Beef & Lamb AGM. The Board has advised farmers to vote against them.

The first request is for B&L funds to assist MIE's activities.

All early MIE activity was financed by the promoters. B&L assisted with funding for the 'Pathway Report'. The report was a stunner: the best red meat report in decades. MIE spent the funds constructively, wisely.

The report provides a pathway. *Who else provides a pathway?*

The report suggests possible changes. *Who else suggests any change?*

MIE qualifies and deserves B&L financial support

The second remit proposes the removal of Meat Industry (MIA) representation from the Board and their replacement by MIE personnel. (OSRS opposed Meat Processor presence and has given reasons in numerous newsletters)

MIE's interim access would enhance farmer's representation and would allow the two groups to work closer, understand each other's position.

This is no difference than having MIA personnel on the Board. The aim was cooperation then and would be so with MIE replacements. Working for the benefit of stakeholders i.e., farmers, this is required of B&L by law.

Please vote 'yes' for your own sake (and mine). Both remits are best for farmer's interests

Replace MIA by MIE, just change the 'A' to an 'E'.

A Reminder; B&L collects levies from farmer product and is charged to spend on activities which enhance stakeholder's interests

(business).

Production, management and processing improvements are going on regardless but 'do they put money in farmer's pockets?'

Nothing else matters. Only by putting more money in farmer's pockets will our farming future be guaranteed profitable. There will be 9 billion people in the world to feed by 2050. Protein is already in short supply.

B&L's emphasis on 'behind the farm gate' expenditure is just that... behind.

What matters, is getting more for farmer's produce. It is well-processed, and packaged. It is not a commodity. It is a RARE, GOURMET, HEALTHY, food. The world trades annually 1 million tonnes of sheep-meat (50% from NZ). 120 million tonnes of fish comes out of water each year.

Our product is rare. It is possible to market sheep-meat better!

Lamb Rack, \$93/kg on a **Los Angeles** supermarket shelf, and selling!

Only MIE is driving change.

Any offshore partners in NZ primary industries are only interested in securing NZ product for their share of the world's 9 billion stomachs by 2050. They have no loyalty to rural NZ. Securing product for as little as possible then selling it in their home-land profitably, is their reason for being here. NZ's ability to feed itself and an extra 20 million is being bought by offshore interests to ensure their food security. This trend guarantees continuing pitiful primary produce prices.

Only MIE is committed to change.

MEAT INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE GROUP

The farmers' last stand

I PROMISE TO DRIVE THE REFORM NEEDED TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE, PROFITABLE FUTURE FOR FARMERS. MY POWERFUL TEAM IS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING THIS! YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL.

Dave McGaveston MIE Chairman
027 733 7268 www.meatindustryexcellence.co.nz

Meat Industry Excellence notice on the OSRS site



MIE NOTICES



George Redditt (MIE) and Jeff Moss



OSRS Quarter Finn Texels farmed by David Meade, Tadmor, Nelson



One gnat less.



Joy's cattle. Mana Island, Cook Strait, South Island. The Glen.

Anne Munro has retired from the Beef & Lamb Board after completing two terms.

Anne communicated well, attended field-days, was accountable and practical. She improved B&L's credibility. Rural people appreciated her directness and enthusiasm. She represented farmers diligently and with honesty.

Thank you Anne. You did contribute.

An interesting candidate for the Board has emerged; John Gregan.

John has many strengths similar to those of Anne. He has experience and tenacity which is required by good governance. Tough decisions need to be made. John will not shirk responsibility.

John will be "Striving for the best red meat industry"

Please vote for John. He is the right man to represent farmers of this huge, diverse electorate.

Beef and Lamb NZ. (0800 233 352)
Enrol. Vote by email, it's easy



Blackdale beauties at Ermedale, Southland



CONTACTS

Robin Hilson Mob: 027 444 1806
Waipukurau
Colin Burlace Mob: 027 2738 394
Dannevirke
Ross Berry Mob: 027 6037 005
Porirua
Paul Crump Mob: 021 1747 642
Havelock
David Meade Mob: 021 1686 903
Nelson
Philip Munro Mob: 027 2289 627
Fairlie
Jeff Moss Mob: 027 4157 707
Otago
Dave Riddell Mob: 027 4461 281
Southland



John meeting southern farmers. John is well known

Vote for JOHN GREGAN
Candidate for Central districts (South Island)
Beef and Lamb Board
'Striving for the BEST Red meat Industry'
John
John has experience and tenacity to make tough
decision's needed to put more money
in farmer's pockets

Vote for John Gregan

LAME SIRE RAMS? DON'T BE TOO HASTY!

Don't be too quick to cull sire rams with foot issues such as lameness or odd shaped claws, please....

We often hear of significant numbers of very expensive sire rams being culled due to foot issues yet we know that in most cases no one has actually diagnosed the cause of the "problem". We know this because we get to discuss feet quite a bit during the ram runs and we do get a long hard look at some individual feet.

Firstly consider the investment. Top rams now sell to commercial farmers at up to \$1500 each. Why make a hurried decision to ditch the ram when there is that much money at stake? If it is a welfare case such as a broken leg then act promptly. Otherwise we'd suggest that you talk to at least one of the following two people- your ram breeder and/or your vet. Allow the breeder to have a say or even a look and therefore an option to replace a ram or to ask a vet for an opinion. We work closely with all the local ram breeders and we know that they are all fussy about their product and that they are always looking for even minor faults in their sale stock. They certainly do not breed from stock with bad feet. We attend many expensive stags, horses and bulls with sore feet but rarely get

called to lame rams. We are quite successful at fixing their feet too!

Secondly consider why they are lame. If they are structurally unsound with cow hocks or scissor claws then maybe they do need culling. But single limb lameness, sore feet, scald, or the odd long toe? I would venture to say that most rams are not given enough attention and spend too long in one paddock for most of the year. It is not unreasonable to expect the odd ram to get sore feet if he hangs about in the same area all winter and is left to his own devices.

Having to run rams through a foot bath occasionally is not a sign of weakness. It is good husbandry. It certainly isn't a hard job. Leaving animals with scald untreated may lead to long toes, foot abscesses or footrot. And then you will be culling some good animals simply because they had a simple issue that became a complicated one.

The proof of the pudding? If you have had lame sire rams on occasion, do you have great numbers of limping ewes? So, is it heritable or is it just because the weather was a bit wet, the grass a bit long or the crop a bit muddy? Don't be hasty, ask a question.

"Vetnews" Feb 2016. Vet Services HB Ltd



Off to cut hay. Marion and Peter Black. Decades of friendship is valued by Robin. Southland



Stunning Central Otago. Dave and Christine Graham. Hindon