



**Bearings Farmers hate them
Farmers accept them**

Ewe Prolapse and Prevention. Vet Dave Robertson (Country-Wide October 2018)A precis of the science behind a prolapse.

Prolapse is the function of the Rumen, Bladder, Uterus, Fat and Gravity pressuring the vaginal wall. Farmers know if sheep gorge, fill the Rumen, bearings appear.

The POP bearing study (2003) indicated that ewes gaining weight from tugging or scanning laid down internal fat which **could** contribute to prolapse. Body Condition Score was not a contributor.

Mid-Winter shearing 'burns-off' ewe fat, increases lamb birth weight and lamb vigour.

Metabolics and salts. If pastures are high in Potassium, adding salt **'seems'** to offer protection against prolapse.

Vaginal walls of hoggets and 2ths have less collagen, are thinner.

As a consequence; they get more bearings than mature ewes.

Genetics. Bearings rarely occur in other species. The conformation of sheep makes them prone. Shorter sheep **may** have more bearings than longer ewes! Rough handling of bearing ewes leads to extra bruising. Retainers save lambs.

There is a remedy for bearings; Finn genetics.



Then it poured down . . .



Finn Ewes. Finnsheep **expand sideways** to accommodate lambs and food. No bearings.



LHS. Finn ewes in lapland. RHS. Finn ewes at One Stop Ram Shop.

Cost of a Bearing Ewe Death

Chris Southgate, consultant,
Dannevirke 29/11/18.

	Value	Lambing
2th ewe	\$230.	135%
17.5 kg lamb CW		=\$175
		Lost income \$405
MA ewe	\$190	145%
17.5 kg		=\$188
		Lost income \$378
5yr ewe	\$140	155%
17.5kg		=\$201
		Lost income \$341

Average lost income is **\$375**

Replacement cost: 15 trading lambs at \$25/head net margin.

Chris's figure was challenged by many. **TOO LOW.**

Otago example; Ewe value \$140, two lambs \$280, lamb replacement \$140, grazing / annum \$75. Total cost of the loss **\$635**

If each NZ flock lost one ewe at lambing to Drop-Dead-Syndrome (DDS), a bearing or missing, the farmer lost \$375. There are 16000 sheep farmers, so the cost to the industry was **\$6,000,000** dollars in 2018.

The average number of ewes lost/farm probably exceeded 20 (based on interviews). Sheep farmers lost income was at least **\$120,000,000** if only 20/ farm died or went missing.

Is there a remedy for DDS or missing ewes? Not yet.

There is a practical, proven remedy for bearings. Ask any farmer with OSRS FinnX ewes. Why lose so much money and suffer angst when feeding ewes 'better' and killing them; it's unnecessary.



54mms in 46 minutes.



OSRS December 2018

Many questions are asked of farmers and clients so script for OSRS publications is accurate and reflects rural opinions correctly. The information gleaned is often quite different than that in the Rural Press, Newspapers and from Beef and Lamb. Farmers on their 'own patch' are never coerced to comment, as often happens at meetings or in sale-yards. Getting information involves driving many kilometres. It is worth the effort.

A visit to King Country farms in September revealed huge issues which were unreported by the Rural Press. Bearings were in horrific numbers. A mysterious 'drop-dead-syndrome' (Called DDS by OSRS) had also led to thousands of dead ewes; both occurred NZ-wide.

A survey asked seven questions as a response to the KC visits. The questions and answers are the topic of this 'flyer'. Results given are not scientific; comments include generalisations. The reporting is accurate and highlights emerging trends. Remedial action is based on extensive observation, practical experience and the uncomfortable situation where the author would prefer NOT to have NEEDED to make the information public. Over 100 farmers contributed written or recorded information; dozens more reported by phone or email.

Each province was checked thoroughly.

Every farmer knows about bearings but not DDS. The syndrome happened with ewes in 'good' condition, plenty of spring feed and suckling lambs. She died. No kicking, no falling over, just sitting with her lambs, dead. No autopsies were done because it was the busiest time of the farming year; opportunity lost.

Questions and replies

1, Scanning and tailing results? Scanning percentages were down but survival excellent. East Coast and southern areas were trashed by a vicious September storm which killed any young lambs. Thousands died.

2, Body condition score of ewes and mated hoggets? Scores were lower than 2017. Hogget conception was excellent. Teasers were used extensively.

3, Numbers of ewes lost to bearing issues? All traditional breeds and

Texels had bearings, NZ-wide. KC, HB, Wanganui, Wellington, Wairarapa, Marlborough, Otago, Southland. Example, Otago, 2200 ewes, 310 bearings. This was **not** an unusual result.

4, Did maternal ewes have Finn genetics? Flocks with Finn genetics, most as low as 1/4 suffered few, if any. A farmer in western NI who described his FinnX ewes as 'gross,' had some.

5, Ewe losses from other causes? Ewe tallies were down at docking. No bodies have been found. Hundreds are missing.

6, Drop Dead Syndrome. Did this situation occur at lambing? Healthy lambs orphaned after three days to three weeks? 5% of 2ths died of DDS on a SHB farm with plenty of feed. KC, H Bay, Wairarapa, Otago, Southland reported 'mysterious' deaths. Thousands of ewes died. One flock only with Finn genetics, was affected.

7, Was facial eczema a problem? FE was not a problem in 2018. FE appeared in ewe hoggets more frequently suggested one reply.

Summary: Ewes died with bearings, Drop Dead Syndrome and disappeared in large numbers during the 2018 lambing. Some ewes died within three weeks of Bionic bolus's being given.

Poor application techniques caused the Bolus deaths.

How do thousands of ewes go missing without a trace?

DDS is new(?), unappreciated, widespread. Only Vets can provide answers to this mystery killer after autopsies.



Clean green hills produce 70% of NZ's lambs. Farms provide employment, ascetic value, more profit than pine trees. Arrow - manager Ross Berry, The Glen, Wellington Jan 2019.



1/4 Finn Texels loaded for Te Puia Springs, Gisborne. A long drive for Wendy Hindrup, Dec 2018



Spencer Marshall choosing Finn Texel rams. Andre assisting. Jeff Moss' farm, Clinton. Dec 2018.



Two Waxeyes keeping warm one chilly September morning. Paratu 2018.



Luscious Longbush. Rain delayed hay-making five weeks. Thriving Finn Texel sheep. Rex McKay, Wairarapa, 10 Jan, 2019.



Martinborough recycling. Disused spiritual centre will become part of the fashionable spirit of Wairarapa. Wine Growing, January 2019.

Survey Results

PROVINCE	Unexplained Ewe Deaths	Bearings	Maternal Ewes with Finn Genetics	Comments
Northland			✓ = Finn	Few in old ewes
Waikato		None	✓	
King Country	Many, (100s) 3.5 to 7%	None	✓	Ewes in heavy condition
Taranaki	None	Nothing	✓	
Wanganui	Some	None	✓	
Ohakune	Many	7%	✗ = No Finn	"Big issue"
Taihape	Plenty	Many	✗	Serious bearing issues
Manawatu	-	None	✓	Well fed ewes
Wellington	-	5%	✗	Well-conditioned ewes. "Plenty"
Gisborne	Some	Few	✓	Heavy ewes
Hawke's Bay	Many. 4 - 5%	2%	✗	
Central Hawke's Bay	Some	1%	✓	
Wairarapa	Lots	0 - 1.5%	✗	Plenty of DDS and bearings
Nelson	-	Few	✓	Losses 5% in 2ths
Marlborough	-	-	✓	
West Coast	-	Couple	✓	
Canterbury	-	None	✓	
Otago	Yes	Thousands	✓ - ✗	Finn flocks up to 4%, NZ ewes; up to 15%
Southland	Yes	Thousands	✓ - ✗	Finn flocks few bearing - up to 5%

All sheep-growing areas were surveyed. Numbers of bearings per farm was influenced by feeding but clearly genetics were the prime culprit. Vet Robertson highlighted that conformation makes sheep prone to bearings. Our survey showed **flocks with only ¼ Finn genetics had few or no bearings**. Flocks of traditional ewes, in **all** areas, had large numbers of bearings.

Is it possible that selection practices with Romneys made them prone? Pure Finnsheep do not have bearings. This Finn trait has been passed to the stabilised crossbreeds of One Stop Ram Shop ram producing flocks. Longevity, fecundity, multiple suckling, and some FE tolerance are other Finn traits fixed in the stabilised OSRS flocks.

Why Finnsheep don't have bearings?

Finnsheep have a different conformation which makes them less prone. Perhaps the vaginal wall has more collagen and can resist the pressures of expanded Rumens, Bladder, Uterus, Fat, Gravity suggested by Vet, Robertson?

A Romney ewe late in pregnancy, gorges at the daily shift. As the uterus is already causing pressure, expansion in girth is not possible so a bearing is pushed out the rear end. A FinnX ewe with the same gorging, same uterus pressures can expand **sideways** to relieve extra pressure.

Finnsheep expand **sideways**, just like dairy cattle (Pg1 photos).

OSRS has been marketing stabilised crossbreeds utilising the best traits of Finnsheep, Texels and NZ traditional breeds for 32 years. **Clients don't talk about bearings because they are not an issue**. 2018's survey showed the role of Finn genetics in eliminating the angst of bearings.

Nobody need accept bearings when there is a simple remedy: an 'established' remedy. Stabilised OSRS crossbreeds. Performance-recorded, easy to farm and available at One Stop Ram Shop, Takapau.



NZ Lamb Rack and Rib Chops NZ\$58.97/kg. (Wholefoods 2013 it was NZ\$55/kg.)



Art treasures worth millions without an audience. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). September 2018.



Wholefoods Beverly Hills, LA. Welcomed NZ farmer Joy Gray. Photos were not allowed at Wholefoods San Francisco in 2013.



Organic Beef tenderloin. The organic myth can reward farmers. Price at wholefoods; US\$33.99/lb, NZ\$111.41/kg



Nodding thistle, smashed and crushed. OSRS 2017.



Digger removing soil and vegetation before heavy rains. Lucky! September 2018.



One year later. Paddocks thistle free. November 2018.



Same creek over-flowing. October 2018.



Andre crushing the only thistle patch of 2019.



Flood waters swirled about new yards. Warm. Mud galore.

More Whys

Why is 'body art' mostly hidden from the owner?

Why do New Zealanders wear such dull clothing?

Why legalise 'pot' when smoking kills?

Why accept bearings in ewes when there is a solution?

Why buy into organics, which is a myth, with no science backing?

Why spray before cultivating when 'hoof & tooth' is perfect?

Why are 'self-sufficient' FinnTexels the sheep of choice for 'retiree' farmers?

Why aren't harvested forests farmed again; more profit, more rural employment?

Why did 6.8 million travellers come to NZ in 2018?

Why are so many men in TV adverts grossly fat?



Refuse fence. Cadrona bra fence. Colourful, but battens would last longer. October 2018.

Retiring from farming?
Don't. Farm FinnTexels, relax, stay.
"We have your genetics through all our ewes. They're so self-sufficient; we wouldn't still be farming if sheep were as they used to be" 'Almost' retired of Kapuka, Southland
" If you hadn't come and solved our lambing and dagging issues we would have gone ten years ago. Lambing is a breeze. Instead of having to crutch every works lamb, hand shears knock the lot off in minutes. Thanks for giving us an extra ten years farming." Balfour, Southland
'That's me too' have said **twelve** others from Waikato to Southland.



Tess looks nervously towards Andre hoping he is safe.



Denise Burdon Finn Texels at Five Rivers are extremely productive. OSRS rams have been used for two decades. November 2018.



Clear-felled Golden Downs forest in Nelson. If returned to pasture there would be greater profits and more employment. October 2018.



October dry days allowed Raphno brassica to be drilled, then drowned. December pathetic. January they're OK. El Nino coming?



Attractive, intelligent Finn Texel ewe hoggets are the subject of many tourist photographs. Selwyn Earwaker, Tokanui, Southland.

Five Liners

Air-conditioners. There are 1.6b air-conditioners; In ten years 2.6b. Cooling saves lives. They use much energy and produce large quantities of CO2. By 2030 Saudi Arabia will use more energy in conditioners than it exports as oil today.

Wildfires. Disastrous fires make news. Changing land use with pasture and divided fields, has led to fewer fires. Most are in the poorest countries. Rich countries build homes amongst trees which are vulnerable with rising temperatures. *Despite global warming there are less fires.*

US. Bank bosses still get phenomenal salaries. AIG, US\$43m; Goldman Sachs, US\$24m; Bank of America, US\$23m. *Nobody is capable of earning, by practical means, one million dollars.* Vested interests allow the salaries so they too may be paid heaps.

Australia; Bank misconduct. A Royal Commission found huge greed, dishonesty, unethical and unlawful practices. Institutionalised theft on a massive scale. These banks are NZ's Banks. *Were the financial regulators in cahoots with banker friends? Trust Banks?*

Australia's water woes. The huge Murray-Darling Basin is drying-up. US\$6b was spent to allocate, store water and make irrigation more efficient. It has bought no change. 73%(?) of Australian agricultural produce comes from the basin. Water theft is rife. *Tears donated by disgraced cricketers have not lessened the problem.*

US. Mealworms (insects) have gut bacteria which breakdown polymers, converting them to CO2. Fed bran, the bacteria convert faster. Slow process; but faster than landfill breakdown. Enzymes found in another 'plastic munching' bacteria have evolved in the last 50 years. Slow process too. Both will be engineered to speed up. *There is plenty of plastic to feast on.*

NZ. Gender. Is your identity male or female a matter of ideology or biology? Self-Identification is to be available and made legal. *Lots of testy arguments are coming.*

NZ. According to Sir Peter Gluckman and Prof Barry Scott. "There are no significant ecological or health

concerns associated with advanced GM technologies." Public want GM medical applications, but not for food production. *Debate is needed urgently.*

NZ. Since the November 2016 earthquake the SI has been creeping ever closer to the NI. Wellington has ambled 5cms NE. Blenheim NE 15cms. Cape Campbell is 35cms closer to Wellington. *Blenheim is almost a suburb of Wellington! No need to drive over the Remutukas to Martinborough; walk to Blenheim for a tippie.*



Kakabeak flowering in September



Homestead flood pre-Christmas. Fridge water pipe split and caused hall, carpet and kitchen floods. Industrial blowers huffed for 48hours. No damage.



At last, Clover everywhere. Weaned lambs thrived on choice feed and sunshine. Paratu, 7 January 2019.



Regular business meetings between Brazilian partners and OSRS. Donna Drake (Advisor), Andre and Robin speaking with Rafael in Brazil. Latest. 12 January 2019.

There is a cycling revolution underway

More and more oldies are having bicycle accidents.

A snippet of history (1957); bikes with speedometers, cyclists without helmets, school boys without supervision. After exams finished in Christchurch, the school organised activities to use up male energy and spare days before summer breakup. Cycling from Papanui Road, through Christchurch to Sumner then over the hill to Taylor's Mistake for lunch seemed ideal. It was. Hundreds set out. The trip was easy, only hot for the push out of Sumner. Down to the beach and lunch was bliss. Incredibly down-hill bikes had reached 60 mph. Lunch was scoffed. The uphill climb dealt with. Then, it was 'all-on'. Every-one tried for the magic 60 mph. Many got 'it'. No accidents, no shame for slowing down. Bikes were screaming through lack of oil. Hubs smoked.

Travelling at **100km/hour** needed skill. There were no accidents. There is no record of the 'trip' being repeated. Strange really, because it was great fun.



Letterbox flag (paintbrush) Ingenious. Ohura, KC, September 2018.



OSRS woolshed/sale venue. 8am, Openday, November 2018.

Predictions

Sheep-meat will remain at record price levels

Pamu Farms (Landcorp) has failed. It will be cut-up and sold

NAIT for sheep. Totally unnecessary; it will happen

Vocal bull-frogs, wet weather and record tadpole numbers

Trump felled by his own lies



The Capital city with the best quality of life, Wellington. Idyllic when wind is not about. November 2018.



Fourteen dogs walking their 'minder.' July 2018.



September OSRS blossom. Remained for weeks; no wind.



Texel Suffolk ram hoggets. February 2018.

It happened in 2018

1, At least 50 breeders of Romney rams purchased Pure Finns from OSRS from 1990-2000. Few, acknowledged they had used them and OSRS never mentioned they had. Scanning percentages of many of these flocks have dropped, especially two tooth's. Well-fed and in good condition, conception success rate has gone down.

Finn genetics have become too diluted?

2, After dropping newsletters in a letter-box on the road from Oparau, KC, I was stopped by an irate farmer. Apparently a 'nasty' had visited and killed one of his rams for meat. TK wanted revenge. He thought maybe I was the guy. We soon sorted it out. "If you read about a guy killing another who had slaughtered his ram....and gets 23 years in prison for doing so; that will be me" *What would farmers do if thieves have taken the hundreds of ewes missing on the East Coast?*

3, Andre was out on the farm when the phone rang. It was the NZ Police who asked, "Was he was alright?" " Yes" replied baffled Andre. She asked again, and again so to be 100% sure. His reply was only accepted when he said that he was out on the farm walking his dog. Andre was full of apologies. Unknowingly he had activated his phone and called the Police. *In Brazil no such careful response would happen.*

4, Joy bought Robin a shirt in Tehran which became his favourite. The shirt was on a hanger while travelling from Tuapeka Mouth to Lawrence. Corkscrew Road. Up and down, twisting and turning. A very hot, windy journey. Car windows went up and down to keep dust and wind out. Tricky driving too. Somewhere the lovely shirt drifted out the window. *If anyone finds the shirt please send it home to OSRS. It could be anywhere, hiding beside 40 kms of shingle road.*

5, When visiting farms in the SI many motels are used. At reception I am asked frequently if I've still got 'The Maxima'. The car died in August 2017. However, strangers continue to ask. The Maxima died after giving out a 'clunk' on the road to Woodville. After a terminal diagnosis from a loyal mechanic 'she/he/it', was given a second overseas trip. This one to China. The Maxima had almost 200 trips, overseas.....to the SI and back. RIP. Only 675092 kms covered for OSRS; one million was the target.

6, If energy drinks and fast-food, with 'go, go' names would only give the buyer enough extra energy to properly dispose of the packaging. On a Xmas, 6am walk, about Te Papa and waterfront of the world's neatest little capital, Wellington it was annoying to find a large volume of bottles, plastic, coffee cups thrown 'out of sight'. But it wasn't out of sight! Wellingtonians care. Lazy people have enough money to buy the goodies, why can't they use rubbish bins?

Packaging is dumped at OSRS's SH2 gate.

7, Raw sewerage spews into Auckland waters about fifty times each year. Beaches are closed for months. Yet, Aucklanders remain indignant about the pollution and practices of NZ farming.

8, Where's the El Nino? It was not in NZ by late December. OSRS prepared like all EC farmers for the predicted drought. Winter had been warm, wet and very muddy. Summer crop preparation was delayed. Three paddocks of brassica (Raphno) were sown in 'dryish' October, but then got rain every day for months. Plants struggled because of dampness and lack of sunshine. 1241mms fell in 2018; an unusual quantity. Grass and clover is everywhere as the wait for El Nino intensifies.

www.onestopramshop.co.nz



Colin and Paul Crump tagged Finn Texel lambs with Andre. Okarimio, Havelock, October 2018.



Ram lambs selected at weaning for OSRS, CHB. Andre and Robin 'cooked' in the blazing sun at Okarimio. Havelock, 15 December 2018.



Richard, Tye and Andre weaning/weighing, Finn lambs. Colin checking all Finn 'stud' ewes. Jedburgh Farm, Takapau November 2018.



Finn ewes and lambs bond well. Lambs climbing upon mother and licking her ears. Robert, Dawn Mills. Taranaki. August 2018.



Thriving Texel Suffolk and Finn Texel rams. Richard Drake has used these breeds since the 1990's. Tanageria, Northland.

They said

"I'm pleased with my rams. They stayed in good condition throughout the year. I couldn't be more pleased with the lambs" James Allport, Havelock North

"Lambing was OK for us and your rams, as always, left fantastic lambs" Duncan & Melissa Bradley, Onga Onga

"I scanned 170% but will wean under 100%". East Coast farmer who was hit by the September storm.

SFF's NI Livestock Representative of 2018; Kevin White. Competitive, excellent sportsman, skilled 'picker', thoroughly conscientious, pleasant friend. Kevin deserved recognition. "Lambs are not finished; most farmers are holding onto them. Yield is well down and only by feeling them can I tell if they're ready....they need sun. Only Texels are yielding 45%, nothing else. Kevin White, SFF

"Hogget lambing was the best ever" 3/8 FTs. David Moore, Otaki

"Ram performed well this year, lots of nice TS type lambs. The in-lamb ewes produced black lambs and dam big ones at that" Rob Foley, Porirua.

"The lambs are nuts, jumpy little bastards(Texel). Today one jumped out the window (2nd floor), landed just fine and not long after jumped into the window and broke the glass, so it was quite entertaining. Yes, your Texels did a good job.....lambs are really nice size and importantly they are even" Tomas Vratil, Collingwood, Nelson.

"Very nice rams(3/8FTs). They would be perfect rams if they had no wool. It just creates work these days for no return". David James, Owen River, Murchison.

"While I enjoy your wonderful work with sheep genetics and vital production, as well as your fascinating travels, I just love your wise words about some odd items in sport, politics and life" JG, Cave, South Canterbury.

"We want to thank-you for all the advice regarding the breed of ram we should use on our property. After taking your advice we had wonderful results with the FinnTexel rams and will be taking one of the FT rams to our new property. Dianne & Murray Davidson, Canterbury. Three different

owners of this farm have used OSRS rams.

A farmer from Lawrence went to a discussion group evening. He was very impressed with the smart young guys. The topic of bearings arose. Each spoke of the number during lambing. There were lots; hundreds. He said nothing to the meeting; he had none in the FinnX age groups, only a few in older Perendale Texels.

Robin, thanks for your newsy letters. Your sheep look great. Have leased the farm. "Going Fishing" Mark Crawford, Aparima, Southland.

I'm not sure I'll use your rams; I have in the past. I appreciate your enthusiastic newsletters. I appreciate your writing on behalf of the industry and sheep-breeders. The newsletters are invigorating and I appreciate rubbing shoulders with some-one with a positive perspective. Michael Bashford, Progress Valley, Tokanui. *Michael your words are appreciated. Writing is not easy.*

Lindsay Houliston asked, " Will the prices last?" This is the question on all sheep-farmer's lips. Prices need to last if confidence is to return. Sheep-meat is in short supply forever. Only 1.2 m tonnes is traded internationally; prices should last.

"I'm happy with my Romney rams but I might use Romdales to give them more Oomph"

Why not use FinnTexel rams and get more Oomph and profit? Mandeville, Southland.



At home Kaipara Harbour with Sam Hunt. Sam gave Joy a copy of his latest book of poems, 'Coming to it'. Sam is a warm, close friend, generous and humorous.

August. 2018.



OSRS has farmed these breeds for 33 years; longer than any other farmer. OSRS (then Tangarakau Farm) has produced rams since 1954. Rams are vet tested, guaranteed. OSRS has performance recorded since 1960's and all flocks are SIL recorded.

Finn genetics reduce bearings in NZ sheep.

Finns add longevity, fertility (not triplets), some FE tolerance and repeatable performance.

Stabilised Finn crossbreeds are easy to farm.

All OSRS breeds of Rams (and teasers) are available at Clinton (Otago) and Takapau (Hawke's Bay).

Finn Semen is available also.



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