



# One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSLETTER No. 112  
June 2016



Robin

Dr Zarif

**The Middle East Business Council** arranged a meeting with Dr Zarif (Iranian Foreign Minister) for prominent NZ Companies wishing to do business with Iran. Dr Zarif negotiated with John Kerry (US) the removal of UN sanctions, February 2016. The two are Nobel nominees. Ten representatives met Dr Zarif, his entourage and Iranian Ambassador to NZ Namini Jalaladdin, on 15 March in Wellington.

CEOs and Chairmen from Education NZ, Oceania, Emirates, Westpac, Fonterra, Framcad, Silver Fern Farms, Tait Electronics, Bankers Assoc., and One Stop Ram Shop. Each representative spoke of his companies' expectations now Iran was 'open for business'. Business will be 'two-way' as Iran has plenty to offer NZ, emphasised Dr Zarif who spoke with humour and sincerity.

OSRS spoke of the experience gained by regular visits to Iran and continual contact since 2012. Iranian delegations have visited OSRS and associated farms. OSRS only, of the 'prominent NZ Companies' present, had visited Iran.

Dr Zarif assured OSRS of his support as, "he knew all about the work already done" for Iran (by OSRS). His support has been demonstrated, in Iran, since this meeting.



Raspberries; flowering and fruiting. Crazy

June 2016



Pears; prolific and tasty. Kiwifruit, nothing.

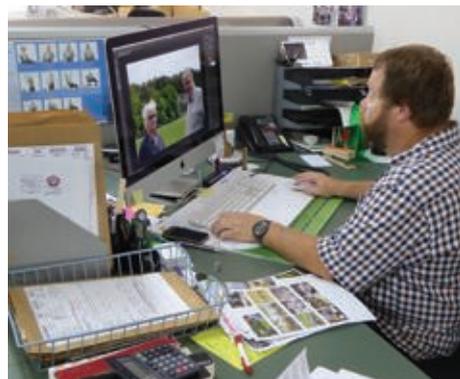
OSRS March



Grapes; Concord (purple) Vitis hybrids (green).

No Insect Damage. Delicious.

March 2016



Gavin Boyd; magician who pieces together OSRS stories.  
Central Design & Print, Waipukurau

## BLUE IS FEELING SMUG

Blue belongs to Colin. She is a kind, patient heading-dog. Blue likes training people, especially foreign people.

Blue is terribly excited by Silja's presence because she can brag to other dogs. Why? Blue has trained three people in one year. Could any other dog claim such success? By the way, Silja is from Finland.

Having taught Lais (from Brazil) all the finer details of stock moving, she sorted out Mac (from Canada). Mac, whom she educated so well, that after only three months, he was struggling with himself and not so sure about returning to Canada and his dairy cows.

Mac and Lais are pining for their 'beloved' Blue.

Blue turns amateurs into skilled shepherds, 'sheep lovers' like herself.

Silja is already a 'sheep lover' so Blue has a special surprise for her. Shortly Blue will become 'Blue One' and she will produce a pup, 'Blue Two'. How will Silja be able to leave 'Blue One' and baby blue... 'Blue Two' when she goes back to Finland? Blue One and Blue Two will probably know quite a few Finnish words by January.

New Blue arrived at 2am, 13th June. She looks like Blue One.

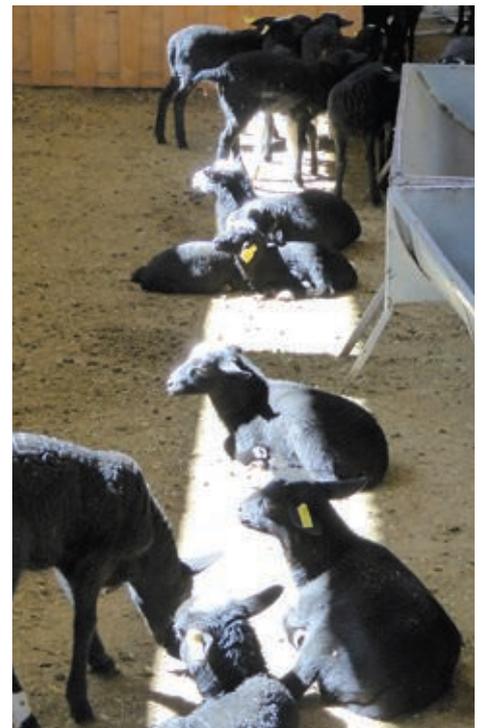


## Five Liners

- Gross Domestic Production (GDP), is a relic interpretation. GDP can measure production, not welfare. A figure to value say, hand-held email vs fax, or self-driving car vs jalopy is impossible. A 'meaningful' standard is needed.
- The world's great cities, San Francisco, London are engines of wealth creation. They are combustion chambers in which ideas and capital combines to generate new riches.
- Global Dairy Trading is not a level field. NZ farmers get \$3.85/kg of MS. France \$6.7, US \$8.15, China \$11.0/kg of MS. Chinese 'Food safety,' which involves buying NZ dairy farms is a winner.
- Humans have eaten big animals to extinction. No predator has done this. Australia; giant wombats, kangaroos. Sth America; elephants, camels. Nth America; camels, horses. New Zealand; 38 large birds. Homo sapiens replaced H. neanderthals, H. floresiensis and H. denisova by eating them too? Dinosaurs would have been eaten. **Perhaps they were?**
- Contracting 'out' business is being replaced by vertically integrated companies. Advantages of efficiency of 'in house' supply, building ties with customers, outweighs geopolitical uncertainty and environmental worries.
- "Antibody resistance must be tackled now" Mandeep Dhaliwai (UN, WHO). Resistance is widespread. 'Last resort', colistin has failed in Dunedin.
- Actor De Niro in speaking against immunisation, is promoting unscientific poppycock which leads to unnecessary deaths.
- Prof Jacqueline Rowarth, "Antibiotic use is regulated in NZ animals. It is controlled by veterinarians". In NZ it is humans who have the resistance problem, not animals.
- A record number of Republicans voted in the first 18 primaries, 17%, the highest since 1980. 83% of Republicans did not vote.
- Annual Alaskan fish harvest is worth US \$6 billion. Small fishermen mapped the seafloor and shared data. Result; they catch target species, more profit.
- Opioids are effective painkillers. Some made from poppies (Morphine), others (Oxycodone) are synthetic. They stimulate receptors to produce a pain-numbing effect, lessen anxiety and depression. Opioids are highly addictive, millions are hooked.
- US. Doctors wrote (2012) 282m prescriptions for opioids. From 1999-2014, 165000 died of prescription overdose. Opioids kill by slowing the respiratory system and breathing.
- China has excess production of coal, aluminium, oil refining, steel. China's overcapacity becomes the world's issue.
- Italian families average 400 hours queuing each year. Time wasted is worth, US \$44 b
- Yemen; Locust swarms of up to 8m individuals can fly 145 kms/day and consume as much as 35000 people. Juvenile locusts are killed by spraying, which is impossible as wars rage on.
- India; In sunny Punjab, officials are urging farmers to lease land to solar developers. Solar panels get cheaper as transmission capabilities languish.
- Brazil; Sugar and coffee interests 'sold' a similar scheme to farmers. It worked. Companies got land, paid a rental. Displaced farmers went to the cities for work. **Who benefited?**
- Australia; Bottled water. 'Pure, natural and healthy', is promoted well. Mt Franklin costs \$3.2/ litre. 600 mls is equivalent in price for 1000 litres of Sydney tap water. 'Voss' is \$8.6 /litre. Brands infer bottled water is better than tap water. Brands compete against each other not tap water. **Milk and Petrol costing \$1.62/ litre are cheaper.**
- NZ; Forest harvest volumes declined, to the lowest for seven years; 39 million cubic metres, worth \$3.52 b. OSRS's 2010 harvest of 3600 tonnes, was worth \$8000 net. Everyone but the owner, make money out of trees.
- Red Meat Profit Partnership (RMPP). "To work with farmers to encourage them to enhance their 'on-farm' practices, to increase profits" Michael Smith, GM. 52% were prepared to make change but wanted proof first, 23% would try unproven change, 17% felt no need to change.
- OSRS; Positive. Real profit will only come from better sheep-meat marketing. Would dentists, accountants and doctors not benefit from this program to enhance practices which increase profits?
- Silver Fern Farms, 'Market Report' May, 2016. This usually justifies why the company cannot pay more for livestock. SFF is marketing 'well' the reader is assured. Future prospects look strong for most products. Improved returns to sheep and deer farmers are likely next season. **It is always next season! 2015/6 was a next season too.**
- Venison and lamb are lacking supply (numbers) and this 'may' lead to established markets going elsewhere. It may be rectified if SFF pays more. Farmers need long-term signals.



Cabbage aphids 'knocked' a winter brassica crop. It was fed to ewes not hoggets. Paratu, July 2016



Romanov lambs. A new breed of sheep for Iran.

## Technology is changing food's future.(FW,Nov 2015)

Bradley Kneit (Institute for the Future,CA). Resource-intensive agriculture is being reorganised. Crops are growing without soil. Plant proteins are replicating animal proteins. 'Just-in-time' web connectivity, sensors reordering food, 'uber' type delivery is replacing shopping. **OSRS: Shopping is entertainment for many, it's an activity.** *What happens when the web crashes, as it does every Saturday in San Francisco?*

Prof., Mark Post (Holland). Laboratory meat can be produced in seven weeks from bovine stem cells. 'Mosameat' (mousemeat?) will be available in five years at \$65/kg. Cost will reduce as production plants get bigger. Lacking colour, fat tissue and not looking like steak, it has 'issues'. An Olympic pool-sized plant could feed 35000 people. As a novel food, it will attract people. *Natural, healthy, organic it may be... but not for me.*

Thomas Frey (Da Vinci Institute, Italy). Sensors connected to the web link the science of growing, customer's dietary needs and deliver from electronic menus. 3D printing produces perfect fruit, 100% edible. Robots may attend vertical growing sites and could crop landfills. *Many jobs will be lost, few created*

**Food is POLITICAL, it must be cheap or governments get rolled. Are these advances only attractive to the rich world?**

'Nyhtokaura' is sold as a meat substitute in Finland. Made from oats, yellow peas and broad-beans. Everyone tries this 'novel' food. Meat-loving Finns have reserved opinions. Silja, (OSRS) and Marja-Leena (Finland) confirm this.

Precision farming is here to stay. Reductions in water use of up to 20% have occurred with sensors monitoring soil conditions. Data is analysed in the cloud. Required water and fertiliser is provided the crop by drip tapes.

Smart farming provides side-dressing of requirements for row crops (soya beans, maize).

Genome editing enables a plant or

animal to be manipulated down to a single genetic letter. Editing imitates mutation in a more controlled way than with cross-breeding.

GPS allows accurate seeding, fertiliser, insecticide and herbicide application. Variable seeding is possible for differences in soil conditions and soil types. Already underground factories in London grow salad plants. Sensors control temperature, humidity, illumination so well that growth to harvest gets shorter and shorter.

**Such techniques could boost yields, improve farm profits, feed greater populations more cheaply.**

**By 2050, the present 7.3 billion humans will become 9.7 billion.**

Fish farming is a spectacular success. Natural harvest plateaued in 1990 at 90 million tonnes (mt). In 1980 fish farming produced 5mt; 2013, 80mt was harvested. Total fish harvested in 2013 was 170 mt, beef 65mt, **sheepmeat 6mt**. Farmed fish are fed protein made from natural gas. Methane is fed to bacteria, methanotrophs, which extract the energy, then combine with oxygen from water and nitrogen from air to become protein. Protein pellets are food for almost 50% of farmed fish.

Professor Alison Bailey (Lincoln University). **Technology will not solve the future food problems.** Agricultural policy needs to focus upon feeding people well, instead of cheapness.

KPMG Agribusiness Agenda, written by Ian Proudfoot, highlights complacency and poor governance by industry organisations as major impediments in the primary sector. Skilled Boards are needed to run farmer organisations with activities being overseen by sector representatives. Scrutiny need be dynamic and critical, but fair. Networks which provide board directors, are failing farmers.

Proudfoot is critical of the bureaucracy and its management of Agricultural Science.

*Scientists are researchers and should not be chasing funding. There must be better ways to fund and organise agricultural research for NZ's benefit.*

EU farmers know their customers well and are passionate about

their produce. *NZ farmers cannot get close to customers. NZ's professional marketers don't or cannot be bothered to do so it appears.* **The industry is aging; and some components complacent?**

**Identical comments have been made in OSRS newsletters time and time since the first in 1992.**

Proudfoot praises Landcorp as a role model for looking to the future. *Farmers would like Landcorp sold to young farmers. Whose enthusiasm and debt, could set standards of farming excellence far exceeding Landcorp's present contribution as a role model.*

### 'Hill Country Farming Future.'

7200 sheep and beef farms have gone in 20 years. 11% of grazed land and 10m stock units were lost to forestry, 'lifestylers', dairy and urban expansion.

6000 farms remain on 10 mill. hectares. 37% of NZ, is 'hill country'. 70% of NZ's lambs are produced here. "The only thing that keeps you here is passion" Peter Fennessey. **OSRS; only by addressing market factors now can hill country return to profitability.**

Prof., Peter Kemp (Massey) has a group of hill country farmers meeting every four months. They grow herbs for earlier weaning and heavier hoggets. Agricultural and Social scientists and farmers, have lots of interaction, detailed analysis and reporting. Trust is built. Farmers make their own decisions and confidence has led to change on farms. *OSRS; Dr Clive Dalton (1975-1990) had 24 farmers from all regions of NZ meeting regularly, talking and 'living' performance-recording, sheep management, marketing of meat and wool. Farmers and scientists stimulated one-another and NZ benefited. Meetings lasted for days. At one intense meeting everyone forgot about the election result and Radio NZ's Kiwi had gone to bed. The drive and dedication of Perendale Genetic Development led to Sheepac Ltd, which changed NZ sheep breeding forever.*

**Regular contact between scientists, academics and farmers has always resulted in mutual stimulation and profitable change.**

## Season, 2016 continued

El Nino did not abate in autumn, growth was minimal although March, April and May each had 44+ mms of rain. Daily temperatures were high, but not extraordinary. Wind was mostly absent. This was/is an El Nino season alright. Lots of 'why didn't it grow' questions are typical of El Nino patterns. Early planning helped feed stock with reasonable summer brassicas. Hay grew in quantity and quality.

Clinical facial eczema (FE) appeared for the first time for OSRS at Paratu. Sporidesmaspores are annually present but don't lead to clinical symptoms. Lambs grazing (March-April) on late-topped paddocks suffered most. OSRS just wanted to be **tidy**. Paddocks with dry and dying thistles were mowed in February. This is a total 'No No' in FE prone regions. These composting blobs are ideal for multiplying fungi. OSRS had forgotten about FE's one rule; **Don't have rotting rubbish in paddocks**.

Losses were not high; some lambs from mowed paddocks and odd ewes. With the onset of winter some ewes will just waste away without showing clinical signs.

After tupping, sire rams of six genotypes were tested for their GGT levels (protein) in their blood which gives an accurate gauge of the ram's response to the sporidesmin toxicity. GGT levels were normal, except for one, which was very high. All rams will be checked continually for clinical symptoms. One will be culled. OSRS is committed to producing sheep which have Finn/Texel genetics capable of withstanding exposure to FE. By rearing our sheep in FE prone country, tolerance is encouraged.

Any stock showing symptoms are quickly dispatched.

The 2016 FE outbreak was the worst for decades. It happened over the NI and northern SI. All ages of stock were affected; sheep and dairy cattle were worst hit. Young animals do regenerate damaged livers but life-time production is reduced. Some horror stories will appear in the Rural Press before long.

2015-2016 was very difficult for farmers.



Finn Texel lambs, plenty of grass.

Jan 2016



Ram lambs.

Jan 2016, Paratu



Shorn lambs picking through plantain haylage.

April 2016



Plantain haylage. Plenty of leaves amongst stalks.



Young plantain emerging from a carpet of seed.

June 2016



Dry, poor quality feed for tupping ewes.

April 2016



Pasture renewal. Brassica over summer. Pasture mix was drilled in the dry.

Feb, Paratu.



Lime. Little rain, no response.

March 2016



Joy Gray's wetland and riparian enhancement.

The Glen, Porirua, Wellington



Conservation planting prevents rural runoff and looks lovely. Urban runoff flows into the inlet.



Yilin Village, Ninigxia, China. Semi-desert.

A note from Tim Harvey, International Agriculture Consultant and associate of OSRS for over 30 years. Projects are world-wide. At present; Samoa, China and Zambia.

Tim has just returned from three weeks training small farmers in NW China (May 2016). Sheep farming in the small village called Yilin,



"Finn type" sheep of the Poverty Alleviation Project. China

Ninigxia. Rainfall 380mms/year. Temperature range, -12 to 38.C. Government banned all sheep, goat and cattle grazing to protect the fragile desert environment a decade ago. This was China; no protests, no riots just increased hardship and poverty. Yilin only three years ago got its first all-weather road.

For three years Tim has been part of a Poverty Alleviation Project. 30 poor cropping farmers were each given

nine sheep on the understanding that after one year, four female progeny would be donated to another poor farming family. Sheep numbers have risen from 450 to 1650. The best farmers have responded to kiwi ingenuity with enthusiasm. A new sheep breed was introduced, similar to Finnish Landrace, which will lamb three times in two years at 150-170%. Leading farmers get 350% lambing /year. Results are impressive.

Best Performance	2013	2016
Number of Sheep	9	32
Lambing % per year	120%	300% (yes correct, 300%)
Lambing LWT @ 6mths	18kgs	30kgs
Farm Gate Price	NZ\$180	NZ\$90 (competition, cheap NZ lamb)

Next?

- 1 Identify and concentrate on the top 30% of farmers
- 2 Introduce creep-feeding and new crops(Lucerne) to reduce feed costs
- 3 Develop cooperative marketing for the emerging surplus sheep  
Chinese love their lamb at restaurant prices of NZ\$15/kg

China has 170 million sheep. Increasing sheep productivity is a national objective which is aided by Massey University academics.

## 'LAMB SALES STRATEGY MUST CHANGE'

Matt Costello (Rabobank) "Every part of the sector had to be focused on what it could control, improve and be prepared to collaborate with each other as well as export customers. The provided mix had to satisfy consumer demands"he warned" NZ must diversify its lamb export markets, especially to the Middle East because present destinations are large producers themselves".

**OSRS; The volume of lamb produced world-wide is tiny. Better marketing will lift the world's desire for lamb. One million two hundred tonnes of sheep-meat is traded internationally. Lamb is gourmet food in short supply forever. Only by extracting more from the market will profitability return to farming. Sheep-meat is VERY different from its competitors and is natural, pure and 'good**

*for you'.*

**Can the following new appointees bring about changes? That there is need to make changes in the Red Meat Industry is undisputed. Can these men drive change?**

Bill Wright, newly elected to B&L Board as Central SI representative. Bill appreciates the need for changes which will improve sheep farm profitability. He started the Meat Industry Restructuring Group (2006), a precursor to MIAG and MIE. A decade later the industry is a wreck. He believes in strong leadership and has a clear vision for the future.

Sam McIvor, new CEO of B&L, financed by 12500 Beef and Sheep farmers. Sam is enthusiastic and determined to avoid duplication of effort. He wants to ensure farmers are involved in B&L decisions. Sam is committed to a confident,

profitable industry with farmer resilience.

John Loughlin, new Chairman of the Meat Industry Association(MIA). John has experienced the worst; a hostile take-over of Richmond by PPCS. He handled the '**beginning of the end**' for SFFs with dignity (PPCS became Silver Fern Farms). John had the fore-sight to contract OSRS/TMG as part of his future for Richmond. He was determined to get better market returns and improve farmer profitability. An enlightened marketer of the companies' advanced processing which became part of SFF's commodity trading. **Farmers were the greatest losers of this shemozzle.**

Each person has acknowledged the need for change and leadership. Each has led. **OSRS: Will each continue to work for change?**

# 1980. New Sheep breeds arrived. Government initiative, scientists persistence and Sheepac's practical ability started change in NZ sheep genetics.



Funeral Pyre of the sheep of the first importation at Crater Lake, Rotorua. Scrapie was suspected.



Sheepac Quarantine Station. Built in 21 days to exact specifications and Tim Harvey's guidance. OSRS 1987



High performance ewes from Romney, Coopworth and Perendale Central breeding flocks were the core of sheepac programmes. The three breeds were identical after shearing.



John Falloon (Minister of Agriculture) with Robin at the Sheepac Quarantine Station 1987, Takapau.



Bob Turner, Sheepac director, experienced stockman enjoying the first purebred Texels at Takapau. 1987



Sheepac Quarantine. First public presentation of sheep. Takapau. January 1988



OSRS and Texel Marketing Group (TMG) exhibit, HB A&P Show, Hastings Chris Southgate on duty. 1990



First Texel Marketing Group fieldday. John Cornish (Richmond), chef, entertained with his artistic butchering of a texel carcasse. 1990



Queries about Sheepac and the practical questions came from every part of NZ. 1987 onwards

An apologetic Alan Botting rang from Mataura twenty years ago asking about rams. Why apologetic? "I'm a hobby farmer with only 40 ewes." So started contact with a dedicated sheep man; thorough with his business and active in the Southland community. People 'make' ram selling. Deep friendships develop, as it did with Alan. Alan died recently. He will be missed not only by OSRS.

### Corrections to NL 111.

Pg 1, paragraph three (not triplets).  
Pg 2, Five liners 4th 23.9 million tailed,  
5th 410 billion.  
Pg 5, caption. Swede not fodder beet.

**One Stop Ram Shop has exported Finn semen to Brazil, Uruguay and Australia in 2015-16.**



Black beech (4yrs old) and Oaks (9yrs old) protected from hares are thriving at OSRS.



Pataka. Porirua Museum. Lights, colour, recycled plastic.



Last sighting of RAM4U before crushing and OE to China. Waipawa, April 2016



Buttercup Farm (Woodville), owned by OSRS, was sold because it couldn't make enough money. 1986



Lloyd and Val Mapp. Friends since meeting at the Nelson Texel ram sale in 1992. May visit.



Colin Tweed, Victoria, Australia. Just arrived! Robin had visited his farm twice when on business.



Forbes and Virginia Mackenzie, Nth Canterbury. Always thinking, always questioning; stimulating company! Paratu, May 2016



Over forty cars have driven through farm fences. Few pay for damages. OSRS sheep must be very interesting.



International visitors. 'Mac' Mackenzie (Canada), Romane (Belgium) and Lotette (France). Great fun but few can cook. Dec to March 2016

"I farm medium hill country at Wanganui. All my life we had farmed Romney sheep. In 1990 we got a Texel ram from Sheepac. For three years we had both Romney and Texel/Romney flocks, after which we replaced the Romneys with OSRS 3/4 Texel 1/4 Romney rams. Crossbred sheep gave a higher lambing percentage, few tail-end lambs, few bearings and minimal dags. After 25 years I have noted that Texel-cross sheep are intelligent, good natured, calm sheep which do well on hills. Lambing is easy, lambing problems are few. Ewes are hardy, good mothers and milk well. Lambs grade and don't go to fat. With Romneys the lambing percentage (ewes to ram) was 115-120%. This average rose with Texels to 141%. I do a minimal lambing beat, three times per week. 2015 was awful; severe floods, major infrastructure damage and I had a leg injury. NO lambing beat. 148% docked, my best result ever. Duncan McLeod, Okoia, RD12, Wanganui. December, 2015



John Little (USA). 'Kunikuni House' grew into 'Pig Palace.' 17th visit to OSRS. Feb 2016

### Greetings Robin,

Our favorite old OSRS ram died a couple of days ago. He wasn't the flashest looking fellow for the last couple of years, but what a wonderful temperament.

As you can see from the 07 tag (born 2007) he had seen more than eight summers but didn't quite make nine.

From the outset as a two tooth he just seemed to like people, and would always come up and rest his head against one's leg – begging for a back/face/ear scratch. Never once did his head-butt anyone. He was occasionally dressed up with a pony saddle, hat and dark glasses. Sadly, no pictures of that, but the attached photo shows him sharing a few secrets with our grand-daughter Sophie Kohlis.

I'm sure that it's Texel influence that produces this odd attraction to humans. These sheep are nice to have around.

I hope you haven't suffered too much with the FE outbreak. There are some sad stories. I think there will be some extraordinary stock losses recorded.

To leave on a more positive note, we have had a very good growing season. We're certainly short of ground water at present but the animals have all been well fed.

Regards, Alec Olsen



Sophie Kohlis with Alec's tame, 2007 born Texel ram.

Government is financing MPI to continue investigations into rural irrigation schemes. Ponding excess winter (or summer) water is best for the environment. Plenty of water falls on NZ but it may not always be so. Ponding creates community wetlands, activity sites and enhances an area. NZ is 'mature' enough to make engineering ascetically pleasing. Genuine concerns should be addressed but the incessant grief of the uninformed is boring. Doubters should visit Lake Opuha, Fairlie. It is a beautiful community asset built by 'selfish, money-grubbing farmers with no thoughts for the environment'. NZ benefits from careful ponding of water for irrigation. OSRS was a doubter of the Ruataniwha Dam (on geological grounds) in Central HB. No more. OSRS has willingly signed-up for a water allocation as concerns have been addressed.



Blue showing Mac how to move sheep.



Richard checking rams used in the Beef and Lamb progeny trial. March 2016

**Limehills School** visit to the One Stop Ram Shop exhibit at Waimumu, February, 2016. Newsletter 111

"Limehills School 'Farm Group' were not close (to guessing the combined weight of penned rams) but were delightful. Maybe, Jeff can give them a ram as OSRS's gift for their enthusiasm".  
**Well, Jeff didn't give one, he gave two.**

Massie Smith wrote a letter of thanks.

Dear Robin Hilson,

Thank you very much for giving us a Perendale Texel and a Finn Texel ram. Their names are Cedwric and Selwin. Before the names were chosen we had a whole school name competition of what names they could be called. Then once the top five were chosen all the school went behind a voting stand and decided so they couldn't see each other. They are out with the ewes at the moment and they are looking nice and healthy. Thank you again for everything.

Yours sincerely Maisie Smith and Limehills School

OSRS replied; Hello Maisie and all the farm group.

Today my postie delivered a colourful card from you all. What a surprise.

When I opened the card there were more surprises; photos and long letter.

Cedwric and Selwin I thought looked a little surprised at all the attention they were getting. If they had stayed in boring old Hawkes Bay they would certainly not have been given such beautiful ewes to mate with. Perhaps that surprised look was not surprise at all and really they were being smug and happy with Southland.

Well I like my rams to all go to happy homes. Cedwric and Selwin obviously have a very happy home.

If they are happy they reciprocate and will father lots of lambs. That is the way One Stop Ram Shop rams say 'thank you' to the farmer.

They have great names too. My rams like having their own names.

So, in spring be ready for lots and lots of lambs.

Let me know how you get on at lambing time. Possibly, when I get next to the Limehills area (October) I will call.

Please give each a big hug from me.

Maisie please share this note with teachers and kids of the 'farm group'

Best wishes,

Robin Hilson, One Stop Ram Shop



Cedwric and Selwin, happy lads. OSRS rams given to Limehills School farm group. Winton



Venus fly (spider) trap. Nothing, then nine spiders in one week. Paratu kitchen



'Farm Group' guessing OSRS ram weights at Waimumu. Delightful rural kids. Feb 2016



Small diggers are useful. Tree root clearance. Paratu



Colin Burlace, arborist. Thriving oaks thinned and trimmed. Autumn 2016



Monarch caterpillar attacked by a tiny parasitic wasp.



OSRS 2016 Ram Selection at Jeff and Sue Moss's farm, Clinton, Otago. Selection will be start after Monday 12th of December, 2016. Colin and Robin will be arranging ram selection with Jeff. The objective is to get a majority of sales completed by Christmas. NI selections will have been mostly finished. It is possible for us to travel down, meet farmers and talk sheep at this busy time. We are pleased to have the opportunity.

## CONTACTS

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