



2022 Summer Newsletter

Dear clients and friends,

We hope you had a great Christmas break and enjoyed some finer weather, which was certainly well overdue in Canterbury. After a slow cold spring in most regions clients now report lamb growth rates are powering ahead. It is exciting to hear from our clients getting these terrific gains from their new genetics and we look forward to lifting everyone's performance even further in 2022.

As usual there is plenty happening at Meadowslea in the next few months.

Our award-winning [Yourbid](#) online selling platform has continued to prove its worth since we developed the system during the first Covid lockdown in April 2020. We designed [Yourbid](#) to allow our clients to participate in our sales whether they are in attendance on-farm, or online. The ability to be able to view all the animals before the sale, together with a descriptive commentary and full performance catalogue, has been a game-changer. Clients have been able to make better genetic selection decisions which will improve the profitability of their businesses in the years ahead. The [Yourbid](#) Helmsman-style auction gives buyers the ability to bid in choice order, rather than the catalogue order of a traditional outcry auction. This means if clients are unable to secure their first pick, they can move on to their second or third choice regardless of lot number. We have run over 25 sales on yourbid including 6 sales for breeders in the UK, and all proved very popular with buyers encouraging us to continue to improve the system.



Our key upcoming dates:

3rd Annual Southern Ram Sale – Friday 11th February 1pm. Grant Brothers' property, Gore

Following on from our inaugural southern ram sale at the Southern Field Days in 2020, we held our very successful 2021 sale at the Grant Brothers' property near Gore. We had hoped to return to the Field Days venue again this year, but with the cancellation due to Covid we are very grateful to the Grant Family for allowing their excellent facilities in Reaby road to be the venue for the sale again this year.

The sale will be run as a helmsman-style auction on our [yourbid](#) online selling system. This will allow on-farm buyers as well as those online to bid simultaneously and removes the risk of Covid restrictions forcing any changes to the format of the sale. All rams have been filmed in the groups of three they will be penned in on the day, with commentary and descriptions.

The videos, catalogue and performance data are all up on our website www.meadowslea.co.nz and [online registration and bidding is open now](#). The on-farm sale will run from 1pm till 2pm, after which time bidding will remain open on all lots until there has been a period of two minutes without any bids on any lot, at which time the sale will close

Client feedback from the last two years has been very positive and this year we will bring down 60 dark-faced Kelso Terminal 2th rams of the thick, deep-bodied type that does so well in Southland. We are also bringing a selection of 5 maternal breeds including some very good Romney rams and some top Kelso Maternals with hogget mating options.

All sale attendees will require a Covid Vaccination Pass. We will have the rams available for inspection by appointment at Grants' property in the three days prior to the sale so feel free to give us a call and we will run them in for a close look.

Wanaka A&P Show – Friday 11th – Saturday 12th March (Covid dependent)

Always a highlight. We really enjoy catching up with everyone at what is such a great weekend! We will again be taking a selection of rams to display in our tent that will be on offer for sale in our Autumn Ram sale the following week. With our [yourbid](#) platform on display as well we will have bidding open and operational for anyone to try out for themselves. Our tent site is in the new sheep hub area adjacent to the Rugby clubrooms. Come and say hi and catch up on how the season has gone!

Autumn Ram Sale – Friday 18th March

There are some top rams in the paddock ready for this sale, which gets to be a bigger part of our business every year. We will offer 100 rams from across all our different breeds, including some selected hogget mating sires. The sale will again be run on the [yourbid](#) platform with bidding opening a week earlier at the time of the Wanaka show. If you need rams earlier than this date please be in touch and we can make arrangements to suit. As always we would appreciate any indication as to how many rams of which breed you'll require, as it does help a lot with getting the catalogue sorted out.

Hogget Mating – Ram Lamb Leasing

With a strong lamb schedule and good feed levels in much of the South Island we anticipate strong demand for hogget mating rams again this year. We use the [kelso](#). Maternal breed over our own hoggets and find them to be very easy lambing, producing a small birthweight lamb with very clean shoulders and narrow head at birth. The lambs are very vigorous and their growth rates are exceptional. We also have a number of clients using them very successfully who report almost trouble-free lambing, followed by terrific growth rates, and high yielding carcasses. In fact, several clients are so impressed they have decided to keep the female progeny, allowing some great options going forward with their high fertility genes from a little bit of Finn in the background. Be in touch anytime from now to discuss timing and how to make this work for you.

In-calf Female Sale – Wednesday May 4th

As usual, we will sell surplus stud Angus females in our now-annual on-farm auction. Selected R2, R3, R4 and annual draft females on offer will represent a cross-section of our bloodlines from a genuine hill-country Angus herd. It's been gratifying to hear and see how these cattle have gone on for people after the last few sales, and we're always gutted not be able to keep them all ourselves!

Annual Bull Sale – Friday 24th June

Once again, the climax of the South Island Angus Bull sale week. Put a big circle on the calendar now because this year's sale bulls are already looking terrific! There are a couple of newer bloodlines coming through which will be a real cause for excitement!

Meadowslea Exciting Expansion News

This time last year we were lucky enough to purchase our neighboring property Punoroa Downs. This 240ha property is ideally set up for stud stock, with 57 paddocks all deer fenced and accessed from a central lane. We have connected the properties with a new lane way track that climbs up to the top of the downs at 1750 feet and stretches 4.5 km from the Meadowslea home yard. This property has given us the scope to increase our stud sheep and cattle operations and pass on more genetic gains to benefit all our clients. Our stud Angus expansion has resulted in just over 700 registered females currently running with the bull. Our existing 7 stud sheep breeds have also been able to expand giving us more selection options and more scope for hogget mating.

New worm Resistant Romney Stud

Last February we bought a line of 70 stud ewes from the Kikitangeo Romney dispersal in Northland, famed for the 40 years' selection for worm resistance and immunity that has been performed there. We were able to get access to a couple of NZ's top worm-resistance sires from the flock as well, to avoid diluting those bloodlines down. The ewes are running under the same easy-care system we use for all our sheep, and the first of the lambs are weaned and running un-drenched amongst our stud lamb mobs to see how they compare and compete. So far, the results look promising, and we have bought 60 more 2th ewes from the final Kikitangeo dispersal last week. We will have a limited number of these highly worm resistant Romney ram hoggets available for lease this autumn.

All the best for the rest of the season and we look forward to catching up soon!



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