



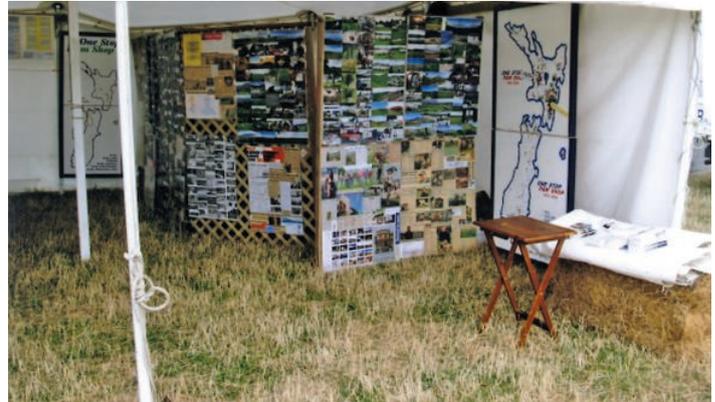
One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER No. 69
April 2008



OSRS exhibit. Lots of sheep, photos, coffee, fruit and visitors.



"Wow, this is the busiest tent at Waimumu", farmer.
Southern Field days, Feb, 2008



Jeff likes dorpers; dorpers like Jeff.

Waimumu.

PREDICTIONS APRIL 2008

- More people twiddling their thumbs ie. texting.
- It will rain in 2008.
- Changes to how sheepmeat is marketed.
- Carbon trading will not influence the climate.
- Recognition; Climate change is cyclic and natural.
;Pollution is unacceptable.

PREDICTION APRIL 1998.

- Within ten years --- governments will acknowledge agriculture as the golden goose of the economy.
"(Horticulture, Dairy, Meat, Seafood) these powerhouse industries are fundamental to the economic prosperity of all New Zealanders."
Helen Clark. FW, 17-3-08.



Hospitalised RAM 4 U. Specialists wearing gloves and masks carefully handled a transmission transplant.
Ruahine Motors Waipukurau, 20-3-08.

Earth is unexpectedly prosperous and peaceful. Newsmakers prime people to believe the world is dangerous. It isn't. There are plenty of nasty spots but over the last decade poverty has been alleviated, wars are fewer, political violence has lessened. Economic wealth has shifted to developing markets. Economist, Jan.
Our world is safer inspite of increased terrorism.



Dorper ewe 1370/03 has had 3.87 lambs per year. 10 lambs, five sets of twins in 31 months. Interval between lambings, 10, 7, 7, 7, months.



First visitor. We asked lots of questions about policing, he lots about sheep. Southern Field days, Waimumu. 13-2-08.



Loaded. 2.5 tonnes for Te Anau. Wrecked the automatic transmission.



Simon McAtamney used OSRS Finn-Texels when he was a monitor farmer in the Balclutha district. Waimumu.



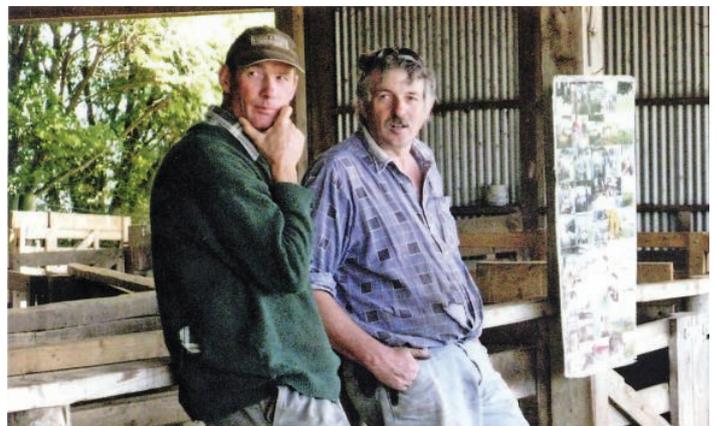
OSRS exhibit at Guy Bellerby's farm. 16 Feb, 2008.



Open day. Canterbury, Denmark, Southland visitors.



Ray Forde and Robin. Ray uses Texel-Suffolk rams. Dacre.



OSRS Te Anau host, Guy Bellerby with John Dillon, Riverton.



Barbara and Butch Gordon. They won a trip to Australia from the RAM 4U competition. Waimumu.

Congratulations. Grant and Kerry Hickling, Gisborne "Farmers of the year 2008".

Aidrian and Kim Arnold, "HB Farmers of the year".

Both farms have OSRS genetics.

RAM SALES.

Farmers have retained old rams and bought fewer younger ones. Many ewe hoggets were killed last autumn (HB, Southland) so less 2ths required rams. Ram sales were 20% down. New enquiries were strong; 18% of the orders.

Nationwide ram sales plummeted for all breeds. Many breeders have stopped ram producing as it is just too costly to record stock, utilize expensive technology and be enthusiastic in a cash-strapped industry.

Many OSRS/TMG clients made changes in land use. Ten sold farms; some to dairy interests, some to sheep farmers, others to viticulture. A considerable number wish to sell some land. Leasing blocks to dairy farmers is widespread. Farmland well away from dairy country has been leased to dairy interests clamoring to expand. Growing crops for dairy support is widespread and increasing wherever cropping is possible. Few are dairy grazing or very interested in doing so; for most, this is a short term option. Five have changed to dairying. Of these two returned to dairy farming as they had the facilities.

"I am a reluctant dairy farmer. I love my sheep but cannot afford to keep waiting for the industry to come right". Southland.

Jeff and Sue Moss did a wonderful job in their first year as OSRS South. It has not been easy. They maintained their infectious enthusiasm throughout and excelled themselves at Waimumu Feilddays and with the OSRS show at Guy Bellerby's (TeAnau). Perfect hosting, meticulous organisation.

Blair Gallagher (Mt Somers) and Dan Wheeler (Rangiora) contributed to the sales in the South Island.

Don Buchanan had disappointing sales in Taumarunui. West Coast is having a series of difficult seasons. This is a major catchment for OSRS where rams have been outstanding. Don had a quality line of sheep (and Piedmontese bulls) available for sale in December.

Next season additional sale venues will be operating at Mt Somers (Blair Gallagher) and Te Anau (Guy Bellerby). Each site will have a range of stabilised crossbreeds. Farmers requiring large quantities of rams will make their selections with Jeff (OSRS South) or Robin (OSRS). Details of changes will be given soon.

Robin will be marketing Perendales for Blair.

OSRS welcomes this expansion with experienced stockmen at convenient venues.

Burnside. Crops, although 'ordinary', finished lambs well. Pasture growth since the New Year has been negligible. Ewe body weights at tugging, 20 March.

Texel Suffolk, averaged, 69.80 kg Range 64-81.5 kg.

Dorper, averaged, 67.65 kg. Range 64.6-69.8 kg.

Excellent management by Ron Falconer.

Tarata. Crops are only just now growing well after a very poor start. Ewes are excellent but lambs have been the usual La Nina headache, difficult to finish.

All told 1000 big bales were made, so OSRS is considerably better off than last autumn.

AIRCRAFT POLLUTION

A Boeing 747 carries 240,000 litres of fuel, 17 litres of which is burnt each kilometre.

2000 jets are airborne over USA at any one time.

2% of world-wide carbon monoxide emissions come from aircraft.

2.4 million visitors to NZ in 2005 created 7.9 million tonnes of emissions i.e. the same as from NZ coal, gas and oil generation. This could be offset by 4250 one megawatt wind turbines, or planting 26000 square kms of bush (size of Stewart Island), reducing pastoral land by 50% or taking 2/3 of all vehicles off the road. Otago Univ, report.

*This is **only** the tourism industry. Labour finds it easy to blame farm animals for polluting, 2.4 million tourists are not an easy target.*

Labour has lost the plot.



Waimumu volunteers made the site spotless daily.

ONLY IN AMERICA.

Joy met a lovely blonde professional at New Orleans airport who was a Romance Enhancement Specialist. She had attended a three day conference for American Romance Enhancement Specialists. She also sold Tupperware and Romantic lingerie .

Gastronomic Enhancement Specialists to sell lamb?



Doug Avery at Grassmere, Seddon. Everything green is lucerne. Jan, 2008

A significant field day, **14 May**, is to be held at Doug Avery's Bonaveree Farm, Grassmere Rd, Seddon, dealing with droughts on dry country. Called "Beyond reasonable drought" it will be very rewarding to farmers.

Contact Heather Collins at 03-572 8876 for details.

POLITICS NATIONAL

Seven retiring politicians are to traipse around Europe.

Marion Hobbs, "I don't know much about the purpose. I think it's about MMP, I'm not sure. I think it will be lovely".

Are the flights fuelled by methanol? No, by the taxpayers of NZ.

Tagging. Turia says is "an expression of identity".

Dr Kiro, Children's Commissioner "there is a history and social commentary behind these art forms (graffiti and tagging).

It's vandalism. Probably both would be more honest if they had to pay for the clean up.

Cunning. By making laws, then divesting compliance to regional councils Labour produces an artificial fiscal surplus. Local government revenue rose 10% in 2007 to a massive \$914 million.

Ratepayers feel helpless as they are taxed more for little gain and lots of red tape.

Free trade agreement with China. NZ is the first country in the OECD to do so. (Probably thanks to Rewi Alley).

Do the Chinese realise NZ manufacturers could swamp their economy?

Will NZ gain annually \$250-300 million from this deal? (as predicted)

PS. Since signing a free trade agreement with USA only three years ago, Australia's trade balance now favours US threefold.



Graffiti. "An expression of identity" Turia.

Vandalism.



Owen Buckingham (LHS) crutching ewes at TeAnau. Most Alliance directors are 'hands on' farmers. 28-1-08.



Lindsay Dawson and John Lindsay (RHS). Another Alliance director working with sheep. Dipton, 28-1-08.

POLITICS FARMING

Get behind the Meat Industry Action Group (MIAG). Get involved. It's your future that is at stake.

NZ farming equity is about \$45 billion. All sectors should be benefiting from the present global shortages.

MIAG's outstanding success in changing personnel in meat companies is only a start. It is evidence that farmer power within processing cooperatives, still exists.

Poole's Plan (which was John Turner's plan in October 2007) and Elworthy's plan are out there ready to be debated.

M&WNZ have the mandate to lead. They must get fully involved.

The Meat Task Force has a wide frame of reference and a lot of industry experience. It will seek farmer opinions.

Everybody will have the opportunity to contribute. So do so.

A final 'plan' is likely to be 'different' and will make producers uncomfortable. So be it. Processors will also be uncomfortable, also the marketers.

To be uncomfortable is to make change happen. To be non-receptive to change is foolish, so sell-up now.

Only by accepting major change will our industry return to long-term profitability. Commit yourself.



Robin Hilson and Mark Crawford, Alliance director, discussed what 'has to happen' for the NZ sheep meat. Otautau, 29-1-0

Food processors look globally for cheapest components hence the growing trade with China. NZ foodstuff trade with China grew by 25% in 2007, to \$63 million. Fruit \$30 million, Fruit Juice \$13 million, Vegetables \$15 million were bought.

It is scary to consume asian foods because production standards are so different to those Kiwis expect. Surveillance is no guarantee of non-tainted product.



Keith Milne, chairman of MIAG, at work, Wairio. 29 Jan 08.



CHB farmers meeting with Keith Milne. OSRS, 13 March 08.



Keith Milne (MIAG) . Typical pose at Paratu. 20 March 08.



Too many feet. Extra feet are of no use. OSRS.

NEW ORLEANS

Antoine's Restaurants most expensive meal is grilled lamb chops and mint jelly. US\$41.75 per serving.

*Operated continuously since 1840 by the same family, **the cuisine is world famous.***

5 March 2008

SHEEPMET AND GLOBAL FOOD AVAILABILITY.

Higher personal incomes in China, India, Russia, etc, has led to people 'moving up' in their food purchases. They eat more protein.

As world grain supplies diminish with the drive to produce ethanol, feedstock supplies become more expensive and less available.

Cattle herds in US, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and NZ are declining.

In non OECD countries, sheepmeat requirements are expected to rise from 350,000 tonnes in 2006 to 480,00 tonnes in 2016.

1.79 billion muslims have halal trade is worth US\$150 billion. It is likely to be worth US\$500 billion by 2010.

Rabobank Focus, 2008.

Opportunities for sheepmeat are huge.

Australia. Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) are predicting a lift in sheep, lamb and wool prices. A 2-3% increase in the national flock of 86.3 million is anticipated. In 2007, 41.3 million mated ewes gave 82.3% lambing. 20.7 million lambs slaughtered produced 450,000 tonnes. 32% of the lambs received supplements and 11% were reared on feedlots. Total lamb value was A\$4 billion, half from export.

"The sheepmeat industry is very fortunate as it has a very reliable, dedicated set of consumers around the world and they are increasing in number"

Peter Week, MLA.

UK. British sheep farmers are hurting. UK had 20 million sheep in 1990. Now 15 million. 21-22 kg carcass weight lambs fetch \$112, but with high costs (\$50 to get rid of cull ewes) many farmers will not continue with sheep.

"Consumption is increasing in UK but the return is too low to keep farmers in business".

David Raine, UK National Sheep Association.

Finland. Sheep farmers are hurting. They are convinced Brussels (EU) wants to be totally free of sheep.

pers.comm.,

Canada. They're **not** hurting. Feedlot owner Jay Lewis (Ontario) buys any store lamb for \$84 at auction, feeds them maize etc, and sells them at 22kg.CW for \$260. He cannot get enough lambs to supply the huge local markets.

Ross MacMillan, Farm Tours, Rangiora.

THEY SAID.

"I've not had to dag a single ewe from two years prior to shearing. That, I attribute to your rams. If it had not been for them we would have been off this place years ago".

Heather and Greg Davis, Balfour.

New livestocklers who will still get newsletters and lemons.

"These are big sheep for Hawke's Bay Sheep".

Amazed Southlander.

"Why do you keep calling? I don't even buy rams from you. I do enjoy the visits though". (Southland)

Visits are stimulating. He did buy rams and probably should consider doing so again.

"They (newsletters) are the best read that comes in the mail, by far. I really enjoy them".

Simon McAtamney, Balclutha.

A farmer booked 200 big bales from a dairy farmer's dry stock block at Five Rivers. A price was agreed to. Eventually the hay was made. A dairy farmer contacted the owner and offered \$10 per bale more than anybody else. This was accepted. "Take them now".

No bales were left when the sheep farmer's cartage contractor arrived.
Southland, Jan, 08.

Garry Stewart; choreographer of the Australian Dance Theatre; known for intensely physical, 'pushing limits' dance. Asked about his favourite meal, replied.

"---lambs shanks and mash"

Sheepmeat for iron and staying power.

"That's a Suffolk not a Texel-Suffolk."

OSRS Texel-Suffolks are black faced.

"I came back three times to talk to you, but you were always busy with clients". Waimumu Feilddays.

"I haven't had any lemons lately". Waikoikoi farmer.

They ran out before I got there.

Its hard to believe it's March and our summer is all but over.

We would like to wish you all a belated farewell and say thanks to Robin and Joy for having us! Its been a wonderful experience and we have enjoyed it immensely. We have learnt so much and met so many great people over the years, it's been great.

To Jeff and Sue Moss, all the best with the rams, we're sure you will have as much fun as we have had.

Its nice to see the rams grazing in your paddocks so handy!

And to all the clients, many thanks for your support over the years, we have enjoyed meeting you all and know we have left you in good hands with Jeff and Sue.

Don't be strangers, we are always pleased to see people down our road.

All the very best, its been another tough old year, surely the next will be better.
Regards, Colin and Dot



Well grown sappy, Texel-Suffolk sired lambs 'ready'.

Braden Cooper and Robyn Irvine, Owen River.



Finn-Texel ewe lambs.

Peter Chamberlain, Norwood.



6AM, sunrise. Tekapo just north of Mt John.

Jan, 2008.



Powerful predators. Sand flies hurt. Ouch! Haast, Jan 2008.



Owen River 'glass' house full of bumble bees, which died eventually. Apiarists could not explain this behaviour. 2000 per litre. Eight litres emptied.



Traps work. Sixth wild cat killed in six weeks at Paratu.

WHERE ARE THEY?

Business's which evolved from levy money.

- (1) Wool Equities Ltd, (WEL). Keratec, (which manufactures keratin) is now targeting multinational customers who are big. WEL is about to sign a joint venture agreement with Keraplast to house Intellectual Property (IP) assets.

WEL moved away from 'farmers' assets which they were given and now hides them behind yet another name. Confused; most farmers are.

- (2) Ovita is owned by Meat & Wool NZ, Ag Research, Government. Catapult, which commercialised Ovita research, has now combined with Genetic Solutions, an Australian company.

M&W NZ have sold their share to Pfizer. Catapult will still get the first option to negotiate usage rights for any new discoveries in genetic marking and genomic mapping.

Farmers contributed to this research whose commercial product they have to buy if they wish to use it. Double charging.

How have stakeholders benefited financially from these 'investments' made on their behalf?

FIVE LINERS.

- Drought. East Coast's drought will cost \$701 million to the region over three years. Present dryness will cost NZ \$1.24 billion.
- More money for research does not mean more research. Much money will be absorbed by administration, building rents and attending fielddays.
- Noise. Tuis singing, roosters crowing, dogs barking, kids yelling in kindergarten brings complaints.

Natural sounds are much better than machinery, guns and masses of humans.

- More noise. Cell phones distract drivers, walkers, every-body, **they're meant too.**

Inevitably fatalities result.

- 1 billion cattle on earth have a biomass twice that of humans. Cattle occupy one third of the available land mass.

- NZ farm fence lines stretch 10 million km's.

- Get ready for sport 24/7. Cricket 'slam bams' in India are just the start.

24/7 about sheep would really be worth watching.

- Trucks servicing agriculture travel 234 Million km's annually, costing sheep and beef farmers \$522 million.

- In 2006, NZ made 8.7 million tonnes of solid waste, i.e.1500 kgs per person.

- Canterbury river water. 5% only is used for irrigation. The water volume is 2.5 times that of the Murray-Darling whose catchment produces 74% of Australian pastoral output.

- Southerners wanting the best of meat may buy packaged beef, mutton and lambs from Farmgate Meats. Paul Heslip, Balfour, enterprise.

Phone, 03-201 6315.

- Roadside mowing is a growing industry of questionable merit. Fuel, tractors, support vehicles, rotting grass; what a waste.

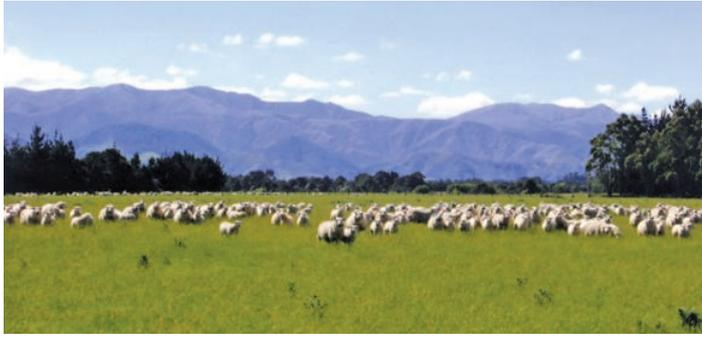
People should drive better.

- **No** Scrapie in NZ sheep- its official. Most-resistant and least-resistant genotypes are still here.Lincoln Univ.,

- Annoying. As if it isn't enough to endure aging rockers (Elton John) and soccer lads (Beckham) one has to marvel at the dollars they put into a city. All pretty costly, pretty big carbon footprint, pretty boring.

- A vegetarian needs .17 ha to produce his food; a meat eater .85 ha. "A vegetarian diet is not necessarily the most efficient in terms of land use"

Chris Peters, Cornell Univ.,



Block 4 has sold for dairying. Hilsons have farmed here for thirty years. Cropped extensively and with extensive shelter it was the Sheepec Quarantine Station from 1987 to 1991. A very private place, a beautiful farm. The land remains, only the ownership changes. I hope the new owners enjoy this special farm as much as I did and respect its spirits who lie buried beneath its soils. Robin.

JUST MORE SCARES.

Pollution is unacceptable. Culprits need to rectify their damage. To target herbivores who have been here for 40 million years as major polluters is crazy, **the greatest polluters are humans**, in their billions, who have been here for only a few million years.

Farmers are at the front of climate change and few in NZ have not observed differences; grass at higher altitudes, return of dairying to Southland, increased sheep productivity nation-wide.

Climate cycles have occurred for eons. They may be short-lived or centuries long. They are natural.

The public have been conned into believing climate change is all man-made.

Nigel Lawson(ex Chancellor of the Exchequer, climate change disbeliever) acknowledged there has been a .7°C rise in the earth's temperature over 100 years, and CO2 levels have risen by 30%. He pointed out that CO2 is only one 'greenhouse' gas, water vapour is the largest by far. Since 1998 the global mean temperature has dropped.

200 leading scientists gathered in New York to address 'Man's Role in Global Warming:' Geological evidence presented showed CO2 at up to 20 times above current volumes and temperatures considerably warmer than now. Climate operates in 1500 year cycles driven by solar activity, winds, deep ocean currents, precipitation.

A 100 years of data collection is not a reliable indicator of climate change when cycles are so complex and of about 1500 years duration. El Nino/La Nina conditions have been documented for 1000 years and yet science still cannot recognise the start of this cycle.

Pursuit of the Kyoto protocol will dramatically cut living standards. Global growth will be stopped.

The carbon trading schemes 'effectiveness' in Europe is flawed. Carbon intensive industries have moved to non-Kyoto countries. No reductions in emissions has occurred only reduction in economic growth.

Economist, and Dr Murial Newman.

PREDICTION.

Soon big business will find another scare to absorb politicians and media.

Scares are good for business.

THREE SLICES OF HISTORY.

HB FARMER OF THE YEAR. 1982-83.

Tom Atchison, Makaretu. 348 hectares. Perendales.

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Lambing %	126%	130%	131%	140%	129%
Av sale price.	\$12.60	\$16.10	\$23.17	\$22.45	\$24.43
Av CW,kg.	-	13.1	15.7	14.6	15.4
Lamb, kg/ha.	-	107	111	97	92
Wool Total kgs.	13325	22024	15067	14239	13208
Av price.	\$2.63	\$2.27	\$3.12	\$3.08	\$3.00

NZ FARMER.. La Nina year.

APRIL 1987

Articles: Corporate farm buying move in Manawatu.

John Read's aim to buy 30 Manawatu properties, which failed ignominiously.

Is 2th pre-tup shearing your profitable option?

East Coast Erosion Control.

Farming merinos in the North Island.

Profile. How well has Peter Elworthy performed?

Running a successful cross-breeding programme.

Livestock prices.	Prime Steer.	200c/kg dressed.
	17kg.cw lambs.	\$23.
	Perendale 2th.	\$19.

TMG NEWSLETTER No. 21, La Nina!

APRIL 1998.

Articles: East Coast Drought.

Large Lean Lamb contracts. TMG and Richmond.

Mating hoggets successfully.

OSRS early mating with synchronized ewes.

Carcase perfect: information about Texel composition.

Photos: Sam Hunt and Garry McLennan at the 'just bought' Burnside farm. El Nino at Wyndham.(1997)

Harvesting trees at Tarata. Field days at OSRS.

Personnel have changed; farming topics are similar. Production of the newsletters and photos has really improved.



New Zealand's last ewe looking for a future.