

Proven Performance Genetics with Leading Facial Eczema Tolerance

2021 Newsletter

Another year has flown by and we find ourselves preparing for the busy season ahead. Docking has begun and the upcoming ram selling season is fast approaching.

It has been another dry season this year with some welcome rain falling at the end of August and September. We hope to soak up a lot more before the temperatures rise. Feed this year has been tight again and the ewes have gone into the lambing season harder than we would have liked. However, we are committed to running our sheep under commercial conditions and difficult seasons give us an opportunity to identify our most resilient stock. The lambs at foot are sprightly and we are happy with our ewes mothering ability encountering very few lambing issues.

Just prior to lockdown we were busy shearing our hoggets and weighing fleeces. The ram hoggets are looking good out of their wool and we are due to select the animals we want to run a 5K genomic analysis on. At Hinenui Genetics 100% of our sheep have DNA verified parentage, a large proportion of ram hoggets have 5K genomic data and all sires have 50K genomic data. A genomic analysis of an animal provides us with data determining its performance potential based on their DNA. By investing in genomics and combining this information with performance data recorded on farm, we can make selection decisions based on indexes that have a very high accuracy.



Once we have the 5K genomic data we will be selecting ram hoggets to be tested for facial eczema tolerance. Each year we put a selection of rams through the 'RamGuard' program. Ram hoggets that have a NIL reaction to the facial eczema challenge are put forward as possible sires for next years mating. Hinenui Genetics has FE Gold accreditation which means we are among the top breeders in New Zealand selecting for facial eczema tolerance. Incorporating facial eczema tolerance in your own breeding program is the most sustainable, permanent solution to minimising production losses due to facial eczema.

Covid-19 COVID-19 has certainly continued to interrupt our norm and will continue to do so for an unknown period of time. Restrictions have stalled a few farm happenings but nothing major as of yet. Our biggest upset to date has been the cancellation of the Beef & Lamb Genetics Sheep Breeder forum which was scheduled for July this year in Napier. It is such a great opportunity to connect with other breeders and to upskill with the latest happenings

in the sheep breeding industry. The science and innovation being presented is informative and exciting to be a part of. After having to cancel the forum, Beef & Lamb Genetics used a virtual platform to present some of the topics scheduled. We found the presentation by Big Save Furniture engaging and sparks some hope for our much loved wool industry with the use of wool in mattresses and lounge furniture.



Hokonui Fashion Awards

In late July Claire entered the Hokonui Fashion Design Awards held in Gore. It is an annual event that attracts entries from across New Zealand and includes an exciting array of entry categories. Claire entered the 'Natural Fibre' section with a garment made from 100% traceable NZ wool. An Instagram page called [forthelove_of_woolnz](#) followed the journey of making the garment and is now used to highlight what happens on a sheep farm in New Zealand. "It was an incredibly exciting event to be a part of and a very proud moment to see a garment I made on the catwalk." Scan the QR code pictured to look at the [forthelove_of_woolnz](#) Instagram page where the garment is shown.

Ram Selling

This year we have attached your order form to the newsletter. All existing clients have an appointment time scheduled to fulfil your previous ram requirements. Please prioritise this date but if it doesn't suit get in touch with Ryan as soon as possible to discuss rescheduling your appointment time or changing your current ram requirements.

Ram selling is an exciting time for our team and we look forward to catching up with our existing clients and meeting new clients. Please be aware that we must follow the current COVID guidelines in place. Ensure that you and your team scan in on arrival and follow all health and safety procedures and signage.



J&T Hickey Charity Dog Trials

Hinenui Genetics is proud to sponsor the novice section at the J&T Hickey Charity dog trials. This year the novice section was won by Brodie Hamilton and his dog Scoobie who received a tremendous score of 95.5 points.

Brodie is a shepherd at Cricklewood Station.

Photo credit Rebecca Williams.

The team at Hinenui Genetics.

"We began to introduce Hinenui Coopworth genetics into our flock in 2012. Since that time there has been a steady increase in scanning rates and numbers of lambs docked, culminating in 171% lambs docked/ewes mated in 2019.

The ewes are good sensible mothers who milk well giving their lambs a great start to life which helps ensure outstanding survival right through to sale.

I can thoroughly recommend Hinenui Coopworths, both the stock and the people.

Good sheep bred by a good team".

Simon Hyland, Taaheke Stn. Waerenga-O-Kuri, Gisborne

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