



WAITAKI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL FRASER FARM

Waitaki Boys' High School Fraser Farm Update. June 2021

This month the production cycle starts all over again as we scan our ewes and know how many potential lambs will be born in spring and get the first measure on how well we have looked after our ewes over summer and autumn.

Over the last couple of months a large amount of work has been completed on the riparian area around the creek, thanks in large part to the initiative of a number of our students, and this area will be a credit to them and to the school, as well as performing an important function buffering the farm from the waterway. Check out the school's Facebook page for some photos and an excellent video from the 'Rabobank Good Deeds' working bee.

Key points this month:

- 57 ewes that were bought in over summer were shorn post-tup, to bring them in line with the remainder of the flock. We typically shear at weaning. The remaining ewes will be belly-crutched for the winter and lambing
- Ewes are on a daily shift; pasture covers on-offer are between 1450 and 1850kgDM/ha
- 22 single-scanned ewes were taken to the A&P Showgrounds after scanning, and will be there till lambing
- On 17 June, 3 senior boys went to the Fossil Creek Angus Bull Sale, to learn about beef cattle genetic improvement, specifically the use of Estimated Breeding Values, and to represent WBHS Fraser Farm
- A sample of ewes were Body Condition Scored and weighed at scanning. The flock average 73kg liveweight and BCS 3.2. Single-scanned ewes average 69.75kg compared to twins at 72kg. The aim is to use these datasets for teaching in other classes such as mathematics. All ewes have Electronic ID tags (EID) so we can track individual animals and their records.
- Scanning this year was very pleasing at 188% – see table below for details. None of the Fraser Farm ewes were 'dry' (not pregnant) – one ewe scanned dry on the day but on inspection turned out to be a stray from somewhere else. Once again, we have a small number of triplets that will require a higher level of care, but most of the ewes are carrying twins which our well-fed ewes can take care of well, and we have our automatic lamb-feeder for any we hand-rear.
- Now we have scanning results in hand we will update our budget, to forecast how much money the Farm will make available for investment in school activities.

Scanning Results

Scan Result	Number of Ewes	% of ewes	Potential Lambs
Dry (not pregnant)	0	0	-
Single	30	23%	30
Twins	83	65%	166
Triplets	15	12%	45
TOTAL	128		241

- Overall result: 188% scanning counting triplets; 0% dry (not pregnant)