



FERNLEAF Newsletter - Summer 2016

Greetings from FERNLEAF

Well El Nino hasn't hit us like we expected it to and we hope that it won't. However, many areas are already too dry without the effect of El Nino and our sympathies go out to you.

A very warm welcome to the many new clients who have bought rams from us this season. We really appreciate your business and will do our best to ensure that you are pleased with your purchases and you can make a good start towards resistance to parasites in your flock as a major objective.

Falkirk visit - Ian Walsh

With all the information we have available in today's digital world it is easy to opt for stock that have the stats to back them up – this is what we call the 'quantifiable' information.

Then we have the 'qualitative' information and this, for sheep, looks at the make-up and structure of the animal.

The trick, of course, is to have a balance of these factors as what is the point of having a statistically superior ram that has bad feet, or a massive ram with no meat on its bones.

To meet this challenge we got in Ian Walsh (Falkirk) to go over our current season's two-tooth rams.

Before Ian came we had put the flock into groups according to how they stood up with the stats and overall appearance (to us). So we had done a bit of classification work but Ian was able to take this a step further and had us looking at body structure and overall look of the animal, and uniformity of groups of rams. This factor was great for us but made it difficult for clients coming to select as they were looking at even groups of rams – which was our aim.



Road trips



This year we bought a late-model Falcon ute and this has made ram delivery trips very much more pleasurable.

We've had four trips so far this season, going all over the North Island.

The first was at the end of November where Carolyn and I took rams north, dropping them off in Papakura, Dargaville, Warkworth and Kaikohe.

The Kaikohe delivery was to a new client who we made contact with at the National Fieldays and I (Melvin) would love to have spent a bit more time with that bloke as he and his manager were very hospitable and it was great to compare notes with someone

from a completely different area who, like me, has been on his property all this life.

The second road trip was to Taranaki at the start of December and we dropped rams to clients we have selling to for a good number of years – that is very much appreciated.



Of particular interest was Parihaka Station's brand new woolshed and we applaud Neil Hadland and his board of trustees for the investment they have made in the sheep industry.

Then, in mid-December, Carolyn and I took rams down to two new clients in the Wairarapa and Southern Hawkes Bay and, on the way home stopped in at Napier for the night.

On the 22nd of December Ian and I took rams into the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, dropping them at Te Awamutu, Katikati, Welcome Bay and just north of Galatea.

That was a long day – we left Taumarunui at 8 a.m. and ended up getting back at about 10.30 p.m. after having to come home via Rotorua as we were getting a bit low on LPG.

We enjoy the delivery side of our business and wish there was a big bridge that linked us to our South Island friends so that we could easily deliver your purchases and have a cup of tea with you.

Change in vet approach

An observation I have made this last year has been that vets are now taking parasites' resistance to drugs more seriously and they are now going into great detail of how to use drenches so as not to exacerbate the problem that is looming and, in many cases, is here already.

Some of the direction they are giving seems to me to be very complicated and hard to understand for anyone who isn't familiar with all the chemical terms.

Breeding for resistance to parasites in a no-brainer because of its simplicity, rather than dependency on these drugs.

Rams still available for sale

We have a few more rams to sell this season and a few of these are on our website so please take a look at them if you are interested. There is a wide selection still available in terms of price and some with impressive worm resistant stats.

77% of all rams offered for sale this season have never been drenched in their lives.

If you are concerned about getting rams home please remember that we are only too happy to bring them to you or arrange delivery.



FERNLEAF RAMS

Melvin & Ian Forlong, 58 Tunanui Rd, RD1 Owhango, Taumarunui 3989

Phone 07-895-4847, Mob 021-0275-3847, Fax 07-895-4837

Email melvin@fernleaframs.co.nz, Website www.fernleaframs.co.nz