

PUKEKAKA SHEEP AND BEEF FARM

2018 JANUARY SUMMER REPORT



Pukekaka Farm Managers Report 10-1-18

It's always good when a plan comes together, our good scanning percentages have turned into good docking percentages. We docked 152% from the ewes and 82% from the hoggets, so just over 8,500 lambs tailed, one of our best results. The good news continues, we have just finished weaning today, 2,460 have gone to the freezing works straight off their mothers, they are all over 34.5 kg live weight and so far we average \$112 per lamb. This is up more than \$25 on last years prices. We are still waiting to here how the 933 we sent this morning kill out, they should be similar to the others. Growth rates have been good, lambs on ewes have grown at 305 grams per day for the first 100 days of their life, lambs born to hoggets have grown at 280 grams per day for the first 90 days while on their mothers.

Calving was also good, they did 90% which is calves marked to cows wintered, this would have been better if we hadn't lost those six cows in the snow but still a good result, above the national average. The bulls have just gone out to the cows at the start of the month and there is plenty of grass around so should all go well.

Sam left us in early October, he has gone to work at Kelly Land Company up on the Taihape Napier road. The farm is a lot bigger than this one, bigger country and bigger paddocks, he rides a horse most days with his nine dogs in tow. Mairi Whittle started with us two weeks after Sam left, her parents have a farm 30 minutes from here so was bought up on a farm. She went to university after school and then worked for the ANZ for several years before deciding that she would rather be farming so is back in Taihape doing what she enjoys. At some stage she will return to her family farm in Moawhango.

It has been good to have the rain over the winter, unfortunately most tracks got very wet and we made a mess of them with stock and vehicles. We have just had a digger here fixing them up, as well we had to replace the power lines from the transformer to our house. The snow had stretched them and then broken them and the cross bars on the poles were too old for us to fix them properly, in one place the power lines were only about two feet above my hand when put up. We have put the power underground, this was at our expense as Power Co. will not take responsibility for power lines from the transformers to peoples houses. We have more work for the digger but have put it on hold as the repairs and maintenance costs are mounting for this year. We recently replaced two thirds of the roof on the Investors house, put new aluminium double glazed French doors and windows along the front of Mairi's house, built a wood shed for us and tidied up out the front of our house with new concrete and retainer walls. Next financial year we hope to finish re placing the windows in Mairi's house and paint the outside of the three house's around the woolshed end and Mairi's house on the inside as well as all the usual farm R & M.



A large part of the country got dry before X-mas, this was not the case for us, we have had regular rain all the way through with a lot of thunder storms, we are in good shape with plenty of grass. There has been rain in other parts over the X-mas break so the store markets have come alive in January, up about \$20 for lamb on December prices, this is good news for us so let's hope it all continues.

It was good to catch up with some of you at the AGM in Auckland, hope you have all had an enjoyable festive season.

Kind Regards

Rob

Welcome to our new Farm Administrator

We would like to welcome Dot McDermott to the Roger Dickie (N.Z.) Limited team; Dot takes over from Kate Murdoch as farm administrator and is enjoying her new role. Dot has just moved back to New Zealand this year after living in Canada for 20 years. Dot has previous 50/50 sharemilker experience in New Zealand and worked in corporate farming for Dairy Brands before moving to Canada where she worked 4 years as a Dairy Farm Manager before joining the banking sector.



Welcome to Dot - our new farm administrator

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Dickie'.

Roger Dickie



ROGER DICKIE
NEW ZEALAND

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