



WAITAKI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL FRASER FARM

Waitaki Boys' High School Fraser Farm Update. May 2022

Mating of the ewe flock has been and gone on Fraser Farm, and the 2 rams have been sent home to recuperate. With excellent feed covers and ewe condition, we have high hopes for excellent conception and ovulation this year. All will be revealed when the ewes are pregnancy scanned next month (mid June).

Earlier this year we welcomed Josh Ratcliff to Waitaki Boys' as a PE and agriculture teacher, and importantly onto the Fraser Farm committee. Fantastic to have Josh here along with Elizabeth Prentice, another sign of the strength of agriculture at Waitaki.

The Fraser Farm webpage on the school website (<https://www.waitakibhs.school.nz/community/fraser-farm>) has been updated to reflect where the farm and the agricultural curriculum is at now after nearly 10 years' of development and investment. Take a look, and make sure to follow the Fraser Farm Facebook page for updates and photos of teaching and farming at WBHS: <https://www.facebook.com/WBHSP>

Key points this month:

- Pasture covers in mid-May, for the start of winter, ranged from 1540kgDM/ha to 3050kgDM/ha, with an average of 2085kgDM/ha (all measured by the students with B+LNZ Sward Sticks). Excellent covers at the start of winter, provided quality is maintained. With all grass wintering of 125 ewes on 8 hectares, this is our general target cover for the start of winter.
- At the start of the month, the remaining 33 lambs were shorn by Ben Winders. 12 were sold later in the month, and a further 14 or 15 will go by the end of May, leaving 6 or 7 that will be kept over winter for stock-handling exercises.
- Annual fertiliser went on at the end of April – we applied slightly less urea this year given excellent covers and the cost of N based fertilisers. Only about 25 units went on, and this is the only N we use each year. The remainder of the fertiliser was Superphosphate. Thank you to **Hyslop Groundspread** for putting the fertiliser on and **Ravensdown** for sponsoring some of the product.
- We have completed the regular update of the Farm's Health and Safety Policy. A part of the school's overall Policy, this is a good chance for us to reassess any risks and hazards on the farm, and make sure we do everything we can to keep the students and staff safe. This is a lot easier now after years of investment in modern machinery, gear, stock handling facilities and infrastructure.