



3 May 2010

Dear Client

Performance with Constitution

It seems timely to send out an update at this time of year with most rams now mating ewes. We have just finished what is a busy time for us, sorting up ewes for mating, with 33 single sire mating mobs being analysed this season.

On the national front it does appear positive for the lamb industry at the moment because of supply constraints in nearly all other producer countries. However, offsetting this appears to be a strong Kiwi dollar, with Grant Cuff, Alliance Chief Executive stating that if the dollar was at the same level as last year, we would be getting between \$100-\$120 for an average weight lamb. Even the wool industry has some positive news with premiums now being offered for USA bound wool, and talks of a merger between Elders Primary Wool and WPI, with both sides agreeing that one co-operative is needed.

Ram Sales – We had an outstanding run with ram selling up to Christmas with near record clearance levels at that time. Post Christmas the ram scene was quiet until interest increased again in March. At the time of writing we only have eight Suffolk 22th rams for sale. With good clearance of Romney 22th rams we do have five surplus MA sires that can be used if needed.

Lease Rams – Due to an excellent lambing result from the Suffolk and Suftex ewes last spring we have found ourselves with surplus numbers of Suffolk ewe hogget's and Suffolk and Suftex ram hogget's. We have sold the surplus Suffolk ewe hogget's as capital breeding stock and wish to lease out 50 ram hogget's that are suitable for hogget mating.

These Suffolk and Suftex ram hogget's are available for lease at \$150 plus GST.

Paki-iti's Reputation – Over the years Paki-iti has built up a reputation of breeding Romney rams that deliver performance with constitution. We are now being recognised by terminal breeders as producing terminal sires that breed these qualities, with Suffolk and Suftex rams either being sold or leased to 18 ram breeders and surplus Suffolk ewe hogget's being sold to four breeders throughout New Zealand this season.

Brief Breeding update

- Romney yield progeny trial up and running for another season, measuring growth and meat and involving 10 Romney breeders.
- This season we have accessed three other Romney breeder's top rams, which also helps improve genetic links, when comparing flocks performance.
- We eye muscle scanned over 1000 Romney, Suffolk and Suftex ram hogget's in March.



- We are recording all Romney ram hogget's ability to respond effectively to parasite larval challenge, through the CARLA test. EBV's for worm resilience will be available at this year's ram selling.
- With the retention of our 6 and 7 year old ewes this year, 200 high fertility recorded Romney ewes were mated to Texel rams. These Romtex rams will be available in March 2011.
- Suffolk sire 275/04 is still being used at Paki-iti and is still the 2nd to top terminal sire of all breeds in New Zealand for Meat and Growth (CPT progeny trials 2007/08, 2008/09).
- We are involved in a ram swap with Mt Linton, utilising their top SufTex sire ML696/07, which also carries a double copy of the Myomax gene.

Ram Health – As an investment, the longer a ram lasts the better the return one will receive from it. A couple of suggestions that can help assist longevity are to give an annual booster vaccination to rams to cover clostridial diseases. As all the rams were done as hogget's, pre lambing is an obvious time to repeat this as many farmers use some sort of vaccination at this time. We also recommend a pre mate drench of the younger rams if there is a history of Barbers Pole, particularly for terminal sires, and one post mating, as Barbers Pole appears to be one of the biggest threats to a young ram's longevity.

Ruahine Dog Trials – As a supplier of ewe hogget's to the Ruahine Dog Trials, we invite all dog trial enthusiasts to witness the shifting ability of these sheep on the 7th and 8th of May at Mangamako Road, 15min off SH1 at Ohingaiti.

Full Backup – If you have any issues with the rams please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Stewart Morton

Andrew Morton

p.s. Please note our email address is now pakiroms@farmside.co.nz

- 8 Suffolk 22th rams still available
- Suffolk ram hogget's to lease
- SufTex ram hogget's to lease
- Romney MA rams available