



**NEW ZEALAND
SHEEPBREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
SUFFOLK NZ NEWSLETTER
AUGUST, 2015**

Greetings Again Suffolk Members,

I can't believe this year has gone so fast & lambing time is upon us yet again. It's always exciting isn't it to see what little surprise packages we are going to get? You can bet that if you wanted some lovely ewe lambs from your best ewe, you will get ram lambs & of course if you wanted ram lambs, you would get ewes.....Just the luck of the draw. Hopefully you are all prepared for the onslaught with your eartags ordered, lambing gear & medicals etc. on hand....

The weather has definitely been an issue with most of us throughout both Islands. Although it has been reasonably kinder in the upper North, it has been majorly stressful farming for some breeders, with the bottom half of the North Island having a prolonged drought early in the year & now flooding & snow in parts. A prolonged drought was also a major factor in the South Island through Summer & Autumn with some breeders having to destock & find alternative feed in other districts. Heavy snow fell early & several of our breeders near the Southern Alps reported 3 feet of heavy snow mid-June (in one hit), and one having some out buildings collapsing under the weight, and having to use the snow plough to feed out...No doubt you Southerners are used to it & cope wonderfully well. Here's hoping with a bit of luck the winter will warm up & soon we will have a spring in our step.

Market news... Supplies of most sheep at the Saleyards are short. The lamb schedule is starting to rise & the word is that the new seasons schedule \$\$\$ won't be as exciting as values of previous years. Be ready to market those empty/dry ewes & surplus lambs when the schedule does move up a bit, & conserve your grass for your new season's lambs. Here's hoping we all have kind weather & a stress free, easy going lambing.

Debbie

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The last twelve months have certainly shown the farming community that no matter where you farm, you are always exposed to climatic challenges, from droughts to floods, snow storms to wind storms and everything in between, we are always being challenged. It was interesting after visiting sheep farmers throughout New Zealand in May for the National Ewe Hogget Competition, the three judges and one convener all commented that the place that would most like to farm was exactly where they were farming - everyone faces challenges.

Over the past three years we have seen sheep numbers decline, and farming profits at best stay the same. However we have also seen a strengthening in the demand for Suffolk rams throughout the country. This has led to there being a shortage of Suffolk rams in many areas.

We must continue to promote the strengths of the breed, its growth and the black face premium. Over this time we have also seen the type of ram breeders are breeding as they look for a meatier, hardier type of ram, this helping address the weaknesses of the breed, being its longevity.

Committee. As a committee we have a diverse range of members from all over New Zealand who help run Suffolk NZ and a thank you should be given to these members for the time they put in. Special mention should be made to Debbie Holmes for her production of the Suffolk NZ newsletter, which keeps all breeders up with the play. The committee is committed to keeping costs to a minimum, with one meeting a year being held via video conference calls.

Tours. Over this time there have been two Suffolk tours, one in Canterbury and one in the Hawkes Bay/Wairarapa. Without doubt these tours are the highlight of being a member and I do urge all members to attend, you won't regret it.

Promotion. The committee continues to see promotion is being important for the breed with the "Nothing Sells Better than a Blackface" campaign being run this year in the Farmers Weekly. Clubs are also being encouraged to promote themselves in each area.

Suffolk Ambassador of the Year. This award was introduced to recognise a breeder that had served the breed to the highest standard, with this year's recipient being John Kyle, who organised this year's successful tour of the Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa.

Suffolk Rams for Sale Database. This selling initiative was introduced with the aim to link unsold rams in the autumn with prospective purchases by regularly letting "important people in the industry know what rams are still available in their area. This initiative now into its third season is proving useful in placing those rams.

As always a special thanks to Greg and his team at Sheepbreeders for making Suffolk NZ run as smoothly as it does.

Stewart Morton, Chairman, SuffolkNZ



COMMITTEE NEWS:

The Breed Committee met via Video Conference on 30th June

CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN

Stewart Morton was re-elected as Chairman and Symon Howard was re-elected as Vice –Chairman.

2015 CANTERBURY RAM & EWE FAIR

A decision was made by the Sale Committee that the Breeds Order of Sale will be rotated annually. The sale this year is calendared for **Friday, 27th November.**

**Please be aware the Suffolk Sale
is to commence at 2pm.**

CPT REPORT

Paki-iti 240/12 is the ram representing the Suffolk Breed this year in the CPT trial.

SIL ACROSS FLOCK CO-ORDINATOR

Bruce Rapley is to retire from his role as the SIL Across Flock Co-ordinator. Bruce has been very dedicated in this which he has been in since the onset of the Suffolk Across Flock Analysis. The Committee acknowledges this & thanks him for his efforts. Andy Sims has now been appointed to take over this role.

BREED PHOTOCOPYING / POSTAGE

It was noted in the meeting that postage & photocopying were becoming a major expense now that NZ Post has increased the cost of postage. ***Members are asked to please contact the office if they require that their Newsletters are to be posted,*** otherwise they will be sent electronically.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

Clubs will again be allocated \$30 per member & \$10 per member going to a National advertising programme.

RAM SALE DATABASE

This has been very successful & is to continue. Ram sales - it was agreed that there was a very good clearance of Suffolk's overall this year.

BREED LEVY / PROMOTIONAL LEVY

These are to remain the same

Breed levy – \$25 per flock & 30 cents per ewe

Promotional levy – 0-50 ewes \$20 + gst

51-100 ewes \$40 + gst

100 ewes + \$60 + gst

BREED COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2016

Nomination forms are to be sent out to members in February 2016.

JUDGES LISTS ARE TO BE REVIEWED

Clubs are to advise the NZSBA office their nomination of judges and inspectors, and to advise of any judges & inspectors on the list who are now too old to officiate.

LETTER FROM NORTHERN SI CLUB

The Committee received a letter from the Northern SI Suffolk Club asking "That the results of sheep tested for the Scrapie gene be printed in the NZ Flock Book". It was agreed that the recommendation be added to the NZSBA Council Agenda.

NATIONAL TOUR & CONFERENCE 2016

The 2016 National Tour & Conference will be held in the Southern South Island and will be based in Dunedin. Further Info will be available after the next Committee meeting.

SUFFOLK AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Suffolk members are asked to please contact your local rep if you wish to nominate anyone for this very prestigious award.

MEMBER BENEFITS

The NZSBA Council is to be asked to consider contacting organisations eg. Tru-Test, Allflex, Merial and Ancare regarding offering member's discounts.

WELCOME TO NEW FLOCK :

Flk. 1022 'Snowdon Suffolks'

Annabel Tripp & Roy Veronese, Windwhistle

NEXT BREED COMMITTEE MEETING

Is to be held after the National Sale, on Friday 27th November, at the Yaldhurst Hotel at 4.30pm.



UPCOMING RAM FAIRS



CANTERBURY

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 27TH, 2015

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

THE SUFFOLK SALE STARTS AT 2PM

FEILDING

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 8TH, 2015

FUTURE OF SPIDER TESTING.

History:



It is some 22 years since the US Suffolk genetics were introduced into New Zealand, with the first lambs being born in 1992. Of these genetics used, only one bloodline has been proven to be a Spider carrier.

In 1994 through breeding trials it was confirmed at Massey that there were Spider Carriers in New Zealand Suffolk's.

With a DNA test for Spider Syndrome available at Massey from 2000, the then breed committee placed a restriction on the transfer of rams for stud use by allowing only tested clear rams to be transferred.

In the years 2000, 2001 & 2002..... some 800 – 900 Suffolk ewes and rams were tested every year, with just over 100 testing positive each year.

In the years 2003 - 2008..... 700 down to 230 Suffolk's were tested every year and in that time carriers that were identified reduced to 13, 13, 6, 3, 2, 1.

In the years 2009 - 2014.....120 – 160 Suffolk's were tested every year and in that time carriers that were identified were 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0. The positive test was 1 ram in 2012 that wasn't being transferred and as part of the investigation why, its mother also tested positive in 2013

Current:

Chairman, Stewart Morton says: As you will be aware, there has been continuing debate within the breed as to whether Spider Syndrome testing should remain compulsory. We have asked Professor Hugh Blair, Deputy Head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal & Biomedical Science for his advice on this.

This was his reply to Greg Burgess, NZSBA

My summary is:

1. Only two carriers have been identified by gene tests between 2009 and 2015.
2. This suggests a very low frequency of the Spider allele amongst tested stock.
3. As per my letter of 2009, I suggest compulsory testing can be discontinued.
4. It might be useful for the Breed Society to consider some means of formally collecting feedback after lambing about whether Spider phenotypes have been observed.
5. Imported stock / semen / embryos should be tested.

Regards, Hugh Blair.

The Suffolk NZ committee is to discuss abolishing the rule around the compulsory testing for Spider and vote on this at the upcoming meeting in November.

Remember that the Spider test will continue to be available at Massey for those that wish to use it regardless of what the Breed Committee decides.

Please let your area committee members know your view asap.

Stewart Morton, Chairman

CANTERBURY A & P SHOW, NOVEMBER 2015

All exhibitors in the Suffolk Ram Hogget classes at the Christchurch Show are asked to provide all their own ram's pedigrees and any relevant data that is to be displayed on their pens please. A pedigree template will be available from Penni Loffhagen closer to show date. Please contact her on 03)3144551 or loffhagen.p.a@vodafone.co.nz Thank you.

Annette Millar, Secretary, Northern SI Club

NORTHERN SI CLUB FIELD DAY

Twenty one breeders turned out for the Northern (S.I.) Suffolk breeders club annual field day & meeting which was centred in the Christchurch area recently.

First up was a guided tour of the city area on the very English double decker bus to view the earthquake damage and also the ongoing rebuild. A massive project!



Next,

we visited the Harlequin Restaurant of Johnny Schwass, one of N.Z.s top chefs. Johnny and his butcher Chris Carthy, provided a very interesting and entertaining talk on Suffolk meat which is used exclusively in the restaurant. Both were really impressed with the texture & tenderness of Suffolk meat compared to that of other breeds.



The Main menu Johnny provided for us was made up of:

Three Ages of Suffolk

3 day aged lamb fillet tartare.

40 day aged lamb loin, ruby chard & organic barley.

70 day aged leg, raspberry vinegar & kale chips.

Roasted Suffolk Shoulder

Served with buttered mash, truffle fries, and garden salad & glazed young carrots.

The dishes were beautifully presented & very much enjoyed by us all. After lunch we visited the Courtenay Stud of the Seaton Family and saw some very well presented sheep in forward condition. The stud is a credit to Warwick who is continuing the stud's good reputation of producing good quality sheep for today's market. We then had a look at a most impressive collection of vintage tractors that the family have been collecting over many years. So many tractors lined up together and in such great condition was a wonderful sight.

After a lovely afternoon tea (thanks go to Leslie and Amanda) we headed off to Rolleston for our annual meeting and dinner. A great day with a lot of eating!!!



Annette Millar, Secretary, Northern SI Club.

NORTHERN SI CLUB FEATURE SHOW

The Northern (S.I.) Suffolk Breeders Club held their annual feature show at the Malvern A and P Assn. autumn show at Sheffield. There were very good entries in the three classes sponsored by the club and all the sheep were presented in good condition. The ram lamb class was won by the Pine grove stud; the ewe lamb winner was exhibited by Norman and Margaret Carr. Penni Loffhagen won the one shear ewe class and also the most point's trophy. Our thanks go to Bede McCloy who did such a good job of the judging. A good number of breeders (and others) enjoyed a shared lunch, a few drinks and a good yarn afterwards. A most successful day.

Annette Millar, Secretary, Northern SI Club

SHIPMENT OF LIVE SHEEP TO MEXICO.



Arthur Blakely, shipment coordinator, overseeing a previous shipment of live sheep to Mexico.

In the News recently, a shipment of 45,000 live ewe hogget's were exported to Mexico. The sheep will be used for breeding purposes & Mexican authorities will oversee their care until they are sent to mostly small farms in central Mexico. The sheep were sourced from livestock sales or bought directly from farmers around the South Island, mainly in Southland & Canterbury. They were assembled at a farm on Rangitata Island, then loaded onto the boat at Lyttleton port & left NZ on June 11, 2015. The majority of the shipment consisted of Romneys, but NZSBA advises that part of the consignment also consisted of 377 registered Suffolk sheep sourced from the South Island. Here is the Suffolk breakdown:

222 2014 born ewes
143 mated 2013 born ewes
12 2014 born rams

UPDATE FROM PENNI LOFFHAGEN, TAWHAI STUD:

Tawhai Suffolk Stud sent 8 ewe lambs, 5 in lamb 2th ewes and (by private arrangement) 3 Ram Top Hogget's. My story is a little different to most of the other Suffolk suppliers, as I was approached directly by a Mexican Suffolk Breeder. Utilising the computer, the purchaser was able to choose the stud stock he purchased from photos and data provided. I in turn have been able to see photos of his farm and his breeding stock. I am very envious of the lush green grass the stock are being fed in Mexico. Much better than the baleage we are still needing to feed out during lambing in our drought stricken region. *Penni Loffhagen, Tawhai Stud*

ANIMAL HEALTH:

"NUMNUTS"

A PAIN FREE CASTRATION TOOL FOR SHEEP SPARKS HUNT FOR COMMERCIAL PARTNER.

J.Jooste abc.net.au rural news, 25/5/15 abridged

'NumNuts', The tool designed for pain free castration of sheep will be used to improve welfare standards on farms. Meat and Livestock Australia has funded the development of



a new elastrator device used for the pain-free castration of young lambs. The invention named 'NumNuts' is equipped with a local anaesthetic injection to provide pain relief to the animals once an elastic band is attached around the testes and tail. Matthew McDonagh from MLA said the device will be a hit. "It's staggering," he said. "You get the typical response of small lambs laying around on the ground rolling around and their counterparts who have has the anaesthetic introduced at the time of the procedure are walking around normally."

MLA said the new device will have direct productivity benefits for producers, including improved growth rates up to weaning and reducing miss-mothering, after the procedure.

The dose of anaesthetic lasts up to six hours for lambs, by which time tissue around the sheep's testes is dead, eliminating any residual pain. 'NumNuts' has been put out to commercial tender for a partner to develop their technology. Successful candidates for the device will start an agreement to take the product forward from the 29th May 2015 and will include work on a cattle specific device. MLA provided funding for the development of the device to a Scottish animal health institute, the Moredun Group, through grower funded levies. MLA hopes to have the applicator on Australian shelves in the next couple of years but as yet does not have a specific date.



UPCOMING SHOWS

WAIKATO

OCTOBER 31ST - NOVEMBER 1ST, 2015

CANTERBURY

NOVEMBER 11-13TH, 2015

BREEDER PROFILE:

MARUA FARMS, DAVE COLLETT, flk. 985

I farm forty hectares situated at Hikurangi, approximately 15 km's north of Whangarei. Twenty five hectares are in grass & the balance is native bush. I've been using this as a run off for 8 years as home base was a 10 acre block at Paremoremo (no.... not the jail, but close to it). I have now sold the Paremoremo block & I'm concentrating on the main farm at Hikurangi. My ultimate goal is to buy a real farm of at least 200 ha. but until then, this will have to do. The farm is rolling country, north facing & is very pretty, although hungry Waiotira Clay makes it a bit of a challenge. I currently winter 120 breeding ewes & about 80 store lambs that I buy in late in the summer, so not really what you'd call a big farm, in fact it's just an extra-large lifestyle block surrounded by native bush & the Glenbervie forest.



I'm a keen pig hunter so this suits me well having pigs at my door. I've had the odd pig get a taste of new born lamb, but we deal with that problem pretty quickly.

Farming here has its challenges, rainfall is high with 600 ml. in July last year, right in time for lambing. Living in Auckland & returning to pick up dozens of drowned lambs was a tad disheartening to say the least. Facial eczema is a problem at times & I have issues with worm burden if I don't control my stocking rates adequately. I also have a few locals that believe my sheep are their sheep, so a few disappear, the worst being my stud ram which probably ended up in a Hangi.

I work off farm, as I currently own a Real Estate office on Auckland's North Shore, so I do long hours with plenty of travel – approx. 1500kms a week. I try and be at the farm 3 days a week & Auckland 4, this works well when things are going well, but doesn't at all when the s**t hits the fan, especially during lambing.

The demand for my rams comes mainly from lifestyle blockers although in the last couple of years as people in the North have got to know me I have been supplying some larger farmers, you know you're doing it right when they order again next year so that makes me realise I'm on the right track. I market my rams as best I can through sale yards, Trademe, local agents & flyers etc. I have also used the Ram database that Suffolk NZ has provided and have had good success with this. I pride myself on breeding the best Suffolk's I possibly can, they are mainly left to their own devices & still perform well. My goal is to increase my flock to around 250 breeding Ewes & to be the main supplier of terminal sires North of Auckland, & still have plenty of time for a Pig Hunt & a Fish.

Dave Collett, Marua Farms



*I counted **105** foxes hanging on this fence. Victoria, AUS. June 2015. Debbie*

SUFFOLKS SELL TO 25,000 GNS

AT STIRLING SALE, UK

Sarah Alderton Taking Stock Blog, UK Farmers Weekly on Aug 3, 2015

Suffolk rams realised a high of 25,000gns at Stirling last week (31 July), with 166 ram lambs sold and eight lambs making 10,000gns on a 68% clearance.



Auctioneer George Purves from United Auctions said: "Stud sheep were keenly bid for throughout the sale and strong bidding on the top sheep carried on right to the end of the sale." The top price of 25,000 gns. went to Myfyr Evans' for lamb A12:15:01287. He was purchased by Gary Beacom, Lakeview, Highfield Farming, Knockem, & Pat Machray, Middlemuir.

abridged.

POMMIE HUMOUR.....

DYING RACE by Henry Brewis, UK

The yow is a creature I've studied too long
And still found no reason to burst into song
The beast is not witty, amusing well read
And gives the impression she'd rather be dead . . .

Whether it's post- or ante-natal
Every disease will be more or less fatal
For the length of her life she will always conspire
To baffle the shepherd and quickly expire . . .

You may think the animals quiet and tame
But nothing runs far when it's constantly lame
Dose her inject her take care of her feet
But if science can cure her the bugger won't eat . . .

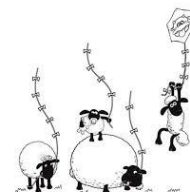
The fit ones have singles the worst produce three
All with a brain the size of a pea
And mother can't count her arithmetic stinks
So she may have had more than the stupid b#\$%h thinks . . .

They're awkward they're brainless you must come to terms

That bugs and bacteria and most of all worms
Will assist every sheep to escape from this earth
As quickly as possible soon after birth . . .

The breed doesn't matter they're all on a par
The trouble comes with them you needn't look far
Their only appeal comes much later of course
With small new potatoes and tasty mint sauce . . .

AUZZIE HUMOUR.....



SNIPPETS

SHEEP MUNCH THROUGH CANNABIS WORTH THOUSANDS - NZ Herald Oct 19, 2014

Cannabis is known to leave its smokers feeling woolly-headed, but it seemed to have little effect on a flock of sheep in Britain who chomped their way through thousands of pounds worth of the drug.

The hungry hash-eaters came across seven black bags containing the class B banned substance that had been dumped at the edge of their farm in Merstham, Surrey, and started scoffing. The plants, each about three-foot tall, had an estimated street value of £4,000 - police have just revealed.

Fanny's Farm shop manager Nellie Budd told the Surrey Mirror: "My sheep weren't quite on their backs with legs in the air, but they probably had the munchies. They haven't had any other side effects, but I'll tell you about the meat next week." Recalling the incident, on Thursday, September 28, she said: "My sheep being inquisitive had an interesting feast on it. At first I thought it was someone's hedgerow rubbish. I went down to get the bags so the sheep weren't eating black plastic. When I got there I realised it was a form of herbal cannabis plant. They were very strong in scent." The farm sits next to a road and footpath. Mrs Budd said had the fly-tippers gone 200 yards further they would have seen the farm shop, adding: "They probably didn't think anybody would find it." The remainder of the drug stash has since been removed by police and incinerated. Det. Constable David Fair told the newspaper the dumping of the illegal plants had been "extremely irresponsible" and said police were "doing all we can" to find those responsible.

- The Independent



**For any information
required from NZSBA,
Greg Burgess & his team
are always ready to help at
nzsheep@clear.net.nz
Phone 03) 3589412.**

**Don't forget you can download forms at
www.nzsheep.co.nz**

**** Check out the NZSBA website
www.nzsheep.co.nz ****

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accept no responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained in this Newsletter

LAMB, MUSHROOM & CRANBERRY PIES

www.beef+lamb.co.nz

Serves 4



Ingredients

400g Quality Mark lamb mince
2 onions, diced
1 carrot, diced
80g dried cranberries
100g mushrooms, sliced
20g plain flour
300ml beef stock
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cumin
1 tablespoon thyme
4 sheets puff pastry
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 egg, beaten
salt and pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ bunch coriander, chopped

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180C. Heat the oil in a fry pan & add the onions, carrots, thyme & cumin; cook for 2 minutes. Add the minced lamb & cook until browned; sprinkle with flour & stir to dissolve. Add the cranberries, mushrooms & stock & cook for another 5 minutes. Season to taste, then leave to cool. Stir through coriander. Cut medium-size circles of puff pastry using a cutter. Brush the borders of one of the circles with egg, place 2 Tbsp. mince mixture on another circle & top it with the first circle, pressing the borders with a fork to seal. Repeat with remaining pastry circles & mixture. Brush each pie with egg. Place on a baking tray lined with baking paper & cook for 15-20 minutes.



This Newsletter is only as good as EWE make it...

*If you have any other topics that you wish to discuss, News
Updates or anything interesting pertaining to the Suffolk
Breed in general, please send direct to me at email
studholmesuffolks@extra.co.nz or*

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**HAPPY
LAMBING**

