

Duncaigen Landcorp Angus

Another season is upon us and with a relatively dry and seasonally warm winter for the south it is encouraging to see some early growth as we head into spring. After a favourable winter the cows are in optimum condition to calve and will hopefully maximise their potential for milk production as feed requirements increase. Calving is well underway and we are busy taking this first lot of raw data for our 2010 born calves. With mating just around the corner our heifers are being monitored on genetic merit, structure and weight. 65 % of the 270 will make it into the cow herd. Our final cull being after PD in March.

We've wintered 280 Bull calves in four performance groups. With the capacity to cull down to 50% it will give us real strength to present genetic and structurally superior animals for sale next autumn. In the meantime, you are always welcome to visit Duncaigen.

Matt

Email: Cantonm@landcorp.co.nz

Below: Ken Burt and Geoff Nicoll inspecting the 2010 ram hoggets at Goudies.



Breeding Farm Locations

1. Kapiro
2. Waikite
3. Rotomahana
4. Goudies
5. Stuart
6. Kepler
7. Freestone
8. Duncaigen



Landcorp

SIRES

Sires of proven value™

Alex Clark - Genetics Business & Marketing Manager

Landcorp Farming Limited, PO Box 5349, Wgtn
 Email: sires@landcorp.co.nz
 Freephone: 0508 526 326

"Landcorp Genetics - proven throughout the country."

Farm IQ

In search of a better future for red meat producers, Landcorp has joined Silver Fern Farms and PGG Wrightson to establish the \$151 million Primary Growth Partnership with Government. Having developed specialist genetics for meat production in our sheep, cattle and deer, we see the objectives of this partnership under the banner of FARM[®] will provide the other essential components to develop closer links between plate and pasture. The financial rewards will come for efficiently producing what our customers want.

New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) figures used to support the private sector partners' application to the PGP fund show the New Zealand farmer and the country

as a whole stands to benefit by \$521 million over the seven years of the planned investment programme. Economic modelling for the project shows the potential benefit to farmers from on-farm production gains are significant.

The programme consists of seven projects and eighteen sub projects which have been developed following a thorough assessment of the current supply chain.

Each project has been designed to either:

- Build capability (systems and processes) that do not currently exist in the value chain e.g. information management analytical software and database systems
- Enhance capabilities in areas where there is current infrastructure that needs to be modified or realigned

to support the new value chain - e.g. demonstration farms and market analysis

- Develop new technology that will be required in the future to meet customers' requirements - e.g. the genomics programme.

The seven projects are:

- Market Analysis
- Animal Database
- Animal Genetics
- Processing Phenotype Collection
- Processing improvements
- On-Farm Technology
- Farm Productive Capacity

We look forward to seeing you at our Landcorp Sheep Field Days to learn more about this transformational initiative and how it can benefit you.

Landcorp Sires Newsletter Spring 2010

Landcorp

NEWSLETTER

SPRING

SIRES

2010

Sires of proven value™

Landcorp Sheep Field Days 2010

"For Farmers Pursuing a Profitable Future"

The challenges to continue operating our sheep enterprise are considerable. Competitive land use, farm gate prices and costs of operating are smothering the industry like a wet blanket. There are a few small holes in that blanket through which we can see glimpses of a better place as the global supply and demand for lamb finds a new equilibrium. Consumers expectations are being more closely analysed by the retailers who are recognising the need to build closer links with producers to ensure those expectations are met. While it means more effort for us as producers, we are convinced that it is the way to escape the smother. These field days will focus on Landcorp's initiatives and how you can take advantage of them.

GOUDIES STATION

KEPLER FARM

THE TOPICS

9 NOVEMBER 2010, 10AM

25 NOVEMBER 2010, 10AM

Location: Farm Office, Goudies Road, Reporoa

Location: Kepler Woolshed, 123 Supply Bay Road, Manapouri

- **Sheep Health & Nutrition**
Trevor Cook, Veterinarian Fielding
- **Changes to Landcorp Recording & Selection**
Dr Geoff Nicoll, Landcorp
- **FARM[®] Collier Isaacs**, Landcorp
- **Raising Lambs Profitably**
Ross Shepherd / Tim Smith, Landcorp

If more information is required or if you are planning to attend and would like us to arrange your lunch, please call Maryann 0508 526 326 or email sires@landcorp.co.nz

IT'S TIME TO ORDER LANDCORP RAMS FOR DECEMBER 2010 SELECTION - Contact us Now



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SUPPLY OF LANDCORP SIRES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ken Burt
Farm Manager
Romney
027 454 7048

Roger Bedford
Farm Manager
Texel & Lamb
Supreme
07 333 1835

Chris Johns
Farm Manager
Landmark
027 231 6734

John Caley
Farm Manager
Lamb Supreme
027 226 0559

Alex Clark
Genetics Business & Marketing Manager
Landcorp
0508 526 326

Bruce Orr
Genetics Manager
PGG Wrightson
027 592 2121

Left: Lamb Supreme Rams, Kepler.

The Latest from SIL-ACE

The Table below summarises the latest SIL-ACE results for the top 1-10% of elite sires evaluated.

Landcorp Sires Benchmarked with Industry Sires

Landcorp Breeding Programme	SIL Index compared*	Total sires in SIL-ACE evaluation	Industry percentile band		Landcorp sires in upper band	
			Top %	No.	No.	%
Romney	DP	2,633	1%	26	5	19%
	DP+M+FE	309	10%	31	20	65%
Lamb Supreme Texel	TSM	2,489	5%	124	44	35%

*DP Index = Dual Purpose (reproduction, growth and wool).

DP+M+FE Index = Dual Purpose (reproduction, growth, wool) & Meat (yields in loin, hind leg, shoulder) & FE.

TSM Index = Terminal Sire Meat Yield (meat yields in loin, hind leg and shoulder; and fat yield).

- Virtually 1 in every 5 sires ranking in the top 1% of the Dual Purpose sires in the industry was a Landcorp Romney. No other individual flock in the industry had 5 or more sires in this top 1% group.

- Landcorp Romney, dominated the top 10% of industry sires for the Index combining Dual Purpose BVs with Meat yield and FE resistance BVs.

- Landcorp's terminal sire breeds continue to dominate the industry analysis, with more than 1 in every 3 sires in the top 5% for the Terminal Sire Meat Yield Index.

These sorts of results indicate that selection for traits of commercial value in Landcorp's ram breeding programmes has been successful, and ensures that the sons put up for sale to our customers are sired by rams that are among the industry's best.

New Developments in Landcorp's Breeding Programmes

(i) Landcorp has established its own bureau with Sheep Improvement Ltd (SIL) to record our sheep and deer programmes. For many years and before the development of SIL, Landcorp maintained its own animal recording and genetic evaluation system. The information on our sheep and deer routinely exported to the SIL and DeerSelect databases.

While there's a steep learning curve for our breeding programme Farm Managers and Genetics Group staff, we're looking forward to using this versatile system. It will give us the flexibility to provide Landcorp's new Indexes and the SIL-derived index information to our customers.

(ii) We've made our Selection Indexes more appropriate to Landcorp's future commercial operational environments and market expectations. Our updated Breeding Objective to improve commercial farm profit per ha, includes a redefinition of those traits that are the major contributors to profitability (eg, meat yield in primal cut regions in the lamb carcass in both our maternal and terminal sire programmes). When looking at the indexes this season, you'll see a difference between the new and the "old" index values. This doesn't mean the genetic merit of our rams has suddenly changed. It's due to the new index:

- Considering a greater number of traits that are relevant to a profitable production system (accounting for both costs and returns).
- Being expressed in units of \$/ha.

Animals ranking well on the "old" index will also rank well on the new index. The new values are more comprehensive than before and better at identifying variation in genetic potential for farm profitability. For example, an "old" index value for a terminal sire ram may have been 900 (ie, 900¢/animal), and the "new" index may now lie within a value range of 150-220 (\$150/ha - \$220/ha). In the case of cattle, the "old" index for an Angus bull may have been 22 (ie, \$22/animal) and the "new" index may now be within the range 300-380 (\$300/ha - \$380/ha).

If you have any queries or concerns we'll be pleased to talk to you about them.

(iii) With the steady improvement in BV's we are confident to increase the percentage of Group 1 Rams to the top 30%. This will provide greater selection for our customers who want to purchase top performing sires. Ram prices will remain the same as last year:

Group 1	\$1,000
Group 2	\$850
Group 3	\$750

(iv) John Rendel, Geneticist

After nearly eight years with Landcorp John leaves Landcorp at the end of September to take up a position with Ag Research based at Invermay. John has made a considerable contribution during his tenure with Landcorp and we wish him well with his new venture.

Around the Farms

Goudies Landcorp Romney

Landcorp's Romney flock is now in its 2nd season on Goudies. Ewes were in great condition for mating and despite generally dry conditions and low covers, have scanned at over 200%. This was a great result and with lambing now underway large numbers of multiple births will be testing our shedding and management skills.

FE testing was done on 150 Ram Hoggets in autumn at a slightly increased dosage from the previous year. The results were very pleasing with only a few animal showing any sign of a response. Good progress is being made here and our continued emphasis on FE in our selection will be passed on to future progeny and enhance the levels of resistance to FE throughout the flock that use our rams. Result from the CPT trial for FE Tolerance show the Landcorp Waihora flock to be one of the leaders for this trait.

For several years all Waihora Ram hoggets have had an Eye Muscle Assessment done, measuring the eye muscle area and fat depth through ultra sound scanning. This year our Romney ram hoggets were included in the CT scanning programme and a sample were sent to Massey University in February to be measured. This gives us some very powerful information as breeding values of specific meat cuts and growth traits. These Breeding Values are now included with the Fertility and Growth BVs used in the past to create a new Romney Index. Ram Buyers will now have this added information to use when purchasing their rams.

1200 Rams have been wintered this year to be available for Ram Sales. With poor covers going into winter these have been run as one mob right through the winter. They have done extremely well under the circumstances and will be ready for sale from mid November.

Ken Email: Burtk@landcorp.co.nz

Waikite Landcorp Texel, Lamb Supreme and Simmental

Most of you will be well through or finished lambing. I hope all has gone well and that the all important "weather" has treated you right. Lambs

are the "proof of the pudding" and I am confident you will be well pleased with the results.

With another ram sale season drawing closer, it is time for another catch up. I hope your rams have come through sound and healthy after their job last year. We'd be please to hear your feedback - it is important to us. The Ram crop this year has a bit of ground to make up due to a dry Autumn. With no rain until mid May we went into the Winter with low pasture covers, and have struggled since. The good news is we have had a wet, but mild August.

Rams will be available from the 10th November. It is important to get your order in early to ensure you get rams from the sale group you require. I look forward to hearing from you.

Roger Email: Bedfordr@landcorp.co.nz

Freestone Landcorp Landmark

With the Landcorp Landmark ewes scanning 220% and hoggets scanning 164%, our focus has been on managing this for maximum lamb survival. The programme to achieve this result has involved an emphasis on feeding requirements of the ewes and the monitoring their body condition. We condition scored the ewes at scanning and again at set stocking - this information has allowed us to adjust feeding to better suit the animal. I am very happy with the way the ewes have come through the winter and we hope this will translate into a bumper lambing.

The ram hogget's have come off crop and are moving forward fast - to provide a great selection of rams when we start selling again at the end of November. I will be in contact with you all soon.

Chris Email: Johnsc@landcorp.co.nz

Kepler Landcorp Lamb Supreme

A mild winter at Kepler has seen the stock come through in good condition considering our feed crops and supplements were average after a difficult spring and summer. We have some very good two tooth Rams available for selection from late November. As ram selling season approaches there is plenty of optimism from our clients with orders coming in early and increased demand for rams.

Clients are reporting excellent results

with their terminal lambs and we are pleased with our own commercial lambs being drafted at around 90 days old getting good weights, 80% drafted of the mothers, yielding 55-58 % and qualifying for yield quality payments.

I will be in touch with all existing clients over the next month and welcome any inquiry and invite anyone that would like to come and have a look at our sheep operation to contact me or attend our field day on 25th November.

John Email: Caleyj@landcorp.co.nz

Kapiro Landcorp Angus

Kapiro is slowly recovering after last season's drought. The main issue facing us has been thistles in pastures opened up by cricket damage. We have had to spray a large area of improved pasture which had a high proportion of chicory and plantain in the sward, causing a big drop in the feed available in what has otherwise been our "engine room".

We are at the tail end of a very compact 5 week calving and look to be heading towards our best result in a number of years (96% +). Our rising two year heifer which make up 27% of our herd have been particularly good and tracking towards 95%.

Four bulls will soon be away for semen collection to be used as link sires at Rotomahana and Duncraigen. They'll return to Kapiro and be used naturally here for this years mating.

Andrew Email: Kirka@landcorp.co.nz

Rotomahana Landcorp Angus

We welcome Matt Lane as the new Farm Manager at Rotomahana who joined Landcorp from a breeding and finishing farm in Hawke's Bay. Matt and his family are settled in and looking forward to the challenges that this role provides.

Rotomahana experienced a kind season until the Autumn when a sustained dry period presented a challenge to achieving bull target weights. The sale day in June was very wet which was unpleasant for bulls and buyers, however it was pleasing to see new and repeat customers purchasing.

The cows are well into calving and we look forward to having a crop of well grown calves ready for selection.

Matt Email: Lanem@landcorp.co.nz

Continued over page...