

## The Tux South Island and New Zealand Dog Trial Championships

The Tux South Island and New Zealand Dog Trial Championships were held at Gore from the 7th to the 12th of June 2010.

The Gore Dog Trial Club would like to acknowledge the tremendous support and sponsorship they received from Wairere South at both these championships.

The generous support received from Wairere South who sponsored both the zig zag hunt course and the straight hunt course and the straight hunt course was greatly appreciated. Without such support, events like these would struggle to operate. The sponsorship received from Wairere South made them the biggest sponsor after Tux, of the Championships.

During the Championships Lex & Nick Miller's Wairere hoggets were used on all four courses.

Lex and Nick Miller have been buying Wairere rams for approximately 7 years and a strong point for them of the breed, is the mothering ability and the fact that they have a strong tendency to recover well from adverse conditions. Over this time lambs killed have averaged 17.5-18 kg.

In 2009, following the lease of a hill block, they tailed 143% ewes to ram, on tussock and un-shepherded. This year, they head into lambing with an encouraging scanning percentage of 176.

## Despite All Adversities

"You had to see it to believe it" was Wayne Tecofsky's statement.

After bitterly cold squalls of rain, hail and unbelievable wind following hard on the heels of the worst snow storm in 40 years, coincided with the peak of lambing in coastal parts of Southland and Otago, it's good to hear some more positive stories.

Trudy and Wayne farm 750 acres (550 effective) down in Western Southland, at Round Hill, Orepuki. They were heading into winter with more grass than ever before and their ewes were in the best condition. Last year they lambed at 154% and were expecting to blow that away this year.

However, the storm hit and they had 20cm of snow lying at the house with it half way up the fence posts on the higher ground. Over the worst days, they had 800 ewes lambing and with help from family and neighbours, they brought everything possible under cover. However, they noticed that the stronger stock that they had to leave outside, were nearly all Wairere Romneys and they started to select on ewe tags, as to what would survive if left unassisted.

From the time when the storm hit, it would have been a week before Wayne Tecofsky was eventually able to access the back of his farm. Expecting the worst, he was amazed to find their 500 Wairere two-tooths, charging round with lambs at foot in incredible condition. Wayne said he picked up one dead ewe and only 8 dead lambs. He said it was simply amazing. Hoping that they will never see another storm like it, they were convinced of the toughness and survivability of the Wairere bloodline.

Similar positive stories were received from Allan & Kathryn Marshall and Graham & Joy Tait, both farming at Tokonui.



**Enclosed is your ram order form, please fill in and return. Also enclosed is a copy of Derek's newsletter (the man at the top) as he has included a lot of combined information plus the Wairere Romney DVD. Cheers from the Southern Team.**



Wayne & Trudy Tecofsky enjoying some welcome sunshine.



# Wairere South

Spring 2010  
Client Newsletter

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## LEADING FROM THE TOP

The last 18 months has been very exciting at my stage in life as I was privileged to go back and run the home base, Clutha Downs. I have relished this opportunity and have been passionate about implementing innovative adjustments to the management. There is a little fine tuning left to be done over the next 12 months as to where our stock units should stand and our lamb weights finishing but certainly we will not be turning any more tractor wheels. The property is looking in good stead going forward, for our new junior manager, Alec Watson, and for the next decade.

Our Wairere North team have taught me how to use Nitrogen in the growing of grass and certainly from watching the dairy farmers and how they manage it, has set me a new goal in pasture production. I believe that the dairy boom to the South Island has taught us a lesson on how to utilise our land. With the Wairere influence we have ability to be every bit as profitable as dairying with a much lower labour input. We can offer capital gains going forward, and as more than one client has indicated, **OUR SHEEP ARE STRONG.**

Despite the dry autumn and shortage of winter crops across all our properties, our scanning results were still very high and so I made the call in late July to administer Bionic capsules to our ewes, to give them the benefit of these slow releasing minerals.

Now as I sit down and write this letter, I believe our ewes did extremely well. It was the first time we have used this system, but it was an emergency and it was a great decision especially considering the last fortnight being so tough feed wise.



**Yeah Right!**

Despite all these constant obstacles, as experienced farmers we must keep our chins up, do our best and look to the future. Most people have been through it before and know there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

We as, Wairere South, are here to help and support you.

Cheers, Trevor.

## JACK'S REPORT

As I put pen to paper and look outside at the weather conditions, 21/9/10, my thoughts are certainly with all those lambing at present.

A year's work and planning and what was shaping up to be a good spring can turn to disaster in just a few days, with snow, rain and cold conditions like we have not seen for decades – certainly taking a huge toll on lamb survival. Wairere South stud and commercial ewes are right in the middle of lambing at Dunrobin and Moa Flat so we can definitely relate to what everyone is going through.

These lamb losses and the retention of more ewe lambs will certainly have an effect on the number of lambs available for processing in the south this coming season. Hopefully supply and demand will work in our favour and we will be well rewarded for the lambs we do supply for processing.

This past season Wairere South has set target weights for their ram hoggets, with a regular weighting and culling policy. It is very pleasing to see these target weights being achieved or bettered so far this season in what have been very trying conditions over summer and early winter months.

We have also continued our rigorous culling policy in the stud ewe flock with all ewes being eye appraised individually prior to mating and any ewes found to have faults being culled.



Trevor presenting one of his trophies to Owen Finlayson from Whangarei. Owen is being presented with third place in the South Island in the zig zag hunt.



Scanning in the M/A stud ewes averaged 197% with stud 2th’s scanning 204% this season and given the climatic conditions in the summer and autumn we were very pleased with this result. However as we are all aware mother nature will have a fair say in how many of these lambs survive.

**Ram Sales**

Ram Selling will start late November this year and you can select your Romney 2ths, RomTex 2th’s or SuffTex 2th’s on the same day but please be very clear on your order form as to what you want and how many of each so we can have the right Rams ready for you. You will be notified by mail with a date and time for your selection. Please contact me on (03) 207 3580 if the time or date allocated does not suit or you wish to discuss any other Ram requirements.Ram Prices will remain the same as last year, however because of the lambing conditions and with what is shaping up to be a very trying season, we have decided to defer payment of all rams for this year until 20th February 2011. Please get your ram orders back promptly so we can work on selection dates and times.

Hopefully by the time this reaches you, the sun is shining, grass is growing and the snow a distant memory!!!

All the best for the remainder of the season, Jack.



*Focus on Increasing Yields*

Wairere South Farms have focused on increasing yields on the high value primals that being the middles and legs of lambs.

Over the past season across the commercial farms, the legs that met or exceeded the minimum saleable yield increased from a yield of 78% in 2008/09 to 85% in 2009/10.

The loins that met or exceeded the minimum saleable meat yield increased from a yield of 76% in 2008/09 to 83% in 2009/10.

The shoulder saleable yield compared favourable with the previous season of 86% saleable meat on qualifying lambs.

Targeting the highest schedule to maximise returns, the average carcase weight was 17.62kg.

The schedule plus the average yield quality qualifying lambs of \$4.17 was returning a 23cent premium over the base schedule coupled with the pool (last season of \$3.35) meant a 42cent per kg premium over the base schedule or \$7.52 per head on all qualifying lambs.

Murray Behrent  
**GROUP LIVESTOCK MANAGER**  
**ALLIANCE GROUP LTD**

*A New Challenge*

After spending all our working career in South Canterbury we were looking for a new challenge & were fortunate enough to get a farm managers position with Trevor & Karen on their lamb fattening & ram unit at Waikoikoi.

After the property sold we moved with the stud rams to Trevor & Karens Millers Flat property. Here we also took on the Angus stud.

We have had great satisfaction in working with both the sheep & beef studs, as it has been very rewarding to see lambs/calves from birth through to sale day.

With our first successful spring bull sale over & ram hoggets up to target weights for the upcoming ram sales, we look forward to the challenges ahead.

**Shane, Kirsten, Josh and Isaac Carter**



*From the Boys*

Here at Spylaw, we have faced a challenging season with a dry summer and wet winter, topped off with this recent week of very bad weather.

The great thing about Waireres, for us, is that the ewes have bounced back really well. Last year we lambed 150 % over the MA ewes, with an average weight for lambs to the works of 17.15kg. This year we scanned 197% in the M/A stud ewes. Studs 2ths scanned 204% which included triplets. The commercial ewes scanned 174% without triplets.

With the way the season has been with not much grass growth we made the call to sell some early lambing ewes and put 1000 hogget’s out on grazing. This has now turned out to be a very good decision.

We are really enjoying trying to grow a high fertility, easy care, good eye muscle yielding sheep. This is being achieved by a strict culling process in which only the best of the best are kept for breeding, producing a larger quantity and better quality of ram lambs.

All the while, we are constantly trying to keep up with new technology and stay ahead of the play.

We would like to welcome Ian and Bronwyn Clark and their two boys to our operation. Ian is from Scotland and started with us in May.

**Clayton, Jeannette, Josh and Annabel Peters**



Lambing at Bullock Range started on 1st September with 1300 commercial ewes to terminal sire. These ewes would normally be lambed over on the Central Otago side of the property but due to a major rabbit problem and the very dry autumn, we lambed them on the Moa Flat Side. Several cold spells during their lambing will have taken its toll but they will still be a lot better off than the ewes that lambed late September.

The above ewes scanned 180% so I would still like to think we will end up with 140 – 150%. They lambed us 155% last season. Stud ewes scanned 197% this year, slightly down on last year but this was to be expected with a very dry autumn.

Last season stud ewes lambed 162%, but with eight days of snow, hail, rain and bitterly cold conditions during lambing this year, if we do around 140%, we will be happy.

The rest of the commercial ewes scanned 179% not including triplets and are due to start lambing on 1.10.10. So hope all rough weather is over by then and we get a good survival rate.

Like everyone else we are hoping grass starts growing very soon so we can put as much weight into lambs as possible and make up for some of the losses.

Catch you at ram selling,

**Morgan, Megan, Tyler and Aden Peters**



*These sheep were shorn in Nov 09 as hogget’s. The photo was taken in March 2010 after they had been tagged and campo/toxo vaccinated. There is 2450 rising 2-tooths in the mob. Whare Creek, Bridget Speight and Shane Gibbons.*

