



Hinenui Genetics

2022
Newsletter

Proven Performance Genetics with Leading Facial Eczema Tolerance



We couldn't have imagined a more contrast in seasons this year. Instead of scratching for feed in the bone dry dirt, we have been wading through puddles and mud, seeking out sunshine to get spring jobs completed. As I write, we are yet to start docking as we have had a delay in our EID tag delivery and are awaiting a break in the weather. From observations so far, our lamb survival has remained strong despite the wet conditions and we have encountered very few lambing issues.

The ram hoggets are steadily gaining weight and we have just selected a number to run a 5K analysis on. Hinenui Genetics sheep are 100% DNA verified since 2002 with a substantial proportion of ram hoggets DNA verified through the 5K and 50K genomic analyses. As we look to breed rams for future farming,

it is clear that genomics will provide us with the information we need to make highly accurate selection decisions and have the ability to select for a wider range of traits including FE tolerance and WormFEC.

Hinenui Genetics has FE Gold accreditation which means we are among the top breeders in New Zealand selecting for facial eczema tolerance and have gained the accreditation every year since its establishment in 2010. Hinenui Genetics has been facial eczema testing our Coopworth flock since 1984 and the Romney flock has been testing since 1986. Incorporating facial eczema tolerance into your own breeding program is the most sustainable, permanent solution to minimising production losses due to facial eczema.

WormWise Workshop

Ryan and Claire attended a very informative Wormwise workshop by Beef & Lamb New Zealand presented by Eastland Veterinary Service. We would highly recommend attending the workshops as the information presented was clear, science based and applicable to all farming businesses. Drench resistance in New Zealand is wide spread and in many cases, triple combination drenches have proved ineffective. The importance of having an effective drenching policy is crucial as high worm burden will

continually affect the ability of stock to thrive. This year we have begun identifying ram hoggets that have a higher resistance to worm burden. We have taken a faecal sample from the majority of ram hoggets born. Each animal sampled has been assigned a WormFEC index that identifies animals with a higher resistance to worm burden. We believe this is an important health trait to focus on as our reliance on drenches will be severely compromised by the spread of drench resistant worms.



Sheep Breeding – What Does the Future Look Like?

Over the last three years we have been running a trial focusing on crossing Wiltshire rams over a selection of Coopworth ewes. Our aim has been to reduce dagging and test the viability of 12 month shearing. The 2th rams bred so far exhibit a varying range of shedding which is expected in the initial stages of cross-breeding. It is important in our trial that the rams we are breeding have the ability to thrive in New Zealand conditions and are part of our usual Hinenui selection process of structural soundness, DNA verification, performance recording and FE testing. We have a limited number of 2th rams available for purchase and would be happy to discuss our progress so far. While such options are being explored, breeding a FE tolerant, structurally sound, productive, maternal animal will always be at the forefront of our breeding objectives.

J&T Hickey Charity Dog Trials Selling

Photo credit Rebecca Williams.

Every year Hinenui Genetics sponsors the Novice Event at the J&T Hickey Charity Dog Trials held in Gisborne. This year the Novice event was won by Murdoch Rau running his dog Blaze and achieving an excellent score of 93 points.



Wickham Hill Purchase

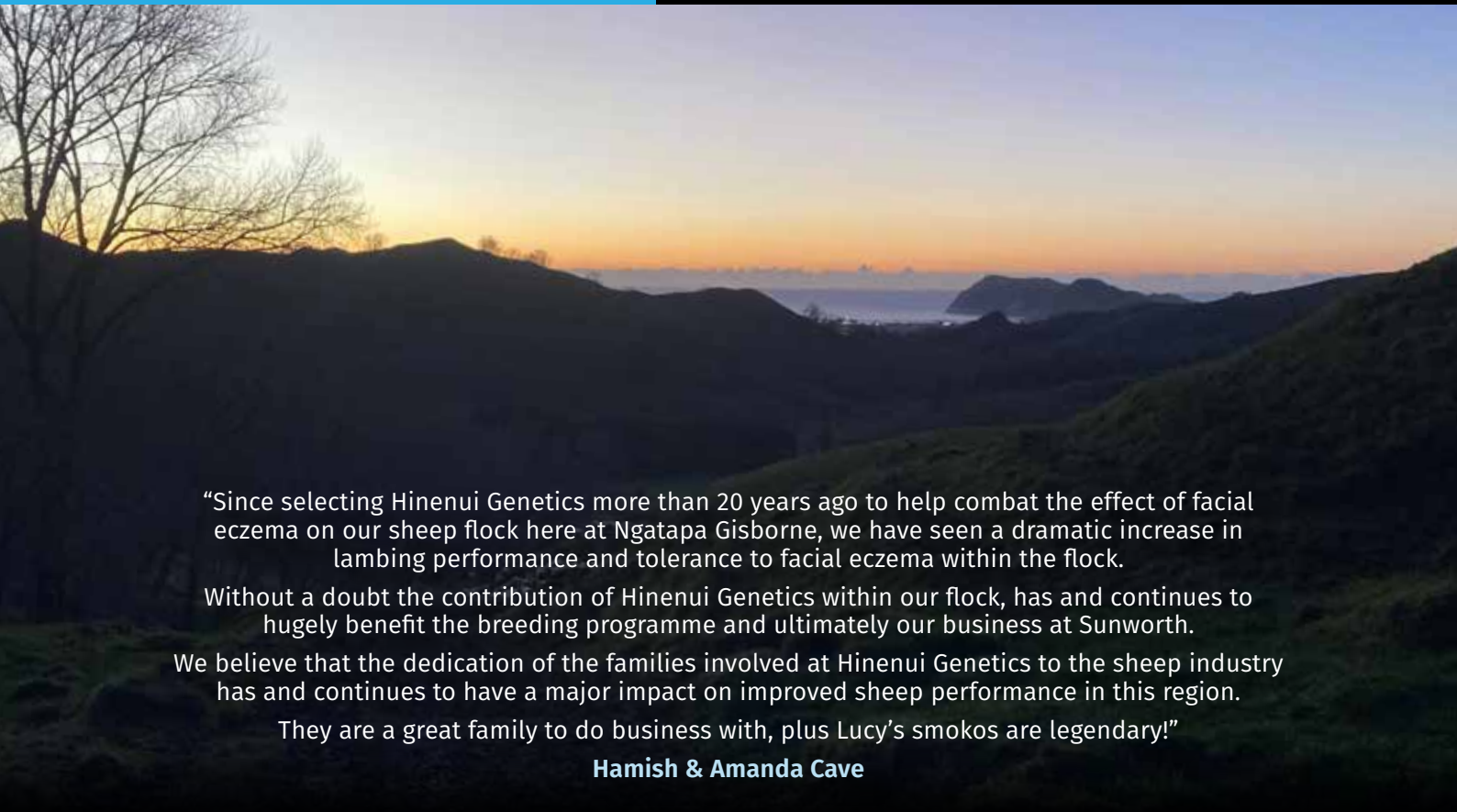
We are excited to share that we have successfully purchased 'Wickham Hill' in Ngatapa. The 458ha property boundaries the Eastwood Hill Arboretum and is located only 10 minutes from our Rere property 'Makaretu'. Additional land area will enable us to work on expanding our breeding program and ultimately have a larger number of rams available for sale. Our home base 'Hinenui' is currently on the market and we continue to assess the various options of our future farming business.

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.

The team at Hinenui Genetics



"Since selecting Hinenui Genetics more than 20 years ago to help combat the effect of facial eczema on our sheep flock here at Ngatapa Gisborne, we have seen a dramatic increase in lambing performance and tolerance to facial eczema within the flock.

Without a doubt the contribution of Hinenui Genetics within our flock, has and continues to hugely benefit the breeding programme and ultimately our business at Sunworth.

We believe that the dedication of the families involved at Hinenui Genetics to the sheep industry has and continues to have a major impact on improved sheep performance in this region.

They are a great family to do business with, plus Lucy's smokos are legendary!"

Hamish & Amanda Cave

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