



One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER No. 96
June 2013

PREDICTIONS

- o Finns, Texels, EF crossbreeds make up 40% of the national flock - soon to be **50%**
- o Sheep meat prices will rise through the new season.
- o The 2012-2013 drought will historically be the "worst ever", just like 2007-10, 1983, 1978 droughts. Our Place, April 2013
- o Dorper sheep don't notice droughts. First observed 2007-2010. Dorpers, their time has come. Dorpers cannot be ignored.
- o Gareth Morgan's cat attack is right. Cats are killers foremost; companions only for a simple (lazy) life.
- o Processors never make innovative marketers.

TRENDS

1. OSRS farmers are increasing the proportion of Finn and Texel in their ewes.
2. A number of flocks focused on sheepmeat production with Texel Suffolk on both the ram and ewe side.
3. Towards dairying and dairy support.

NOTICE BOARD

The total value of all activity (GDP – Gross Domestic Product) in the world is \$67 trillion. The total cost of all food production is \$4 trillion (5% of the world GDP).

Food is cheap! Gold is expensive; gold is inedible.



Jim Arbuckle, Dunecht Home Farms. Sheep farmed: Lleyn, Texel, Meatline crosses
Aberdeenshire



Sale sheep are of many hews



Beltex Ewes

Easy Care?



Sheep auction. Prices £30-70/head depending upon age of lambs.
Aberdeen Northern Marts



Triplets, tagged and numbered.

Why not performance recorded?



Flowering canola in spring.

Newcastle June 2013

UK AND GEORGIA VISITED, JUNE 2013

2013 started with two unexpected invitations for a visit. One from a very close Brazilian friend whom I've known for over 20 years and for the past 7 years has been living in Newcastle Upon Tyne (UK). The second one was from a young sheep farmer in Georgia (East Europe) who sought information through our website 2 years ago and since then has kept in contact with us.

In May, I spent 17 days in the UK; four of those visiting castles, the most famous cities as well as observing the British and Scottish culture. What did I do on my 'spare' time then? I visited a few commercial farms around Aberdeenshire and the Highlands. I went to the National Sheep Association 2013 Highland Sheep Fair, visited a Scottish stud breeder and even helped docking lambs.

There are so many different breeds and composites in the UK. But there is only one way to farm them all. Huge millenium stony buildings to a) 'man' lamb their ewes (pronounced in Scottish accent 'yoow') and b) protect them against any kind of harm as their lambing season is when the harsh weather conditions hit the island. The largest farm I visited runs 1000 breeding ewes, all kept inside until their lambs get strong enough to survive. Losing a lamb is like losing someone from their family. Their sheep have names, life stories and a strong bond with their master. All of that, of course, reminded me of my home country.

Some breeds are really impressive to the eyes. Sky high scanning percentages are common (230% for terminal breeds, 300% for maternal ones) as the latitude factor plays a key role on ewe's ovulation rate. The main effort in getting right birth tagging and mothering-up as well as following the international EU farm-to-subsidies rules leaves little to none time for selection, performance recording or even culling. All of that, plus the fact that an average sheep farm in the UK is a very small business, leads to a questionable productive industry.

The stud sheep farm I went was an interesting place. They showed me their grass-fed rams and emphasized they are trying to start something new in Scotland. The farmer's son has been to NZ and has an agriculture degree. They have started performance recording their flock with three main objectives: to breed easy-care, tough, rapid growth sheep. They want to be successful, but they told me it has been a battle as their clients are more interested in show-prized sheep than paddock-proven animals. 'No way a stud breeder would survive here if he did not run his sheep through the judging arena.'

At the Highland sheep show I met lots of farmers, most of them displaying sheep for their breed association. The great majority were hobby farmers, owners of non-representative stock numbers. I spoke with Katie Keiley, who works for the Scottish Sheep Strategy. They are trying to encourage farmers to benchmark and select their stock based on eBV's. She told me it has been quite a mission. I also spoke with the chief editor of the Scottish livestock newspaper from who I heard a bold: we are 30 years behind NZ and we know it! There was a site selling 'NZ Suffolk rams'. The couple have been to NZ and were amazed by how different, easy-care they looked and bought a few doses of semen. When I spoke about OSRS they remembered driving past our farm and thought it was such a brilliant

name for a stud sheep farm. I also visited the Aberdeen and Northern Cattle and Sheep Markets. Huge indoor sale-yards. Ewes with 3-5 week old lambs at foot were auctioned and sold for 30-70 pounds a head.

On my last days in the UK, I stayed with a couple of friends in a region near Golspie, two hours north of Inverness. Tom Gerdald is a Scottish professional young shearer and Stefanie Roth, his partner, helps him working as a rousie. 'Steffi' is from Germany and she went to NZ three years ago. She came as a wwoofers and had her first contact with sheep at OSRS. I was told the 'shearing world' in Scotland is very different from NZ, a very frustrating career. There is no woolshed nor proper shearing conditions which farmers would follow and respect. He charges 1.80 pounds/head and need to bring his shearing gear, including the plant. They took me around to visit more sheep farms. I ended up helping a farmer to dock his lambs. Everything was kept: bearing ewes, stiff-neck, under-shot, tiny lambs etc. There was nothing I could say that would make them understand about efficiency, selection and productivity. NZ farming system is cruel and unacceptable.

So far UK landscapes reminded of NZ's and brought me that feeling of being home. But, I must confess I was looking forward to meeting the unknown.

After a 7 hours wait at Istanbul airport (Turkey), I finally arrived in Georgia.

Firstly, the heat. I went from 14 to 32°C in a few hours. Secondly, a woman smoking in the ladies' toilet at the airport. My very first thoughts were: this is going to be interesting.

As soon as I walked out the exit door there were Beka Gonashvili and Nino Bakhtadze, waving their hands showing a hand-written sign saying 'Welcome Dayanne' with a printed cartoon sheep wearing sunglasses. I already knew them from previous Skype conversations but they wanted me to notice that both Beka and the sheep on the paper were wearing sunglasses, so it'd easy to recognize him. From that moment on I knew it'd be one of the greatest times in my life.

Beka Gonashvili is a well-known sheep farmer in Georgia. His two mobile phones never stop ringing, he is always attending meetings and driving back and forwards to one of his farms, a 3,000 ha 'block' running 10,000 sheep. He is often interviewed by the local and international media. He is 28 and has taken over one of the several family businesses which includes holiday houses, petrol station, contractor services and a agrivet shop. Beka is married to Nino Bakhtadze, a lovely 24 year-old girl. She is a lawyer and is not too keen about sheep. Beka is also the president of the National Sheep Breeders Association of Georgia. He enjoys evening meetings and friend gatherings. Every day is a good day for a toast.

Georgians are happy, festive, warm-hearted people with no environmental consciousness.

Religion is as powerful as the Government itself. By saying that, Georgian churches are stunning looking buildings with tonnes of gold and history dated back to the 5th century.

I believe there are traffic rules in Georgia; they are just not applicable. Whoever gets first at the roundabout has

got preference. Georgian drivers are skilful and fast. They have to be as sheep, cattle, dogs, people and pot-holes need to be dodged and, most of the times, at high speed.

Georgia lies right in front of the Caucasian Mountains. It has deep valleys as well as 3000m high mountains. It was on the top of one of them where I was first introduced to Georgian sheep. Fat-tail Tushuri sheep grazing on a vast plateau land where temperatures don't exceed 8-10°C during summer time. Sheep and goats are farmed nomadically between what they call summer and winter pastures. It's actually vast private land with native grass which has never been cultivated. Most of the shepherds are from Azerbaijan or Armenia. They live in tents and are hired to 'graze' the stock. Sheep and their shepherds walk 4,000km/year from winter to summer pastures (3-400km distance). Performance recording is a challenge as communication, literacy and technical knowledge are almost inexistent. Staff are hired to show sheep where to eat and for how long. They also help to keep potential predators away (snakes, foxes and wolves).

I had a meeting with the Agro Development Group (photo page 8). There were scientists, vets and politicians in the meeting. They listened carefully to Beka as he translated my words. It was obvious for me that there is a huge gap between science, farming and government agriculture policy. All of that, of course, reflects on the overall national sheep productivity results.

Although Georgia and UK are completely different countries, their similarities when it comes to efficiency in sheep production are obvious.

No doubt it was a great experience for this Brazilian Kiwi girl.
Dayanne Almeida



Scottish sheep shed wool. Wool is a bye-product



'Texel' type lambs.

NW Aberdeen



Tom Geldard and Steffi Roth (OSRS ex-Wwoofer), shearing team



NZ Sufflok (their spelling) and Sufftex ram lambs



Suffolk/Charollais hoggets.

Bloom dipped



Peat land is stark, bleak.

Northern Scotland

COMMENTS FROM THREE BRAZILIANS WHO WORKED AT ONE STOP RAM SHOP

"I'm writing to say thank you for everything that you have done for me while with you in New Zealand, it was a great help and especially I had time the opportunity to know lovely people that were very important to my learning. I also would like to say that the job you have been doing in New Zealand is amazing and very respectful."

Ricardo Silveira, Sao Paulo. Dec, 2012

Ricardo spent time with Jeff and Sue Moss (Clinton) and Lynette and Keith Munro (Waipahi). Every spare moment, when free of his Massey studies, he was working at OSRS helping Dayanne.

"I am a student of the animal sciences, farmer from South Brazil, I am also part of a pool of sheep farmers in my town, to know New Zealand was a dream realized. In my farm I have cattle and sheep, Texel breed and Corriedale breed and Black Ile de France breed. We are producers of the lambs in southern Brazil and my flock has the average lamb percentage of 160%. We have good natural pasture and ryegrass and clovers native, other type of the clovers we need seeding.

I have always heard that New Zealand is the largest sheep producer of the world, with a production totally on pasture, so I thought that NZ would be a great place to learn more about sheep and pastures. Now three months later I can say that New Zealand is an awesome country, I never forget what I saw, heard and learnt, 'green landscapes', the song of birds, learning on the farms where I've been and the optimal trip to the South Island with OSRS which I leave a special thanks great learning experience in production of sheep with performance.

The result that the producer of the lambs has on his farm is a consequence of the work of selection of rams with performance conducted by the elite farms, so the OSRS knows that commitment and selecting the sires over 20 years with various breeds and genetic compounds available to lamb producers from NZ.

Sure everything I learned in NZ, mostly in OSRS, will contribute to my professional education, I hope I can apply the principles of production practiced in NZ on my farm and transmit information to other farmers.

My special thanks to the entire staff of OSRS.

Thanks for showing NZ what is the focus and organization."

Robson Rodrigues Simoes, Rio Grande do Sul. Dec, 2012.

P.S. Robson is planning to return.

"I had never stayed so long in a sheep farm, much less genetic selection, and I confess that I am also delighted with the One Stop Ram Shop, the quality of work they do and with great professionalism, because I could see that there is a easy thing, which does not happen overnight, as well as years of work, management needs a lot of expertise, so I was very proud to have known people as competent as Robin, Dayanne, Peter and Colin, who do the job better than anyone. What struck me here was the simplicity of the production system, there is nothing different, otherworldly, or more technology, however, from what I notice is simpler and more efficient than I thought, that beauty often does not matter, what really matters is

the quality of the final product. Now I understand that Brazil can greatly improve sheep production system.

I found the system very interesting selection of animals, the book with the ranking of animals, identification of lambs with their mothers, all to ensure a good future knowledge of animals to be passed on to buyers. I'd love to be able to tell you everything I saw and learned here on the farm for all my family and friends so that they also know how much New Zealand and One Stop Ram Shop are good at what they do, and are always striving to improve performance herd and ensure success and be making reference worldwide.

Anyway, I would like to thank the One Stop Ram Shop, Robin Joy, Dayanne, Peter and Colin, for giving me the chance to meet and stay here on the farm, learning acquired throughout here and that will surely make a difference in my professional future."

Lais Ribeiro, Sao Paulo. Nov, 2012

P.S. Lais has asked to come back.

OSRS has always culled any stock with foot issues. There is scald and footrot about in HB but only rarely does it ruin sheep. Culling is effective and final.

10 rams (¼ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Romney) were matched visually (a group of top rams) and DNA tested. Susceptibility to footrot for each ram gave two scores; 'One' being least susceptible and 'five' being most susceptible. There was only one four and no fives. Nine rams were acceptable. All the ones and two score rams went to Canterbury clients.

Gene marker confirmation of sound selection practice.

A ram got out! Hoggets lambbed in October and were weaned in November straight to Stortford Lodge saleyards. They looked magnificent, blackfaced, muscled, 'texel-type' and **small**.

Three groups sold for \$81, \$60.50, \$41.00; averaged \$60.77. Lambs were eight weeks old; no more.

RAM 4U has now **641,356 Kms** on the odometer. Car thieves are active in NZ but they never pinch the red Maxima. It was even left with the window down and keys in the glove box for two weeks at Palmerston North airport.

Car thieves have no taste.

Ewe lambs (¼ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Perendale and Coopworth/Romney) were farmed together from weaning onwards in 2011. At tugging 2012 the Coop/Roms weighed 60 kgs, 5 kgs more than the FT/Perendales. At scanning the FT/Perendales had 28% more lambs.

Golden Bay, Nelson





Dayanne in sheep yards, derelict houses.

Georgia



'Home-kill' is exactly that.

Georgia, June



Typical 'intensive' farmland with a lake for irrigation



Shepherds on the gate; which is a hole in the wall



Chapel overlooking fertile grassland.

Georgia, June



Gate is closed by replacing the stones



Georgia is beautiful. A church is always in the foreground of photographs



Sheep drafting



Alpine village. Snow on the mountains.

Georgia, June



Sheep counting

9TH JUNE, 1978: BLOODY FRIDAY; THE START OF FARMER PROTESTS

Four times farmers have united to show the public, ultimately their representatives Federated Farmers, apolitical Beef & Lamb NZ; and finally the Government they want change.

Firstly it was in Southland, **Friday 9th June 1978 "Bloody Friday"**. Led by Syd Slee and Owen Buckingham farmers released skinny, valueless sheep onto the streets of Invercargill. Sheep were moved steadily to a site near the Borstal Street Bridge and slaughtered. (Photo RHS)

"I have to write to say how horrified we were with your action but also very proud of you as fellow farmers. The industry was a shambles. We here lurched from crisis to crisis. Stock when sent, were waved good-bye. Then came the wait. Were they going to be killed or would they sent back because of some piffling issue. Actually it was never piffling, the cost of delay would always our cost. They were awful times. Did the industry have a future? We knew not!

I felt your protest galvanised many people's thinking. Farmers were just moaners to the majority of urban people but this protest showed them that the moans were justified. The skinny, value-less ewes told their own story. Industrial issues should never be allowed to cause suffering to animals. Skinny ewes tumbling out of farm vehicles made TV news very interesting.

Remember the 'townies' reactions?

Such a dramatic, stark exhibition of suffering won huge sympathy. Sheep suffering; farmers suffering.

Farmers have had such support from urban dwellers rarely.

Enjoy your reunion. Thanks to you gutsy farmers from one VERY appreciative north-islander."

Robin Hilson, One Stop Ram Shop. Hawke's Bay, May 2013

This dramatic protest broke the power of the meatworkers union and forced their abuse of power to be recognised.

Peter Elworthy called for a **Farmer's Protest (1984)** in Wellington to highlight the state of the rural community suffering with the changes made by the Labour Government. There was a huge turnout. It was fun, somewhat stirring but a non-event for the Government.

A distraught elderly driver in a mini realised, belatedly, he was driving into some huge, scruffy walkers. He panicked and did a 'wheelie' only to become completely stranded upon a concrete median. Marchers stopped, descended upon the mini, picked it up, swung it 90° and cheerfully waved him goodbye. The driver had aged ten years in couple of seconds.

The **Meat Industry Action Group (MIAG)** emerged in 2006. South Island meeting were huge and the organisers pushed for the two cooperatives to amalgamate. Vexed farmers used their voting power to remove both chairmen and some directors, replacing them with dedicated MIAG personnel. One also became a director of Beef & Lamb NZ. MIAG's success jarred the meat industry. The effectiveness of the 'replacement' board members is a mute point.

In 2007 MIAG looked for North Island (NI) support and 'lost it'. They presented themselves poorly.

Too many diverse views and no solid plan. MIAG was

doomed. NI farmers were sympathetic. MIAG's legacy was not forgotten.

The following years were awful. Processors constantly assured farmers 'we are talking'. Prices tumbled, rainfall went AWOL. Many NI farms had four years of intermittent drought. Sheep farmers turned to dairy support to survive.

Why did the Beef & Lamb not warn farmers of the market truth, they had 'managers' stationed in the markets?

Without any warning a huge demand for sheepmeat appeared. Supplies were dwindling. Prices soared. Sheep farmers grinned; but not for long.

Crashing prices again.

Apparently processor's 'paid' too much for sheepmeat. They made huge losses, so clawed back money as fast as possible with the new season's prices.

Did processors ever pay too little?

*The scene was set for **Meat Industry Excellence Group (MIE)***

2012. Predictably starting in Southland/Otago and expanding steadily to the NI, meetings attracted over 3000 farmers; an appreciable percentage of sheep and beef farmers.

The committee of focused farmers is not about to make previous mistakes. They are dedicated, gathering financial support and are employing experienced personnel. Farmer backing is imperative.

They have talked with meat processors who are still 'talking' to one another. MIE recognises talking; action is needed; now!

Belated support from Beef & Lamb and Federated Farmers is acknowledged. National Government 'support' is noted.

Progress has been steady, not spectacular. The first critical professional appointment has been made. Ross Hyland will put his experience and energy into the reform, which has to succeed.

Without MIE and without farmer backing the sheep industry could yet become the 'Sunset Industry' it was called by ignorant David Lange.

MIE will need all your encouragement as the opposition forms to resist any change.

MIE is focused. MIE is about farming. MIE is about a future for sheep farmers.

Just as 'Bloody Friday' dented union power and made New Zealanders think. MIAG made farmers think about the workings of the sheep industry.

MIE having learned from the past, MIE is concentrating on the future. It is farmer driven. MIE has to secure a strong, stable, sustainable sheepmeat supply (the six S's). This will only happen if every part of the industry cooperates.



FIVE LINERS

- o America uses more energy for air conditioning than Africa uses for everything.
- o Since the 1968 assassinations of Kennedy and King, over 1 million Americans have been shot to death.
- o America spends \$170 billion on 'direct marketing'. The 'takeup' is 3% through post, 0.1% through electronics, 'online' 0.01%. So \$165 billion was spent **annoying people**, creating landfill and blocking spam filters. All this as servers are building intimate details about clients.
Who do the servers, serve?
- o \$1.8 trillion is total world military spending. 40% of this is by the USA. The total cost of food production is \$4 trillion.
Stop war. The world could easily produce enough sustainable food for everyone.
- o Organic food 'may' taste better but it is not better for you than traditionally grown food. A review of 237 research studies showed no significant differences. Organic foods did have higher phosphorus levels.
Dr Spangler, Stanford Centre for Health Policy
- o Environment versus animal rights. EU wants animals in a 'positive emotional state' and to 'experience pleasure'.
Kevin Strafford, Massey.
Stupid clap-trap. What does this mean?
- o OECD subsidies for agriculture amounted to \$252 billion in 2011 or 19% of total farm receipts. OECD predicts commodity prices will stay high.
- o What do you get if you combine EU countries, India, China, Japan, Mexico and USA?
A landmass equal to that of the African continent.
- o Oil is the most valuable commodity; \$3 trillion worth is traded annually. Iron is second, 2 billion tonnes/year, worth \$300 billion traded.
- o Food is political. Newspapers focus on every price move. It's a heinous crime if food costs go up. It's ok for gold and shares to go up in value; not food prices. Primary food producers, world-wide are pressured to grow quantity and better quality for less and less return.
- o The world has over 6 billion people with more coming. Greedy people and money manipulators caused the financial crash. Investments are important and have status, but are inedible.
- o 'Nothing will bring down government faster than hungry people.'
Robert Thompson, World Bank.
- o World-wide 2 billion tonnes of food are dumped (1/2 of what's produced). Britain dumped 7.2 million tonnes of food in 2010.
Economist, Jun 2012
- o The average time to prepare the 'main' meal in Europe is 34 mins.
- o The world population is 2.8 times the 1950 level. World grain production is 3.6 times greater. When inflation adjusted rice, corn and wheat are cheaper in 2011. For the same period petrol rose in value 352%, gold 320%, beef 280%, iron 100%.
- o Soft drinks consumed world-wide are worth \$532 billion. 25 million Americans visit McDonalds.
- o Conundrum: 'Big food' works hard to sell more. Many unhealthy foods are very profitable. Companies have a duty to shareholders; they do not want to be vilified for causing obesity.
- o Insufficient activity affects life expectancy almost as much as smoking (Lancet). Worldwide, 31% of adults are not getting enough exercise. Economist
Humans need a flock of sheep to check each day, on foot. 30 minutes of 'moderate' exercise five days per week is 'enough' exercise.
- o After 50 years aptitude declines in areas needing speed and problem-solving but not if experience and verbal ability is needed.
Economist
Does it matter that the NZ's farmers are getting older?
No.
- o New Zealanders are very honourable people. One Kiwi per 30,000 received honours on this year's Queen's Birthday list.
*In UK, it was one per 55,000. Few from the agriculture industry receive awards because rural people don't nominate rural people. Both the Judiciary and Academics nominate one-another madly. **Most awards go to people doing a job they are paid to do.***
- o McDonald's 'Serious Lamb 'outsells' Grand Angus'. FW, Aug 2012. 'Demise of lamb burger lamented'. FW, May 2013
Well promoted and enjoyed. Gone? Not forever.
- o SFF's lamb advertisements on TV; great, appetising.
- o 90% of NZ banking is owned by Australians. Profits are \$3 billion a year, which go back. This money is a major contributor to the NZ balance of payment deficit.
M Wilson, Sunday Star Times.
*This is the **real** cost of overseas Investment. Investors receive the profits (or products).*



Murray Herbert and Nora own Tarata. They farm four OSRS flocks. Colin and Dayanne help with recording

OSRS (S.I.L.) recorded flocks.

- Finn
- Texel
- Finn Texel
- 1/4 Finn 1/4 Texel 1/2 Romney
- 3/8 Finn 3/8 Texel 1/4 Romney
- Texel Suffolk
- 1/4 Finn 1/4 Texel 1/2 Perendale
- Rams with some Facial Eczema Tolerance
- Dorper
- Perendale Texel

THEY SAID...



Every night in summer is barbecue time. Georgia, June 2013



Beka's family. Most food is home-grown Tbilisi, Georgia



Dayanne and Beka (pointing) met with animal scientists. Tbilisi, June

FIRST commercial farm to have Texel, Finn and Oxford sheep in NZ, wayback 27 years ago.

FIRST to recognize the role of Finns and Texels as part of the mix with NZ genetics. (now in 40%)

FIRST to sell Finn-Texel rams.

FIRST to arrange supply contracts which rewarded the users of Finn and Texel.

FIRST to market Finn and Texel carcasses, large scale, to NZ and export markets.

FIRST to market high bulk Texel wool to a processor and provide premiums for producers.

FIRST to market bulky Texel wool to export markets.

FIRST to promote stabilised crossbred sheep with fixed proportions of Finn, Texel and NZ genetics.

FIRST to produce and market Texel Suffolk rams.

FIRST to have eight months of lambing on one farm.

FIRST to achieve seven natural sheep matings in eighteen months.

FIRST to have an objective of six separate lambings per year without the aid of chemicals.

FIRST to produce colourful, informative, proactive newsletters regularly.

FIRST to have nine flocks recorded with S.I.L

- o "Many thanks. Ram is doing the business. Very impressed." (Finn Texel). Tamahere, Cambridge
- o "Thanks for them they have settled in well". (3/8 Finn 3/8 Texel 1/4 Romney). Aria, King Country
- o What was your impression when you saw this crop of rams? "They were the best line of rams I have ever been offered." Texel Suffolk 'tops' at \$1000/head. Scott Wills, Hawke's Bay. Nov, 2012
- o "I still have a few Dorper rams I bought three years ago and they are still going strong. My Romney cross hoggets scanned 132% and docked 117%. The Dorper lambs are doing fantastically well. I'm sold on using Dorper over hoggets and will probably need to purchase some ... next year. Doug McNaughten, Dannevirke.
- o "Where is the rain?" Ohakune, Feb 2013
Ohakune is never dry! It was in 2013.
- o "Sorry – don't have an envelope small enough for the rain." Rex McKay, Masterton. Feb, 2013
OSRS had requested any rain be sent to HB in an envelope.
- o "Thanks for the rams. Have had some good rain over the new year. Holiday makers complaining but I'm not." Guy Bellerby, Te Anau. Feb 2013
- o "This guy has attitude!!!" Inglewood, Taranaki
He was a Finn Texel.
- o "Wondering how your supply of Texel rams is? My girls did well. One of them cannot have been quite ready for motherhood as she abandoned her lambs but I just know she is going to have twins this year to compensate." Sally, Harbour-mistress, Patea
- o "... brought rams home today, very pleased with them as always when you choose them." Robin Bowron, Waitaria Bay.
- o "... this is a smart looking ram with a good bottom." Gordon Hope, Hiwipango, Wakefield
- o OSRS has sought sheepmeat industry views of clients that are passed onto MIEG. Responses have been quick and extremely thoughtful. "Thank you for your tireless effort Robin, you are a inspiration to all farmers who get wrapped up in their day to day struggle." NW Nelson Apr, 2013
I write to get responses that can be used for the benefit of other farmers. Writing works.
- o "... we picked up our ram from the Temuka Saleyards ... unfortunately ... the ram was in a very distressed state, was panting rapidly and had some blood around his eyes. He was in a pen by himself with his legs tied together. The driver had left a note saying "yes, he's the jumper. He's been in every pen in these sheepyard. I've tied his legs. Don't let him go". Loading him onto our truck was a bit of an effort, as he wasn't keen to walk but eventually he made it. He is now safely in our paddock by the house and has recovered a lot and is nibbling at grass." Finn Texel ram. Cave, South Canterbury. Dec, 2012
- o "Good looking rams" (3/8 Finn 3/8 Texel 1/2 Romney). Waipahi, Southland/Otago.