



One Stop Ram Shop



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Finn Texel and Texel Suffolk ram lambs. Weaned and thriving.

Jan, 2020



Full-bloom Bottle Brush.

Jan, 2020

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.



Ben Wilson's bees collecting Manuka nectar at OSRS.



One Stop Ram Shop; a place shared. Busy Californian Quail protect their brood.



OSRS garden is planted to attract native birds. Tui's yell and soar all year.



A Paratu spring: pure cold water. Algal strings develop close to the source.

Nov, 2019

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.



An idiot climbed to the top of the Oriental Parade sculpture for a **meme**.

Nov, 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 tupping 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 ¼ 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 crossbreds 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.



2019 was wet, cold, miserable.
Bedraggled Ohakune sheep.

Oct, 2019



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



LHS. Finn ewes in Lapland, Finland.
RHS. Finn ewes at OSRS, NZ.

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 crossbreds 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 2019 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



Then it rained. Irregular torrents are typical.
Paratu Sept, 2019



Helicopter-team baiting crow nests. The OSRS colony is much reduced. Wily crows will survive.
Dec, 2019

NZ farmers are under extraordinary pressure from urban people.

Texel Suffolks

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 hinderance 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



Paratu Wetland. A joy for wildlife and people.
Jan, 2020



Texel Suffolk lambs after shearing.



Lambs grazing Raphno.



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.



Two tooth Finn Texel ewes.



Shorn Finn Texel two tooth ewe prior to mating.



Finn Texel ewes. Tutting 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.



Dennis Astle (Te Kuiti) with selected 1/4 Finn Texels. A client for thee decades. Nov, 2019



Arthur Masters farms hard, wet Mangapapa Hills; North Taranaki. 1/4 Finn Texels don't notice the toughness. Productive sheep.



Shaun Fouhy, Pahiatua uses top Texel Suffolks which complement his outstanding management.



SIL indices arrive in September. A coloured tie is given each ram which reflects its rank within its genotype. Simple, effective. Sept, 2019



Rams, South Island bound.

Nov, 2019



Ram producers Jan and John Marchant from Pokeno are regular Finn ram buyers. Staff enjoy their visits and their pithy, practical humour. Special rural kiwis. Dec, 2019



Rex MacKay from Longbush, Masterton has used Finn Texel and Texel Suffolks since 1990.

Producing rams is competitive, never easy.

An initial lamb crop of 'potential' sale rams is large. They come from 15 flocks throughout NZ.

Ewes are culled for production faults at scanning, lambing and weaning.

Lambs with faults, are culled as soon as possible. Colour marked, they stay to weaning only. Data from eliminated animals is recorded. After weaning the rams settle ok but soon play 'rough' games. Bunting, chasing and riding one-another leads to losses. There is no let-up. *They're forgiven; rams need to be sexy.*

Rams from all sources are given



'Sex games' ruin ram lambs. Would ACC accept claims for injuries? Feb, 2018

equal opportunity. Salmonella, Facial Eczema and internal parasites are a threat from February to sale time. Each weighing provides an opportunity to cull any unthrifty rams. Experience and stockmanship is vitally important and 'shapes' the ram crop (and ewe replacements).

A veterinarian palpates the rams after shearing. Rejects are blood-tested along with senior breeding sires. Rams remaining have passed the physical and visual tests OSRS requires; *all are possible sale rams*. SIL summaries arrive from Clare in October. **SIL's performance predictions still excite.** The SIL breed summaries, representing many days of work, are the **tool** for grading rams genetically. Records are used to allocate each ram a productivity prediction with a price colour coding. The data within the index has been accumulated over decades. OSRS has total confidence in the predictions. 'Proof' is the increasing productivity of OSRS sheep. Without accurate recording and the tough culling the genetic

gains(invisible) could not have been made. Rams need to look good and be backed by proven, reliable, practical genetics (records). Annual culling (and accidents) reduce the maternal breed sale lambs about 50% and terminals around 30%.

Although comfortable with the standards, OSRS strives to improve. Visits to farms and talking with farmers almost every day, gathers ideas and practices which are incorporated into OSRS breeding programmes.



Brent and Tracey Caldwell from Oamaru have bought Finn Texels and Texel Suffolks since 2006. Jeff Moss farm Clinton. Dec, 2019



Beautiful, intriguing. Papanui Inlet, Portobello. Worth a visit. Well farmed by Allan and Sandra Clearwater. Otago. Dec, 2019



Helena (58kgs) lifting a Finn Texel (59 kgs) at weaning. OSRS gives a ram to people guessing correctly the combined weight of penned Waimumu rams. Helena wants to win a ram for Brazil?



OSRS's 1/4 Finn Texel flock at Waiwera Station is owned by Anne and Philip Munro.

Fairlie, Dec, 2019



Ewes and lambs. OSRS benefits from the data collected. Munro management is thoughtful. The region is 'testing'.

Fairlie. Dec, 2019



9.06am; 4 Dec 2019. Ruahines hidden by smoke. Australian bushfire smoke was smelly and persistent for three months.



10.38am; 5 Dec, 2019 Ruahines back! Ruahine Mountain uplift is annually 5-6mm, but the range does not 'disappear'.

OSRS ram selling business is often exciting. Stabilised breeds still produce pleasant surprises. They continue to increase productivity in-spite of lousy climatic conditions of late.

It is a challenge to stay '*significant*' to changing farm owners. New bosses, new ideas. Cattle and sheep livestock policies alter. OSRS has experienced many conversions, grapes(20), dairy(30), deer, along with annual farm sales. *Why worry?* This season, 24% of farmers were second generation OSRS clients, 16% were first-time buyers.

OSRS is 'significant'



Finn Texel 9148/16 weaned at 120 days triplet ram lambs. Their combined weight was **110kgs** or 1.81 times the Ewe body weight 60.5kg.



Texel Suffolk 3277/16 weaned at 120 days triplet lambs; two ewes, one ram. Their combined weight was **113kgs** or 1.82 times the ewe's body weight of 62kg.



Cranefly mating madness. Bundles of knackered gnats strewn over the Moss woolshed did not disrupt ram selection.

Dec, 2019

Waitiwhiti Station; Wairarapa.

"We have taken the opportunity to plant 600ha of forest on our harder colder country. Stock numbers were reduced. Whilst doing this we have increased farm profitability by having quality breeding ewes instead of quantity. We have increased lambing percentage by 20%. We achieved 146% this season. We changed our Perendale flock to stabilised 1/4 Texel, 1/4 Finn, 1/2 Perendale 5 years ago. These sheep suit our environment and farming methods extremely well, growing outstanding store lambs pre-Xmas which enables us to reap the benefit from the high price during that period.

Every generation (of a farming family) wants to make change for the better and improve the property and grow the business. We are achieving our goals and look forward to our family joining our farming business, setting more goals and leaving their mark on the property."

Lisa & Graham Richardson



Longevity: Cousins meet in Christchurch on Methuen Mabin's birthday. Born 14 Dec 1917, Margaret Mabin was born 16 Sept 1919. Independent, lively and funny "Robin, don't go. We don't know when we'll meet again". Wonderful Mabins.



New Year; Para Para Beach Golden Bay. Cool, still, clear. Many bombfires, fireworks, food. Perfect. **2019 had been a sad year.**

Rainbow Station; Nelson Lakes.

I am very impressed with the Texel Suffolk X Perendale lambs. We got 305 lambs away to the works from the first mob weaned on 7th January. A majority were Texel Suffolk sired. They averaged 38.5 kg LW and 19kg CW and made \$154 per head off mum. I feel the Texel Suffolk lambs are going to fit the plans we have in the future. We aim to get more paddocks drilled into Lucerne and get some good rotations in place for lamb finishing. We have budgeted for another 6 Texel Suffolk rams (from OSRS).

Gene Thomas (Mgr) 25 Jan, 2020

To trade globally is to get from trading partners their flora, fauna and diseases. Overcrowded China, and Asia, is a 'hot spot' for disease evolution. Coronavirus is serious. Over half of the world's humans are urban (crowded) and over 1/3 under 20 years old. Lots of humans, lots of stress. More nasty virus's developing! Earth is stressed with 6b and by 2050 there will be 9-10b.



Robin Hilson's family were altogether in Nelson for Xmas and New Year. Nine adults, eight grand kids, many uncles, aunts, cousins. Alastair's family of five came from Mexico; a special treat for the Kiwis. Fishing, walking, exploring, boating, eating, talking. Golden Bay, Para Para, Motueka, Mapua and Nelson. Special time.





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 Hawkes Bay. May, 2019



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



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

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. Ladoom 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.

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 (1/4 Finn 1/4 Texel 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 tupping 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.

Plastic

Of 8.3b tonnes produced by 2015; 76% became waste, 9% recycled, 12% burnt. 15 metric 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.



30 ha of Tarata is for sale. Rainfall 1500mm annually. Scattered native trees and well sheltered flats have been cropped for peas and swedes. The land is in the Hawke's Bay green belt. Numerous house sites. Productive, attractive.



'So much joy in such a little bag'. Fast food litter is *no joy* for those who's task it is to pick it up. SH2. OSRS.



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