



# WAITAKI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL FRASER FARM

## Waitaki Boys' High School Fraser Farm Update. May 2021

While we wait pregnancy scanning results for our ewes (due mid-June), and the farm is in largely steady-as-she-goes mode, the Fraser Farm Committee have the chance to review the strategic direction and purpose of Fraser Farm, and of course then to update the budget.

The purpose of Fraser Farm is set out in our Farm Business Plan:

*"[T]o contribute positively to school life, and to help WBHS achieve its overall Vision. The farm operates according to industry "Good Management Practice" and as close to commercial principles as possible at all times. Students learn from observing and interacting with a farm run on this basis. Fraser Farm meets the industry requirements for young people who are enthusiastic about the sector and are striving to make a career in Primary Production.*

Collectively, the committee have a good handle on industry 'Good Management Practice', and work closely with the Rector on how the farm can contribute best to the school's wellbeing and Vision. After discussion, our key investment focus remains providing scholarships to get more boys attending the school and in the hostel. Details of 2022 scholarships will be released shortly.

Key points this month:

- Correction to typo in last report: 125 ewes will be wintered this year, not 135
- The last 12 lambs have just gone to the saleyards, leaving 6 to be carried over winter for handling instruction. For our last trip to the Waiareka Saleyards this season, farm manager Murray Isbister was accompanied by the three Year 9 scholarship winners, as a chance for them to represent the school.
- Rams were removed from the ewes on 24 May, with scanning to come around 14 June. Between now and then, we will shear about 60 of the ewes which were bought-in, to bring them in line with the remainder of the ewes.
- Ewes are on daily shifts now, behind temporary electric fences, to bring them back to maintenance feed and to ration grass for the winter. There are still about 100 small bales of meadow hay in the barn, but we are unlikely to need this
- 12 boys attended a beginners' shearing school this month – see the WBHS Fraser Farm Facebook page for some images. While our ewes are a bit large for novices to shear, this does mean we now have boys who can safely crutch and dag lambs and ewes, without risk to student or sheep.
- Fraser Farm is at relatively high risk of developing resistance to drench (anthelmintics) by worms (internal parasites), with bought-in sheep, irrigation, only one stock class, finishing lambs and relatively liberal use of drench. To monitor this, we will now regularly carry out 'Drench Checks' – Faecal Egg Counts (FEC) 10 days after drenching to see if any worms have survived. This then indicates we should do further checks. Our first test was in late April, with thanks to The Veterinary Centre and Mat O'Sullivan, and didn't indicate any major concerns (results below). We will repeat this at regular intervals each summer.

### Drenched Group – Faecal Egg Counts 7 days post-drench. April 2021.

Sample #	Strongyle (eggs/gram)	Nematodirus (eggs/gram)
1	0	0
2	0	300
3	100	0
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0