



Newsletter November 2012



An Example to us all

We were thrilled to hear from a client in Ohakune who farms at 550m asl. This client has been using Minda Hills rams since 2007 and has consistently reached 145% lambing.

QUOTE - "In 2010 I used MH rams for the first time over my hoggets and lambed at 100%. This was the first time I had achieved this in the hoggets. They were lambing at the end of the storm and with snow still on the ground. I find these sheep to be very weather savvy and survive really well in adverse weather. Also their mothering ability is very good. In 2011 I got less than 1% dry's in my flock and none in my 2 ths."

Compared to this year when this client used another breed and got 5% dries in the 2 ths. The Minda Hills rams over the **hoggets resulted in only 7% dry** and mixed age ewes 1% dry.

This client mentions one of the main benefits of using Minda Hills rams is the increased productivity in the young stock.

As the years progress, our Clients are scanning higher percentage of twins in their flocks.

Finger on the pulse

To keep our knowledge updated we attend as many conferences & Field Days as possible.

An interesting fact from the NZ Society of Animal Production Conference at Lincoln is the benefits of shifting stock about 3pm when grass sugar levels are at their highest, there were also animal grazing behaviour benefits with this practise. Fascinating and useful.

The Beef & Lamb field day at Massey was very educational and social - a pity not more farmers attend.

Food for thought.

What choices do we make at lambing? - If feed is restricted, you have a choice -

Decreasing feed **before** lambing will increase the BOH (Beta-hydroxybutyrate) of ewes with decreased lamb vigour at birth resulting in lower survivability.

Decreased feed **after** lambing will lower growth rate in lambs.

One of the above results in lower growth rates of live lambs and the other in an increase in dry ewes - you only get paid for live lambs.

Keep in mind that 90 to 95% of the lambs' nutritional requirements by day 60, are being met from grass, not milk.

Update minda hills

Great to have a typical Taihape summer. The frequent rainfall

Growth & good to see good growth

After 3 years of uncharacteristically dry summers, we were a bit conservative with our grazing management this year. We allowed covers to rise above normal with a resulting decrease in quality.

Since then we have been working hard to get the quality right for spring and are very pleased with the grass covers we currently have.

The MA ewes THs scanned at 184% with hoggets end of July

The ewes are in good order with condition scores of 3 & above so we are hoping for kind weather during lambing.

Our Promise to you

✓ Rams with enduring constitution ✓ Scanning up to 180% ✓ Greater Meat Yields ✓ We stand by our rams