

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER No. 130 October 2020













Notices

- 1, Open-day at One Stop Ram Shop; Friday November 13th, start 9.30am. Light lunch provided. Very casual, very friendly.
- 2, North Island ram selections will start, Wednesday 25th November.
- 3, South Island selections at Jeff Moss's farm, 14-16 December 2020.
- 4, Covid-19 reduced farm visits. Only 8000kms completed in 2020.

2018 B&LNZ Genetics Central **Progeny Test results**

Terminal worth traits comprised sire survival, growth, meat yield data.

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.



International **Robin Hilson** 06 855 8335 or 027 444 1806

New Zealand



South Island **Jeff Moss** 03 415 7707 or 027 415 7707

North Island Colin Burlace 06 374 1843 or 027 273 8394



Ram prices mostly unchanged for 2020 - 2021 Please order rams asap

www.onestopramshop.co.nz

Predictions

- Garish and colourful, short forms of cricket will become more popular
- A shortage of breeding ewes
- Sheep-meat prices to stay strong
- Buy carbon credits and keep polluting. Recognition of the scam
- 'Overseer FM' will fail
- Office contacts stimulate. Home employment lacks originality, becomes mundane
- O Buy local, it is cheaper. 'Impulsebuying ' drives e-sales
- o 5G; faster, more capacity. 5G will not change your life

Sheep Stuff

HB had a decent spring, hot summer but very little feed by 2020. Summer crops were successful. No wind. The drought was serious and even affected areas along SH50, 'safe country'. Decent rain fell in June;159 mms. The previous five months recorded 51 mms. 21 ha of green-feed oats are ready for hoggets now. Ewes look good and grass is growing (28 July). But, it's dry.

Vagaries of the east-coast climate 'sort the sheep out', only the toughest remain for sale as 2th rams. Performance recording has been used since the 1970s. SIL predictions provided OSRS by Clare Callow are accurate.

Common-sense, experience, and 'stockmanship' are vitally important. Combining data and indices for rankings is wanted for clients and 'stud sire 'selection. Staff who gather the data enjoy the process because they have considerable input into selection decisions. 2020 has never been easy for staff or sheep.

OSRS stabilised breeds have decades of data behind them. However, they continue to surprise with their resilience and productivity; traits which OSRS has taken to every sheep-farm area of NZ. OSRS sheep last and last. OSRS sheep are tough and look good.



Isolation site one. This lockaway (at back-centre) has an oven, wc, shelves. Ídeal for one person.



Isolation site two. Lined walls. Private, rather primative. Oven, power, spacious.



Isolation site three with bubble team. Woodfire. Well equipted. Private. Generator for electricity.





D. W. SUTHERLAND,

Canadian notice 1918. Pandemics kill. NZ Population 1.15 million. 9000 died, 1:125.

Kelowns, B.C., 19th October, 1918,



Magnificent recycled timber was used in all three sites, greatly reducing the stored hoard.



Team effort, Helena painting, Colin lifting her, John Little directing activities.



Site three. Long-drop 'Hway 50'. Joy and granddaughter, Nellie Potter. Aug, 2020



John Little cruises Alaska sounds each summer. Robin joined John in 2008. Robin iceberg cruising.



Ram hoggets on green-feed oats.



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

OSRS, January 2020

Lock-down

Nightly news 'cricket-score numbers' of daily infections, was riveting. The seriousness of covid-19 was soon apparent. Kiwis were responsible, careful, considerate. The quiet concern of the NZ leaders contrasted with the buffoonery, bravado, politicking of stupid leaders of USA, UK, and Brazil. Each swaggered, blamed others, ignored science and lied. Possibly each was too dumb to understand epidemiologists? Leaders were 'embarrassing' and responsible for many unnecessary deaths having advised followers to trust his 'superior' knowledge. The trio rank amongst the worst leaders in history.

Covid -19 will be checked by a vaccine. New virus's will appear every few years. Wuhan has one facility for study and developing these nasty bugs. In 2004, **SARS** slipped out twice from a Beijing lab.

USA has the **most** of similar facilities. Live **Anthrax**, **SARS** and **Ebola** have all been accidentally shipped out of US labs in the recent past. US funding to scrutinise lab biosecurity and improve it, was removed by Trump.

When the vaccine is available the antivaxxers will re-appear. Their ignorance is a threat to others. 20% of people in USA will not get vaccinated, 30% are undecided and 50% will use it. Selfishness of people ensures that this killer virus, which cannot survive outside a host, remains sub-clinically in USA forever, as does measles, chicken-pox. These debilitating diseases should be absent from developed countries.

Farmers spoke of the value of relationships between clients and themselves. Usual business ties were wrecked. If possible, they arranged deals. It worked. It was a strange time.

Hoarding was an early feature of 'lock-down'. Ferociously self-reliant Swiss hoarded 15000 tonnes of coffee. Kiwis stashed away loo paper and flour. 'so, you knead dough and it made lumpy, tough, awful bread? Three months later some flour remains. Now, you need dough to buy bread you enjoy?'



Joy our 'designated shop person'. The spritely 69.75 year old was ready to queue from 6am.



11kgs waste for recycling. Total from four adults during levels three and four. Paper was burnt.

Titirangi, Auckland. Wild chooks made world news. They were being caught and given to 'loving' homes. Then came 'lock-down'. Chooks emerged from lockdown in greater numbers. Fowl surprise?

Strange, unfamiliar times bought the best out of Kiwis.

Leaders controlled the pandemic well except for bloopers when returning Kiwis were not tested (June 7th) and mingled with unknown people. Confidence plummeted. David

Clark's arrogance deserved immediate dismissal not the initial hand-smack. Vigilantes patrolling northern roads should never have been tolerated.

Local HB Vet Services has been active on farmer's behalf since 2019 encouraging participation in the 'March for the Future of Provincial NZ' in Wellington. In 2020 as the harsh drought took its human and stock toll, our Vets kept the topic in front of farmers. Social gatherings and TV programmes based locally showed CHB as it was, dry, hot, and suffering. Immediate, practical support from farmers in other regions was appreciated.

Thank you Vets, your cheerfulness did help. It was 'lockdown', your business must have been 'sad' too.



'Country' TV presenter John Hudson and Vet Richard Hilson showed Hawke's Bay as it was: stressed, parched pastures, brown. May 2020



SH2 lockdown. No traffic, no rubbish, no noise, no visual pollution. Bliss! OSRS, May 2020



Blanking gaps with ToeToe. 40kms of shelter completed since 1970. Another 1.5kms by 2021. Aug 2020

Family Letter, 7th April 2020

The bubble has not burst but when it does I'll look back at the first two weeks with pleasure. It has been fun. We are careful and wash our mitts, keep our distance, phone people mostly forgotten, think of others, drive less, hoard home produce, plan and build, do 'things', garden, paint, have time to enjoy each other's company.

It is a strange time, but rewarding too if we keep covid-19 away.

At OSRS. Less TV, but enough to talk about tallies, countries and leadership. Not much need for the tragic 'news' by talking heads(CNN) relating their opinions when none have anything to add. The science and practicality of the NZ front-persons is enough; clear, direct.

At the end we will appreciate NZ's isolation more. We will realise that this was an historical event. We will reconsider the conduits (air lines, cruise ships) which aided the spread. Do we stay home? I reckon globalization, frantic exploitation of natural resources and continuous pollution of the overpopulated planet Earth will lead to many more pandemics. This opinion I have shared with others since graduating from Canterbury University. Are the Hilson family members prepared?

We are prepared for a repeat pandemic....being practical Kiwis.

In the 1950s and 1960s it was fashionable to build nuclear bomb shelters. The Swiss Govt had them in all towns and new housing even in the 1970s. Lots of hoarding too; food, coffee, oxygen, clothing. As part of our international pandemic building programme we too have constructed an isolation place. It is a cupboard in the woolshed. Do not be fooled; it is the OSRS isolation spot. It has shelves, paint, brooms, pipe fittings, shearing gear, lights, a dunny and lots of phalangioide (daddy-longlegs) spiders. There is a mattress above the roof, microwave oven, fridge. Selfcontained! This is ideal for one small person. Plenty of meat is outside, plenty of fantails and mice inside. It

is good to be prepared.

The building of this 'escape' can be attributed to the skills of John Little (USA) 'retired teacher', Alaska explorer and the hoarding skills of various Hilson family members. Who would have expected the recycled Snee house of Snee road so lovingly dismantled by the Robin Hilson lot, to end-up in this special isolation room? Well it has. Quality Totara, Rimu and Matai timber some of the very last known timbers from the 70 Mile Bush. The woolshed is a potential museum.

Tuesday; the museum is finished. Official opening..... just after the bubble bursts.

Chairman carpenter John Little has a new project. Deep on the new farm there lies the Porangahau stream (runs behind Takapau). On its bank and backed by native plantings is a beautiful hut. Very similar to Asty's hut. Veranda, wood range, privacy and lovely 'settler' lines. It is in good shape; soon it will be in better shape. A lick of paint, some little repairs and it will become our second isolation site.

How lucky we are living on a farm where it's possible to prepare for pandemics.

Enough for now. We are very serious about covid-19 alth' this note appears flippant.

Love to all and hugs from both Joy and I, from two metres.

Robin, in isolation



Pruned feijoa and kowhai. First frost. May 2020



Raphno fed ram hoggets well in March/April. There was nothing else until September. OSRS April 2020

Quotes

- 1, "A bunch of mixed ewes went to Texel Suffolk rams; Feb 2019. They scanned 175%, docked 150%. Lambing peak, mid-August. 1 November, 800 were killed at 20kgs. 1 Dec, all gone." Duncan & Melissa Bradley
 - Onga Onga, Hawkes Bay.
- **2,** "All MPI staff should have a minimum of two weeks on a Beef, Sheep or Horticulture farm...then they may understand how careful farmers are." HB Farm accountant with personal experience of 'silly stuff' from ignorant MPI staff.
- **3,** "I don't like social media; its unsociable".
- **4,** "....looked at aged 5-6 year FinnTexel ewes. There weren't any one-year mouths. They were gummy or had plenty of teeth".
- Tim McCormick, Takapau. 5, "I'll tell you what. We haven't got any dags. NO Dags. A small ring crutch before lambing and that's it. The neighbours have masses of dags all over their sheep."
- **6,** "Good to meet you at Waimumu. I got a couple of rams off you, which is neat. You're the only person I would buy Finn and Finn Texel sheep off in NZ, knowing your history goes a long way back".
 - Bales Elliot, Middlemarch.
- 7, "One little highlight, has been your ram. He is quite a character to say the least. He is inquisitive...... I saw my son offer him a feijoa..... and he took it. Well, that really started something.....he stands at the fence waiting to be fed. Now he is called Feijoa. We've never seen a ram so quiet".
- Vanessa Lloyd, Silverdale, North Auckland.
- **8**, "We needed more lambs, better survival, and to keep the 20-21 micron wool for our contract. Cheviot rams worked well with Merinos. 4th Mer/Ch ewes are mated to Texel Suffolk rams. The lambs are even, tough, shift well and are better than those of Texel or Suffolk rams used in the past".



Glen & Issi Anderson, 'The Branch'. Cadrona, Wanaka, Otago. Feb, 2020

Green House Gas (GhG) theory is a myth: unscientific. GhGs cool Earth and make life possible.

Scientists who proposed GhG theory calculated an average surface temperature of earth of -18°C. This was a bad miscalculation. 15°C is accepted by scientists as the measured average temperature. Their huge 33°C error came from GhG theory in which infrared heat radiation, travelling from the earth's surface into deep space at night, was 'intercepted' in the atmosphere by heat-absorbing GhGs and returned to earth, heating it by 33°C. This is wrong. Heat moves from a hot point to a cooler point (2nd Law of Thermodynamics), never in two directions at the same time.

GhG theory cannot explain a 'cooling' period, 1943-1970, when WW2 rebuilding and the post-war industrial boom occurred. Massive quantities of CO2, produced by construction, lowered temperatures by accelerating the escape of heat into space at night.

The vast interior of Australia has been scorched by heat waves in recent years. Last December, daily surface temperatures were recorded at dozens of weather stations as reaching well over 40°C. But they then dropped only by about 15.3°C during the following clear nights, which demonstrated that the GhG assumed temperature change of 33°C was impossible.

Neither of these two examples can be explained by GhG theory.

Acceptance of the GhG myth is widespread because it fits today's fashionable science which blames CO2 and other GhGs as culprits of global warming. A study of geological cycles of planet Earth, illustrates the repetition of tectonic, climate and volcanic activity all of which influence Earth's temperatures. Solar activity has the greatest influence of all. Life on Earth depends on CO2 which lowers the temperature of the planet and makes it habitable. Without the GhGs life on Earth would cease.

Mathematical and chemical engineering analysis based on both theoretical and observational data has been submitted by Dr R W Murtagh to the Australian Royal Commission into Bushfire Disasters (Number NND.600.00026). It is available to the public, but a more readable email version may be forwarded upon a request.

The analysis relegates the GhG theory to 'Myth' category by identifying its thermodynamic errors and by showing that surface temperature of 15°C is obtained if correct thermodynamics are used. Wider proof is also given.

Why's

Why doesn't Auckland store rainwater?

All NZ should store rainwater.

Why can't people separate global warming, a cyclic geological event, from human activity?

Why don't people learn from animals who when concentrated, pollute their space and die of infectious diseases?

Why not annual 'lockdowns' so farm 'odd-jobs' get finished?

Why does the big chief(PM) have little chiefs (Ministers), who have littler chiefs (Mgrs) who have lesser chiefs(Bureaucrats) to do the work which guaranteed a shambles for quarantined returnees?

Why does Lincoln University have 660 staff and only 1500 students?

Why does the 'Top' CEO earn US\$280m? He is not 'worth' it.

Why has it taken 100 years to rid functionally useless ties from dress code?





Why plant a billion pines? 1 billion wildings establish annually in the McKenzie Basin. Lake Pukaki wilding pines before the August fire.



Colin teaching Helena to prepare sweet finn meat for OSRS's bubble. Mar. 202



Charles, Jan Nairn with Robin. Our farming has been entwined for decades. Feb, 2020



Possum bodies. 50 shot, 41 poisoned. OSRS new farm.



6.2kms of boundary, lanes, riparian and subdivision OSRS new farm. Sept, 2020

Former Wool Board Member Lochie MacGillivray's view 'The Politicos who made the decision to get rid of the wool levy should hang their heads in shame' (Rural News, July 28, 2020).

As the farmer who initiated and financed the successful campaigns I am not ashamed. It is pleasing to have saved fellow farmers millions of precious dollars. No Board Director ever increased farm wool returns. Farmers saw the wool levy as a thorough waste of money and voted it OUT. That a former Board Director could suggest that we politicos (what's a politico?) should hang our heads is insulting, Wool Board Directors should hang their heads and ask our forgiveness for failing the only task required of them; to improve the wool industry viability. Lochie said he 'was involved with Wool Research Organisation of NZ and had a whole lot of quite cool initiatives coming out of that'. I too had experience of WRONZ. No process industrialised by WRONZ put appreciable money in farmer's pockets. 'Bulk Wool was a winner' (MAF Director). Speciality Fibre Marketing sourced most bulk wool from the NZ stockpile, exported it. The processor collected the profits. Praise the scientists for their wool research; forget their industrial success, there were few.

After the 'NO' vote (2009), Hon David Carter called a meeting with David Ritchie, Joy Gray, Robin Hilson, (politicos?) at Parliament. He was upset, annoyed at the Levy result and suggested farmers were ignorant. They weren't. Sir David Norgrove's analysis of why wool had little future was presented. Wool needed US\$600 million each year for promotion if it was to compete with synthetic fibres. Carter accepted the thrust. Sir David Norgrove, CEO of the third largest textile company in the world, offered to come to NZ and speak with the minister (declined).

60-70 'leaders' of the wool industry presented their views in Wellington. Most had commercial interests and did not want change. A committee was formed to 'Move the Industry Forward'.

The 'politicos' wanted change and a profit from their wool. There have been no 'decent' changes for decades. There have been many 'Wool Action' groups.



Brazilian business connection. Robin, Helena and Raphael organising OSRS genetics for Cordeiro Biz farmer clients. Aug, 2020

Five-Liners

- 1, Covid-19 is a reminder of the fragility of life on Earth. Oceanic methane burps could end all life.
- 2,Tell-tale ions released by tectonic movement give up-to 9 days warning of an earthquake.
- 3, Mantis Shrimps evolved 541m years ago. Their pincers cause a thermal shock wave, leaving a vacuum momentarily at 4700°c. Prey have no chance, or fingers.

(NZ Geographical).

4. Vultures are the ultimate cleanup animals. They are killed by poison laid for dog packs(Africa) and medicated cattle(India).

Vultures are needed.

- **5,** 43% of members in the Indian Parliament have criminal records.
- **6**, Pollution from volcanoes, tectonics, tundra melt cannot be stopped. Human pollution is irresponsible.
- 7, Gorillas, Chimps, Bonobos, Orangutans share 98% of the human genome.
- **8,** There are no 'safe' plastics. Buy products packaged in material ok for recycling? Few are eligible.
- 9, Black Lives Matter (BLM), George Floyd's slow murder (May 25, 2020) stunned every decent person.
- **10,** US Police, with no fear of prosecution, have killed 7663 civilians (2013-19). 'Unprincipled' Trump moved Feds into peaceful crowds, inciting violence.
- 11, Coral reefs protect 15,000 Kms of coasts. 25% of fish diversity is found here. The Great Barrier Reef is equal in size to Italy.
- **12,** 50,000 parcels delivered **daily** in New York are stolen. China. Parcels 'in heaps' left by night deliveries. Quite safe. John Little.
- **13,** Doug Edmeades, Jacqueline Rowarth, Derek Moot and Warwich Scott are agricultural academics. They condemn the myths of 'Regenerative Agriculture and Organics. Unscientific.



Grubby Finn Texel twin lambs.

Developing the new OSRS farm



Fallen limbs stacked for burning.



One of two conservation ponds.

June, 2020



Native planting to be completed in 2021.



New stream bed. Meanders gone. Double fenced.



New fences, 6.2 kms. Erected April to September.



Porangahau creek. Canoes linked Waipawa to Takapau.

Canal_sheepnutter (a blog)

"April 23, 2009 at 5:05 am the plane bought me to a sheep country.

I came here alone, knowing absolutely no one, and for myself, after sending more than 500 emails looking for an internship opportunity. **Only OSRS replied?** I had already graduated and was working in Brazil. But living outside of the comfort zone, away from accommodation, was always part of my personality and I wouldn't miss the chance to evolve as a person and as a professional.

Until I arrived in a sheep country I had no idea what was coming. It was when I got to the airport that the chip went down. First the English. "Heavenly Father, what language are the guys speaking? Is it English?" Then the countless hours in immigration room trying to understand what the problem was, 'wrong visa, it's possible that we have to send you back'. In my head, the voices of the ones I left behind echoed, 'I said that it wouldn't work'. No, fuck. It's going to work (even as the shits taking over). I was released. D was never delayed, the visa was correct.

One more flight and another. Only one 2 hour drive to the farm. 45 minutes English, English, English. The head hurt trying to understand what they were talking about. The frustration has no size. 'I said it wasn't going to work' No fuck. It's going to work yeah. The hosts spoke slowly, carefully and answered queries.

And, they put me in a little house, almost no furniture, no wall around, in the middle of nowhere. Door without lock, no one around, no light. The cold and silence cut. **D** moved after six months of living with the hosts. The fully furnished house had three large bedrooms, lounge, two wood-burners, kitchen, bath, shower, laundry, garage, car for her use. Six homesteads were within two kilometres. There was no bedroom lock.... not needed in NZ.

I spent my month of internship doing the fence, cleaning the woolshed, cutting wood, picking-up pine (cones) trying to understand what they said to me. 'Is it good there, daughter?' It's great. She had no practical skills and the staff of five did not need her. She drifted into record-keeping because the others did not enjoy the computer work.

In the end , I was invited to stay 2 more months, then 4, in October I

was hired. I spent 3 years in the little house, isolated from the rest of the world (I didn't have a smartphone, social network, WhatsApp, there was no internet. There was a phone). Any technical aids were provided when she asked for them.

It's been 3 long years without coming home, focused on English and willingness to learn all about sheep at the sheep country. D could not return to Brazil. Visa extensions took days and days and cascades of tears. Her trips to Brazil, as Sheep Marketer for One Stop Ram Shop, were paid for by the farm. D did not make a single sale. Numerous Brazilians visited OSRS and she drove them to NI and SI farms owned by clients.

Today I celebrate 11 years of NZ and fantastic achievements."

In 2012 she returned to Brazil and was awarded the prize for 'The Outstanding Young Sheep-farmer in Brazil'. A prize nobody in Brazil has heard of.

Two people read the Blog;

An **American** who met her each year. "This is funny. She was lucky to get a job. I don't get it. It makes no sense. She got what she came for and more. What's the point? She always could have left; she was not under a court order to stay. It was her own free will. Doesn't make sense, she was happy"

Another: "It's all lies"

The blog was written in Portuguese, 4/7/20



Unhappy blogger. Two neighbouring houses, beyond the trees, are hidden by snow. OSRS Oct, 2010



Several close friends, each of whom had influence upon OSRS activities, have passed away.

Nothing can replace these four. They had many similar traits; curiosity, honesty, a sense of humour, energy. None suffered fools.

Ronald Frew Jnr (Ohakune); Asked questions, sought answers, kept moving. A tragic ending for a family man.

Mike Slay (Havelock N); Practical, thorough community man who was loved by all. A pasture expert who enthused any farmer group.

Paul Crump (Havelock S); Gentleman, close friend of many decades, we laughed together, had business together. Shared interests.

TimHarvey (Taupo); NZ agriculture benefited from his technical skills. Humble, diligent, thorough. He linked farmers, scientists, and international groups so all were comfortable. Fifty years of close association was too brief.



Beautiful fungae on a stump. Notice pocket knife.



Waitangi Park. Spectacular Kowhai. Oriental Parade Wellington. Sept, 2020



Dozens of paper wasp nests. Voracious predators annilate monarch caterpillars. OSRS, May 2020



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



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



Mushrooms, grapes, feijoas, apples, tomatoes, citrus and raspberries finished in June or July. A large quantity is frozen for next 'lockdown'.



Huge, Finn Texels. Excellent sheep. John Dillon, Riverton, Southland.



Stuart Kingston enjoys Texel Suffolks. Hastings. Jan, 2020



Tyler, Don, Denice Prime, from Warkworth, selecting Texel rams. Regular clients.



Waimumu, Southern Field Days. OSRS has exhibited rams in Southland, since 2008



Jeff Moss talking with Bales Elliot, Central Otago, and Robin. Feb, 2020



Bored Finn rested on his Texel companion.
Three days watching people is tough.



Inside the exhibit. Plenty of farmers and questions. Southern Field Days, 12-14 Feb 2020



Gilbert McWhirter picked a 'free' ram at OSRS. Neil (son) was second in the Waimumu ram weight competition. Waitahora, Dannevirke



Steve Wilkinson (PGGW) selecting Finn Texel rams for Pru Hunter, Masterton. Steve worked on OSRS.



Texel Suffolk and Finn Texel twin ewe lambs.
OSRS, Jan 2020



Kaka-beak splendour. Many are in the OSRS garden. They grow from seed easily. Sept, 2020



Spectacular sunset 'lens' cloud. Last picture show. Waimate, 11 Feb, 2020