



# One Stop Ram Shop



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Sheepskin saddle. Neither reins nor stirrups. Led for 12kms up into Amol Mountains. An 'experience', Iran. August 2017



Midway. Grazing lands were beyond the horizon at 3000m above sea level. Iran. 2017



More subdivision and water reticulation. Paratu, May 2017



Better grazing management made possible by subdivision.

An Open Day at One Stop Ram Shop is planned for Friday 2 November 2018, Paratu, 3500 SH2, 12kms south of Waipukurau.

Consultants, scientists and rural reporters have little knowledge of the practical answers provided by OSRS genetics.

Seven flocks with Finn, Texel and combinations have been stabilised for up to thirty years. All are performance recorded with SIL. Data is coordinated by Clare Callow (Animal Breeding Trust).

Ewes with OSRS genetics need not be flushed. Scanning is consistent regardless of poor tup conditions. Bearings are all but absent. Ewes live one productive year longer than traditional sheep. Lamb gestation is one week less. Stabilised ewes produce few triplets, mostly twins. Lamb survival in-utero and from birth to weaning is excellent. Ewes multi-suckle and feed any lamb feeling hungry.

Finn ewe body fat is carried in their mesenteries and not under skin. This trait makes condition-scoring different. Carcasses yield well.

OSRS sheep breeds are suitable for hogget mating.

Finn and Dorper hoggets are sexually precocious.

The open day will give farmers the chance to see OSRS breeds penned separately. Discussions will be educational, practical and cheerful.

## Predictions

- Succession planning is hard; it will get harder
- Wool having some highs and many lows
- Oil and gas exploration resumed
- Increasing use of Finn Texel rams
- Continuing high sheep meat prices. Shortages forever
- Fake science, fake meat, fake milk, fake wool, fake news, **real** newsletters?



"Where did this lamb come from?" "Sir. We serve only the best and the best comes from NZ. Everybody asks for it". Previously told all meat came from USA. Cruising, Mediterranean



Frogs are wary but relaxed with people. Paratu has many frogs. April 2018



Robin, Joy, Rafael (Brazil) above the Kapiti coast. Rafael learnt about NZ sheepfarming systems; pasture to plate



Scanning Texel-Suffolks farmed by Angie Malcolm. Angie treats sheep like members of her family, lots of respect and encouragement. Waipawa, June 2017



Dubai mud fortress has become a museum. Hot 43.C. Tourists collapsed on streets.



Dubai is ostentatious, boring, 'over-the-top'. Lifts climb at 60km/hr.



Fake Egyptian Statues are perches for real pigeons and real droppings. Dubai, June 2017



Lisbon looks spectacular. The airport passenger management is rated in the world's worst ten.



Portugal has droughts and fires. Thirsty trees need water showers. Lisbon



Statues commemorate Portugal's leaders and 'glorious' colonial history which was built around slavery and exploitation. Lisbon



Portugal has an impressive history and a grey future. Tourism and queues?



Every nook is a cardboard 'home' for street people. Graffiti and cigarette butts are everywhere. Lisbon looks shoddy, tired.



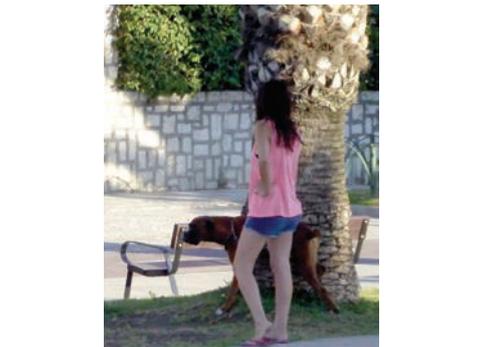
Love. Forget about roses just bring your i-phone with selfies. Lisbon



The little fella in the middle will become a very big fella. Cruising.



This massive basilica was financed by South American plunder. Congregations are going. Tourism is a vital source of revenue. Seville



A sight for all Europe. Adoring owners cannot see 'doggy poohs' left by the dog they have on a leash



EU funding has transformed Spanish farming. Early vegetables are produced for all Europe. Seville, Spain.



Yuck! Tobacco from discarded butts is collected for smoking. Seville



Delicate Moorish designs at the Alhambra harem. Granada



People photograph themselves and the Alhambra.



Nobody noticed two snakes within a metre of the throng.



Simple Spanish sculptures say little but are expressive. Moorish castle now a library. Elche city centre.



Elche Gardens. Colourful, tidy, well-used. Plenty of water.



Stunning Ibiza has a population of 150000 and is swamped by 2 million, 'hot' northern youngsters.



Why do affluent people pollute? Most people are lazy and do not care. Plastic human detritus at sea. Marseille, France



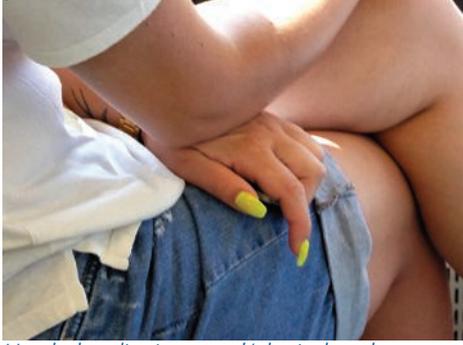
Monaco lives by taking people's money. A penthouse can cost US\$50K a week. Super yachts are huge (arrow to adult). A strange place. Why does anybody go there?



Wives pray here for the safe return of sailors, and the church is well maintained.



Solid concrete walls are painted to appear as stone. Washing adds colour and flaps enthusiastically. Any Italian sea-side village



Hands that disdain manual/physical work. Monserrat Monastery, Spain



Watch-towers were built by feuding Florentine families. They probably use cheaper methods now, drones.



Florence has 9 million tourists, 18 for each local. Florence is a living, working museum with treasures galore. Florence



Ever-vigilant security guard. Medici Palace, Florence



A phasing couple set their tongues wagging amongst the hordes in the Medici Palace. Florence



A marble masterpiece set into the wall of the Duomo Cathedral. Sheep, a reminder of home.



Hotel Columbus, Vatican. The avenue to St Peter's square and Basilica. Rome



Papal Basilica of St Peter. Rome



Visually St Peter's is ruined by this large monstrosity of columns and statues. Vatican, Rome



Brazil has 8 million Santa Ines sheep. Most populous breed. Fertile, tough, wool-less, meat-less. Ponta Grossa, Brazil



Judging Corriedales. How would the sheep judge the judge? He took ages to decide the winner. Ponta Grossa, July, Brazil



Sheep 'pebbles' being swept away. Dog owners are not so fastidious



An army band played martial music to herald the convention opening.



Power-point presentation. "Sheep-meat is a quality protein, already in short supply. Brazil can become a major producer of quality sheep-meat"



Deep ice on cars from the polar blast that froze NZ, Nobody expected such bitter cold. 18th July 2017. Brazil, Parana State.



Dutch Texel genetics are obvious in the 'Red Gate' ewes about to lamb



Quality sheep-meat is uncommon in Brazil. These finishing Texel lambs will be processed and sold as branded 'Castrolanda' sheep-meat. A quality product.



Butchering Texel sheep for local sales. Quality sheep meat. Red Gate.



Wool stockpile. No demand. They're 'staying put' until prices improve.



'Performance recording combined with new sheep genetics at OSRS influences NZ sheep breeding.' Cescage University Interview. Ponta Grossa, July 2017



Andre, Felipe, Rafael, Robin. Early drivers of Cordeiro Biz. Ponta Grossa, July 2017



Lapland, midnight. Trevola is 66.N. Kemijoki River is Finland's longest.



Santa Claus's home. It was a balmy 28.C and he stayed indoors. Robin, Johanna, Toole, Silja at the Arctic Circle.



Replacement Finnsheep. White; most productive, Black; most sought. Meat, wool, pelts and woollen knitwear is sold in Finland



Skeins of wool from the Finnsheep are produced by Silja's family.



Finn ewes about to lamb. Lambing is always indoors. One flock in August, other March (Spring).



Lambing shed with efficient penning. Straw bedding, cosy. Ewes are performance recorded.



Stripping weaned ewes of the spring flock. 35 litres collected from 70 ewes is frozen for use with the next lambs born.

August  
July 25, 2017



Silja's home, storage barn, lambing shed. The vegetable garden provides food to cover the five months of snow. It is stored underground.



Rowing on the Kemijoki to view the replacement hoggets. The river freezes in winter.



Cloud berries are a local delicacy which sell for NZ\$23/kg. Young and old have their favourite boggy berry collecting areas



Ouch! 'Bities' are ferocious, persistent and eager.



Siika or whitefish are netted. Excellent eating. That's Sweden opposite



Rovaniemi, capital of Lapland, is a tourist centre. Razed by Germans in 1944, rebuilt, it's a stylish home to 62k self-sufficient Finns



EVELYN WRENCH LECTURE SERIES: THE POST-TRUTH PRESIDENCY

Royal Overseas League address "Post Truth Presidency of Trump" promised much from qualified speakers but was a flop. They were timorous and guarded. Arrows Kiwis  
London



Street entertainers, if good, attract huge crowds in London town.  
July, 2017



Protests attract attention in Trafalgar Square. Venezuelan protestors demonstrating against Dictator President Maduro. London



Swanky Berkley Street. Each shop with a security guard but no customers. It is 11am and this boss has cycled to work. London, August 2017



Best of the Ritz. Birthday treat; lamb back-strap (€40). Waiter's rituals are elaborate, hilarious, entertaining The Ritz, London, 28th July 2017



Skilled engineering is transforming the Scheldt River waterfront into a recreational area. Antwerp, Belgium. August 2017



Old warehouse, stockyards, cyclists, walkers and poohy/widdly dogs. People place. Antwerp.



Barges move all types of cargo inland to the European canal network. Tourist liner heads downstream to the Atlantic. Belgium, Antwerp



Ancient soils from Mashhad to Afghanistan respond to irrigation but water is not plentiful. NE Iran, August 2017



Dry-land farming is precarious. Irrigation gives certainty and crops of grain, green feed, potato etc are the result. Neyshabur, Iran



Livestock and people use water from open ditches; spring fed. Water losses are huge. Modern irrigation is ok, but water tables are dropping, salinity increasing. Temperatures +25c to -35c. Molkabad, Iran



Yards can hold many sheep. Sheds are dark, large and warm. Hygiene is minimal. Shepherds practice skills centuries old. 57 million sheep need new genetics and fresh ideas.



Nomads know their best ewes; which produce the best lamb and the most milk. Yards offer shelter, protection, water and storage for hay.



Even by torch-light nomads caught the 'best' sheep. At 10pm Korni/mogidane ewes appeared alert and sound. Neyshabur, Iran



The fine lower line is a 700yr water ditch; working well. High plains, 2000m asl, are cropped and home to sheep (many), wolves, bears. NW Iran, Ardabil



Meetings started at 11pm. Practical, shy, nomad leaders and Vets gave voice to strong opinions every meeting. Special people.



Four attending had visited OSRS in NZ. They spoke enthusiastically about NZ agricultural systems. Excellent meeting. Mashhad region

## They said

I was with the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw in Iran. Our presence in Tehran aroused large crowds of protesters. Crowds carried placards written in Farsi which said 'The city of martyrs should not entertain the English enemy'. Nobody could read Farsi. A translation was given us 'City Martyr catering the English is not the enemy'. Sir David Norgrove, "probably a Google translation"

"The trouble with them (OSRS rams) they **never wear out**" Len and Sheryl Win, Collingwood. 1/4FT

"It's been a good summer. Weighing off ewe lambs to get a line to put to the ram. Target 40 kg....some were closer to 70 kg. I've never achieved weights like this, I'm very pleased. Thought you'd like to know." Jason Rentoul, Marlborough. Rams 3/8FT & TS.

After farming for 33 yrs in Wairau Valley Chris sold. "which makes this a good opportunity to thank Robin for providing our rams for the past ten years—always enjoying his visits and discussions.

One of the highlights in this time was achieving 100% take at scanning in 2012 and watching our flock produce **more twins, less triplets** and even **less singles** – well done rams. Many thanks, Chris and Lyn Dillon", Marlborough. 3/8FT rams and the predicted production. OSRS sold his sheep to a Canterbury client.

"Lambs were bigger and brighter" Shearer's comments. Finn Texel rams over Texel/Perendale ewes. Jayson Prenter, Happy Valley, North Canterbury.

600 hoggets, 1/4Finn 1/4Texel 1/2Perendale(1/4FT) were mated to Dorpers. Scanned 669 lambs, weaned 605 at 27.4kgs. Born in October, weaned 12 Feb 2018. Philip and Anne Munro, Fairlie.

"In the next three kilometers we'll see a 'road-kill' ferret." Robin to Andre, Burke's Pass. **Wrong. Three.** 18/2/2018. (Fairlie to Cromwell, 23/10/2017, seven ferret road-kills)

(Waimumu OSRS) "We passed twice but you were talking fast with farmers—so we carried on" Tracey Caldwell, Palmerston, Otago. Caldwells use 3/8 FinnTexel rams

Dr Jock Allison at Waimumu, rubbished agricultural science. It compares unfavourably with that of

the 1980-1990s which had farmer participation, he explained to Andre.

"You won't have any trouble selling those (remaining rams)" Peter Doncaster, Waipahi, Southland, after selecting 3/8FinnTexels and Texel Suffolks. Peter has used OSRS rams for 20 years.

"I'm looking forward to my next National Geographic Newsletter" Russell Goatley, Venlaw Station, Southland.

"Best, year on year, grass growing. It is the wettest in 15 years" Kevin Shannon, Te Kuiti. Kevin used 1/4 FT and TS rams.

"The best lambing, we got was 145-147% weaned (using Androvax). Now, with Finn and Texel on the Perendale base we get 165-170% (without Androvax). *Finn Texel gave clear 14% lift.*" Dennis Astle, Te Kuiti. 1/4 Finn 1/4Texel 1/2Perendales.

"Excellent lambs. 5.5 metres of rain fell from January to 26/9/18 (date of call). Lambing started, rain stopped, so I went round to check. Saw some sets of twins, some triplets and a set of quads, then a set of FIVE. I got out fast. I would only mix that lot." Arthur Masters, Mangapapa, Taranaki. *He is a feeder in an uncompromising locality. It's tough.* 1/4 FT ewes with 3/8 FT rams

"Texel Suffolk rams **last.** Never wear out" Dean Wilson, Owhanga. Dean and Katherine farm very steep King Country hills. Two decades of OSRS rams.

"Texel Suffolk sired lambs showed excellent survival. I need more." Daniel Murray, Hunterville. Rain and mud tested farmer's mental survival through-out winter 2017

"We had atrocious weather right in the peak of lambing. After four days of it I went round and found only four dead lambs. They (ewes) are great mothers" Terry Creswell, Gisborne. 1/4 FinnTexel sheep on *hard* hillcountry.

"So, Robin, I shall miss our annual meeting at OSRS. It was always a most stimulating time, and I thank you very much for your open-minded consideration of so many farming issues. I do plan to call by so often just to hear your take on the world." Newly retired Alec Olsen, Napier. *It is conscientious, practical people like Alec who make OSRS business so pleasant.*

John McPhee, Hastings, was second

for Ovation's Supplier 2017. "You should feel pleased as most were sired by OSRS rams" *More pleased with John's recognition and award.*

"Always good to be around people with a passion for what they do" Comment from a Waipawa farmer after collecting his teaser rams.

"Romney ewes were mated (2017) to Romney and Finn Texel rams. Ewes were farmed together. Ewes mated with Finn Texel rams scanned 7% more lambs. 200 male lambs (35+kgs) were killed early November. 70-80% were sired by Finn Texel rams." Jeremy Martin, Porangahau, CHB.

OSRS woolshed wall has a sign about the economics of lifting weaning from 130% to 150%. "Are there still any farmers with only 130%? Unbelievable really. **The lift has been so easy with 1/4 Finn Texel rams.**" Reid Taylor, Whetukura, SHB. **Reid was genuinely amazed that any farmer would accept only 130% weaning.**

"I got my best scan ever, 180% but docked only 144%. The continual rain got the lambs eventually----it went on for months. Wayne Harriman, Eketahuna, N Wairarapa. 1/4FT sheep flock. *Visiting Iranians were fascinated with his facilities, shearing, sheep.*

Prof Ciniero, Botucata University Brazil.

"(The Brazilian farmer) needs to see sheepfarming as a business, not a hobby." "It's the right time" (for change of culture and Cordeiro Biz)

"See the traffic lights? They are just an ornament. Nobody takes any notice of them." Tour guide, Italy

There are fifteen flocks contributing to OSRS. Information from these sheep, a third of which are outside HB, helps the development of the company.

All flocks provide performance data which relates to both the breed and environment. Each flock directly influences breeding programmes.

OSRS would like to place further flocks about NZ, especially in the SI.

If any farmer is interested, please contact Robin to discuss options.

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Alpine sheep pen at 2000m asl. Soil is deep and fertile, moisture adequate, wind constant but not a problem. Winter is harsh. Iran



Compulsory picture. Nomad 6th from the right was responsible for management of all Iranian alpine land. Dignified, strong he was a generous, enquiring host. Amol Mountains, August, 2017, Iran



Prof Lillian was at University studying NZ sheep pastures. She will be working with Cordeiro Biz in Brazil. Rafael, Robin, Lillian in discussion at OSRS. Paratu, May 2017



Te Mata Peak carpark. Tourist spot, A disposable nappy lies only five metres from a rubbish bin. Lazy people slowly kill planet earth. Hawke's Bay, October, 2017



Alpine sheep, well fed. This ram had ticks which transfer a virus that kills sheep. Dogs accompany grazing flocks, for protection from bears, wolves.



Mountains reach 5000m asl. Healthy country with isolated camps at water sources. Amol, Iran.



Regular links between Brazil and NZ. Robin, Donna Drake (business advisor), Andre and Rafael planning joint action. May 2018, OSRS



Rafael explaining Texel Suffolk sheep scanning for Brazilian audiences. A video was made in pouring rain. June 2017, OSRS



Almost home! A brief visit to close Sydney friends resulted in a harbour boat cruise. Helen Teague, Joy, Robin loving it! 15 countries, four continents, two months away; just a bit too long.

**“Freshwater challengers are enormous” (Sir Peter Gluckman). NZ has plenty of water. Annual inflow is 500,000 million cubic metres. 95% gets to the seas. 0.5% or 2250 m/cu/ms is used by agriculture.**

**1.5% is the total NZ usage.** The dairy industry spreads 91% of its effluent onto pasture. 9% is treated and discharged, 11 million cu ms.(volume)

City effluent is treated and discharged. 418 million cu ms enters waters, 93% of the volume. (Rusk, NZ Farmer, April 2018)

**1,** NZ has plenty of water albeit lots in wrong areas.

**2,** Ponding winter water benefits NZ.

**3,** 93% of city effluent could be composted. NZ imports compost.

**4,** Pollution is bad. Perpetrators should be made liable for costs of repair. Tourists and Kiwis must respect NZ's environment.

**5,** Cities should look at their 'patch' before criticizing others.

**6,** Double fencing of streams is good where practical. Nationally 'common-sense' is required. Avon River needs fencing, Christchurch.

**7,** Human memories are short. Before cows were the livestock of choice in Canterbury, Coe's Ford was a delightful picnic spot except in dry years when the flow was slimy or nothing. Don't blame cows.

**8,** Worldwide water wastage is alarming. Farmers overseas told OSRS that water tables dropped, salinity increased, irrigation stopped. Water issues are mostly ignored because they are long-term. Governments want short-term solutions.

**Water is a problem, an issue, now. Everyone needs to think about it.**

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