



Romney New Zealand Newsletter

This past year has been a real roller coaster ride, having so many lows and highs, with both the weather and the prices, but this is the year we have all been waiting for, especially now wool prices have picked up.

Our rugs in the USA are now to be launched on the 1st of April all going well; they are about one month behind schedule at present, which has created a lot of frustration. Hopefully by AGM time there will be something to report.

During the recent tour by Prince William, Romney NZ and WEL Ltd hoped to present the Prince with one of our rugs as a gift, but this presentation was not permitted. We have now decided to send the rug directly to his palace in London. There will be a press release on this soon.

The big users of wool are telling us they require 36 micron wool, which is quite a challenge for Romney. With this in mind it has been decided to incorporate wool into the SI meat trial ewes, and this option is yet to be decided for the NI trial. The question is, “can we produce 36 micron wool and also retain colour, soundness and a respectable weight”? Lincoln University will manage the project if the funding is approved.

Trials

The NI trial has again battled with severe weather conditions, which has been a real test for the breed. All the lambs were killed in 3 drafts. All data will be collated and analysed for this year’s AGM. If you are not present, all members will be circulated the data.

RNZ is very appreciative of the support from Merial Ancare; and Allflex for providing electronic tags and the ‘wand’ which weighs up to 800 lambs an hour.

Special thanks to Peter Cook for his participation in the trial owing to the large distance that he travelled.

This year C Campbell and D Bell have joined the trial (2 of our largest flocks).

The NI trial is again fully subscribed to, with 10 sires being offered and rams have been out with the ewes for 2 weeks.

The SI trial was cut back to only 200 ewes through selection of yield of their progeny. This has been successful seeing the yield lift by 1%, so again this year another 200 ewes have

been selected, and only rams with very high scan results will be used. The top 10 trial ram lambs were selected after loin scanning, and then they will be CT scanned at Lincoln. The top 2 will be used for this year's trial; the others will be made available to members. These rams will be sold using a tender system. The first \$500 will go to Hugh Taylor to cover some of the costs he has incurred. (More information and contacts on next page).

SIL ANALYSIS

Unfortunately there was a mistake in last year's SI trial results, before they were analyzed; because of this problem we could not relate to the SIL report. This mistake has now been corrected, and an accurate report will be presented at the AGM, along with this year's trial results.

BANKLEA STUD

Congratulations must go to Richard Brown and his family, for the very successful dispersal sale of their stud. It is always sad to see a stud with so much history of skilful sheep husbandry sold after the many years of input for the Romney Breed. But this sale does allow many breeders to take advantage of the successful bloodlines

AGM

Because there are now no functioning area clubs and because there is no area prepared to host the AGM, we have no option but to keep the format very simple and travel to a minimum.

Two main centres that could have been used were Christchurch and Wellington, for ease of travel.

It was decided by Council to use Christchurch for this year's AGM, the main reason being the trial.

Again Allflex has been very generous with sponsorship for our AGM. So members, please remember this when ordering your tags.

Good luck for the rest of the year, and hope to see you at the Christchurch AGM. Date – Sunday 15 May 2011 at the Sudima Hotel. (Registration Form enclosed)

COUNCILLOR NOMINATION FORM

A nomination form is enclosed and if you are prepared to give your time and abilities to Romney NZ please complete the form.

Councillors retiring by rotation this year are :- J R C Jackson, J L Reeves, I Williams and M J Wyeth.

President
GW Senior

March 2011