



# One Stop Ram Shop

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## FROM IRAN, AUGUST 2013

- o 'It's very very simple; therefore we cannot do it.'  
Farhad, our translator
  - o Dressing in the dark for an important meeting, Robin slipped easily into Farhad's trousers, only having trouble with the buckle. Farhad is skinny!
  - o A Telecom ringtone erupted when we were in discussion with nomads. Five people thrust their hands in their pockets to get the phone. Then in their neighbour's pocket. It kept ringing. It was hanging from the tent's roof. (photo 3, page 2)
  - o "Rrobean, Rrobean, I have a question for you. They all ask how old you are, you have so much energy?"  
"..." replied Robin.
  - o "They want to know if Dayanne is your wife?"
  - o Farhad wanted meat in India – mutton. The carcase had tail which was quickly removed and there was his mutton. Tails were kept for this species change.  
*The butcher adds or removes the tail according to your order.*
  - o "There is one (carcase) to photograph that's OK. It's hardly spectacular. Oh, it's a goat." Robin at the load-out door of the killing works.
  - o "Google and the web are blocked. Grrrrr" – Dayanne
  - o Farhad and Dayanne went off for the day to Kandovan and returned late to find they were locked out by Robin. They knocked but got no reply. A spare key did not help because inside, a key was in the lock.  
"Farhad, we have a problem." Farhad rang for a hotel. The nightwatchman assessed the situation, then disappeared. Suddenly the door opened.  
"Good, Robin is awake." Farhad                    *But no.*  
'Spiderman' had climbed to an open window, up a huge plain wall, then opened the door. Robin slept on. (photo page 4)
  - o AVet emailed Dayanne after she gave an impassioned presentation:  
"I like your stail. I love you!"  
We were puzzled. Click. Stail = **style**.
  - o "Tabriz spends more money on watering gardens than it does in establishing farm irrigation which would benefit the whole district."                    *Correct*
  - o Dogs frequently lack ears. Are they scratched off because of lice or mite infestations?
  - o "I hope when you go back to NZ or any other country you can spread Iran's message of peace." East Azerbaijan Governor-General asked of NZ visitors
  - o Picnic sign. 'Take care of the pasture they are important for the environment, for everybody.'  
*Rubbish was strewn everywhere.*



NZ-Iranian meetings. Nomads, Provincial authorities and Kiwis



*Dayanne and Robin with East Azerbaijan's Governor-General. Tabriz*

- o "Do they know why we are here?"  
"Everybody in the country knows why you are here."  
Farhad Visit to Marand nomads
  - o Teeth once absent in Iran are gone forever.
  - o Points in selection of a sire ram by nomads:  
Width of nasal passage Sound mouth  
Testicles need to be big Leg length  
Wool length Tail needs an 'S'

*There are no Performance records*

**OSRS will have an Open Day, on Tuesday,  
12th of November at Paratu, 3440 SH2.**

**Starting 10am with an exhibition of OSRS sheep. Ram sales start on 25th November.**

*Jeff wil confirm an Open Day ta 3726 Old Coach Road, Clinton, Friday 29th November. Watch your mail for a flyer. Ram sales will start in December.*

**The One Stop Ram Shop team plan to be at the SOUTHERN FIELDAYS, WAIMUMU again in February.**

**Please return the enclosed ram order card as soon as possible. Thank you**



1 Farhad showing pictures of drought at OSRS. Nomads were riveted



2 Hadishahr. Nomads wanted OSRS publications. Elders wore hats.



3 Meeting with Miyaneh nomads. Note the cellphone



7 Sardrud. Robin checking breeding rams



8 Poor animal health. Huge abscess, keds, undershot, sore foot. All in one flock. Iran



9 Dayanne with nomadic women. Warm, jovial, funny



13 Ancient soils. Deep, textured, sound. Moles have recently arrived.



14 Kandovan nomads. Superb alpine honey comb straight from hive for lunch



15 Drum beehives. Varroa mite has devastated the apiaries of Iran



19 Miyaneh. Intensive agriculture, lucerne, cereals, fruit



20 Salinization is a major issue for Iran



21 Dayanne likes ice cream. Farhad and Dayanne about to start again



25 Bonab power plant. 34 tankers with sulphurous oil were unloading the fuel for burning



26 Tabriz restaurant. Kebabs, tomatoes, bread, lettuce, peppers and rice



27 Iran is the 'nose capital' of the world. Surgeons reshape noses



4 Hadishahr. These nomads have 8000 sheep. Cell phones are common



5 Post-milking washup. Ewes cannot produce milk, meat, wool efficiently all at once



6 Nomad sheep and goats resting. Some walk 4000 kms annually



10 Kalibar nomad camp



11 Overgrazed summer pasture. Clovers and grasses are nibbled until lost



12 4000m in the Alps. Flocks move 100kms to lower winter pastures. Kandovan



16 Miyaneh Mountains. Nomads camp near springs in the green areas



17 Mountains of Miyaneh. Huge vistas, green irrigated valleys. All arable land is worked



18 Bostanabad. Stacks of wheatgrass drying. Cereals were being harvested also. Aug 2013



22 Sheep and goat carcases ready for despatch to Tabriz butchers. Fat tails are no value



23 Sheepmeat US\$10/kg. Contaminated with fibres. Freshly processed, warm. Supermarket



24 Bonab. Iran's largest feedstock factory. Modern, efficient. East Azerbaijan



28 Ferris wheel; a township is nearby. Iran; 'Ferris wheel capital of the world'



29 Tabriz department store. Bright, prices low, quality excellent



30 An ancient stone ram needed a drink. Only potable water was available Tabriz



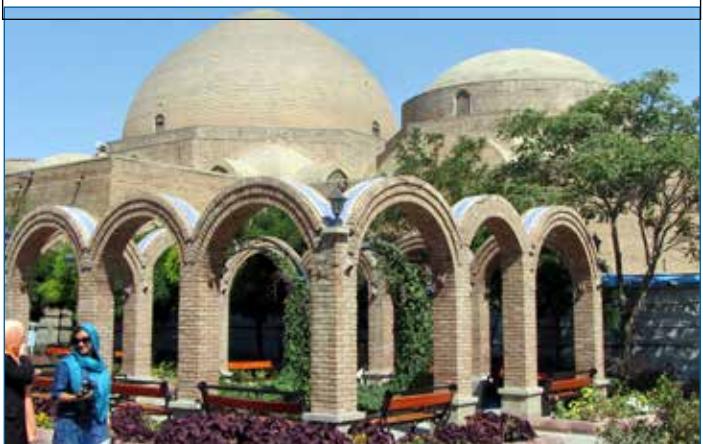
*Locked out. This wall 'spiderman' scaled to an open window, climbed inside, then unlocked the flat. It was dark, it was midnight*



*Spiders in Iran are scarce. This active jumping spider was only 1cm*



*Hovering, moth: 8cms body, tongue 14cm? Blue Mosque Garden, Tabriz*



*Blue Mosque and gardens in Tabriz. Centuries old, beautiful, a 'special place'*

OSRS ram hoggets killed at SFF, Takapau in August 2013  
(small samples)

|                            | CW<br>kgs | LW/CW<br>yield % | Price<br>NZ\$ |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| Texel Suffolk              | 22.8      | 47.2             | 115.15        |
| Finn Texel                 | 17.5      | 46.04            | 93.57         |
| Dorper                     | 20.3      | 46               | 106.81        |
| ½ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Perendale | 17.8      | 45.6             | 95.23         |
| Texel                      | 20.5      | 45.45            | 100.90        |
| ¾ Finn ⅓ Texel ¼ Romney    | 17.2      | 44.8             | 91.55         |
| ½ Finn ¼ Texel ½ Romney    | 16.6      | 438              | 88.89         |
| Finn                       | 17.8      | 42.89            | 95.37         |
| Perendale Texel            | 18.2      | 42.5             | 97.37         |

### Finland Update

Marja-Leena Puntila, a scientist friend, keeps OSRS informed about Finland's sheep industry. She apologised because she could not send rain to HB but offered snow ... in quantity.

1. 750 flocks, average 67 ewes. A total of 57,290 ewes
2. 13-14 Euros per head subsidy is paid when the Finnish flock is below 80000 (number permitted by the EU).
3. Lamb consumption increased 25% (2011-2012); 3.5 m kgs.
4. Lamb production increased 24%.
5. Lambs with a carcass weight of over 18kg receive a quality subsidy. 20,400 made it and got 42.3 euros/ head extra.
6. Farms are heavily in debt because they increased their size.
7. 20% of ewes are production recorded. 58% of recording is Finnsheep.
8. There is good demand for lamb (also when OSRS called in 2000) "We are having an enormous potential in sheep industry."
9. "Our pig industry is in difficulties... Pork producers are changing over to sheep sector."

### Think Finn!

#### All New Zealand ewes need a dash of Finn

- Finn X ewes don't have bearings (except an odd one)
- Finn X ewes have some natural facial eczema tolerance (clinical FE is at Tapanui)
- Finn X ewes don't need flushing
- Finn X ewes perform predictably
- Finn X ewes produce few triplets
- Finn X carcasses yield well
- Finn X ewes multiple suckle lambs
- Finn is the most used sheep breed in the world



*OSRS Finn ewes*

## FROM GEORGIA AUGUST 2013

Tbilisi Airport, Georgia. I got my luggage off the carousel first. We waited. Other passengers arrived. We all waited. 10-20min. No more baggage arrived. Dayanne peeped around the back and saw the men smoking and not placing any luggage on the belt. Others looked. 25min. A ferocious, slim passenger, dripping spite parted the curtains and launched into pure venom. She spat out her words.

*Luggage jumped onto the carrousel so fast!*



'How to condition score sheep'. Forty farmers attended a demonstration by Vet Richard Hilson at Tangarakau, June 2013.



1 Georgians smoke heavily



2 Local wine, continual toasts (and food), very convivial gatherings.  
Signagi, Georgia



3 Lamb shoulder, enough for six. NZ\$60. Tbilisi



4 Russians vandalised village churches. Now churches are being refurbished



5 Russia occupied Georgia; 1911-1991. Concrete apartments are abandoned everywhere. Stark relics



6 Russian occupation (1911-1991). This wagon, loaded with Georgians, was machine-gunned. Museum Exhibit, Tbilisi



7 Sameba Cathedral has nine chapels and is the focal point of Georgia



8 Tbilisi at night, stunning



9 Cossack marriage while tourists gawk. Tbilisi Cathedral



10 Tbilisi. Modern buildings mingle with ancient churches of various religions



11 Sculptures of Tbilisi



12 Dashing clothe to cover Kiwi legs



1 East Georgia. Easy arable land



2 Haymaking. Pasture is scythed/mowed, stacked, dried, pressed



3 Boundary cairn. Neither stock nor people err over boundaries



7 Camp-site litter is pollution. Nomad camps in Georgia



8 Wash day at Nomadville. Everyday is a 'good drying' day



9 Soviet Russian shearing combs cost US\$5. 25 years of use does not show



13 Long, coarse, light, wool fibres



14 'Potential' sire rams in Georgia. Small, lean and not productive.



15 August mating. Rams were superactive and could not be caught by visitors



19 Rural homestead, very basic



20 Rural homestead, vegetable garden, some flowers



21 Typical rural home in the highlands. Lada cars



25 Hay cartage. Yellow pipes are for gas reticulation. Akhalkalaki



26 Georgians are marvellous hosts. Food quality and quantity is 'generous'



27 A serious toast by good mates. A threat to tables



4 Deep, arable, rich alpine soils often of volcanic origin. Georgia, Aug 2013



5 Winter fuel. Drying cattle cake. Alpine Georgia gets deep snow



6 Sheep and goats walk and graze. Wolves are a serious problem



10 Shearing. Wool is pushed into bags. Tiny sheep with coarse, long, hairy wool



11 Handpieces are dipped in water between each sheep shearing



12 Shorn, cull ewes



16 'I know you! You are in the photos'. Nomad host recognises Robin



17 Armenia is behind the trees. Turkey is also a neighbour, and Russia and Azerbaijan



18 Weighing competition. Robin guessed 42kgs, Beka was right , 35.5kg Tsnor



22 Georgian sheep walk hundreds of kms between winter and summer pastures



23 Roads are shared by cars and livestock. Sagarejo



24 Herdsman with cattle which graze roadside vegetation



28 Eleventh century Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and high walls.



29 Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and hill top monastery of next picture



30 Mtskheta region. Georgia's first capital

## They said...

- o "Osama bin Laden should never have taken so long to find. All that was required was for someone to tell you that he wanted a ram. You would have found him!" Canterbury farmer
- o "Cheerio. I hope you can do at least another five years of the good you are doing." Andy Guy, Taihape  
*I need at least ten to do everything I wish to complete.*
- o A farmer I've known for years was out on the farm. I said to the homehelp, when we realised he was coming home: "He will say 'what the hell are you here for?'" He didn't.  
"What are you smiling about?" He said later, "I never buy a ram from you. I really need to or you won't keep turning up." *Stanley Brook, Nelson*
- o "We love the Dorper ram you sent (2009). The ewes produce almost 200% year after year. Feet; no issues. He's perfect." *David Sanders, West Coast*
- o "Thanks for bringing me farming. It's right up my alley."  
"This is extremely enjoyable food." Fresh mushrooms  
*Lucy Tucker (9) visiting granddad.*
- o "Do you like texting?" Robin asked grand-daughter Charlotte, 11)  
"Well. You've got to do it."
- o "Dad that man from the NI visited; the one who brings the lemons." *Cave, South Canterbury*  
*Perfect manners.*
- o "It's the first time I've held a Brazilian and NZ passports in my hands." Immigration officer at Baku, Azerbaijan. He was genuinely excited.
- o "Nice to see some boobs again". Said someone arriving at Tbilisi airport from Iran



"Using genetics to improve sheep farm profitability" Prof. H. Blair's power point page at an International vet conference, Rotorua, Feb 2013



Robin and Colin crutching and checking Texel-Suffolk hoggets after autumn weighing.

## They came, they saw, they said...

### Brazilians at OSRS in 2012-2013

"I thought we (Brazilians) were shit farmers and now I realize we're SHIT. You (Dayanne) took Robin around Brazil. I feel embarrassed: he probably thought they're shit. Well! We are SHIT!" Pedro Camiloti, Sao Paulo. Jan, 2013  
After visiting David Darby (Porangahau) and seeing magnificent sheep existing on nothing.

Rosangela Camiloti (Sao Paulo) thought OSRS 'doctored' pictures for the OSRS Brazilian website. She saw and handled hundreds of stabilised twin lambs, looking identical and just as 'pumped-up' with their Finn and Texel genes as in any website photo.

*OSRS does not doctor pictures. Just ask Rosangela.*

### QUESTIONS ASKED AT RAM SELECTION

1. Why vasectomise Finn cross rams?  
They make long-lasting sexy teasers. They hound female sheep relentlessly. They are very effective.
2. What rams breeds are best for hogget mating?  
*Dorper, Texel-Suffolk. Lambing issues are few. Fast lamb growth allows weaning at 9 weeks. Dorpers are outstanding survivors (next newsletter will outline some amazing, 2012, hogget results).*
3. What happens if Finn-Texels are mated to Corriedales?  
*Finn-Texel-Corriedale ewes scan 10 to 20% better, wean heavier lambs and more of them. Less dags, fewer bearings (if any). Wool is 1-2 cms longer, white and two microns coarser.*
4. Why haven't farmer directors of meat processor companies taken responsibility for the poor industry performance?  
*They've all lost their voices.*
5. Why don't Finns have bearings?  
*With rotational grazing sheep learn to gorge. Finn cross ewes, heavy with lambs, gorge and expand sideways. 'Romney derivatives' (sheep) expand only backwards. Bearings pop!*

OSRS Ram hogget wool sold by Elders 19 Sept 2013  
31.8 micron yield 74.3 VM 0.0 Y63.1  
Y-Z 2.6 Greasy price 381c/kg

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