



2013 Newsletter

Charollais Sheep NZ

New Zealand's largest developer of Charollais sheep genetics www.charollaisnz.co.nz

LATEST LAMBING UPDATE

The ewes artificially inseminated with imported Charollais semen lambled in late August/early September with good survival despite being subjected to stormy cold and wet southerly weather which left snow on the ground at times making South Otago the worst affected region in what is regarded as a good lambing nationally. The main lambing occurred in mid September as the weather improved. These included half, three quarter and Pure Charollais ewes lambing to Pure Charollais rams, as well as 500 commercial Romney ewes and 300 hoggets lambled to half and three quarter Charollais ram lambs. Ease of lambing was noticeable, especially due to increased proportion of singles as ewes went to the ram in lighter condition, a testament to the wedge shape of the Charollais sired lambs. This has given Charollais NZ a huge boost in graded-up animals to select from. The quality and numbers of the 2013 lambs will allow us to reduce numbers to establish a nucleus of elite breeding ewes with strong accuracy in their performance records.



ACROSS FLOCK REFERENCING

Charollais NZ and Douglas Downs are registered flocks 1 and 2 respectively with the newly formed breed society, Charollais Sheep Genetics New Zealand. This breed society has launched itself on the basis of utilising all the latest tools available to breeders. As a consequence, all Breeding Values and Indexes are calculated as across all members flocks and linked into the CPT, this means all Charollais' have been evaluated in NZ on a level playing field irrespective of whether their sire was born in Australia or NZ. Much use is made of both ViaScan and CT scanning to increase carcass trait accuracies. The figures presented at our annual sale will be across all Charollais born in NZ. This means if you are looking for superior yields (TSM) or growth (TSG) the index will show how much each ram will pass on to its progeny compared to the breed average in NZ for that trait.

MID RANKED CHAROLLAIS PERFORMS WELL IN THE CPT

In 2010 pure Charollais lambs were born from imported embryos. Nearly all the ewe lambs were by one sire which forced Charollais NZ to retain the best unrelated ram lamb for hogget mating. This ram has subsequently ranked 13th overall from the 25 pure rams used in NZ registered Charollais flocks. From the large number of top terminal sires across many breeds evaluated in the 11 years of the CPT, Charollais NZ 10/10 ranked 17th for GROWTH INDEX, 10th for WEANING WEIGHT BV, 4th for WORMFEC BV and 19th for TERMINAL MEAT AND GROWTH. We are confident that the Charollais breed will perform admirably compared to other breeds as many new rams both imported and born in NZ have much higher growth and meat indexes. Ram 10/10 has given us a good benchmark to where this breed is relative to the NZ Terminal ram industry for producing faster growing and higher yielding lamb carcasses out of any dam breed.

THE YIELD MEASUREMENT ANOMALIES

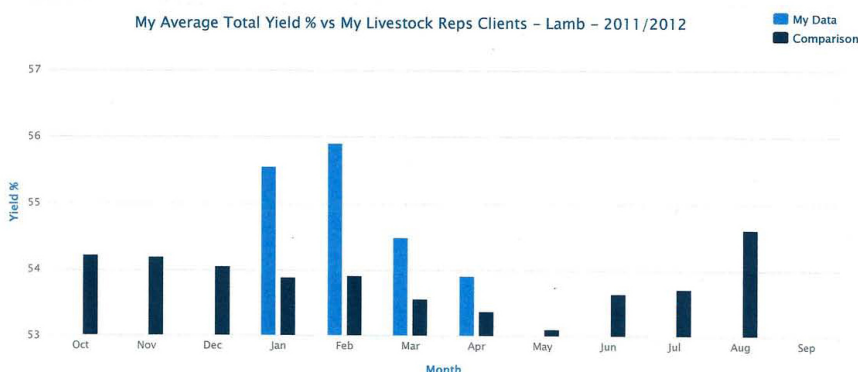
There are several ways of assessing red meat yield in a carcass. The ultimate way is to dissect the carcass manually into meat, fat and bone. All the various systems have calibrated themselves for their own outcomes; however we cannot compare the figures derived from all the systems, because they each use different methods to make the yield assessment. Even CT scanning between Lincoln and InnerVision at Invermay come up with slightly different figures for the same animals. The key is to compare animals using just the one method. Think dollars, we have US, Australian and NZ dollars, but they are all different except the name, but we can reliably compare prices within each currency.

ViaScan yields on a Charollais NZ line of culled pure and $\frac{3}{4}$ Charollais rams exceeded 60%, however 56.6% was the best yield by CT scanning. ViaScan uses a photo image calibrated to how the carcass is processed, whereas CT scanning measured the proportion of muscle in various cross section "slices" through the live lamb. I can assure you we do not kill our best.

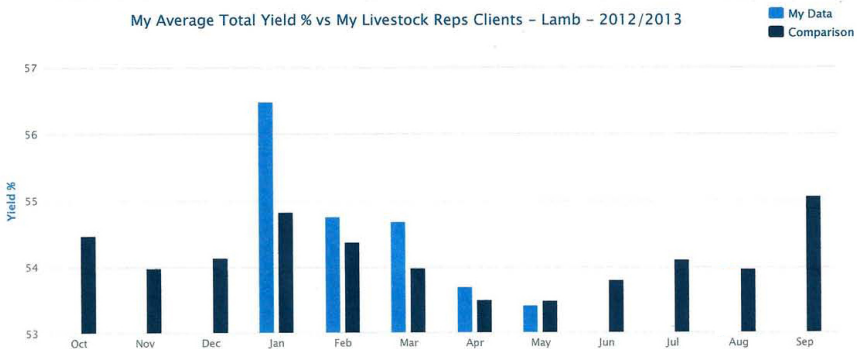
CLIENT KILLING SHEET SUMMARIES

Some very encouraging killing sheets have been reported from clients who have gone to the trouble of separating their Charollais sired lambs. These farmers have reported much earlier kills of Charollais sired lambs compared to the other terminal breeds they have been using and yields have been superior. The following graphs produced by Alliance Group Ltd. for suppliers on South Otago hill country show the yield superiority to the district average over two seasons. Note the sires were half and three quarter Charollais. *See website for more details.*

My Group Performance



My Group Performance



Total yield%	56.17	56.02	54.84	55.19
Ave wt. kg.	17.16	17.53	18.10	17.51
% qualified for yield premium	87	91	70	72

3RD ANNUAL RAM SALE

Again to be held at the Gore A&P Show grounds 10th December. Auction starting at 1.00pm



2013 Sale Rams

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