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BEEF



## Another successful Beef Expo

B+LNZ Genetics participated in Beef Expo again this year, hosting two seminars for beef breeders and farmers. The presentations of Ian Locke (Wirruna Poll Herefords) and Tom Gubbins (Te Mania Angus) – both from Australia – were particularly inspiring.



[Watch Ian Locke's presentation](#)

» Ian Locke: The importance of being driven by commercial farmers' requirements

Many years ago, Ian carried out a benchmarking exercise with some of his top-performing clients – to identify their key profit drivers.

It highlighted factors, such as high stocking rates, condensed calving periods and feeding for maintenance (as opposed to production).

“We felt that if we ran under that same sort of production system – and, especially and importantly, screened genetics under that production system – that has better genetic outcomes for commercial beef producers.”

Today, the stud operates under “commercial stress” conditions and stock are methodically put through a series of hurdles, including mating all heifers at 14-15 months and a strict requirement that all heifers and cows must bring a live unassisted calf through to weaning, every year.

Ian's philosophy: “The key measurement of my success as a seedstock producer is genetic improvement. In the end, that's what I'll be measured on, so it's a complete focus.”



[Watch Tom Gubbins' presentation](#)

» Tom Gubbins: A different approach

Te Mania Angus in Australia has an unusual aspect to its stud operation. In addition to selling bulls via auction, it also operates “Team Te Mania”.

Established in 1995 with seven commercial beef farmers, the programme today involves 10 farmers. They are invited into the team and sign a contract. Te Mania supplies lease bulls (at \$2500 annually) and all male progeny must be castrated.

All of the farmers’ records – including the steers’ carcass data – are shared back to Te Mania and feed into the information available on that bull.

The most profitable bulls are identified and semen is made available (at a discounted price) to the Te Mania Team farmers. In this way, sons of those top bulls can be used to produce more offspring.



[Watch these presentations on the B+LNZ Genetics YouTube channel](#)

» Other presentations you may want to watch:

- **Professor Dorian Garrick, Massey University** - *The value of performance recording*
- **Jim Green\*, Green's Livestock Services** - *The change in phenotype of the Australian seedstock industry*
- **Lester Wright, Rimanui Farms** - *Beef breeding: A corporate farmer's perspective*

*\* For pure-Australian poetic brilliance, watch Jim's presentation – from the 30.08-minute mark.*



B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test: Carcass scanning data

During the Beef Expo, Jason Archer (AbacusBio) presented the latest preliminary outcomes from the Beef Progeny Test.

Carcase ultrasound scanning has given us data on eye muscle area, rib and rump fat and intramuscular fat. While Jason is still analysing the data, his presentation provided an opportunity for discussion around the direction of the progeny test and its success to date.

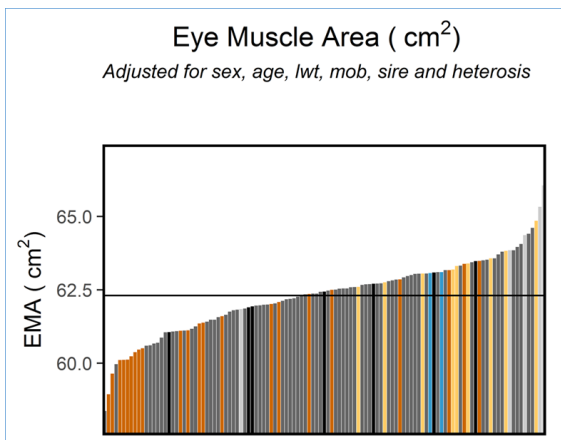
Beef breeders and farmers reinforced the message that they are delighted to have dedicated beef research happening, right here in Aotearoa.



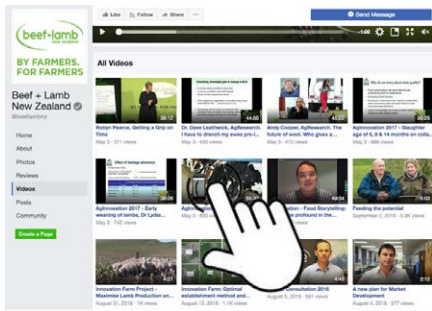
## Beef Progeny Test open days: Tautane and Caberfeidh, August 2017

Tentative dates have been set for Beef Progeny Test open days at both Caberfeidh and Tautane Stations. Hopefully, the planets will align for early August dates, so keep your ear to the ground. Jason Archer (AbacusBio) will present on the latest outcomes from the carcass scanning data.

In the meantime, [read the year three update article](#)



This graph shows the performance in EMA of progeny, by sire. Each vertical bar represents a sire.



May was a busy month, with B+LNZ Genetics also involved in AgInnovation. Extension Officer Max Tweedie presented on “Genetics for the commercial farmer”.

[Visit AgInnovation Facebook page for presentation videos](#)

[Visit B+LNZ website for copies of presentation slides](#)

## SHEEP



### Sheep Industry Awards: Finalists announced

Leading farmers, scientists, a retired sheep breeder and a ground-breaking stock trading company are among the finalists in this year’s B+LNZ Sheep Industry Awards.

#### Genetic Awards finalists

- AbacusBio New Zealand Maternal Worth:
- Kelso Maternal, Matt Holden & Hamish Bibby, Hawke’s Bay
- Tamlet Romney, George & Kathryn Smith, Wyndham
- Twin Farm TEFRom, Andrew and Katherine, Russell and Pam Welsh, Gore

#### Beef + Lamb New Zealand Maternal Trait Leader for Parasite Resistance:

- Nikau Coopworth, Kate Broadbent, Waikaretu
- Nithdale Romney, Andrew & Heather Tripp, Gore
- Romani Coopworth, Ross & Ruth Richards, Taumarunui

#### Alliance Group New Zealand Terminal Worth:

- Glengarry Poll Dorset, Ross & Ben Pratt, Manawatu
- Waikite FocusPrime™, Focus Genetics, Peter Strawbridge, Reporoa
- Waikite Texel, Focus Genetics, Peter Strawbridge, Reporoa

#### Beef + Lamb New Zealand Terminal Trait Leader for Lamb Growth:

- Glengarry Poll Dorset, Ross & Ben Pratt, Manawatu
- Rosebank FocusPrime™, Focus Genetics, Barry & Julie Crawford, Gore

- Waikite FocusPrime™, Focus Genetics, Peter Strawbridge, Reporoa

[View industry awards' finalists](#)

### **Awards to be live streamed**

This year, you don't have to be at the awards to know exactly what's going on. They will be live streamed – so you can watch from the comfort of your couch.

[Register now to set up the link](#)



## **SIL Industry Technical Advisory Group**

SIL-ITAG was formed to help guide development of the SIL performance recording and genetic evaluation system. The group met in May to discuss enhancements such as:

- Sheep Breeder Forum agenda
- Outcomes of the roadshow
- Relative economic values
- CPT review.

### **SIL-ITAG members**

- Richard Lee (Chairman)
- Sharon McIntyre (SIL Senior Advisor)
- NI representatives: Will Jackson, Matt Holden, Rob Forsythe, Barbara Beckett, Cameron Heggie and Brent Campbell
- SI representatives: Robert Peacock, Andrew Tripp, Hamish Bielski, Hamish Craw, Julia Aspinall, Graham Sidey and Annabel Tripp
- B+LNZ Genetics and SIL advisory team: Graham Alder, Eleanor Linscott, Max Tweedie and Annie O'Connell

## **SIL: Best practice performance recording**

### **What's due?**

**Answer: Pregnancy scanning data.**

Determining the number of foetuses the ewe carries through ultrasound pregnancy scanning provides a measure of Number of Lambs Born (NLB) and Lamb Survival (SUR and SURM) for flocks.

## BEST PRACTICE

IN PERFORMANCE RECORDING FOR  
SIL GENETIC EVALUATIONS



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For additional copies please email:  
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As you move into winter and use ultrasound pregnancy scanning to determine appropriate feed for ewes carrying single, twin and triplet (or more) lambs – also load this data into SIL to complement your NLB and Lamb Survival data.

[See the Best Practice Guide for more details](#)



The team (from left): General Manager Graham Alder, IT Programme Manager David Campbell, Lead Scientist Dr Michael Lee, Technology and Extension Manager Sharl Liebergreen, Science Manager Eleanor Linscott, Genetic Evaluation Technical Manager Sharon McIntyre, Extension Officer Dr Annie O'Connell, Extension Officer Max Tweedie and Office Administrator Pam Schofield.

[More information about team](#)



The future's in the genes



For more information visit  
[www.blnzgenetics.com](http://www.blnzgenetics.com)

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