



WAITAKI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL FRASER FARM

Waitaki Boys' High School Fraser Farm Update. February 2022

Each year, Waitaki Boys' High School Fraser Farm awards up to 5 scholarships from the farm's profits. Applications are accepted in Term 4, more details in the School Prospectus. In 2022, these scholarships were worth \$4000 each, for 1 year.

This month the Fraser Farm steering committee were pleased to meet the four Year 9 boys who are recipients of the WBHS Fraser Farm Scholarships for 2022. Boarding at Waitaki from a range of regions, it was great to hear their experiences so far, and their hopes for their time at Waitaki Boys. In addition, the Farm Managers look forward to having some extra hands to call on to help with farm tasks!

The 2022 Waitaki Boys' High School Fraser Farm Scholarships are:

- **Fynn Newlands**, Haka Valley
- **Archie Rooney**, Mt Somers
- **Jaden Morland**, Kurow
- **Josh Geddes**, Middlemarch

All the best for your time here boys, we look forward to following your journey as you become *young men of outstanding character*.

Key points this month:

- While the school carefully manages COVID protocols, the opportunity to safely get ag classes out and about in the paddocks and yards is another benefit of the Farm.
- Like the rest of the region, Fraser Farm has received excellent rainfall throughout the summer, and grass growth has been beyond even that which we expect in a normal year with our irrigation. This has had a number of benefits for the farm but is not without its challenges. **Ray Fox** has spent a fair amount of time on the tractor topping our pastures to maintain quality, while we are still waiting to make 4 paddocks of hay.
- Lamb and ewe prices have been excellent. We are drafting lambs at 40kg liveweight minimum and selling through the Waiareka Saleyards. This is, as noted, a great opportunity every couple of weeks for boys to represent WBHS at the sale and more practical for the small numbers we sell each time.
- Approximately 80 lambs have been sold to date, with 120 left to go.
- The Farm Managers have sorted our ewes up, and we have sourced 40 replacements from **Newhaven Farms**. **David Ruddenklau** got first pick at a line of Cast For Age ewes, and they will arrive on farm this month. We will again winter 125 ewes.
- Josh Geddes, one of the 2022 scholarship recipients, crutched the 23 lambs for the most recent sale. The school is getting a return on its investment in these boys already.
- All remaining lambs and ewes have been treated to prevent fly-strike – we have had no lambs affected so far this year, but one ewe had a minor case.
- 60 ewes were shorn mid-February to bring them in line with the rest of the flock.