

	Mohair New Zealand Inc.	Compiled by MNZI
	Quarterly Report	
		Date: 29/12/19

1. Feedback from Carl:

Welcome to the 3rd quarterly report for 2019 and we, as a board, hope all our producers had a Merry Christmas and we wish you a prosperous New Year. Due to delays outside of the Board's control it was not possible to complete the Quarterly report in time for year-end publication through Federated Farmers so the Board completed the report inhouse.

As much as there is a lot to discuss we are always keen to hear from producers and if any producer wants to write a piece for the quarterly reports please feel free to do so. We do hope that producers find the reports useful and please also provide feedback to your local board member in regards to any changes or additional information you would like to see in upcoming reports.

While we had a pretty mild winter in the north the spring is giving us a bit of a curvy up with ongoing rain and cold winds. A cold snap came through in late September early October and I am just glad we had finished kidding and had plenty of cover for the goats.

Kidding was a mixed success with some nice heavy kids, some up to 5kgs, but this was offset by some does that slipped and twins were lost. Overall weights are well up on the previous 3 years, even for twins.

The does went into kidding in reasonable shape and have managed to chow down a huge amount of bialage and Lucerne chaff over the past 2 months on the back of a lot of supplement feeding over winter.

Leading into kidding we managed to get shearing out of the way early and give the does a good month of cover pre kidding. It is nice to see that with the imported bucks of Dave Brown that we continue to see the quality of the fleeces going up year on year. Fleece weights have remained static over this time and will be the next things we look at.

We have an opportunity to get large quantities of food waste such as muesli bars, cheese, nuts etc. and are in the process of looking for a good animal nutritionist to work with us to develop a 'brew'. I know of one producer who uses a mixed produce using the similar ingredients from a company called James and Sons with great results. This could be well worth a look for any size producer and it sounds very much like rocket fuel! We could all do with

some of that no doubt depending on the time of year and whatever stress the goats may be under, if any. James and Sons deliver in bulk and bags so good options for all.

With the pending AGM coming up early in 2020 it is time to start thinking of the 50th celebrations in 2021 and just what producers would like to do to celebrate the event.

From the early hay days of the 80's and getting prices of over \$100k for bucks and AGM's attended by over 3k people to where we are today just shows how an industry can change, and in some cases over a very short time period.

Even so for those that have remained in the industry it is no doubt satisfying to see great fleece prices paid with average price increasing significantly especially over the last few years. Long may it last and I would rather see prices and quality rising at a steady pace and not the peaks and troughs of some wild roller coaster ride as some industries face.

So for those planning on attending the 50th celebrations in 2021 please start thinking about the good, the bad and the ugly of the past and just what would you like remembered in 2021. Even those past producers who may have impacted the industry and people who have passed away but are by no means forgotten this may be a perfect time to celebrate their input. Please contact a board member or raise your ideas at the AGM in the Hawkes Bay in 2020.

For those that are still in the mist of kidding may it go well and the weather be kind to you.

Looking forward to catching up with producers at the 2020 AGM so please lock in the dates if you have not already.

2. Feedback from Susie: We've been "kidding around"

Hello again from the wet and wild Waikato. A lot has been happening on the farm since our last newsletter. Lots of rain, and more rain and even more rain. It might not seem like so much to the average Waikato resident but for someone who has recently moved here from Canterbury where our yearly rainfall was the equivalent of what we have seen in the last 4 months, who could blame me for pointing it out.

While we have finished with both calving and kidding on the farm, we are in the midst of preparing for mating to begin soon with the cows. Thank goodness I can wait a bit longer for the goats! One thing that has been going well for us is the ability to utilize stuff on the dairy farm for the goats and vice-versa. Just today we spent the morning milking trimming cow tails with our handpiece. And the calf sheds have been a very good shelter for our does during kidding. Often, I would pop my head into the calf shed in the afternoon to find it looking like a bit of a creche with all the baby kids hanging out. This year we had a high number of doe kids born which will help down the track with expanding our numbers. It was exactly opposite to last year's kidding where over 75% were buck kids.



Here's a quick tip for those that have access to a dairy farmer and/or a cow or two. We decided to freeze some cow colostrum to have on hand in case of an emergency. I froze small quantities, about 50ml each, in some specimen bottles that I had handy for taking faecal



samples with. Well, low and behold we had a kid in trouble that needed some colostrum quick smart and instead of having to catch the mum to try and milk her late at night, I grabbed my frozen colostrum from the freezer and warmed it up ready for tube feeding to this wee kid. 24 hours later after hanging out in the house by the fire, once suckling on a teat, we popped the kid back in with mum and "Bob's your uncle". Well I don't actually have an uncle called Bob but kid goat and Mumma goat are happy and healthy and you wouldn't even know they spent some time apart. So, the morale of my story for those that don't want to be in a state of panic when the above scenario happens, see if you can get some colostrum from a dairy farmer neighbour to freeze for a rainy day. I'm sure they'd happily give you

some for free, I would anyway. And most dairy farmers are calving before kidding begins so it would be there on hand before the first kid hit the ground. Just be prepared for what comes out the back end as I think it's fair to say it might be a bit richer than goats' colostrum!

I hope everyone's kidding has gone smoothly. Being a newcomer so to speak I am still learning how to best do the practical things on farm with the goats. And this year we had our highest number of does kidding so was a bit busier but 26 is still not very many. I would love to know how the larger operations (or not so large) manage during a stressful time of the year. If you are willing to share your ideas and experiences, I would be very happy to collate them and share in the next quarterly report. Feel free to email me with your tips for a successful kidding at woodwardfarms@outlook.com I look forward to learning something new! Here are a few snapshots from our kidding this year.



3. Feedback from Nicky – New Zealand Agricultural Show

Mohair Producers Canterbury was recently involved again with the New Zealand Agricultural Show in Christchurch at the start of November. Many of you will know this as the 'Christchurch' or 'Canterbury A&P' Show. The show has recently been rebranded as the New Zealand Agricultural Show.

Some information about the rebranding from the Canterbury A&P Association website:

“In 2018, the Show rebranded from the Canterbury A&P Show to the New Zealand Agricultural Show. The move was made in order to support the growth of our competitions, value to our sponsors and to shore up the Show’s future. To innovate and grow allows the opportunity to broaden our horizons and seek new value amongst the everyday. The Canterbury A&P Association is still formed by a like-minded group of people, with a unified aim of driving the Association forwards. The Association has weathered many years of dynamic change and the move to rebrand reflects and builds upon our history to firm up the future.”

This year's show saw a change in venue for the Mohair Producers' display and mohair fleece entries. We were sited in a marquee, along with wool and alpaca. It was a bit quieter in terms of foot traffic, however people that came into the tent were genuinely interested in natural fibres, and we also had a visit from the Christchurch mayor, Lianne Dalziel, and a contingent of overseas ambassadors. We had over 40 entries in the mohair section, with a dozen or so goats entered in the Angora section. Our committee puts a commercial value card on each mohair fleece, with a \$ figure of its value, and it was interesting to see a few of the sheep boys sneaking over to see our pricing!

Dawn and David Sangster sent up a considerable number of entries from Central Otago – many thanks for making the effort, as it really helped us put on a strong display. Dawn packed her entries in a wool fadge and sent them up to the Christchurch Showgrounds with a local courier.





This year's judge was Dr Mark Ferguson, and as we are now using judging score cards again, it took a considerable length of time to evaluate and score each fleece. Fleeces are given a visually assessed micron value (for the Golden Fleece Show each fleece is mechanically micron tested), and marked on length, fineness/handle, character and style, lustre, freedom from veg, stain and fault, weight and being true to type. The judging process took many hours, so many thanks to Mark and the stewards on the judging day for their perseverance!

It was a real pleasure to see Australian genetics coming through in the fleece lines, with the length, weight and fineness of the fleeces. We saw a good example of this in fleeces exhibited by Ad Maiora Angoras (Johann, Veronica & Tarla Rall), particularly in their kid fleece which took the Reserve Champion Buck award (1.7kg for first shear). The Sangsters also exhibited wonderful fleeces, taking out the Supreme Champion Fleece award with a 3rd shear doe fleece, weighing 1.5kg. (Show fleeces have any strong fibre removed). This fleece will now be entered in this year's Golden Fleece, so any challengers, please get ready to enter!

The Angora goat judging day on the Thursday was much faster for our judge. The Supreme Champion Angora was awarded to Ad Maiora Angoras (Johann, Veronica & Tarla Rall) with their young buck in the under 18 months class. This buck was shown in his 2nd fleece, and it was his first shear fleece which won the buck first shear class as detailed above. It was very interesting to see both the fleece length and the size of the animals with the Australian genetics compared to our smaller goats. Definitely something to aspire to!

We also had a surprise meet up with G T Ferreira, who was over from Australia judging the Dorper sheep section. He kindly took the time to look at our fleeces and angoras – see Johann's comments in this newsletter.

As this is New Zealand's agricultural show, it would be great to have fleeces exhibited from all over the country, not just Canterbury and Otago. It is very easy to prepare a fleece and courier it down, and entries can be made online.

We also have the Golden Fleece competition coming up in May 2020, which is a national fleece competition for wool, alpaca and mohair. This will be our 3rd year competing with mohair classes. The overall winner in the mohair section wins \$500.00 first prize, kindly sponsored by the Royal Agricultural Society. Entries will be available soon. Classes will remain the same:

1st shear doe, 1st shear buck, 3rd shear doe, 3rd shear buck. Start planning ahead to pull out fleeces from your autumn shear to enter.

Many thanks to all of our helpers involved with this year's NZ Agricultural Show, it was a big effort for all our volunteers. We set up on the Monday, judged fleeces on Tuesday, the show started on Wednesday and ran through till Friday which is renowned for begin very busy as it is Canterbury Anniversary Day. Pack up was completed on Saturday.

Particular thanks to:

Judge: Dr Mark Ferguson, Veronica Rall (convenor), stewards: Johann Rall, Chris & Pam Sundstrum, Ray & Donece McEwan, Joseph Burston.

Results Mohair:

Supreme Champion Mohair exhibit & Champion Doe: 3rd shear doe, Dawn & David Sangster;

Champion Buck fleece: 3rd shear buck, Dawn & David Sangster;

Reserve Champion Buck fleece: 1st shear buck, Ad Maiora Angoras (Johann, Veronica & Tarla Rall), and;

Reserve Champion Doe fleece: 2nd shear doe, Ad Maiora Angoras (Johann, Veronica & Tarla Rall).

Results Angoras:

Supreme Champion Angora: Buck under 18 months, Ad Maiora Angoras (Johann, Veronica & Tarla Rall)

4. Feedback from John – AGM

2020 Mohair AGM Agenda: Napier – Health and Nutrition (MARCH 20/21/22)

Friday 20th:

11:00am: Assemble for a tour of Design Spun LTD, Husheer place Onekawa Napier. Accommodation QUALITY INN NAPIER. For booking enquiries call 068353237. They have a small conference room for up to 30 people (\$25per hour);

Lunch: Own devices, plenty of restaurants adjacent to accommodation and AGM venue;

1:30pm: Convene AGM – Venue Quality Inn, Registration, Welcome, Minutes, Accounts, Reports;

5:30pm: Break AGM for drinks and speaker. Goat husbandry. Vicky Mclean, and;

7:00pm: RSA Napier. (opposite accommodation) Smorgasbord meal available. Contact 068357629 EX.

Saturday 21st:

7:30am: Gannett Colony visit;

Lunch: Own devices;

1:00pm – 5:00pm: Continue AGM at Quality Inn. Strategic plan, Sustainability, General business, next year's AGM etc., and;

5:30pm: Drinks and speaker Local identity/ Nutrition. To be confirmed. 7pm. AGM dinner Smorgasbord at RSA.

Sunday 22nd:

8:00am: Depart for Lucie and Tim Gilbertsons Waipawa (approx. 1-hour drive);

10:00am: Shearing/ crutching methods and Morning tea;

11:00am: Depart for Gary and Anne Boyles Tikokino. (30 minutes' drive);

11:30am: Photo and fleece competition;

12:30pm: Lunch – Goat meats and salad;

1:30pm: Speaker – Andrew Dowling Wormwise, and;

3:00pm: Close of 2020 Napier AGM.

5. Feedback from Johann – Sustainability, Shearing protocol and GT Ferreira

Sustainability

The revision process for the Responsible Mohair Standard is nearing completion and the final draft will be released during early 2020. The public consultation period is nearing completion and the deadline for any comments is the 8th of January. Once the final draft has been published it will be circulated to MNZ producers.

Shearing Protocol

As part of the sustainability strategy MNZ has compiled a framework for a shearing protocol for consideration by the producers. The intent of the protocol is to assist producers to commence with the monitoring of activities that affects sustainability and to use shearing as the first step. The attached framework is also intended to address the legal requirements relevant to shearing and the Board requires approval of the proposed framework, from the producers prior to completing the protocol.

PURPOSE –

To establish a shearing protocol for MNZI members and relevant stakeholders that meets the Code of Welfare (Goats – 2012), Health and Safety at Work and Responsible Mohair Standard requirements.

FUNCTION –

The function of the Mohair shearing protocol is to provide the producer with the necessary tools to demonstrate that shearing is conducted according to all relevant requirements.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK –

1. Code of Animal Welfare (Goats - 2012) (Animal Welfare Act 1999):
2. Health and Safety at Work Act (2015):
3. Responsible Mohair Standard (International):

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES –

1. MNZI Board:
2. Farmers:
3. Shearers:
4. Woolshed Workers:

METHODS & TECHNIQUES –

1. Animal Handling & Welfare:
2. Shearing:
3. Fleece Handling:

EQUIPMENT –

1. Shearing Equipment:
2. Grinders & Other Equipment:
3. Personal Protective Equipment:
4. Using Tools & Handling Equipment:
5. Maintenance:

COMPETENCIES & TRAINING – :

EMERGENCIES – :

GT Ferreira

During the Canterbury A&P show the MNZ Canterbury Branch had an unexpected visit from GT Ferreira who attended the show as international judge of the Dorper Sheep. GT briefly visited the Canterbury Branch's Mohair stand and also attended the price giving. He had the following message to Mohair producers:

- Mohair is a luxury fibre and should be produced for the luxury market;
- Breeding focus should therefore be specific to the needs of the luxury market;
- The traits for this market in order of importance – length, strength, medullation free and finally micron;
- Focus for the future is to ensure the long-term quality of the flocks, and;
- Life is too short to fool around!

He again stressed that the success of Mohair production in NZ depends on how well NZ producers can pull together by following a strong and focussed vision for the future.

6. Feedback from Producers, Lynne Milne – Two categories of producers

Producers fall into 2 categories

-- Those who just want to enjoy their angoras and get some financial reward to cover their expenses.

-- Those who are committed, are prepared to invest and expect to see a financial return on their investment.

This latter group rely upon their own decision making and upon the innovation and reshaping of themselves by the warehouses in order to achieve their goals.

The warehouses evolve as fibre quality improves.

The biggest example of this is the introduction of "weaving" lines in 2016 and the trial shipments of ASFKW in summer 2019.

Yet I see little written communication from either warehouse in relationship to the advantages of producing weaving fibre.

The Advantages of Creating A Weaving Flock.

It is important to understand that we are really only looking at the first 4 shearings as after that point does undergo breeding pressures and wethers are often culled /sold.

However, I have seen evidence that unbred does and wethers can and do produce AYGW /AHW in later shears if well fed and farmed on easier country.

The Financial Advantages.

Firstly, I want to emphasise that all shears must be no longer than 6 months growth. The NZ weaving length (115 mm) is achievable in good weaving goats in 5 months and almost all weaving goats in 6 months.

Shear 1

With a difference of \$4/kg between ASFK0 and ASFKW, on a 1kg 1st shear there is a minimum advantage of \$4/animal for every animal that classes into weaving.

With the new genetics 1/kg is a light fleece and 1.3 -- 1.5 kg average is obtainable with good husbandry.

$$(1.4\text{kgs} \times \$4 = \$5.60)$$

Add to this a potential \$1-2 /kg if you are breeding for fineness (summer 2019 trial shipment) and another \$1.40 can be achieved per fleece.

$$(1.4 \text{ kgs} \times \$1 = \$1.40)$$

The total advantage achievable from weaving fibre on the first shear amounts to: -

$$(\$4 \text{ to } \$7 / \text{ animal shorn})$$

Shear 2

The difference between AKO and AKW = \$2

A light 2nd shear weaving fleece averages 2kgs and can be as heavy as 2.5kgs or more

$$(2 \text{ kgs} \times \$2 = \$4);$$

$$(2.5 \text{ kgs} \times \$2 = \$5).$$

Combining 1st and 2nd shear this adds up to \$8 -- \$12 / animal shorn. This does not seem like

a lot but it is similar to compound interest, the greater the number of animals the more the advantage grows.

20 kids = \$160 to \$240 /year;

50 kids = \$400 to \$600 / year

Meanwhile your 3rd and 4th shear animals can and do produce weaving fibre depending upon the level of care you provide to your does particularly once they are pregnant.

Shear 3

AYGO - AYGW difference = \$3 / kg

A 2.5kg fleece average;

(2.5 kg x \$3 = \$7.50 / animal).

Shear 4

is a repeat of the above but if you should fall into AH then

AHO - AHW difference = \$2

(2.5kgs x \$2 = \$5 / animal)

Over the 12 months = \$12.50 -- \$15 / animal advantage.

From the first 4 shears of a weaving angora there is potential to achieve an advantage of between \$20.50 and \$27.00 / angora farmed.

Now try multiplying this by 20 or 50 goats.

BUT REMEMBER

this is over and above what you already receive for a basic A length, 0 kemp fleece.

Two points I want to make: -

1 Do not let anyone tell you cannot produce weaving length in 6 months. These animals have been bred to grow a greater length in 6 months in Australia, length is an easily inherited trait and if all else fails culling works wonders on those who don't make it.

2 A historical note.

In looking back at our records, the \$ advantage that is potentially achievable per year per animal, by producing weaving fibre, is equal to the total value/kg of the fibre we sold just over 10 years ago

Pool 2 / 2007 *

\$10.20 /kg No stains included

Pool 1 / 2008 *

\$11.78/kg all lines included

* Milne flock records

Just as we could not afford to ignore the income in 2007/2008 nor can we as producers afford to ignore the rewards available to us all through creating a " weaving " flock.