



Finn Texels. Ron Frew, Ohakuni

2018 B&LNZ Genetics Central Progeny Test results

Terminal worth traits comprised sire survival, growth, meat yield data. 90 flocks were 'connected' by link rams, 30 (including OSRS's) did not have linkages. A link required use of outside sires (breeds) which OSRS felt would compromise breeding objectives. **OSRS Texel Suffolks are unique.**

OSRS has 'entered' maternal and terminal sires for Progeny Trials on six occasions. Their production has always been in the top quartile.

OSRS ram 2507/14 was **first** for NZ Terminal Worth, **first** Terminal Sire Survival, **first** Terminal Sire Growth and **15th** Terminal Sire Meat Yield growth within the 30 unlinked rams. When compared with all 120 rams he was **second** for **NZ Terminal Sire Growth**, the only category involving all the tested rams.

OSRS rams match productivity with the best in the industry for growth, survival and money earned per lamb.



Finn Texel quads

OSRS, August 2019

- NI Selection starts 21 Nov 2019.
- OSRS Ram selection at Jeff Moss's farm, Clinton will be 16-18th, December, 2019.
- One Stop Ram Shop will be at Waimumu Field Days, February 12-14th, 2020; visit our site 139.

Cost of a Bearing Ewe Death

Chris Southgate, consultant,
Dannevirke 7/09/19.
North Island Pricing

MA ewe (with twins) \$225
Lambs x2 17.5 kg CW = \$255
Lost income \$480

2th ewe with 145% \$275
1.45 lambs at \$127.50 = \$189.90
Lost income \$459.90

Each ewe death represented about **\$500** lost income.
She needs replacement too!

If every NZ flock (16K) lost one ewe, (worth \$500) **\$8 million** income would be lost by farmers.

Losses are likely 20 ewes. **\$160 million** was lost by farmers.

2018-19 was difficult

Not since Mount Pinatubo, (Philippines) exploded in 1991, has NZ had such a strange season. Volcanic ash from the eruption cooled Earth in the first year 1.5C. **3°C lower would start an ice-age.** Nothing ripened in 1991. Sunshine hours were average.

2018-9 was similar. Lambs with good frames took ages to finish. Farmers were frustrated because the grass appeared ok, sun was warm, but stock were slow to finish. Spring had been slow, mostly cool. Ewes were weaned early; few lambs were killable. Meat processors reduced the number of chains. Spring crops grown for summer feed were drowned, dried-out, swamped and blown; they struggled but managed to help in autumn.

Local, arable crops were down; peas by 50%. Weaning weights for lambs and ewes; down. Honey crop; poor. Stock agents had trouble to fulfill contracts. **Prices were right, stock weren't.**

"the next two weeks might confirm the lamb kill season as one of the smallest on record"

FW September 16th 2019



'Fives' At 5pm. Finn Texel lambs mob. They jump, chase and bunt. OSRS, August, 2019



**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 to 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. 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.

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. An OSRS survey showed **flocks with only 1/4 Finn genetics had few or no bearings.** Flocks of traditional ewes, in **all** areas, had large numbers of bearings (2018).

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 in the stabilised OSRS flocks.



Efficient Scotty cleared 80t from Paratu in 2008.



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.

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 Rumen, 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**, like dairy cattle.

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 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, and Clinton, Otago

**Summary of a killing trial, 31st July at SSF's works, Takapau, Hawke's Bay
Lambs born Aug-Sept 2018, all twins.**

Breed	No.	Live weight, 30 July	Weight range (kg)	Carcase weight (kg)	Red meat yield	Meat Value
3/8Finn. 3/8 Texel	40	55.17 kgs	45.5-67.5	26.4 kgs	47.85%	\$190.60
1/4Finn. 1/4 Texel	69	44.90 kgs	39.5-54	21.4 kgs	47.59%	\$172.90
Finn	18	48.07 kgs	41.5-59	22.1 kgs	45.97%	\$177.20
Finn Texel	44	50,95 kgs	38.5-60	22.1kgs	45.10%	\$182.07
Texel Suffolk**	22	49.84 kgs	42.5-60.5	22.0 kgs	44.10%	\$175.30

**** Texel Suffolks were 'off type' and not saleable by OSRS standards**



2019, 44 tonnes were removed.



Sheep poo spread. Retained behind 200 fence posts bordering Paratu garden. All 44 tonnes.

One Stop Ram Shop; a place shared



At each spider attack the fly kicked. The Trite spider was fooled by the window glass.



Pholcus phalangioides (daddy-long-legs) predate spiders. A mantis is easy-meat.



Poecilopachy from Aussi deceives predators with colour and spikes. Beautiful spider.



Oozing seed capsules of cacti attract flies, wasps and butterflies.



Paper wasp nest. Arrow indicates the queen wasp. (Author; killed 60 nests in a Nelson garden 2010)



Masses of large ladybird beetles congregated in June 2019. An uncovered group.



Arthur (kunikuni) eating his favourite food, cacti.



Bountiful grapes. Three edible varieties.



Dairy shed posts. Sound. Clear axe marks. 120 years old and to be recycled.



50th wrecked fence. Helena moving sheep away from SH2. The driver was a local April, 2019



Recycling. Voracious ants dismember swatted cluster flies.



Recycling. Rimu slabs will line walls and be preserved for another 120 years.



Proud parents! Nelson Girls College volley ball team had many exciting wins at the "Nationals". Palmerston North June 2019



Raphno brassica. 'Interesting' summer feed. Rocky start. Brilliant in autumn.



Simple metalling and levelling. Contractor Kevin Hermansen's ideal setup.

More whys!

Why are all car trips 'necessary'?
Run, bike, walk.

Why not mend clothes when they've got holes?

Why spray pesky flies? It is easy to swat them; healthier too

Why buy drink if you're not prepared to dispose of the empty container thoughtfully?

Why not 'live' by the ten commandments; there would be fewer feuds?

Why buy new cars? RAM4U went 670000 Kms. Cars last

Why don't slow drivers let others pass?

Why is rubbish strewn about Te Papa, mostly energy drink and fast-food containers?

Why are exhaust emissions from cruise liners in Wellington accepted? 2020; 110 liners will arrive, park and puff away

Why, in 'thriller' movies do white heroes outspurt all others; they can't in Olympics?

Why is the nutrient loss tool (Overseer) accepted by Councils, when inaccurate? Simon Upton; Environment Commissioner ponders

Why does President Trump lie so much? 10000 so far (1May) and still going

Why does Wellington declare there is a climate emergency then send the Mayor to China to look at trackless trams? *Use Google*

Why does Climate Change minister, Shaw oppose irrigation which fits the Paris Accord perfectly? **Arrogant**

Why are statues made for pooping seagulls; surely a few posts would be cheaper?

Why can't Trump spell? He twitted meeting Charles, Prince of Whales. *Perhaps it was a joke?*

Why not fewer District Health Boards, it could be cheaper and more efficient?

Why the push for plant diets? It means more tractors, fuel and, plastic used. More emissions and less employment on land?

Why are cars arriving in NZ? 4M licenced vehicles are already here.

Five Liners

○NZ. To trade globally is to accept pests from trading partners. *Dothiostroma* was going to wipe pine forests; it hasn't. Pea Weevil is wiped out; maybe. Enjoy any success, there will be few.

○NZ. There is a cycling revolution. Whizzybikes, snazzy gear, distinguished blond hair. *Me too: author*

○NZ. Seven Westland forest blocks, four had 1080 drops, (to save birds) three were controls. *"Deer were more conspicuous after the drop, significantly more"* Dr Susan Walker, Landcare.

○NZ. The Coalition Government mishandled the Capital Gains Tax proposal. Chair of the Tax Review Committee, Sir McCullen's maiden speech in Parliament 23/4/82. *"I am proud that my secondary education was not paid by the taxpayers of NZ but by farmers of Canterbury and Hawkes Bay. I ripped them off then and shall get stuck into them again in the next few years"*. Nasty words which should have disqualified Cullen from a leadership role for any Coalition enquiry.

○NZ. Regulations for the \$600 m NZ Organics Industry will pressure fraudsters. 'Made or grown without synthetic or artificial products' written on labels will have to be **proven**. **Science has not proved any Organic health benefits**

○NZ. Dr J Rowarth, Soil Scientist, supports Glyphosate use. When used as directed, there is no scientific link to human health issues. **Believe science.**

○UK. John Stuart Mill, a liberal, 1806-73. The idea of a country founded on liberty (USA) he loved but the pressure to accumulate wealth would lead to less freedom of thought. People get lulled into acceptance and indifference to anything not dollars and cents. This he saw in USA. He might have been surprised that a demagogue took so long to be elected. Economist, August, 2018.

○South Asia. 744 ships were recycled in 2018; 514 on beaches. India, Bangladesh, Pakistan account for 90% of the tonnage recycled. Dangerous, filthy; but a job. A 10k tonne boat loses 120 tonnes of molten steel onto a beach during cutting.

○US. Whose water? Blythe, a desert in California, gets free unlimited Colorado water from a 1877 right. The river supplies 40m people water. Saudis bought, 6000 ha, to grow lucerne for their 93K dairy cows. Wealthy water-stressed economies are buying farms and water rights world-wide. Water is finite; a national asset. Selling water offshore stirs huge resentment.

NZ benefits from selling water?

○US. Humans have short memories. The horrors of flu epidemics, measles and polio are forgotten. Anti-vaxxers believe in fake medicines, fake science; are stupid people who selfishly threaten whole populations.

○US. Plants need nitrogen to make proteins and DNA. Legumes 'fix' nitrogen with help from symbiotic bacteria. Mexican maize, Sierra Mixe grows 6m tall. Nitrogen fixing bacteria live in the aerial roots which ooze a gel in rain. The nitrogen gel fertilisers the surrounding soil. Scientists plan to get the gel and nitrogen-fixing bacteria into rice to reduce urea use.

○US. 11500 registered lobbyists advance corporate interests for \$3.46 billion (2018). Trump tweets of 'gut-feelings' upset friend and foe alike. Lobbying is difficult. *Good*

○World. Pets are popular; 400m domestic dogs; 600m domestic cats. The Chinese pet industry sells food, toys and clothing worth \$25b.

Pets are often preferred to children.

○World. There are 30 b farm animals; 23 b are chickens. Birds in 1957, took 56 days to mature to 0.9 kg. 2005 they were 4.2kgs at 56 days.

Performance recording works.



Finn Texel ewes and lambs. Cold September day.



Finn Texel ewes lambs chewing cacti; spikes and all. September, 2019



Richard and Karen Hilson planted 1.5kms of flax, toitoi, pittos and broadleaf. 2018; made a wetland.

NZ farmers are under extraordinary pressure from urban people.

City dwellers who have no understanding of farming practise, criticise and blame country people for destroying the environment, polluting the atmosphere and contaminating NZ's fresh water.

It is no time for farmers to wallow in self-pity.

Every farmer had a 'bucket list' of wishes or objectives when they started. Now is the time to revisit the list. Add up the hectares protected by QE11 covenants, reserves, wetlands etc. Total the fencing required to establish these areas. **Feel pleased?**

Farmers have put large areas aside at their cost. It is ironic that criticism comes from people who have no history of conservation.

Criticism of farming **will escalate** as cities grow. Cities face huge insecurities as water, power and food supplies become the property of big business, for whom people have little trust. The waste generated and pollution people create is **their** responsibility. Cities have become excellent places to accumulate capital, consume, generate waste and provide targets for terrorists. Cities assume the moral high-ground ignoring their own excesses.

Worldwide there are too many people, too much globalisation, too much pollution, too little sharing of capital. Enough food is produced to feed 10 billion but for wastage; there is enough capital to provide all humans with potable water and health-care; there is enough pollution to destroy fragile planet Earth. Fortunately, the youth of affluent countries are recognising the threat of pollution which their parents have found 'inconvenient' and a hindrance to progress.

Hilson objectives, fifty years ago; 1970

- 1, leave farmed land in better ecological shape
- 2, livestock, (plus insects, worms, birds) to live in harmony
- 3, stock-shelter in every paddock
- 4, fence all waterways from livestock (Manawatu River included)
- 5, plant commercial plantations for shelter; natives for the future
- 6, pickup wood, glass and wire. Bury rubbish. Recycle plastic
- 7, improve the microclimate for plants and farm ecology
- 8, recycle buildings, save native timber



Wetland pond at Paratu.

What's been achieved (and continuing)

- 1, 30-40kms of shelter planting. Mostly suitable native species
- 2, 28kms of waterways fenced from stock
- 3, Three QE11 covenants; 30 ha
- 4, Wetlands areas; 4
- 5, Dams fenced and planted with native trees; 4
- 6, Ponds made for ascetic values and stock water; 10
- 7, Commercial pine plantations; 30ha
- 8, Houses recycled; whole or part; 5
- 9, Timber and rubbish collected at every opportunity
- 10, Farm microclimates are improved
- 11, Repaired fifty fences after people drove in to look at OSRS sheep!

No taxpayer assistance. The only contribution was for the Norsewood Wind Shelter Programme (initiated by the author) from Regional Council rates. This programme achieved 120kms of wind-shelter planting.

The expense has been born by the family because it was in the best interest of the land we nurtured and best for future New Zealand farmers.

Most farming land-owners have achieved similar objectives.

This is not so with corporate farming because profit is the 'driver' for 'short-term' investors. How strange it is that New Zealanders don't get emotional and protest (Ihumatao in Auckland) when foreign investors, without any allegiance to NZ, buy farms to plant subsidized pines for carbon sinks and get paid for doing so.

What a stupid, thoughtless, naive, NZ Coalition Government.

Farmers are practical and conscientious and willing to adopt practices to reduce pollution and protection of natural waterways.

The best way to get cooperation is for town, city and rural communities to work together. Rural people need to see urbanites tidying their patch too.

Texel Suffolks



Texel Suffolk lambs after shearing.



Lambs grazing Raphno.

March 2019



Two tooth ewes.

Paratu, March 2019



Ewes are randomly selected for mating mobs. Helena, Colin and Andre.

Paratu, March 2019



Excited sire and 'his' ewes.

Finn Texels



Finn Texel ewe lambs at weaning. Dec, 2018



Two tooth Finn Texel ewes. Jan, 2019



Shorn Finn Texel two tooth ewe prior to mating.



Finn Texel ewes. Topping mob. March 2019



Shorn Finn Texel ram hoggets. August 2019

The coalition Government has started a forestry programme which ignores science (or cherry picks), attracts urban voters but lumbers NZ with an economic disaster. Poorly conceived, *it pushes ideology ahead of science and practical experience of rural NZ.*

Foreign investors with access to cheap money can buy NZ land, then plant it in pine for a carbon sink. **Planting is subsidised.** Carbon credits will be paid out annually for thirty years by which time pines need harvesting. Trees have to be re-planted but **DO NOT** get credits. Owners will have gone and the trees likely worthless. No buyer would want such a liability.

Offshore owners can sell credits while trees grow. **Does NZ benefit?**

There is a moral issue too. Polluters should not be able to offset their business by purchasing NZ carbon credits. **The scheme is a scam produced by financiers to allow polluters 'off the hook'.** **Carbon credit costs will be passed onto consumers while the culprit carries on making money, still polluting.**

A government honest to science, would remove itself from this programme which will have no significant benefits for NZ. By 2050, if this programme continued. A blanket of useless, tangled green soft woods and no foreign investors.

Prediction; Science WILL prove pastoral livestock farming IS carbon neutral.



Bongate woollen mill owned by J and W Hilson.

John and William Hilson to pay inquiry expenses: Five guineas

Ancestors, John and William Hilson, owned the Bongate Woollen Mills, at Jedburgh, on the Scotland-England border. They manufactured fine tweeds. Water from the Jed river was ponded then used to drive gear and wash wool. Hilsons had a right to return water, plus effluent, to the 'lade'. A 40HP engine installed in 1868 used more water and less was returned to the pond for use by a corn mill, downstream. Dodd, the owner 'pursued' the Hilsons for polluting the waters.

A 100 page report of the inquiry quotes the trial witnesses; locals, academics, lawyers.

Upstream; tanneries, woollen mills, dye pots, town sewerage emptied into the Jed.

Hilsons had made changes and filtered the mill's effluent.

Three Lords of the Scottish Judiciary decided there was no case. Hilsons had improved the effluent, even though their disposal was legally a right. Their Lordships decided Hilsons should pay the inquiry costs of five guineas. By improving the effluent Hilsons had 'admitted' wrongdoing. June 1873

Hilsons obtained a description of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Stuart tartan in 1821. They reproduced the tartan as a plaid for Queen Victoria, 10 April 1900. The Duchess of Buccleuch, "the Queen was much pleased and wished to thank Hilsons for it"

Reading the words of forebears in print and in letters written with quill pens is fascinating (and difficult).

Henry V111 pardoned an ancestor for pinching English cattle in early 1500 (unconfirmed).

1725, James Hilson's name appears in records. The family were weavers. In 1770s they established their first mill. Hilson's were proud of their employees (500) and provided them cheap flour and meal through the disastrous famine of 1840. Nothing remains in Jedburgh except plaques on the abbey wall and tombs commemorating a family which provided five Provosts (mayors) over the centuries.



Andre collecting Finn EIDs at mating. He is home in Brazil after eighteen educational months at OSRS.



Colin Burlace, Helena (Brazil), John Little (USA), Andre (Brazil) and Robin Hilson. Jan 2019

www.onestopramshop.co.nz



Top-ranked Texel Suffolk and Finn Texel semen team for Brazilian clients.



Vet Richard Hilson blood testing and inspecting rams for export protocols. January, 2019



Blood samples for DNA records. Protocol requirements. Processed at Massey University.



Texel Suffolk semen collection at Animal Breeding Services (ABS). Matangi.



Helena with the Brazil team returning to HB. May 2019



David Meade has done it again

David weaned triplets from ewes whose combined live-weight was 1.5 times that of mother's. David's OSRS flock is 1/4 Finn Texel (1/4Finn 1/4Texel 1/2 Perendale/Romney), farmed at Tadmor, Nelson. Sweet county, verging on tough. Dry can start anytime. 2018-19 was very dry, difficult for sheep. Ewes were stressed at tugging and averaged 60+ kgs. The flock is un-shepherded.

Triplet sets ranged from 35-41 kgs, LW, (one 22kg). Few were killable, all were lively, attractive; even the little one. Four ewes weaned 95-97kgs of lamb, the fifth, weaned 109 kgs or 1.67 times her body weight. Results confirm the potential of Finn Texel sheep under trying climatic conditions. This productivity was a repeat of David's 2016 weaning when conditions were excellent. 2018 spring was absent and the drought well-established; it lasted five months.



Feilding High School students (73) visited. Enthusiastic students. March 2019



Rathkeale College students (20) visited, June 2019. Vet Richard Hilson (Old Boy) spoke to keen young farmers.

Silly Stuff

- 1, South Korean bureaucrats have 'pretended' to run North Korea since 1948. A committee of five governors, on \$120k, each has two secretaries, a car and driver. Budget \$8.5m.
- 2, South Korean dating couples spend courtship-time looking at screens rather than one another's eyes.
- 3, Koreans get killed looking at screens rather than traffic; 370 accidents/yr in Seoul. Floor-level traffic lights are being trialled.
- 4, Twice each year the European Parliament moves by train between Brussels and Strasberg. Gravy train!
- 5, Senegal. Ladoum sheep reach 200kgs. They are like a small, majestic horse. Status symbols. Cronus, a \$70k ram, has guards. Robbers are a great problem.
- 6, The Holy Roman Empire was not holy, nor Roman nor an Empire. The Mediterranean isn't the centre of Earth. There is no horticulture in the Big Apple.

Plastic

Of 8.3b tonnes produced by 2015; 76% became waste, 9% recycled, 12% burnt. 15metric tonnes is dumped into seas every 28 seconds. **Plastic is everybody's problem.**

I visited the 'Getty' an art museum overlooking LA. Majestic,

impressive. It was clad with limestone panels. The destruction required to cut panels from caves disturbed me. I tapped, it rang hollow. 'It's artificial!' 'Dad, you are in the land of illusion' said Alastair my son.

Plastic has a place.

Global demand for alternative proteins is 202 million tonnes. It will rise to 263-293 million tonnes by 2050. Denmark, France, Netherlands, China governments want to consume less red meat (Hans Johr, Nestles).

Not stated; these countries haven't land for more meat production.



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Downpour. Hoggets moved to a fresh break of winter oats. Helena, Colin and Meg the dog.
September, 2019

Recording and tagging. Good spring; survival and growth rates are excellent. Helena, Brazilian, came to OSRS in January 2019