

# MARLOW

## GENETICS



## MARLOW HILL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2025

### **“A Pretty Good Season To Be Fair”**

It has been a good Summer and we have been busy on and off the farm, with a bit of last minute shuffling around of ram sale dates back in December, Rosa and I had to shoot off to the maternity ward to meet our little girl Maggie. She must have a very high DPG index as has been growing well – must come from a good sire.

The season hasn't been too bad, rain has come just at the right times and although soil moisture is well behind here still clover/grass growth has been exceptional.

I have been seeing FE spores coming through on my grass cuts over the last month around the 30k mark but have had no clinical signs. There have been some high ggt levels but interestingly have constantly been high all the way through so may have other factors at play with those animals.

We're on social media! Facebook: Marlow Genetics Instagram: marlow\_genetics

Website: <https://marlowcoopworths.co.nz/>

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## Surfing For Farmers

Our CHB crew has just wrapped up our fifth year of running the local surfing for farmers which just gets bigger and better every year. Every second week we take 20-40 farmers out for a surf then put on a bbq and few beers all sponsored by local businesses. It's a cool program to be part of and I take a lot out of helping to organize it.

## Tupping 25

So far it looks as though we have had a good tupping in the stud judging from the harness marks. The ewes went to the ram at an average of 62kg and this included the two teats so a pleasing tupping weight and should set them up right through to lambing.

Another pleasing result was the stud ewe including two teats have had no dip or drench at all, even through a good barbers pole and fly season they held up to the challenge.

I have actively not flushed the studs this year and instead put a bit of grazing pressure on them in a way to reduce triplet numbers. The fertility of these genetics is so high that I feel the flushing principal can be thrown out. Feed can be better allocated to other classes of growing stock.



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## The Marlow Romworth

A big decision we made this year was to put a Romney over 80 of the stud ewes, with the plan of putting a handful of Romworths up for sale next season. We picked a Romney from the Hinenui stud in Gisborne who has fantastic phenotype and structure, was tested at .62 and has a DPF of 980. With the temptation to chase the market into shedding and haired sheep we strongly felt that structure and the animal health traits could not be over looked.

## B+L parasite group:

Last week I hosted my B+L parasite group looking into the impacts of worms in our sheep yet maintaining production, it was a very good day with lots of insightful discussions on what is a complex topic. We were able to run an interesting exercise by running all the stud lambs into the yards and scanning out individual sheep to look at their own personal drenching data. A conclusion was formed that the well structured sheep had little or no drench when looking at them individually vs those animals with a poorer conformation.



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## Ram Hoggets

We have been very busy with this years ram hoggets and an amazing data set on them. Since weaning on the 17th November we have been weighing the entire mob every two weeks, taking bloods (GGT) fec samples and culturing as well as pasture cuts from where they have been grazing to measure FE spores. This has been part of a Beef and Lamb trial looking into the effects of FE.

On top of this data every two weeks I have been monitoring individual liveweights and drenching on liveweight gain or lack of and recording who has been dosed. To date there is about 1/3 of the ram hgts who have only had a drench at weaning until now.

I am cautious that we are giving up a lot of growth in order to achieve this lessened drenching approach, their average liveweight sits at 55kg but I expect they will grow well over the remaining part of the Winter and good compensatory growth will see them in good fettle come December.

Also running no dip on these boys has been tough work and lots of monitoring. It sure is much easier to dip and drench and have peace of mind but we know that's not a sustainable approach.

If your interested to look at this data set let me know and ill send them through.



All the best for the up coming season and lets hope these product prices can maintain at this level. It sure does make farming fun again when its like this.

Any questions or feedback on your flocks performance don't hesitate to give Steve or I a ring.

Jason 0277109426 / Steve 0272223284

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