

Wilfield

SUMMER 2021 ISSUE



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Welcome to the 2021 Edition of our Client Newsletter

Wilfield News

- ❖ Change of Ownership – Robin and Pip have the exclusive ownership of Wilfield, Wattlebank and Blythe Downs Corriedale Studs. Robin and Pip have purchased Gavin's shareholding in the stud business. Gavin has chosen to go farming with his son.
- ❖ We are offering for sale a small selection of Corriedale Ram Hoggets born and bred on Marble Point Station.
- ❖ Every Corriedale Ram Hogget for sale is DNA tested for Footrot.
- ❖ 97 rams available with a DNA Footscore of 1-1.
- ❖ We have 5 rams in the top 8 on SIL's Goldmark Top 100 Sires list!
- ❖ 26 ram hoggets of the top 30 on SIL's Top 100 Ram Hogget Selection List!
- ❖ Our Wilfield SufTEX ram hoggets are another excellent crop including a limited number with Beltex genetics.
- ❖ Our Sale Prices are the same as last year.



Marble Point Corriedale Rams

Wilfield has assisted Marble Point Station with genetics to create an elite flock born and bred on the Hill.

Marble Point Station is 2400 hectares and ranges from 300 metres above sea level to 1000 metres above sea level. It has an average rainfall of 900mm – more on the back country and less on the front country. It grows Corriedale sheep and Angus cattle. Of all eligible works lambs, 30% are killed at weaning, averaging 36 kilograms liveweight.

This season we are proud to be able to offer for sale some of these hill bred rams. You will be impressed!

They are all footrot DNA tested.

Their prices range from \$800 plus GST

Crossbred Commentary

- ❖ Pre Covid and during Covid the strong wool price has continued to decline.
- ❖ The likelihood of it increasing beyond Covid is uncertain.
- ❖ The cost of harvesting wool is increasing.
- ❖ Wool is a fabulous natural fibre.
- ❖ Mid Micron wool has multiple end uses.
- ❖ The need for sheep farmers to increase their profit is ongoing.
- ❖ The sheep that produces a finer, more valuable wool whilst retaining maximum lamb production is the way to increase sheep farm profitability.
- ❖ The Corriedale of today does this.
- ❖ Top Crossbred farmers are crossing a Corriedale Ram over their flocks to fine up their wool, keep their lambing performance and increase their profit.

Crossbred Client Experience

Recently we were speaking to a crossbred client who had his two tooth ewes by Wilfield Corriedale rams, lambing for the first time this year.

We asked him what were his impressions of the sheep.

He said he has noticed that as hoggets they are longer in the body, had more meat on their carcasses and finer wool. He was impressed with their subsequent two tooth mothering.



November 2021 Goldmark Top 100 Sires

NZ Corriedale - Goldmark

Report Flocks 333, 1023, 1033, 1916, 1964, 2444, 2644, 2849, 2850, 2873, 4331, 4478, 7400

Flock Prefix **Multiple Flocks**

Flock Owner

Period 2018 to 2020



Sire Prefix	Sire Prefix	Tag	No Prog	DPc Gold	Rk1	NLBg BV	Rk2	SUR gBV	Rk3	WWT gBV	Rk4	LW8 gBV	Rk5	FW12 gBV	Rk6	LEANY gBV	Rk7	FDIAM gBV	nDLR	nDL
Blythe Dov	1406/15 Wattlebank	250/17	375/429	2867	1	0.18	9	0.02	21	1.92	62	5.37	39	0.47	18	0.11	11	-5.21	50	50
Wattlebank	250/17 Wattlebank	39/19	46	2818	2	0.22	6	0.03	9	1.75	71	4.84	54	0.65	4	0.12	8	-2.96	0	0
Mara-Wha	1677/14 Wilfield	1983/16	151	2785	3	0.26	4	0.05	2	2.11	55	6.61	14	0.42	23	0.17	5	0.06	34	25
Blythe Dov	2157/13 Blythe Dov	1406/15	272/479	2469	4	0.11	26	-0.02	99	1.90	64	5.62	34	0.68	3	0.20	3	-3.13	144	79
		230/18	63	2389	5	0.09	37	0.02	21	5.07	2	5.84	27	0.26	43	0.03	41	-1.35	0	0
		ST26/17	184	2377	6	0.15	14	0.04	3	3.06	19	4.81	56	0.48	16	-0.07	89	-0.82	8	8
		169/17	85	2298	7	0.17	11	0.03	9	1.59	76	3.10	85	0.13	68	0.06	27	-2.14	0	0
Wattlebank	308/13 Mara-Wha	1677/14	210/419	2287	8	0.14	17	0.04	3	1.97	60	5.78	28	0.12	71	0.00	57	0.16	165	79

Sheep Outlook

Prepared for Wilfield Sheep Stud

November 2021

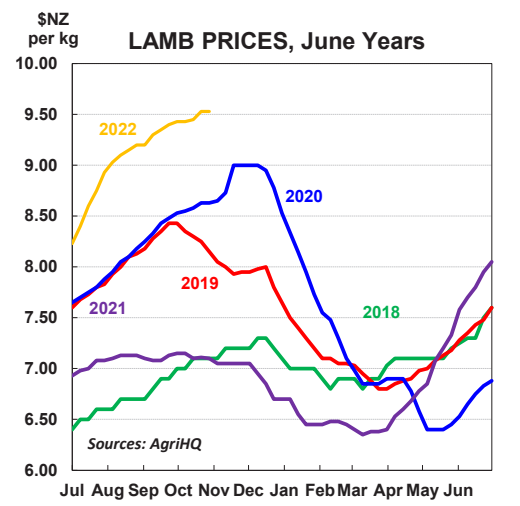
Commodities Outlook

Lamb – Our gold medallist

Lamb slaughter prices hit a record high over winter. Tight supply and strong demand mean the outlook for lamb prices is even more constructive than that for beef. Orders for Chinese New Year are commanding strong prices. Broader forward export orders are also looking positive per AgriHQ.

Balanced against this strength in demand, near-term supply is looking tight across the board. NZ slaughter supplies are off to a slow start as the seasonal pick-up kicks off, while the Aussie lamb kill is way down. The upshot is that we expect only a modest seasonal drop in prices as we enter Autumn.

The upshot is that record export revenue is on the cards. Thus far lamb export volumes have been crimped by shipping issues – and closer to home, securing the skilled labour needed to produce those higher-end cuts remains a challenge. Still, those slightly softer volumes are set to be more than offset by record strength in prices. The flipside is that rising on-farm costs will eat a bit into margins here too.

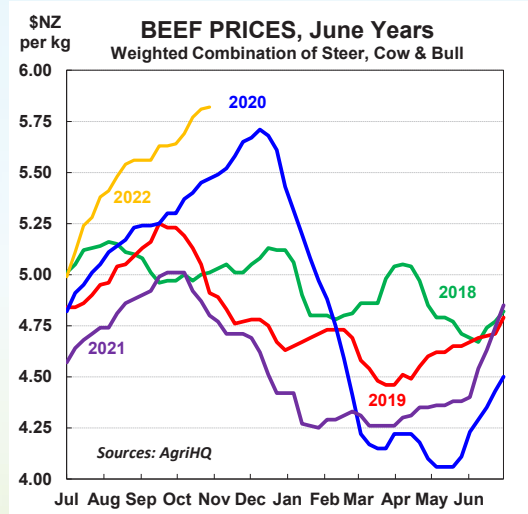


Beef – Our silver medallist

The beef market hasn't been simmering as hotly as its ovine peer, but price gains over the past have been lofty, nonetheless. Our beef index – a weighted combination of steer, cow and bull – hit a record high in October. Prices are circa 22% up on where they were at this stage last season.

Competition for cattle among processors remains fierce and we expect prices to gain further in the near term. Underlying developments in the export market have been mixed but remain supportive. Aussie processing volumes are well below average, and US store volumes are down, despite the ramp-up in cow production. Meanwhile, China's embargo on Brazilian beef has caused a surfeit of product from the world's largest exporter but provides scope for NZ to expand its market in China.

Our analysis shows that beef exports are also proving resilient to shipping disruption. Given the strength in prices, the stage is set for strong export sector revenue here too, though rising input costs mean farmers won't see all the benefit – margins are reportedly quite tight.

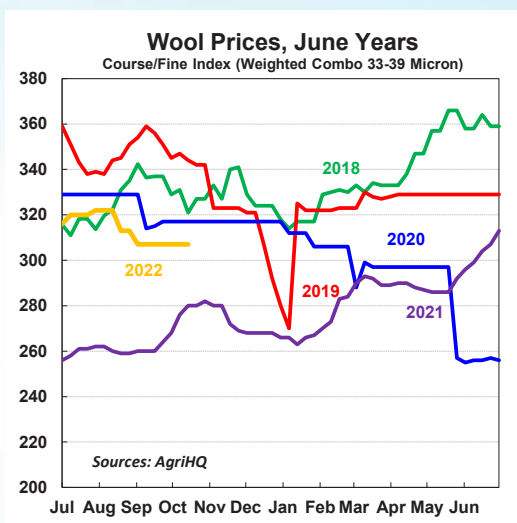


Wool – A period of consolidation

Wool was one of the commodities hit hardest in 2020 as the pandemic first roiled export markets – prices spent the latter half of the 19/20 season and the start of the 20/21 season down around 20% on prior years.

There’s been some relief for prices since then. Wool prices were buoyed by the general surge higher in commodity prices over the first half of 2021, with AgriHQ’s price index lifting 13% over the latter half of the 20/21 season. The beginning of the current season has seen prices consolidating, largely track sideways – well above last year’s lows, but not particularly strong in a historic context.

In a reversal of the trend we saw at the beginning of the pandemic, it’s the courser grades that are underperforming, while prices for finer grades are in a stronger position. The latter have found strong interest from European buyers, with 18-micron prices around 15% above the five-year average. Meanwhile, courser grades have generally suffered from softer Chinese purchases of late (a dynamic that looks unlikely to shift dramatically given the recent moderation in Chinese growth).



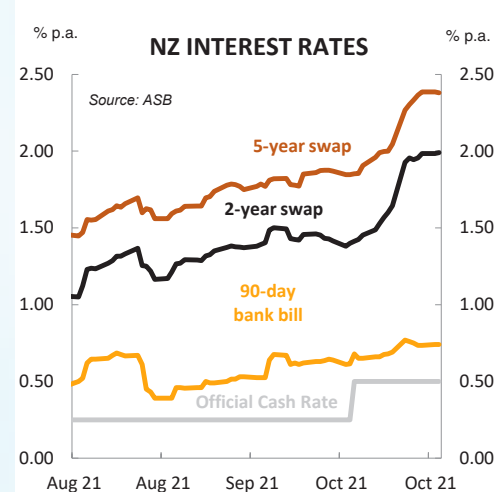
Financial Markets Outlook

Interest Rates – Between time and tide

October was a watershed month in interest rate markets, with the RBNZ lifting the OCR for the first time in fully seven years. The Bank makes policy based on two goals: keeping inflation between the 1-3% mark and maintaining employment as close as possible to its maximum sustainable level over the medium term.

It’s the former goal that the RBNZ’s presently concerned about. Buoyed by strong commodity prices, lofty wage bills and surging freight costs, we expect annual inflation to peak well outside its target at the 6% mark towards the end of the year. The upshot is this that further hikes are coming and relatively quickly – the Bank won’t want to wait.

Wholesale and retail rates had already begun to move ahead of the RBNZ’s formal announcement, and the upward pressure has continued. As at the time of writing, the swap market sees the OCR reaching 2% in the middle of 2022, a shade more bullish than our own view.

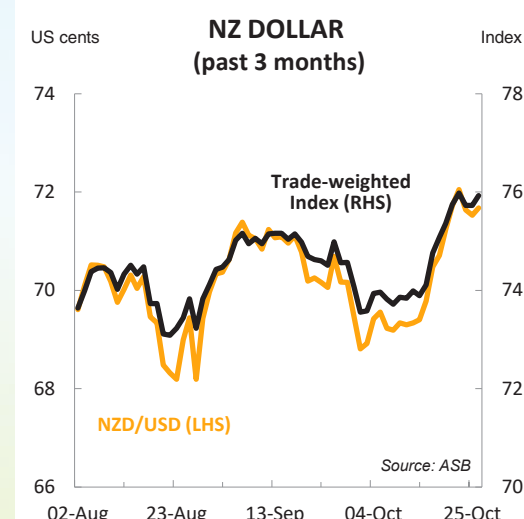


NZ Dollar – Stuck in the middle with U(SD)

NZD/USD dipped to a nine-month low in the aftermath of the lockdown, but it’s since firmed. As at the time of writing, NZD/USD is back near 0.72.

High commodity prices are a big part of the story – as prices for both hard (energy and metals) and soft (think meat and dairy) commodities have surged, commodity currencies (think AUD and NZD) have benefitted. Moreover, while the RBNZ has already begun hiking rates, other central banks – including the Fed – have been much more circumspect. The upshot means interest rate differentials continue to move in the NZD’s direction.

Yet the NZD continues to trade in a lower range than those fundamentals would imply. For example, the last time agri commodity prices were this strong (in the 2013-2014 period), NZD/USD was trading above the 0.8000 mark. The underlying strength of the US economy, combined with periodic bouts of risk aversion, has meant NZD/USD has struggled to break above 0.7300. This dynamic has a bit longer to run, though increasingly we think the fundamentals will be strong enough to limit further dips below 0.7000.



Wilfield Corriedales 2021

Tony Benny

Commercial Corriedale farmers could get even more for their wool if they culled their coarsest-wooled sheep to reduce variability in the clip, says Lincoln University honours student Emma Owen.

Emma has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and for her honours dissertation she has analysed fibre variation in Corriedales.



Emma Owen, Bachelor of Agricultural Science Degree with Honours at Lincoln University

She tested the wool of 1489 two-tooth Corriedale ewes in 5 different shearing sheds, collecting data on traits that include micron, length, curvature, course edge and CV (coefficient of variation). The 15 seconds-per-sheep test revealed some surprising results and an opportunity for Corriedale wool growers to increase their income.

“Where farmers thought their wool was in microns is a bit different to what these results are showing,” Emma says. While farmers generally thought their wool sat between 28 and 30 microns, in fact there was far more variability with some samples as low as 23 microns and others quite coarse at 39 microns. The average in the tests is 30 micron.

Mills seldom appreciate such a massive variation in the wool they buy and Emma believes farmers should concentrate on producing the true mid-micron wool Corriedales are renowned for.

“Mid micron wool has it’s own place in the industry, it doesn’t need to be fine wool so farmers just need to keep it within that micron parameter.” Fibre that is either too fine or too coarse doesn’t suit the end use that mid-micron wool is perfect for, Emma says.

“If you just have a few fine fibres and you make something like furnishing out of it, with those fine fibres you get piling and it looks undesirable and doesn’t wear properly.

“But if you have strong fibres in something you’re going to wear close to your skin, it’s itchy so that consistency to meet market demand is probably more important for mid micron than any other wool type.”

Emma suggests farmers should cull their strongest-wooled ewes to bring down the average micron as well as giving the finer-fibred ewes breeding preference.

Actually testing their wool will give farmers opportunities to improve their flock, she says. “Make your breeding decisions around that and maybe send your coarsest 20% to a terminal sire and take your replacements from those finer ewes.”

Another approach could be testing before shearing and then drafting sheep into, say, three different lines so that their wool can be kept separate and the highest value fibre going into separate bales rather being mixed with lower value fleece.

“Then you would have a superior bale that would be on average two microns finer and also has these other quality traits which manufacturers look for so then those bales would be worth however much a kg extra which makes a huge difference.”

While Emma has been concentrating on the wool Corriedales grow, she also appreciates the breed’s other qualities.

“I suppose the real advantage to Corriedales is they’re such good mothers and they produce such good lambs as well. If you can maintain those traits and increase their wool value, they’re a pretty ultimate sheep.”



SILERE LAMB

Market demand supports her faith in Corriedales, not just for their wool but also increasingly for the meat the dual-purpose breed produces, with Alliance Group signing a deal with Tesco supermarket chain in the UK to supply Silere-branded meat to 350 stores.

Silere lambs require a minimum of 50% merino, with wool under 26 micron. “Corriedales fit that bracket perfectly,” says Alliance Business Development Manager, Keith Hamill.

“Finer woolled animals have a unique flavour and texture and it’s becoming really popular.”

Alliance is offering a 40 cents/kg premium for lamb that falls in a 17.1kg to 23kg weight range, in the P, Y and T grades. Between 120 and 130 farmers are signed up to supply Silere lambs to Alliance.

“On average about 80 out of every 100 lambs sent in qualify, though some farmers are a bit higher,” Keith says. He adds that over the past couple of years, Alliance has roughly tripled the amount of Silere lamb it’s selling and he expects continued growth.

“We have product going to Malaysia too for the first time and demand outstrips supply at present.”

Keith says farmer meetings Alliance put on last year were successful in recruiting more suppliers and due to interest in supply, we have added two new meetings this year.



FOOT ROT

Corriedales are now enjoying their place in the sun with both their meat and their wool in high demand but not long ago some pundits predicted the breed’s demise, citing it’s reputation for low fertility, poor mothering, and susceptibility to footrot as reasons. But the modern Corriedale doesn’t suffer those shortcomings, thanks to the efforts of both breeders and scientists like Lincoln University’s Dr Jon Hickford, who pioneered a DNA test that enables breeding for footrot tolerance.

“Robin Wilson at Wilfield and other breeders within the Corriedale industry have really jumped on it. Robin’s selling highly footrot-tolerant rams that are gene tested and have served his customers well,” Jon says.

The DNA test build on the work of renowned Corriedale breeder Eddie Orr who in the 1970s selected for footrot tolerance, Jon says.

“When Eddie moved from Southland up to Canterbury he thought, ‘If I only breed from those that don’t get footrot when there’s a hard challenge, then I’ll get on top of the problem’, and that was the basis of what were called the Broomfield Corriedales.”

Twenty years later Jon and his team studied descendants of the Broomfield Corriedales as they looked for a way to identify footrot tolerant sheep without having to expose them to the disease to find out.

“It was in Eddie’s flock that we found the gene linkages that illustrated how we could select better sheep without having to expose them which is what Robin and others within the Corriedale industry have done.”

A simple DNA test was developed, using a blood sample, in the mid nineties which was commercialised in 1999.

“Robin’s done a really good job. He’s probably not as evangelical about it as his clients. I’ve seen some of them raving about it because they have memories in their lifetime of really being beset by footrot and they’ve been buying rams off Robin and they just don’t have problems anymore, they don’t even think about it.”

“Robin’s reproductive rates are bloody good, his carcasses are good, not in the league of the crossbreds but on balance, the average corriedale ewe is producing a fair bit of wealth and that’s great.”

Jon reckons in many ways that Corriedale breeders have led a charge back to better times for the wool industry.

“There’s a realisation that it is a sustainable fibre, it’s a carbon sink, it makes great clothing and has a lot of unique properties, all those things that we’ve talked about for years have finally got traction but probably only because everyone now poo-poops anything to do with synthetics.

“That’s great. Young people are talking about purchasing clothing for life and not throwing things out, buying clothing that’s got a story and didn’t just come out of an oil well. That’s really positive for Corriedale.”

Wilfield SufTEX

In Otago and Southland the SufTex is the most popular Terminal Sire. It is their: **Terminal Sire of Choice.**

For us the popularity continues to grow on the back of the marriage between growth, meat and hardiness including longevity. The demand and supply of darker headed rams adds to the genetic marking and easier management for Commercial farmers.

We are continuing to have increased inquiries for our SufTEX genetics with Footrot Resistance. We will test 50 rams again this season. If you are interested in Beltex and/or Footrot resistant rams please inform Robin on ordering.

We have several points of difference to other SufTex flocks:

1. We mate our best rams with our best ewes
2. We test for Footrot
3. We are always looking to improve and add value for our clients
4. We are SIL recorded
5. We cull heavily – less than 40% of our ram lambs are offered for sale as 2ths and less than 30% of ewe lambs are in our stud breeding program.



2021 Christchurch Show Results

- ❖ Champion Corriedale Ram Hogget
- ❖ Champion Wool breeds Ram Hogget – compared with all wool bred ram hoggets
- ❖ Ram Hogget Production Class Champion
- ❖ Commercial “Pair of the Year” for Ram Hoggets
- ❖ Ewe Hogget Feature Class winner
- ❖ Ewe Hogget Feature Class Team winner
- ❖ Champion Ram – 2nd place
- ❖ Champion Sire – Sire with best group of 3 progeny



Wilfield Wool Test Results

GROUP: RAM HOGGETS						
Average	26.4	67.9	4.6	17.4	22.1	
Mean Fibre Diameter by Laserscan						
Tag	MFD	Yield	StDev	CofV	% >30	
5	30.8	64.5	4.1	13.2	57.0	
15	27.4	69.1	4.8	17.4	28.3	
21	30.1	65.0	4.9	16.2	47.2	
23	28.8	72.3	4.6	15.8	38.7	
24	24.8	70.4	3.7	15.1	7.5	
28	25.9	66.0	4.3	16.5	13.3	
29	26.6	63.9	4.7	17.7	22.1	
30	26.7	60.2	4.9	18.5	23.1	

Wilfield Promise

"We promise to add value to your business. We pride ourselves on being the most innovative and performance driven Corriedale stud in New Zealand and at the same time have open headed, well structured, fine woolled, fertile, highly maternal, "meaty" sheep that are footrot resistant."

The Wilfield Team



I'm at Lincoln University, but I have a business grazing sheep on lifestyle blocks. I finish around a thousand lambs a year and Robin has mentored and helped me since I had only a handful of ewes at the age of 14. In fact, he sold me some of my very early ewes and store lambs.

I have found that the Wilfield ewes are great framed sheep with strength of bone and get up and go. They are excellent mothers with my ewes lambing around the 160% mark. Now I am all trading lambs and ewes and the Wilfield bred lambs have been the best lambs that I have purchased to date. They grow a heavy fleece of bright mid micron wool which my wool buyer relishes. Furthermore, they grow extremely well and will bounce from light rations onto good feed in the spring after shearing all in there stride. My heaviest lamb so far was a Wilfield bred ram Lamb that killed 29kg.

The wool and growth rate on these sheep shows the exemplary breeding and care that is taken in the running of the stud by Robin and Pip. These sheep are durable, efficient and most importantly profitable. The mentoring and guidance that I have received from Robin and Pip is so outstanding that I would say it is almost as good as their sheep.

Angus Grant

Matt Black, Marble Point Station

*Matt is impressed with the versatility of Corriedales
 "They've got good mothering ability, they're a true dual purpose sheep.
 Footrot wise, they've come a long way; yeah they suit us well"*

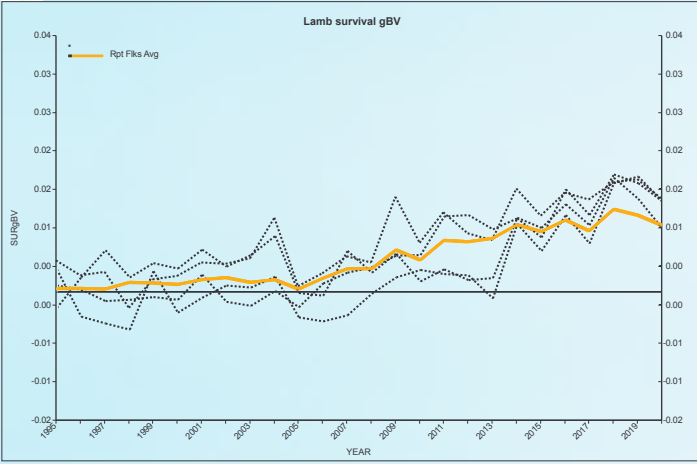
Emerald Hills

Footscores remain an essential component for the Kinney's when it comes to selecting rams. Years ago 60-70% of the flock suffered from footrot whereas today David says less than 1% are susceptible.



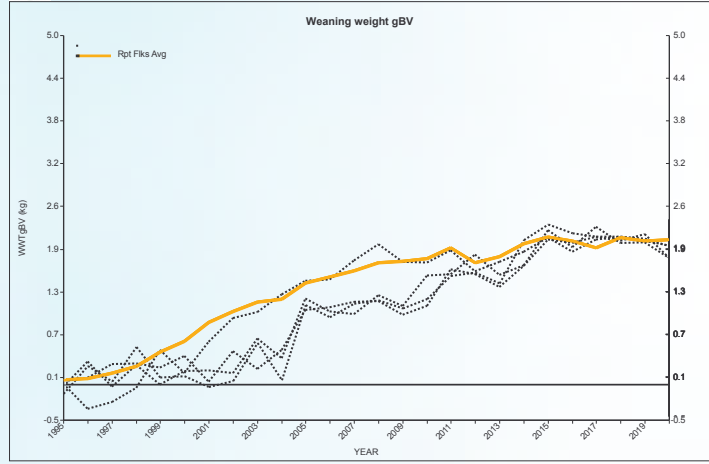
Genetic Trends

GE Analysis #38750 12/11/2021 Analysis Flocks: 1,2,7,8 + 1340 others



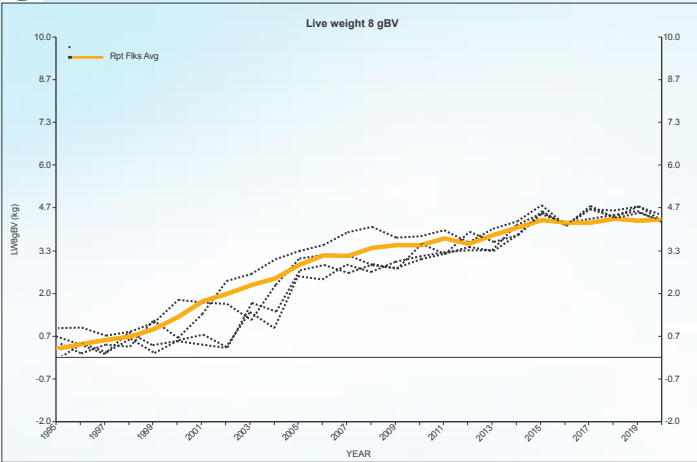
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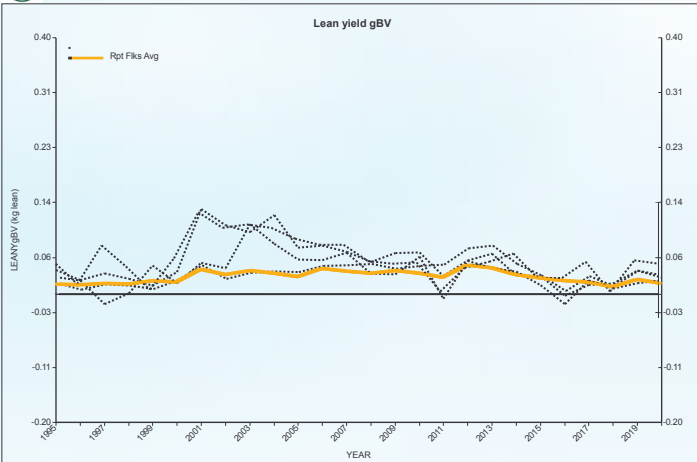
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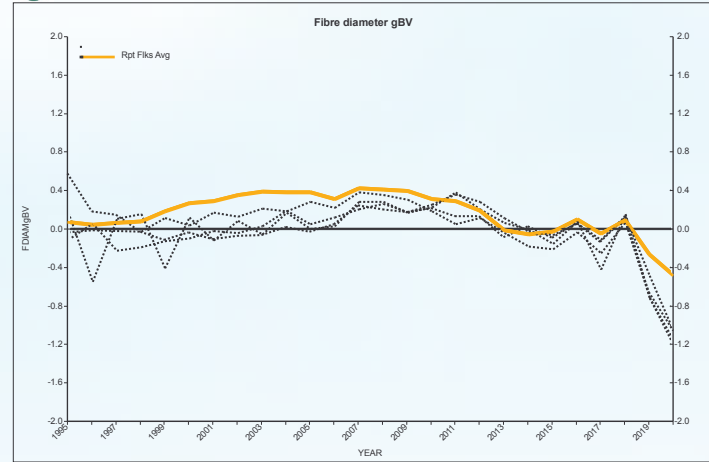
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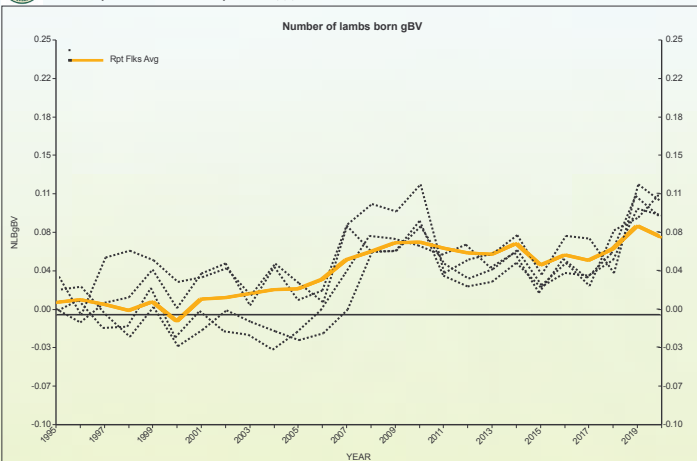
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Key:
Gold Line: All Corriedale flocks combined
Black Lines: Four individual flocks from West Melton

WILFIELD 2021 PRICE LIST (GST exclusive)



Wilfield Corriedale Base Flock Ram \$800

Premiums for:

- Gold Mark \$450 (limited supply)
- Silvermark \$350 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 1-1 \$450 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 1-2 \$350 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 1-3 \$250 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 2-2 \$250 (limited supply)
- Smart Wools 26.5 micron and less \$250 (limited supply)

Example Purchase

Base Ram	+	Silvermark	+	Footrot Resistant 1-3	=	Ram Purchase
\$800	+	\$350	+	\$250	=	\$1400

Wilfield SufTEX Base Flock Ram \$900

Premiums for:

- Beltex Cross \$100 (limited supply)
- SIL Index - GOLD \$200 (limited supply)
- SIL Index - SILVER \$100 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 1 - 1 \$450 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 1 - 2 \$350 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 1 - 3 \$250 (limited supply)
- Footrot Resistant 2 - 2 \$250 (limited supply)



Example Purchase

Base Ram	+	SIL Index GOLD	+	Footrot Resistant 1-3	=	Ram Purchase
\$900	+	\$200	+	\$250	=	\$1350

Wilfield Vasectomised Rams \$350

Phone Robin to discuss your requirements on 021 158 3866

