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BEEF

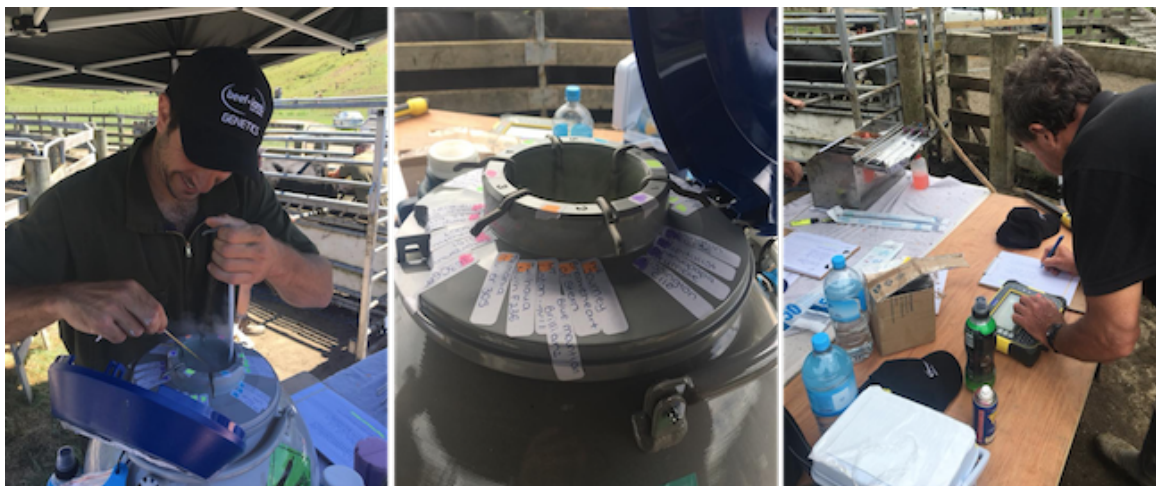


Beef Progeny Test sire selections

Sires for cohort 4 of B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test (BPT) have been confirmed and were selected using independent breed panels. Thank you to the numerous bull owners that have entered the progeny test. A list of sires for our Beef and Dairy-Beef progeny tests can be viewed below and on our website.

Outcomes to date in the progeny test have been very clear. Estimated breeding values (EBVs) work. They deliver what they predict. A report detailing sire performance from the first round of mating (2014) is also available online.

[BPT Sire list](#) | [Dairy-Beef Sire List](#) | [BPT Performance report](#)



AI underway at BPT sites

It's been a busy few weeks with artificial insemination (AI) underway at our BPT sites. We've now completed AI at Whangara Farms (Gisborne) and Tautane Station (Hawke's Bay). It was great to work with Tautane's new manager Ian Evans and his wife Kirsten. They say many hands make light work and a big thanks goes to everyone involved, including Animal Breeding Services, Breedtech, AbacusBio and Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre.

SHEEP



First to Market Field Day in Hawke's Bay

There were a lot of future-thinking conversations at B+LNZ Genetics First to Market Field Day held at Horizon Farming's Maraetotara block in Hawke's Bay, last month. The terminal sire sheep progeny test compares the performance of various terminal rams' offspring under commercial farming conditions.

Take home messages for the day?

1. You must have the means to measure IMF (marbling)
2. If you breed for it, you will improve it
3. It must always be in balance

A big thank you to all those involved: Progressive Meats; Horizon Farming - our partners in this progeny test; Project Manager Aimee Charteris; and FMG for sponsoring our contributing breeders with insurance cover for rams committed to the program.

[Watch videos of presentations](#)



[Watch Video: Tricia Johnson's IMF demonstration](#)



[Watch Video: Optimal use of the science on Farm. Aimee Charteris and Stuart Ellingham](#)



[Watch Video: What is a progeny test and why should I care? Annie O'Connell, B+LNZ Genetics](#)



Better Sheep Breeding podcast

From B+LNZ's knowledge hub: National Sheep Genetics Manager Annie O'Connell discusses recent advances in the information available to help choose rams and how farmers can make the most of it.

[Download podcast](#)

S.I.L.




Wool module update & wool quality for crossbred wool

SIL is undertaking an update of the wool module (crossbred and mid-micron), investigating the degree of interest and the design for a wool quality module for crossbred (e.g Romney/Coopworth/Perendale) wool. The current module only rewards weight, with no regard for colour, fault, or micron. Over time, selecting on weight increases micron, if diameter is not included in the index. There is an increasing reward for lower micron crossbred wool and a number of breeders are selecting rams with a finer micron.


To guide the development of an updated wool module, Cheryl Quinton (AbacusBio) is interested in the views of breeders on wool quality, wool faults and wool recording in general.

Cheryl can be contacted by email on CQuinton@abacusbio.co.nz, or you can respond to B+LNZ Genetics directly by phone, at 0800 745 435.



NZGE
The New Zealand Genetic Evaluation (NZGE) is a single weekly evaluation that involves all active flocks recorded on SIL. SIL-ACE – formerly the industry's most advanced across-flock evaluation – is now a set of reports within NZGE.

[View reports](#)



December Sire Leader Lists online

Sire Leader List reports for December are available on the SIL website. These lists identify the top 200 high genetic merit sires for a number of indexes and goal traits. All performance-recording SIL flocks are automatically considered for NZGE reporting, unless they “opt out”. If you do not want data from your flock included, please contact us.

[View December Leader Lists](#)

EVENT



Social License to Farm, February 2018

In partnership with The New Zealand Merino Company, we invite you to join us at Motu-nui farm in Wyndham, Southland on Thursday 1 February, for a day focused on the big picture for New Zealand sheep meat production.

Social License to Farm

10am-2pm, Thursday 1 February, 2018

Duncraigen, Wyndham, Southland

Speakers and topics include, the Synthetic Protein revolution (foods strategist Dr Rosie Bosworth); Marketing of NZ foods internationally (B+LNZ Director Mellissa Clarke-Reynolds); the quality and welfare of NZ sheep meat (Aimee Charteris, Aimee Charteris Genetics). The day also includes interactive workshops and a chance to share your views on the future for NZ sheep meat.

Further details about the event will be available on our website early next year.



B+LNZ Genetics awarded gold

The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has awarded B+LNZ Genetics a gold status rating (out of a ranking of red, amber, green and gold) for our Annual Report. A gold rating is awarded to programmes exceeding expectations and less than 10% of MBIE partnerships received a gold rating in 2017.

B+LNZ Genetics is contracted to deliver on an ambitious number of objectives in the MBIE partnership programme which runs from October 2013 to September 2018. This award signifies that the programme is well on track. It is the second gold award B+LNZ Genetics has received from MBIE.



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

[More information about team](#)



The future's in the genes



For more information visit
www.blznzgenetics.com

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Genetics and/or SIL, or you have previously indicated you would like to receive news from B+LNZ. If you've got any questions or feedback, please [email B+LNZ Genetics](#)

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