



GOATS REPORT

MARCH 2008



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

DAWN PIRANI

There have been 'highs' and 'lows' in this past year for the angora farmer. The 'highs' are certainly the high price we receive for our fibre, ranging from \$26.00 per kilo for the very fine kid fibre to \$4.50 for our stains. Overall we should average between \$14.00 and \$15.00 per kilo.

In the first six months of the kid's life you should shear \$71 gross per kid+doe (one kilo @ \$26.00, plus shear 2.5 kilo from the doe @ \$15.00).

I fail to understand why more farmers don't take on a small number of goats and mix with other animals. As well as the high fibre return, goats do a great job helping to clean your pasture. Goats make a great alternative to the use of chemicals in keeping weeds in check, plus the advantage of reduced chemical use in the food chain.

One of the 'lows' is our buck foot assessment scheme. It has been cancelled this year, after 11 years of being funded by the breeders, despite good improvement in the feet of bucks over this period. It is now time to get outside-funding to allow us to further develop the program with the aid of professionals.

Another 'low' is the decrease in the numbers of goats farmed. Many growers are all getting older and some dropping out, but the young farmers are not taking over. When the monitor farm results become available,

farmers new to goats will see the advantages of farming Angora goats.

I would like to thank all the people that help keep our industry ticking along. There is plenty of work that takes place behind the scenes and I thank you for that.

I thank Janet Brierley for all her work in producing Goat News. We would be in the dark about many things without that publication. Janet is also our registrar, and therefore a board member of Goats New Zealand. She has also now taken on the role of being Federated Farmers' contact for goat membership. For membership enquiries please contact Janet at m.j.brierley@actrix.co.nz

I would like to thank Ian for his work with all the things he is involved in as well as all the extra work that he manages to create for me as well!

Hope you all come along to the conference and make it a huge success.

Good Goating.

Dawn Pirani

GOAT ADVISORY GROUP AND RMA REPORT

IAN PIRANI

This last year has been one of the most frustrating for me personally.

My first involvement with the goat industry was in 1979. The industry should be really moving along, with world demand for goat meat and fibre being very strong and projected to get stronger. Our climate is changing for whatever reason and I don't propose to debate that. We are getting longer dry spells. This suits goats but not many other farmed animals.

We as an industry, agreed to a meat levy increase so that money could be used to fund research, from which came the monitor farm scheme.

To date some \$648,000 has been spent in cash and kind on the project. It is now completed and the final report yet to be available. Every effort is being made to get this circulated, and may be available by the time I deliver this speech.

When the Goat Advisory Group was formed, we all signed a confidentiality agreement that meant some things were not for discussion. However, the publicly available Meat & Wool annual report 2006/2007 lists 136.8 thousand goats were killed providing a levied income of \$75,240 plus an additional \$19,000 from Goats New Zealand-Boer Breeders giving a total of \$94,240 plus a carry over from previous years. We spent \$32,000 on R&D, \$5,000 on industry services and \$5,000 on administration.

These figures indicate our industry income and expenditure, excluding the Goat Review which is published annually. Those of you who get this publication will notice a considerable difference in published figures, because of the different financial close-off times, this is being addressed.

We as a group have had many aspects of our activities criticised by some people in the goat industry. We accept that some things have been slow to develop, and had the effect of cancelling the goat foot scheme, despite good progress over the past 11 years.

The Boer goats joined the scheme last year with positive results. The scheme has now reached the point where we need to involve some scientific perspectives.

We have involved consultant Dave Malcolm in the scheme and he will be working with Meat & Wool to put together a sound project. Hopefully, we can get financial assistance from our levy funds for next year.

As an industry we have made huge strides to minimize the impact of goats on our natural resources.

The 'code of practice' is going to be upgraded to a 'code of welfare' and it is vital we get this message out to those farmers who are milking the feral goat. The feral goat has got to be put behind fences and taken out of our scrub and bush. The quicker that we can achieve this, the better it will be for our environment. We as New Zealanders pride ourselves on our clean green image, and yet there are farmers who persist in using the bush as a reserve to provide an income. This needs to be discouraged. Our meat consumers will have a say when identification from paddock to plate becomes compulsory. Let us lead the way and do it voluntarily and not have regulation force it upon us.

As usual, Federated Farmers has quietly and efficiently handled all the RMA work this year. However, I am aware that Forest & Bird and DOC have concerns with goat containment in parts of New Zealand. If you have neighbours that raise similar concerns, please encourage them to make contact.

The future looks bright, let us all encourage more goats on more farms.

Ian Pirani

REGISTRAR / MEMBERSHIP

JANET BRIERLEY

Conference 2007 saw Ross Aitken retire from the position of Mohair NZ registrar, a position he has held for many years. Ross is now permanently living in Australia.

The Computer system which held all the animal register records was old and still running on a DOS system (for those who are not computer savvy DOS is a very old type of programming system). Thanks to the computer programming expertise of Robert Fletcher, (a Goats NZ member), the old MOPANZ records have been updated to fit in with modern technology. Arriving in the post on a shiny CD disc was the program to run the system and all the records of every angora that has been registered in NZ, a whole 97,829 of them, and this does not include the bulk of the three quarantine stations registration systems. With a few teething problems, things seem to be working fine.

It has been interesting seeing the old well-known goats' names and identities going back many years.

A reminder to those wanting to register animals: they have to have 4 generations of registered sires on their

Dams' and Sires' sides before they can be registered.

If you have purchased an animal that is eligible for registration, but was not registered when you purchased it, you have to ask the original breeder to register the goat for you, and then do a registration transfer into your ownership. I hope this clears up a few queries.

2007/2008 new Animals Registered: 26
Doe flocks 163
Animal Transfers 14

Registered financial membership (Goats only) with Federated Farmer Goats Section as at 31/12/2007 is 103

North Island: 47
South Island: 56

Janet Brierley