



28/3/2011

Dear Client,

Farming is indeed a Rollercoaster

The Irish pop singer Ronan Keating's song "Life is a Rollercoaster" certainly sums up the past 12 months for many farmers with its ups and downs.

For many the "downs" were huge – wet winter/spring, disastrous lambing results and drought like summer conditions made the outlook for profitability very poor. Fortunately these downs have been quickly followed by unprecedented "ups," mainly in the form of commodity prices – lamb up 27%, mutton up 57% and wool reaching levels not seen for 20 years, up 40%. This season has indeed been a rollercoaster.

Paki-iti's ram selling season was again successful with a total clearance of all rams as well as surplus recorded Suffolk ewe hogget's. We thank our clients for your loyalty, in what was a very tough start to the season. Brief thoughts from this ram selling include –

- Strong demand for the top performing rams, particularly Romney's.
- SufTex rams proving a very popular terminal sire option, with demand twice that of rams available.
- The increased number of Romney clients turning up with wool agents.
- The Wool Partners Co-op proposal was a source of much debate, with support generally along company lines.
- Surprising how little fertiliser has been put on hill country over the past 2-3 years.
- How widespread the lamb losses were at lambing time.
- The low rate of replacement rams required at less than 1% of rams sold the previous year.

Top Performers Update

The Advanced Central Evaluation (ACE) is NZ's national across flock and breed evaluation which identifies the best rams using SIL and Central Progeny Tests (CPT). In the latest across flock run in March, Romney ram MI 3162/03 was ranked 21st out of all breeds and was the 11th best Romney for Dual Purpose performance out of 200 flocks of all breeds. Last mating we used five sons of this ram.

In the Terminal Advanced Central Evaluation Paki-iti Suffolk 543/07 was ranked 13th out of all breeds involving 150 flocks and the top Suffolk for Terminal Sire Index. Because of this, 543/07 has been granted a place in the 2011/12 B&LNZ Central Progeny test which compares the performance of top terminal rams by analysing their progeny. This was the only purebred Suffolk in New Zealand to receive a place in the CPT.



Beware Brucellosis

Brucella ovis appears to be about again this year, with some commercial ram flocks being wiped out. It is important to get your rams vet checked before mating and most importantly to treat the breeding rams as an isolated mob between mating's by never introducing any other male sheep to this mob except from Brucellosis accredited flocks. The consequences of contracting Brucellosis are not worth thinking about.

Confidence high in Romney

It is pleasing to hear the good sale results from Romney breeders around the country, and if the recent clearance stud sale of a local breeder is anything to go by then there is certainly a lot more confidence in the sheep industry. Two hundred recorded 22th Romney ewes averaged \$560 with the top 22th ewe making \$2900.

Paki-iti Romtex

As hogget's these are a very impressive line of rams. After eye muscle scanning just under a 1000 ram hogget's, the extra meat this cross can provide is evident. The Romtex as a maternal option offers very good lamb production, with high yields and good lamb survival. We are offering these as ram hogget's and also will be available as 22ths.

Ruahine Dog Trials

We are supplying our top ewe hogget's again this year to the local trial and so invite all dog trial enthusiasts to experience the shift ability of these sheep on the 1st and 2nd of April at Mangamako Road, 15 minutes off SH1 at Ohingaiti.

Paki-iti Breeding Backup

It can be inevitable that farmers find themselves short of rams leading into mating or decide late to mate hogget's. As part of our breeding backup commitment we will do our best to make sure your ram requirements are met. Each ram sold also carries a guarantee of performance for 12 months.

Rams Hogget's Available

We have the following rams available this autumn.

Lease Suffolk ram hogget's \$170

Romtex ram hogget's \$400

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Morton'.

Stewart Morton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Morton'.

Andrew Morton