

Waimai Romney Spring 2018

Spring 2018 for New Zealand's sheep farmers can only be described as really positive, which is very exciting and a great change. My bank manager described it as 'the year of the sheep'. I suggested that it is 'the first year of the decade of the sheep'. We need a profitable sheep industry as it would be great for our existing sheep farmers and rural communities, not to mention the environment and tourism. For the Productivity Commission Chair, Murray Sherwin, to recommend that up to 2.8 million hectares of trees be planted over the next 30 years (mostly on land currently used for sheep and beef farming) is a disgrace, and it is not only a threat to our industry, but lacks thought and is poorly conceived. A Profitable sheep industry would go a long way to restoring the respect our urban cousins have for farming, as I believe that sheep are the only animal to be sustainably run on our hill country and around our sensitive waterways. We need sheep farming to regain its position as New Zealand's pre-eminent livestock industry. Dad would be chuffed if we could achieve this!

At Waimai Romney we are very pleased to announce that we have just gained WormFec Gold accreditation. This brand has just been launched with the aim to identify those breeders who are making progress in breeding for resistance to internal parasites. To my knowledge only 14 stud breeders across New Zealand are eligible to use this brand. Along with our FE Gold accreditation this puts Waimai Romney in a very select group of breeders who have both those accreditations. Combine this with our sires being in the top 10% on average for Reproduction, top 15% for Survival and the top 25% for Growth on the NZMW, (New Zealand Maternal Worth) makes Waimai Romney genetics, we believe, very appealing.

I would finally just like to thank everyone for the huge support our family has received since Dad passed away. It was a huge shock to us all, but the fact that he died doing what he loved, around the people he loved, without a protracted illness, gives my family great comfort. Dad loved farming and breeding his beloved Romney's, but it's the people he met along the way and got to know which is the thing he loved the most. Thank you once again for being part of Dad's journey and for your love and kindness. It's great to have such fond memories.

Take care

Kind Regards

Alastair, Ann and Helen

Alastair Reeves

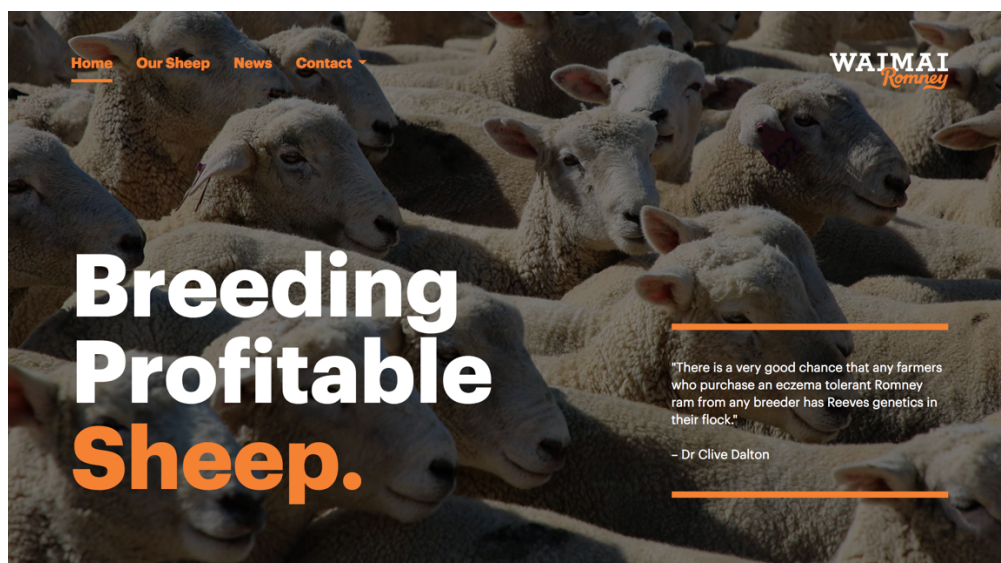
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Mum is staying on the farm and in the business, so there will still be fruit cake, made from goose eggs, during ram selling season. We look forward to seeing you all.



Check out our new website which has just been updated.

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