



Marlow Winter Newsletter

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Marlow Winter Newsletter

"A very good season all round"

Like most, we've had a very good season all round, with not too many pressure points. All stock have done well, grass growth has been good, although it has slowed in recent weeks with Jack Frost making a few visits.

It's been a fantastic year, with product prices at record highs. You can really see and feel the buzz around town with farmers. There's been plenty of on-farm spending, and driving from Hatuma to Porangahau you can see it everywhere – new fence lines, piles of water troughs and pipes waiting to be installed, new cattle yards going up, and a couple of flash utes getting around. Even in our little valley, on a clear day, you can hear multiple post thumpers working away.

Jason and Rosa Wyn-Harris

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

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OFF THE FARM

It's been another busy year off the farm as well. I was lucky enough to sneak over to my brother Hugh's wedding in Tuscany for 10 days last September while Rosa stayed home with the kids and ran the farm. I definitely still owe her a few brownie points for that one.

COMMUNITY

Our community involvement makes up a large part of our time off the farm. We help run our local Surfing for Farmers programme over the summer, I'm a member of the Beef + Lamb Hawke's Bay Farming for Profit steering committee, Club Captain and Bar Manager at the CHB Aero Club, a member of the CHB A&P Sheep Show Committee, and also serve on the Coopworth Genetics Committee.



RAISING KIDS AND CROPS

Rosa is busy chasing around after Fern and Maggie for the most part, but many of you locals might also have seen her on the front desk at Waipukurau Vet Services. Last November she decided to upscale the asparagus operation by planting an additional 10,000 crowns so we are eager to see what the result will be this season. Alongside all of this Rosa is still doing facilitation work for the Rural Support Trust as well.



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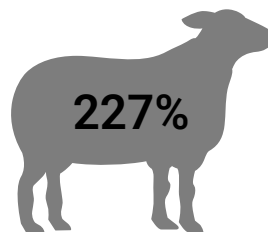


SCANNING – DPCR (*DUAL PURPOSE CAPPED REPRODUCTION*)

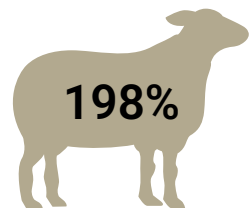
Scanning results are sounding good, with some farmers taking the “anti-flushing” approach to help reduce triplet numbers, which seems to be working.

Some of you have heard me waffle on about this before, but with the fertility and FE resistance of today's genetics, I believe flushing is largely a myth now. It's taken 50 years to get fertility to where it is today—it's not going to disappear overnight. Can we turn our MA ewes into MA beef cows over tugging? I think we can

The stud ewes scanned well again this year under some decent grazing/worm and FE pressure through tugging.



Stud MA did 227%
with 0.08% dry rate



Two tooth's did a 198%
with 1% dry rate.



WOOL – DPW

It seems the wool market might finally have found its ceiling price. It's been an amazing lift and very rewarding for those of us who have stuck with the wool game. One client reported topping the sale with a line of wool at \$7.54 clean/kg.

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FE – DPX

Facial eczema has been bubbling away here, and we've seen a long, low-level exposure. We've been above 30,000 spores since mid-January, with the biggest spike reaching 240,000 and the latest reading sitting at 80,000. Once this would have been frightening. Given the resistance to FE, this hasn't affected our scanning results showing nearly 30 years of selecting for this trait has paid dividends.

This slow burn will have had a cumulative effect on stock elsewhere and has impacted scanning results in affected regions.

We've seen no clinical cases here and have actively been pushing our stud MA and two-tooth ewes into potentially higher FE areas, grazing them harder through the tupping period to keep the breeding pressure on. We want to know if they can't handle the natural FE challenge so we can cull accordingly.

We also took part in the Beef + Lamb nested study again this year, which involved sampling 35 ram hoggets every two weeks from January for 12 rounds. We collected blood samples to measure GGT, grass samples, faecal samples, liveweights, and growth rates. This has given us a fantastic dataset and is helping build a clearer picture of the prevalence and impact of FE.

WORMS – DPF

As we continue our progress down the worm resistance track, we're seeing huge improvements in drench reductions while maintaining production.

We now have a nil-drench policy for all adult stock (two-tooths and above). This season we've only drenched ram hoggets twice to date, while in-lamb ewe hoggets have received two drenches plus a tail drench.

The average DPF index of this year's sale rams ranks in the top 10% of recorded two-tooth rams in New Zealand.

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DAGS – DPD

We've been dag scoring for a few years now and are paying more and more attention to this index when making culling decisions and selecting sires. We all want fewer physical inputs in our sheep systems, and dagging is an easy one to reduce.

Dag traits are about 30% heritable, so progress can be made relatively quickly. However, there is a correlation with worm resistance, with sheep that have poorer dag scores potentially having higher worm resistance. As always, it's about finding the right balance.

ROMWORTHS 2026

This year we are excited to offer our first crop of Marlow Romworth two tooth's. We are pleased how they are performing as hoggets both male and female. They have been run alongside the coopworth hogget's and have undergone the same pressures as our other stud stock.

We selected a Romney sire from the Hinenui Stud that has a very high MW+M as well as being tested and passing the FE testing at 0.62 dose rate. He also had a very high DPF (worm Fec) index which is a trait we have been very interested in and selecting for so he was a good fit for us to use.

2026 RAM SALE

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Coopworths
genetic gain guaranteed

FEGold
Looking for facial eczema genetics

WormFEC™

10TH OF NOVEMBER 2026
MARLOW HILL YARDS AND WOOLSHED

MARLOW GENETICS 2026 RAM SALE

This year we've made the decision to move our ram selling method to an auction. It hasn't been an easy decision, but as a family that has been breeding these genetics for the past 57 years, we felt the time was right.

We are planning to offer all of our Romworths along with our Tier 1 and Tier 2 Coopworths through the auction. For those who still prefer paddock sales, we'll have a number of Tier 3 and Tier 4 rams available.

The auction will be held at the home yards and woolshed, on the 10th of November 2026. There will be public viewings of the ram hoggets closer to the sale, but if you'd like a private viewing beforehand, please give me a call and we'll arrange a time.



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.

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