

# High yield, high production genetics.



## Good morning to you all!

We do apologise for being out of touch so far in this 2023 year.

To say it's been challenging is an understatement really, Tinui was hit pretty hard in the floods. The school and pub are still in recovery mode.

The Manawa valley became a raging torrent and both Grassendale staff houses and the woolshed had a fair bit of water through them, one third of the way up the bales that were in there. Nothing that a 100 year building couldn't withstand of course though!

The last time this happened Luce was at secondary school in 1991. Moral of the story do not build houses in a flood plain!

We had plenty of time to evacuate staff and stock, so our losses were nothing on the Hawkes Bay. Our thoughts are with all those affected north of us.

The **Grassendale Genetics** FB page has a couple of really satisfying videos posted, a lot of work done in 18 weeks. Great to have the crew back in their houses, which has been our priority up until now. And we feel incredibly lucky to now have two very smart, modern staff abodes.



With the wettest summer on record, stock was set up incredibly well despite the flood, so apart from an inability to keep mobs together we felt positive on that front. Had an epic team helping out with fencers, digger and bulldozers drivers and now have farms manageable and grazable again. A huge thanks to all those involved.

An opportunity came up pretty smartly after the floods to purchase a neighbouring property, which we jumped at:

**LARCHBANK** - neighboring Grassendale & Longridge.

578Ha, owned by the Langdon family for 169 years this year.

Comprises of similar hill country to Grassendale but also some great alluvial flats like those at Longridge.

We are really excited going forward with Larchbank. A big thanks to John Glenys, Gemma for the opportunity!

Larchbank had extensive flood damage, requiring significant fencing, water and access development, this has been a massive challenge. But also extremely rewarding, nothing beats the feeling of being able to rotate sheep with new fences.

Another exciting chapter on farm has been an addition of some new staff. We are really enjoying having a full staff load for the first time ever, splitting the farm into three blocks and giving the fellas their own blocks is working well, and having more people around certainly creates the social, entertaining working environment we were after.

In purchasing Larchbank we are excited to be able to consolidate all the stock to Tinui, so we now have all our blackface and FE ewes home.

We have decided not to have our annual Black face auction this year, it averaged \$1800 per ram for the last few years, but we would like to give more opportunity at a lesser price.

Now with wettest winter recorded so far, we have set stocked early and are relying on bodyweight to get them through. Actually praying for some wind which is quite ludicrous in Tinui.

We would like to introduce you all to our new hair breed, it has been under wraps for a couple of years, but now we are excited to let you all know they are called the 'GRASSENDALE STREAKER'. Ram Hoggets Available this March.

We have Just completed the main shear of the Ram hoggets and would proud to say these would be our best line up of maternal rams for sale for the 2023 season. 300 rams have been pulled out at the finer edge, thanks to

Roger Hale and Marcus Loader the wool classers who helped. We side sampled them, and the samples are currently being tested in Napier. This initiative is in it's third year, and some fantastic results are being had by clients throughout Omarama.

**OUR LATEST VENTURES** include heading to Australia with Guy Martin, to secure more Australian white semen for our Streaker programme. Looking forward to inspecting the rams over there, and learning about there characteristics, how they graze, move in a mob and behave. As well as ascertain information around their physical performance scanning lambing and mothering ability.

We can't wait to catch up with many of you in the next couple of months building up to ram season. And although things are looking pretty chewy out there, it's amazing how with a bit of a sun on the lambs back can make you smile and remind us all why we are all doing it.

*It's a real privilege to be given the opportunity to supply genetics to so many awesome businesses, heres a couple of examples of client success stories.*

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We are sheep and beef farmers on hill country in Owaka, South Otago. Primarily a breeding and finishing unit. We have purchased Grassendale rams for the last 7 years. Lambing percentage currently at 156% unshepherd. Survivability and weaning weights have continued to increase over this time. It the consistant preformance and improvement through varying seasons which confirms to us we are with the right stud breeder.

Production points: Please add anything from this Scanning 2023 204% MA tripleted. 0.5% dry in them triplet rate of 15% and single 13%. Two tooths scanned 193% tripleted- 1% dry. 200% over whole flock. Hoggets 563 to the ram for only 16 days scanning 107% to the ram- 425 of 563 were in lamb so in lamb rate of 175%. Maternal lambs weaned 110 days- 60% of male maternal cripts averaged over 36.



## Working harder, AND smarter.

We offer a hardy, high yielding genetic package that enables easier and more productive sheep farming for our clients.



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