



PAKI - ITI

ROMNEY - ROMTEX - SUFFOLK - SUFFTEX

2020



Like most, 2020 was a dry year at Paki-iti

WHAT A YEAR

After the events of the last six months, the Agriculture industry has learned one very important fact – we are essential to New Zealand and are once again the undisputed backbone of the country. During lockdown we were one of the few industries that were able to continue and figures released recently show that sheep and beef farmers collectively generate almost 5% of the NZ's fulltime workforce and represent around a fifth of our productive sector. Yet the biggest concern we have as an industry is not Covid-19, it's not product prices, it's not the lack of skilled labour, but it's the Government and their legislation around the Emissions Trading Scheme, the Zero Carbon Bill and the Freshwater Reforms. As one commentator put it, "How could it be that our primary industries are suffering

so much angst at the hands of a Government that relies so heavily on our economic success to get themselves out of debt?"

So how is Agriculture looking for the next 12 months? 'Unpredictable' is a word that comes to mind, given the uncertainty facing the world at present, along with the desire for Countries to borrow and print money. However, positive price signals are coming from the processors with ANZCO's 2020 North Island Spring Lamb Supply Contract having a minimum price starting at \$7.20/kg for the week commencing 2nd November through to \$6.90 for the week commencing 21st December. Alliance has a similar contract and CR Grace Ltd has ewe contracts at \$5.10/kg by mid-November.

PAKI-ITI ROMNEYS – 100 YEARS OF RAM BREEDING

With the changing trends in breeding animals not many studs can proudly say that they have been breeding for 100 years or more. 2020 sees Paki-iti achieve this milestone. Our Great Grandfather Archie Morton, began breeding rams in 1920 with the purchase of 130 Romney ewes

from Ernest Short. The stud was then taken over by our grandfather Pete Morton in 1937 at the age of 25, with the Great Depression forcing Archie to find off farm work as an animal lecturer at Massey University. Pete then transferred the stud to William, our father, in 1975, only to have to

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bias. In addition to these points, it must have a ruggedness of constitution which will enable it to thrive under the variety of conditions, climatic and physical obtained in the terrain over which it is grazed, from which ranges from Invercargill in the South to the North Cape. Of no other breed is so much expected and to enable

A C Morton 1948 – describing Romney sheep – not much has changed with the points he makes.



take the running of it back over in 1988, following William's death in a car accident. Pete and then a manager ran the business through to 1999. At this point, Stewart (26) and Andrew (24) took over the management of Paki-iti.

Over the 100 years the sheep have changed, adapting to the requirements of the day, but always being bred for the hill country.

2020 see's the Paki-iti Romney continuing with the foundations laid before it with continued focus on growth,

reproduction, survival, meat and incorporating Facial Eczema (9 years) and breeding for parasite resistance. This year we tested 20 hoggets at 0.4, combining these results with 5K and 50K DNA data will enable us to identify the better rams for this trait. Continuing on from our previous work breeding for worm resistance, this year the ram hoggets were faecal egg counted, identifying those with lower faecal egg counts.

PAKI-ITI ROMNEY = ALL ROUND PERFORMANCE



PAKI-ITI ROMTEX'S – 35% EXTRA GROWTH

Having seen the benefits of using the Texel over Suffolk ewes and developing a Suftex flock, we decided to introduce the Texel over some Romney ewes to breed Romtex's. That was 10 years ago and we now have a stabilised flock of 250 – 300 high performing Romtex ewes mated each year. The main benefit of the Romtex breed is its growth and meat. The table below shows the benefits of the Paki-iti Romtex's performance compared to the rest of New Zealand's maternal ram hoggets. (Numbers are cents above the base)

Why have a stabilised flock instead of just breeding 1st cross Romtex rams?

With a stabilised flock we are able to analyse how the females of each bloodline performs in a hill country environment, their performance, their structure and their constitution. This cannot be done in a 1st cross system. We also have control/know the ram genetics that are being used as many of them are now our own, therefore reducing any issues that may occur around performance, structure and constitution.



	Paki-iti's average ram hogget	NZ's average ram hogget	Paki-iti advantage
NZ Maternal Worth with Meat	2844	2237	+21%
SIL Dual Purpose Lamb Growth	1975	1294	+35%
SIL Dual Purpose Adult Size	-827*	-482	
SIL Dual Purpose Meat Yield	773	289	+63%
SIL Dual Purpose Wool	144	179	
SIL Dual Purpose Survival	414	384	
SIL Dual Purpose Reproduction	416	340	

SIL Young Ram Percentile Bands Table August 2020

*What we have found is that the Romtex Adult Size is heavier mainly due to its thicker carcass.

PAKI-ITI SUFFOLK AND SUFTEX – NZ'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF BLACKFACE TERMINAL RAMS

With over 500 Suffolk and Suftex rams sold and leased last season Paki-iti is certainly supplying what the market demands. That is, a hardier, more compact, meatier terminal sires that produce dark coloured offspring which grow fast and have high yields. This year's rams are the most even we have bred and I would describe their structure

as exceptional. The one disappointment this year though is that due to the ongoing effects of the drought, we were unable to winter the ram hoggets in the hills at Paki-iti as we have done for the past ten years.

We are continuing to look into Meat Quality and therefore Paki-iti Suffolk and Suftex rams offer a DNA derived

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sub-index, which incorporates intramuscular fat, pH and tenderness.

The future of these flocks is exciting, as what we have is a flock of 1200 fully SIL-recorded lambing ewes and hoggets that are very good for structure and constitution meaning we can place more and more emphasis on performance, with faster turnover of younger higher performing sires and having to only infuse outside genetics.

Black face premiums –

The pick of the better pens was 32-34kg blackface mixed sex, which sold at premium levels of \$121-\$134 to average close to \$4.00/ kg.

There was a noted premium of 20-30c/kg across all weights for blackface mixed-sex lambs over the whiteface mixed-sex.

AgriHQ LivestockEye Dec 18, 2019



SPECIALIST RAM BREEDERS

All four of our breeding programmes; Romney, Romtex, Suffolk and Suftex have a very clear aim – to make each breeding option the very best in New Zealand for *Constitution, Structure and Performance*. Having this aim

means that none of the breeding options we provide are “add-ons” or “experiments”, guaranteeing that they will do what they are supposed to do.

WORLD RECORD RAM PRICES

The recent sale of a ram, Double Diamond, for a world record price of \$NZ 729,000 certainly turned heads in the sheep breeding industry. The Texel, sold at the Scottish National Texel Sale in Lanark, was described as “an outstanding animal” that was in the top 1% of the breed index. What was also remarkable was that the ram was only 6 months old.

This sale also bought back memories for us at Paki-iti where in 1992, Paki-iti set a world record purchase price

for a Romney ram of \$45,000, which still stands today, from the Edenbank Stud, Wyndham. A ‘travelling mate’ was also purchased from the same stud at this sale for \$2,700, and interestingly enough, the ‘travelling mate’ had a greater influence on the Paki-iti flock than the \$45,000 ram. Fortunately, breeding has become more reliable since then and it will be interesting to monitor Double Diamonds progress.

TIME FOR THE TIDE TO TURN

The world is finally waking up to the fact that plastics and synthetic fibres are polluting the planet and more particularly the ocean where it is estimated that 150 million tonnes are now residing, by 2050 the estimate is that weight of plastic will exceed that of fish in the sea.

So, it was good to see that Kiwi carpet maker Cavalier has committed to phasing out synthetics in favour of wool and natural fibres over the next 12 months as synthetic carpet fibres had “negative impacts on people’s health and the planet.”

Another good initiative is Lanaco, a New Zealand healthcare product development company that is breeding a sheep specifically to supply wool for their products. One of their products is face masks and we all know what the demand for these is like now.

Woolchemy, another New Zealand business that has identified the need to supply sustainable products such as disposable nappies to the world, made out of wool and that has the ability to break down at the end of its life, not the 500 years a disposable nappy takes.

Every year I have a discussion with Ian Cuthbertson, CEO of WIRL to see what progress they are making. WIRL is

now in their fifth year of seven with \$21m of development wool funding. WIRL, is a subsidiary of WRONZ, and develops intellectual property (IP). It then sells the licence to Companies to use the IP with the condition that New Zealand wool must be used.

Generally, they don’t like to give much away as they don’t want to put out unrealistic expectations. Ian did let on that they have been progressing well with two products, based around Keratin that could see six million kilos’ being used in five years’ time with one of them. However, it was their work around reconstructing the wool fibre where he was most excited about. Basically, technology is being developed that has the potential to convert a high micron fibre (38 micron) into a low micron fibre (10 micron) or anything in between. This technology has the potential for crossbred wool to be used in the high-end apparel, bedding and fashion markets. As long as it is a cost-effective model, it has the potential to replace a lot of the synthetic fibres that are entering into our oceans and this technology could potentially see the vast majority of the NZ clip going into. There is only two years of funding left, so there is a lot of pressure on WIRL to save the wool industry.... and our oceans.

IMPORTANCE OF HAVING CORRECT INDEX'S

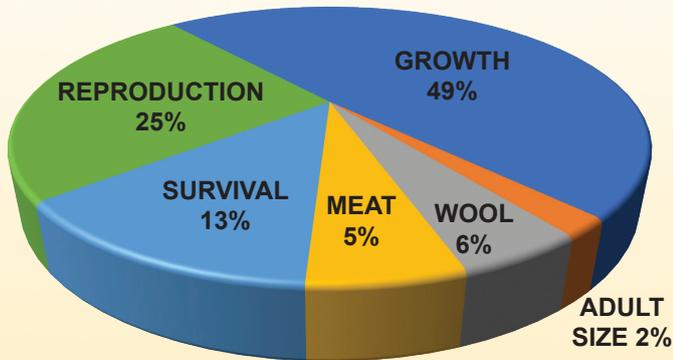
When looking to purchase breeding bulls this year, I decided to have a closer look at the index's that were being used to sell one of the main breeds of cattle. For a farmer selling their male weaners, I was surprised with the weightings used to make up the index's and felt that they were in fact detrimental for a breeder selling weaners. It is interesting to learn that since then the breeds indexes have been suspended, with flaws having been identified that go back

five years. But that's five years of breeders and commercial farmers not making potential genetic improvements.

No system is perfect, but the SIL index's, both Maternal and Terminal do reflect genetic gain that can be seen in the paddock and is the best available.

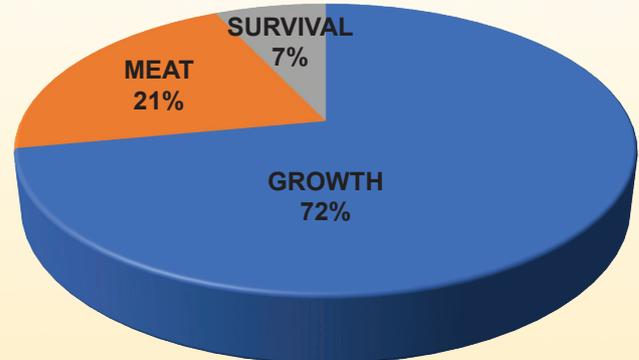
So here is a simplified explanation of what the index's the rams are sold on are made up of.

Relative Contribution of SIL Traits for the Romney/Romtex Index (NZMW)



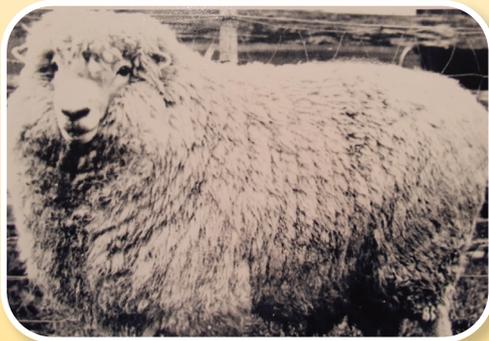
These are the maternal base traits, with Paki-iti offering sub-index's for Facial Eczema (Romney) and lower faecal egg counts (FEC).

Relative Contribution of SIL Traits for the Suffolk/Suftex Index (NZZW)



These are the terminal base traits that make up the NZ Terminal Worth Index. We also offer a DNA derived sub-index for Meat Quality.

THE EVER CHANGING ROMNEY



1920's



1950's



1980's



2010's

ORDER FORMS RETURNED BY 25TH
RAM SELLING BEGINS 18TH NOVEMBER
LEASE RAM HOGGETS AVAILABLE FROM 7TH MARCH

100% SATISFACTION

We strive to achieve 100% client satisfaction when using Paki-iti rams, from the purchasing of the rams to the performance of the rams and their progeny. If you feel we have delivered below this expectation we would like to know.

Here's to a favourable 2020/21 farming season.

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