

Presidents Report

The season of 2014-15 has been a difficult one for many with drought effecting most of the eastern provinces of the country particularly severe in Canterbury. These conditions have had a major impact on lamb schedules with significantly reduced returns for lamb this year. There is also a significant loss in production in these areas for next season shown by recent scanning results. Wool returns have shown a major improvement in recent months for lambs and ewe fleece wool. Again volume is significantly reduced with ewe numbers below 30 million and only a small amount of wool now stockpiled contributing to these price increases.

The South Island Progeny Test has this year moved to the Taylor's Hill Country Station in North Canterbury with ewes A.I'd to 6 breeders' rams including 3 rams from Waikato and Northland.

The North Island Progeny Test at Richard Brown's had 10 breeders' rams used. These breeders also had 2 sire linkages outside the Progeny Test. Anui 409/12 from Willy Philip's was the standout sire for meat and growth and has since been used in the CPT Trial as Romney NZ's representative.

Beef and Lamb Genetics (BLG) have funded many of the expenses relating to cartage and cost associated with linkages from the Progeny Test.

There are many people to thank, David Dodge from Merial Ancare for their sponsorship, the Taylor and Brown families for hosting the progeny tests and data collection, Mark Young (SIL), Jon Hickford (Lincoln) and Shane McManaway (Allflex).

Breeders have had the opportunity to support our sponsors, Merial Ancare and Allflex through promotions throughout the year; please continue to support our sponsors.

Waikato University Student, Nicole Oliver, has embarked on a research project to look at Romney Wool, with stage 1 to compare Romney wool to the crossbred clip and establish if there are further opportunities for the Romney Clip. Stage 2 will look at more specific Romney wool types and investigate the opportunity to take our raw material to a finished product and possibilities of a branded product. Expenses from this project are being funded by Romney NZ.

Council have addressed the issue of the Texel gene found in Romney (TT gene). Several breeders unknowingly inherited the gene through purchasing rams or stud ewe flocks. This gene is several generations back in pedigrees however still has implications for our Breed. Council made several recommendations to breeders to be proactive and identify the gene if suspected in your flock and to notify purchasers of such genetics if found.

This year's AGM has been aligned with Beef +LambNZ's Breeders Forum in Hawke's Bay to allow breeders the opportunity to attend both events and meet key people in our industry. Thank you to David Tennent for organising the AGM and Itinerary.

In conclusion, Council would like to thank Greg Burgess and his team for a professional job well done. I would like to thank Council for the voluntary time and effort they have put in to improve the Breed.

President Malcolm Wyeth