



ROMNEY NZ INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2012

Since my last report in October 2011 there has been another twist with the Meat and Wool prices coming off their highs. Ram sales in the North have been very encouraging with a noticeable swing back to Romney, especially breeders that have focused on the FE trait. In the South Island Ram Sales have been slow. There were certainly premiums paid for 2ths at the ewe fairs. Generally sheep farmers have had a better year. It would be of great benefit if the meat companies could grab hold of the dairy payment system rather than us sheep farmers putting up with these weekly schedules. To go from near \$8 in November to \$5.70 now, has certainly blown away the confidence of the average sheepfarmer. The catch phase we hear now is "here we go again". It is time meat companies actually changed their structure for the benefit of their producers.

There is a shortage of wool hence the price staying where it is. Mutton has followed the lamb price but you could say old ewe prices were at levels never seen before. Southland had an unusual spring with little feed followed by a dry spell in Nov/Dec. Many lambs were shipped out and sold as stores. The way the lamb schedule has gone, may have helped these Southland farmers in the long term.

It is with sadness we have lost one of our life members with the passing away of Gordon Craine. Gordon had achieved many goals. He was very successful with his "Nikau" stud at shows and sales. His time on council was evidently to be admired. In his time on council they had 24 councillors. Gordon would be known as the person to bring everybody together with the common goal of doing the best for the breed at that time.

We would like to welcome Felicity Gardner as a new breeder to the Assn and we would like to welcome back Wayne Donaldson. There are two other people setting up studs but we are awaiting written confirmation.

Thanks to the people who have put articles in the national newspapers. We have seen some really good press especially from Peter Cook, Colin Campbell/Peter Tod, Malcolm Wyeth and the article put out by Sally Rae 'Otago Daily Times'. Please keep these stories coming as it

helps us to demonstrate the improvement the breed has made for going into the future. Well done good stuff.

Both trials are up and running this year. Ross Humphrey has the NI under control and if you want any info on the NI trial please contact Ross.

As a breed we would like to get some Romney flocks into the National Ewe Hogget Competition. It is time to demonstrate your clients progress. There are good prizes at stake. We have had enough of watching the opposition doing their thing at will. Let's be proactive and give your clients a prod. Entries close 21st March. If you want an entry form contact Greg 03 3589 412; email greg@nzsheep.co.nz

Our AGM is in Wellington on 22/23rd May. We will have an interesting agenda with some fun added. It is important you attend as we want you there as part of the team. If flying book your flight now; and complete the registration form attached.

In closing we have an opportunity to get on the bus or stay at the bus stop!!!

Keep well and keep positive.

Hugh Taylor

[South Island Trial Report.](#)

Invitation - We would like you to supply a top ram lamb to go to 50 ewes trial at the Taylors' place near Oxford. It would be recommended you send 3 ram lambs so they can get CT scanned at Lincoln to identify the highest yielding lamb (CT scan results will be sent back to you). The two ram lambs not used can be left at Oxford until its time for the three to go home. It is proposed the lambs go out to the ewes on 7th April (out for 17 days). Please contact Ian Smith phone 03 444 9063/Hugh Taylor 03 312 4267 if you wish to participate. This is a national trial as a sire has been sent to the North Island linking the trials together. This sire will be used in the South Island trial also and over 20 ewes from 2 studs. Today is all about information. This trial is not a competition. The trials are about identifying the strengths and measuring the strong traits that have been built up over many years of genetics in the Romney breed. Remember this is a team event not an individual novelty.