



MARLOW

GENETICS

HELLO EVERYONE

Jason Wyn-Harris

Most of you will have caught wind of the recent changes at Marlow Hill but for those who don't use Facebook, I would like to introduce myself and my family. I am Jason, Steve and Jane's son and along with my wife Rosa with our wee girl Fern, have recently moved back to Marlow Hill to take over the day to day operations - Steve loves do not worry he's still hanging around! Off the farm, I spend a bit of time at the Waipukurau aero club, having passed my private plane license late last year then taking up the bar managers role on Sundays at the club as well. Getting out for surf is another off-farm activity and offsets my expensive flying hobby. I have been involved with the Surfing for Farmers programme at our local beach since it started, and now I have the bug.

Rosa permanently migrated to Central Hawkes Bay 8 years ago now. Originally from the deep south but do not talk to her about the Southland Stags! However, she did play rugby for Hawkes Bay at one stage. When she is not busy on the farm with Fern she is out and about with the East Coast Rural Support Trust.

We have been lucky enough to be able to buy a third shareholding in the land, stock, and plant company here, Lorax Farming Ltd. I am running the day-to-day operation with guidance from Steve as I learn more about the management of the stud.



Previously we have been involved an equity partnership management role on an 8500 SU sheep and beef business in Flemington. We managed Te Maire for 2 years before buying into the livestock and plant company which ticked along for 6 years getting to a 50% shareholding. In 2021 we decided to not renew the lease at Te Maire and that land ownership was our ultimate goal, and the decision was made to liquidate there and buy into our current structure. While at Te Maire, we were frustrated with some of the performance indicators we had with the ewes.

We approached Steve and he believed the Marlow genetics would lift the bar. We saw that benefit in the younger ewes as they came through and the market recognised those benefits as well as we had a particularly good sale of capital stock ewes at Dannevirke at the beginning of the year. The market was looking for known high performance sheep with FE and worm resistance and was prepared to pay well for them. Ram selling as always will be in December, so I look forward to reacquainting with those of you I know and meeting those of you I don't. I'll be touching base with you all shortly to see what your requirements for rams might be.

*ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO RING EITHER MYSELF OR STEVE. KEEP AN EYE ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE **MARLOW GENETICS** FOR SOME QUALITY ON FARM AND OFF FARM CONTENT.*

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SHEPHERD STEVE:

Steve Wyn-Harris

Before talking about the future, let's first glance over our shoulder into the past. Annoyed with the poor lambing %'s and bad mothering ability of the traditional Romneys of the time, my parents Tim and Trish put Border Leicesters over all the ewes in 1971.

They then joined the Coopworth Society and formed the Marlow stud and began the process of performance recording as advocated by Prof Coop from Lincoln. We take this concept of recording for performance rather than looks for granted now. But then there was a lot of push back and hostility from the establishment including the stock and station agents who effectively blacklisted innovators whose only goal was to have more productive sheep which were easier to deal with.

I was enlisted as a young teenager to help with tagging. These early Coopworths weren't what we have now and would run around like mad things making it hard to read their tags. In frustration we decided not to tag the lambs of the ewes who were flighty which immediately fell out of the stud and quickly developed a much more settled ewe who accepted us coming into their birth site to do the tagging. Now we have ewes who resent our presence and try to push us away and others who just come in and reassure their lambs between our legs while we do our business which is a great pleasure. By the end of the 1970's, ours and client's lambing %'s had climbed from 90-100% to 125-130% ewes to the ram but many others wouldn't believe these figures.

Now of course, scanning over 200% including triplets and ewes to the ram %'s in the 150's and 160's are common. I took over running the stud in 1985 and joined the first sheep sire referencing scheme in the world, NZ Ovine Sire Referencing. We were and are still a group of like-minded Coopworth sheep breeders prepared to share our secrets and genes with each other in the interests of lifting everyone's genetic potential. It has been a great success because we like and trust each other. We were the first to use sheep AI in the country and developed this so that we could all use the same couple of rams in the same season. This allowed the progeny from these reference rams to be born in the same season across a wide range of environments and under different management thus being able to see the genetic benefits and identify the best performing rams each year within our group.

Early on, I continued to select for reproduction, survival, mothering ability and growth rates. Then twenty years ago meat production and resistance to Facial Eczema were added as important traits to pursue. And now to the future. Jason and Rosa have come into our business and have taken over running the Marlow sheep stud. They bring fresh thinking and enthusiasm into our business. I'm still around as the shepherd operating under orders but always willing to offer advice when asked! We have clients that started with me forty years ago and are still buying rams as well as clients who have joined along the way.

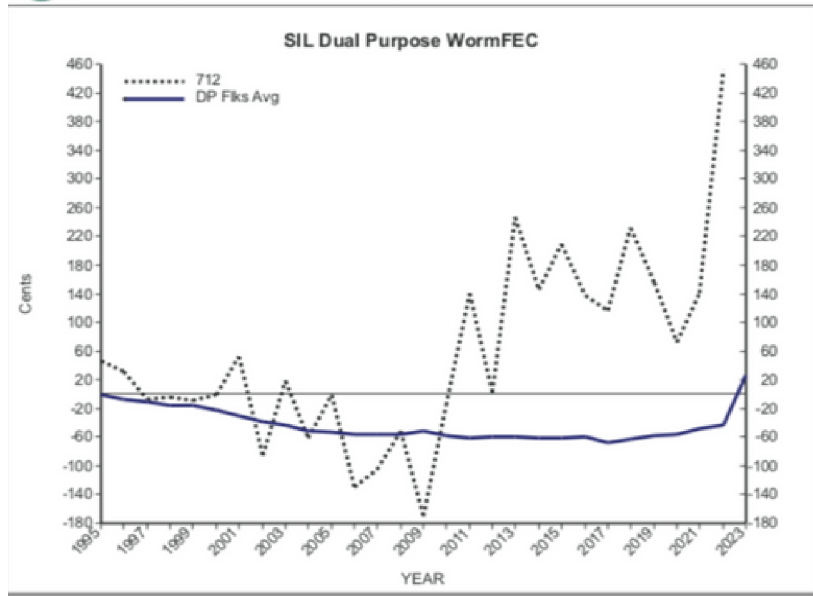
Thank you to all of you for your on-going support and friendship. I'll still be around and look forward to catching up.



*TWO TOOTH RAM 433/22 – RANKED
#1 FOR SURVIVAL AND 24 TH FOR FEC*

TWO TOOTH RAMS:

This years rams are looking fantastic after an average start they have really bounced back, they are on track to be a solid 72 kg by the end of October. We are about to do our Ramguard testing on 8 of the top rams at .6 and will be using the boys who pass as our sires for next year. All of these rams have a high FEC index and will be good to see them pass at .6 as we continue our pursuit in the FEC trait.



INTERNAL PARASITE RESISTANCE:

Most commercial farms now are facing the prospect of triple drench resistance in their flocks, there are even reports of the Startech drench failing. This comes at us fast and in a time when drench company's are struggling to keep up with our product supply?

This graph shows Marlow's rapid genetic progress for worm resistance against what is available from the rest of the industry

The performance of these sheep are now not limited by their genetic potential but are as good as the season and our management allow. This means the two health traits of FE and worm resistance remain a strong focus for current breeding policy.



SHEDDERS?

Having being involved in the wool industry at the grass roots, shearing overseers and around NZ and meeting Rosa who was my rousie in England, we remain passionate about our wool as a quality product. So no shedders at Marlow yet. Although these sheep grow wool and there is a cost with shearing we believe this is offset by the production and animal health benefits that these genetics bring.