

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



***In this issue:***

- ***B+LNZ Genetics integration***
- ***Dairy Beef Progeny Test: Latest results***
- ***Beef and Dairy Beef Progeny Test sire nominations confirmed***
- ***Sheep Progeny Test: October for ram submissions***
- ***SIL reminders: Hamish Bibby video***
- ***Roadshows: Agenda, dates and how to register***

---

## **B+LNZ Genetics to be integrated into B+LNZ**

B+LNZ Genetics will be integrated into Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) as a separate business unit from 1 October 2019.

B+LNZ Genetics was established as a wholly-owned subsidiary in 2013 and part of its funding requirement stated it must be a separate company with an independent chair.

That initial funding period has ended and B+LNZ has chosen to solely fund B+LNZ Genetics' activities going forward.

Genetics remains a top priority for B+LNZ and it's expected to be "business as normal", come October.

[Read more](#)

BEEF



## Dairy Beef Progeny Test: Latest results

### Limestone Downs (cohort 1 and 2)

The first cohort was processed last spring/summer and the second cohort will be processed this spring/summer. Results show a good relationship between Breedplan EBVs and progeny performance for Gestation Length, Birth Weight, 400-Day Weight and 600-Day Weight. Carcase trait EBVs and sire carcase performance will be explored once cohort 2 is processed. This is because most sires have progeny spread over both cohorts.

### Renown (cohort 3)

The first calves born at Renown are a year old and will shortly have their 400-Day Weights recorded.

In the latest report a “yearling” weight has been calculated for these cattle based on their June liveweight. This will be updated once they reach 400 days of age, but we are distributing a yearling weight ranking now, so breeders can make decisions prior to the 2019 mating.

The 2019 calving is nearly finished at Renown. Farm Manager Damien says calving has been very successful with few assists and some fantastic looking calves born.

Bull calves are being reared at [Top Notch Calves](#) and heifers on farm at Renown. All calves have been DNA sampled at birth and parentage analysis will be conducted after the last calves are born. These bulls will be incorporated into the analysis once DNA parentage is assigned.

### Latest results

The latest results reinforce that there are excellent dairy-friendly beef bull options available to dairy farmers – and dollars to be made. Since 2016, 86 bulls have been assessed through the progeny test. The bulls are suited to mating with dairy cows – based on their birth weight and gestation length – while also producing calves suitable for beef finishing.

[View Dairy Beef Report](#)



## Sire selections for Dairy Beef Programmes

Sires for the Dairy Beef Progeny Tests' 2019 mating have been confirmed.

Sire selection criteria was based on EBVs, genetic variation, ability to contribute to wider industry benefits (e.g. representing widely used genetics for genomic reference populations, enhancing between herd linkage, etc.) and pedigree relationship to sires used in previous cohorts.

[View list](#)



## Ram submissions for Sheep Progeny Test

We will be sending out Ram Submission forms for our Sheep Progeny Test in coming weeks.

EOIs will be accepted for the following sites:

- **Hub (Maternal or Terminal) – no fee, AI only**
- **Low Input (Maternal breeds) – \$1000 per ram, AI only**
- **SIGC (Terminals) – \$600 per ram, natural mate and some AI accepted**

### Why submit a ram to a Next Generation site?

- Including a ram from your flock “connects” you to the across-flock genetic evaluation, NZGE, and validates the performance of your flock against other New Zealand flocks.
- Connectedness means your rams can be assigned NZTW and/or NZMW (Terminal Worth and Maternal Worth) figures, which assist your clients in their ram selection.
- From a marketing perspective, your rams are benchmarked across industry and have robust and comparable measures behind them.
- Including young rams in the Sheep Progeny Test means that if a particular animal is found to be exceptional, maximum use can be made of him over his lifetime.
- If you’re focused on FE, meat-related traits or low-input traits, these sites allow you to benchmark against other flocks also pursuing these novel traits.

### Hub ram selection

Ram selection for the Hub is more competitive than the Next Generation sites. It is based on maximising connectedness across the New Zealand flock, so preference is given to rams that are already widely connected. There is no cost to rams entering the Hub test, because of its industry-good significance.

These three questions will help you determine if your stud/breeder group meets the criteria:

1. Is your flock already well connected?
2. Does your breeder group or stud supply “sires of impact across the New Zealand flock” – maternal and/or terminal?
3. It’s been at least three years since you’ve had a ram in the Hub?

If you answer “yes” to all three questions, consider applying for the Hub.





### Best practice DNA recording: Tips & tricks

This workshop by ram breeder Hamish Bibby (Kelso) and Neville Amyes of AgResearch was a popular session at last year's Sheep Breeder Forum.

Here are the documents they referred to during their workshops:

[Download the DNA trait collection calendar](#)

[Download the Docking fact sheet for DNA parentage](#)

[Download Yearly trait collection and reports](#)

[Watch full presentation](#)

**beef+lamb**  
NEW ZEALAND

**GENETICS**

**SHEEP BREEDERS' ROADSHOW 2019**

Tue	15	October	<b>Masterton</b> (Cophthorne Hotel)
Wed	16	October	<b>Waipukurau</b> (Waipukurau Club)
Thu	17	October	<b>Hamilton</b> (Hamilton Airport)
Tue	22	October	<b>Darfield</b> (Darfield Community Centre)
Wed	23	October	<b>Gore</b> (Gore RSA)

**Duration:** 4pm-6pm

## Sheep Breeders' Roadshows

Join us at an upcoming roadshow to catch up on innovations, changes and new technologies.

Running from 4-6pm, the five roadshow meetings are a great opportunity to ask any questions.

We will prioritise content, based on what attendees want covered – so please let us know what topics are of most interest to you when you register.

Topics include:

- nProve demonstration
- Single Step value proposition
- Genomics (mBVs/commercial multiplier)
- Data quality
- Connectedness / Progeny Tests
- Sire referencing schemes
- Methane (Greenhouse Gas) module
- Facial Eczema
- NZGE
- Visual Scores
- Wool quality
- Meat quality

If you are unable to attend but would like to view via a livestream on Wednesday 23 October 4-6pm, email [becky.campbell@blnzgenetics.com](mailto:becky.campbell@blnzgenetics.com)

[Register now](#)



The team (from left): IT Programme Manager David Campbell, Lead Scientist Dr Michael Lee, Genetic Evaluation Technical Manager Sharon McIntyre, Sheep Genetics Manager Dr Annie O'Connell, Genetic Systems Analyst Jacqui Edwards 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)

© B+LNZ Genetics 2016