

## **Waimai Romney 2015**

Hopefully this newsletter arrives with the sun on your backs and your families all fit and well. In the Waimai we are wet, cold and windy, with pasture covers well behind this time last year. Lambing is all but finished and we just need some sun. Hopefully you dont need to use the beanie for too much longer!!

Over the last season Waimai Romney have joined forces with Gordon Levett, Kikitangeo, and Keith Abbott of Waitekia, to form North Link. North Link's aim is to provide better linkages between our studs by using common sires within the mating season and also to increase our genetic pool to 2000 SIL recorded ewes. These sires were also used in the Romney NZ South Island meat trial run by Hugh Taylor at Oxford, with the support of the Alliance Group. The aim of this trial is to identify high yielding romney sires and to promote their use within our studs. One of these sires, Waimai 337/12 was also selected to be part of the Central Progeny Trial (CPT), which have three hill country trial sites throughout New Zealand. This sire is an extremely meaty ram, with great structure, and was ranked first for Dual Purpose Growth (DPG) at Waimai Romney. He has 8 sons in the Mid Northern ram fair this year. John and Alastair are really excited about North Link as it will have a huge focus on improving meat yield and ultimately improve the yield of our sires available to our commercial clients.

We continue to use Sheep 5K DNA genomic testing at Waimai Romney as well as EMA scanning all our ram hoggets. While the merits of these tests are still to be validated, it is important to embrace new technology when the rewards are huge for genetic improvement within our stud.

With changes within our meat industry having occurred it will be interesting to see where the season's prices end up, not just this year but in coming years. With an El Nino weather pattern forecast for the East Coast, processing space and prices may come under some pressure, and I think that the relationship you have with your processor and forward booking of stock will be an important part of this seasons planning.

Hopefully we all get some sun over the next few weeks and the wind stops blowing.

Looking forward to seeing you all

Kind regards

**John & Alastair Reeves**

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# Genetic Trends

for Flock 33

GE Analysis #31805 7/10/2015

Analysis Flocks: 33,151,552

