

NOTICE OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 15TH JULY

Meeting Room
George Hotel-Motel, Hamilton
4.30pm

1. Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting
2. Presidents Report
3. Secretary-Treasurers Report
4. General Business
5. Election of Councillors.
Councillors retiring by rotation: Nick McClelland, John Marriott and Bill Scott-Young . Members wishing to nominate for Council must notify the Secretary prior to the Annual General Meeting.
6. Election of Office Bearers

COUNCIL MEETING

(To follow after AGM)

SOCIAL COOPWORTH DINNER

The President and Coopworth Council invite you to join them for dinner at The George to be held after the meetings at approx. 6.30pm.

Please R.S.V.P to The Secretary by 12th July so we can reserve your seat.

DON PEGLER

Don Pegler, now, the longest established breeder of Coopworths (early 1980's), was elected to the lower house of the South Australian parliament in March. Don is an independent and beat the Mayor of Mt Gambier who was the Liberal candidate. Don follows another independent, Rory McEwan, both former members of the Liberal Party, who fell out with head office over the selection of candidates for the seat of Mt Gambier. Don was the Mayor of District Council of Grant for many years.

position for many years would have helped in his recognition factor to be elected as an independent candidate which is a tough job without the backing of one of the major parties with their funds for advertising campaigns. Rory McEwan had real power when first elected, as he and another couple of independents held the balance of power which enabled the Labour Party to form government. Don and the other two independents, plus the Liberals are three seats short of the Labour Party. They can make a lot of noise about issues without having voting power. It might be very different after the next election.

**Coopworth
Genetics
Australia
Caps available
for purchase
\$20
(dark blue with
CGA logo)**

**Members can
get the CGA
logo on their
own items at a
small cost.**

**For further
enquires please
contact the
Secretary**

The Shire of Grant covers most of that south-east corner of South Australia, minus the actual city of Mt Gambier. No doubt holding that

ANNUAL SELECTED RAM SALE

As usual, 60 top class yearling rams will be offered at the Hamilton Showgrounds on **Friday 12th November**.

For comparative uniformity of wool cover, all entries are shorn between 1st July and 15th August.

All Lambplan data for the sale is taken from the 15th September "run", so that all data must be entered before that date. These rules were set in place by the Council many years ago, and since then, there has been no reason to vary them. All flocks are Brucellosis Accredited Free and all rams are Gudair vaccinated.

This years sale will be the 24th annual sale, the first being held in the grounds of Glenormiston Agricultural College on 22nd November, 1987.

Don Pegler is the only original

vendor still breeding Coopworths. The Editor organised that sale and offered rams, but last years Hamilton sale was the "swansong".

John Marriott commenced selling the next year (1988) and his last sale was also the 2009 sale. John Keller commenced selling in the 9th sale in 1995.

All the other vendors in the 2010 sale are "Johnny-come-lately's" (great thing to have new, younger, keen breeders in the business), having commenced selling in the 19th, 21st and 23rd sales. Brendan Gordon, Steve and Chris Parker ----- 2005 sale. Nick McClelland----- 2007 sale. Tim Johnston and Tim Leeming--- -- 2009 sale, the 23rd annual sale.

There will be at least two new vendors on the 5th November.

THE NEW ZEALAND COOPWORTH CONFERENCE

By Lachie Ranken

When I told my New Zealand friends that I was coming over in May for the Coopworth conference in Northland (the bit above Auckland) they said I was wasting my time because there is no sheep up there. Northland is one of the few areas in New Zealand I had not been to so I was keen to go and see what it had to offer, despite there being 'no sheep'.

The for two and a half days forty odd Coopworth breeders from all over New Zealand and two Australians piled into a bus and travelled around Northlands countryside. The tour was built around the three farms we visited, a commercial sheep operation, a Coopworth stud and a Techno bull beef system, as the other two were the only sheep farms in Northland. Not entirely true, however what we learnt is that it is very difficult to run sheep there, due to Facial Exema (F.E.) which is spars in the grass which stop the liver or kidney functioning properly, this cannot filter the properties of grass which photosynthesize. Effectively you have the blood photosynthesizing, or as I understand it, boiling, so the sheep tend to itch their faces resulting in massive production losses. So for the Northern

breeders F.E. resistance is the highest priority in their breeding programs. At each of the farms we had key note speakers from, Zee tags, Lincoln University, Pfizer and FMG.

In between the farm visits we got to visit a lot of the tourist attractions, such as the Kauri tree museum, Kauri tree bush walk, the place where the treaty of Waitangi was signed, and the oldest house in New Zealand. Whilst driving the buses PA system was running hot, with a interesting history of the area we were driving through.

The food I have to mention the food it was very nice and there was a heap of it, everywhere we stopped they laid it out for us, it like living in a feed lot. The food, as good as it was, it was the people that made the trip, it was great to meet a lot of the breeders, and get to know them and what they were doing for this reason, it didn't matter how many sheep we saw, I will be going back.

Next year's conference will be held at the other end of the country, Southland.

**NZ Coopworth
Conference
May 2010**

**Group photo--
Kingsley
Clark, Brett
Teutenberg, Chris
Logan, Lachie
Ranken,**

**Seated ;
Hilary McNab,
Bill Scott-Young.**



Photo by; Bill Scott-Young

WHY CASTRATE RAM LAMB??

One New Zealand processor, the Alliance Group, accepts ram and cryptorchid lambs up to twelve months of age.

Research over the past twelve months has confirmed that there is no difference in the eating quality of the meat from 17kg to 19.5kg carcasses, their preferred weight range, whether it be from entire, cryptorchid or wether lambs. The trial was set-up in response to perceived, but unfounded concerns surrounding the eating quality of meat from ram lambs, specifically in relation to taste and aroma.

Scientists found the main difference in meat quality among ram, cryptorchid and wether lambs relates to their pH and time of kill. In the trial, ram and cryptorchid lambs had significantly higher pH levels at 9 and 11 months of age than wether lambs.

Differences in meat tenderness were detected across different slaughter groups but they were not related to the castration status of the lambs.

This proves that the differences show much more of the variation in meat quality occurs from production (farmer-controlled) and pre-slaughter handling of the animals.

The assessment of pH, colour, tenderness, taste and aroma was carried out by

experienced, trained panelists with prior experience in identifying “male flavours” in meat.

The pig industry gave up castrating years ago, although it must be acknowledged that pig castration is a far more time-consuming and difficult task than it is for ram lambs. Try grabbing a piglet and holding it still!

From a practical point of view, ewe lambs would have to be separated from their entire brothers (also the cryptorchids, although they couldn't get the ewes in lamb, they would still be working) and that might be a bit of a complication regarding the feeding of the lambs that are still on property after 4 months of age.

Producers who still have “lambs” not sold at 13 months would certainly have needed to castrate the males. They would become nuisances.

Quite a few ram breeders drop the odd ram lamb (or, in some cases a couple of hundred) into a mob destined for the meat works. That takes place after they have taken a post-weaning weight and have decided to only carry on the top 50%, or some figure like that

SEMEN ORDER FOR SEASON 2011

730 straws from three New Zealand proven sires have been ordered by a number of breeders. Most straws (325) were ordered from Cairnlea 04-742, the present top sire on the list of Coopworth Elite Sires compiled by Lambplan. He is, by far, the best Coopworth sire, production-wise, ever.

After 30 years of performance recording and analysing, something like that had to happen. He has three or more sons just below him on the list with more to come once they have progeny with data in Lambplan. Marlow 04-5203 comes a fairly close second to him on the list.

Colhoun 08-973 (200 straws) and Colhoun 08-1268 (205 straws), two unrelated sires bred by David Colhoun, Invercargill, were also selected for Australian use. Both are in the top 1% for Growth on New Zealand's SIL (Sheep Improvement Limited) sires list. 973 is in the top 1% for Meat Value and 1268 is in the top 4% for Meat Value.

In recent years, New Zealand sires that we have used with high SIL Meat Value Indexes, have, when progeny tested in Australia ended up with high Lambplan Breeding Values for Eye Muscle Depth, which makes life easier for us.

SLEEPING, WALKING AND SITTING ON WOOL

From Beyond the Bale, May 2010, AWI

Working alongside bedding and carpet manufacturing partners, AWI is marketing the merits of wool as part of a healthy home.

At the world's largest home textile trade fair, 'Heimtextil', held in January in Germany, AWI created a 'wool arena' under the Woolmark banner, where Woolmark licensees exhibited their products and the natural benefits of sleeping, walking and sitting on wool.

The latest in wool blankets, underlays and doonas, as well as new felted products such as cushions and bags, were showcased to more than 70,000 retail buyers and wholesalers from all over the world. The ability to machine wash many of these products is a major point of interest to a significant number of European retail buyers.

Exhibiting at Heimtextil, Australian bedding manufacturer Jaspa Herington's managing director Barry Young said educating retailers and wholesalers about wool's naturally superior temperature and moisture control, anti-allergenic and antibacterial properties was very worthwhile. "European and US

bedding markets are like the Australian market some 20 years ago, when wool had very little market share, but I now see that changing with education," Mr Young said.

"Once retailers see and feel the benefits of wool they don't look back. Wool now makes up about 50 per cent of the bedding market here in Australia because people know it outlasts and outperforms the competition."

Belgian bedding wool specialist DBCwool's director Dominique Blandiaux agreed.

"Wool was in the air at Heimtextil," Ms Blandiaux said. "We were pleased to work with Woolmark and have received an increased level of enquiry from quilt producers wanting to know more about wool as a result."

Increased interest in wool was also a theme from the Domotex floor-covering expo, also held in Germany. There Woolmark met with more than 20 licensees from the Indian subcontinent, Belgium and the Netherlands to discuss further marketing and education opportunities.

FAST FACTS

AWI is marketing wool as the ideal choice for home textiles, such as bedding, upholstery and carpets, due to its natural properties and perfect mix of strength and softness.

The interior sector supports the proportion of the clip that is broader micron and crossbred wool.

More information: www.wool.com/interiors

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION

By Tim Johnston , Publicity Officer

Hamilton Sheepvention will be held on the 2nd and 3rd of August 2010. Coopworth Genetics Australia will be in the Sheep Marquee and will again be featuring 2 New Zealand sires, Cairlea 742 and Marlow 5203 who are continuing to be amongst the leading New Zealand rams and have been used by Australian

Coopworth breeders.

Along with this, we will be promoting the efficiency of the Coopworth productive system.

We will be looking for contribution from all members to be on the stand. Please contact Tim Johnston on (03) 55756 236 to book a time that suits you.

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NEW ZEALAND INFORMATION

The Editor makes no apology for using mainly New Zealand information in this newsletter. Much more research is carried out on meat sheep in New Zealand than is done in Australia. There is still too much of your money being wasted by those clowns on the Wool Board (or, whatever it is called, these days). The Editor wouldn't know, as anything mentioning that "four-letter" word went straight into the waste paper bin.

That was especially so, after attending a wool seminar and hearing Ian McLachlan abusing a prime lamb breeder who dared question "his royal eminence" regarding the continual flogging of Merino wool and spending nothing promoting the stronger wools. The prime lamb breeder thought that there should be no levy on wools stronger than 23 microns because there was no promotion, or anything else, for that matter spent on them.

We assume most people who buy Coopworth rams keep up-to-date with Australian research especially where it relates to production per hectare which is what profitability is all about. The present sheep meat prices make even considering wool a bit of a joke as it is in virtually all countries. There are Coopworth breeders returning more than \$200 per ewe for the meat value of her lambs, so the \$10 for the wool is no concern.

The best meaty-type Merino ewe (in a self-replacing Merino enterprise) returning \$100 for lambs, would have a \$30? fleece which would make it of greater value, comparatively. The New Zealand information is seen as an addition to the Australian information available.

" The views/
opinions
expressed in
this newsletter
are not
necessarily
those of the
Council of
Coopworth
Genetics
Australia".

*Suggestions for future articles, comments on past newsletters,
and "Letters To The Editor" would be appreciated.*

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