



## Summer Newsletter

*Dear clients and friends,*

We hope you had a great Christmas break, and received the welcome rains especially in the areas that needed it the most. With abundant feed around it is exciting to see our clients getting full benefit from their new genetics and we look forward to lifting everyone's performance even further in 2021! As usual there is plenty happening at Meadowslea in the next few months:

Our **yourbid** online selling platform is not yet a year old but is gaining a lot of momentum, with 9 record-breaking sales both here in NZ and overseas. Our UK-based website [yourbid.org](http://yourbid.org) allowed sales to be held while that country was in Covid restrictions, and introduced a new and exciting way of trading livestock to a very old and entrenched selling system. We are delighted with the uptake of the new technology by the UK farmers with outstanding results for the vendors. Buyers from as far afield as the south of England, Wales, and Ireland were able to view and purchase livestock in the far north of Scotland while the whole country was in lockdown. Definitely no returning to the old ways there. We plan to make this available to our clients so if you're keen to sell your stock on it get in touch!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southern Ram Sale: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** *Grant Bros. property, 517 Reaby Rd, Gore:* Following our first successful ram sale at the Southern Field Days last year, we are excited to bring the first **yourbid** ram sale to Southland in February. We are very grateful to the Grant Family for allowing us to use their paddocks and facilities at Croydon Bush, near Gore to host the sale. Client feedback from last year was very positive and we really enjoyed catching up with Southlanders in their own patch. We will again bring down 50 Kelso Terminal 2<sup>th</sup> rams of the thick, deep-bodied types that do so well in Southland. This year we are also bringing a selection of all our 6 maternal breeds, including some very good Romney rams and Kelso Maternals for hogget mating.

Online bidding will open on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at [www.meadowslea.co.nz](http://www.meadowslea.co.nz), with catalogues, videos, and commentary available on all rams. The on-farm sale will commence at 3pm on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Bids can be placed either on-line or on-farm and go into the same system. The sale will run until 4pm at least, then bidding will remain open on all lots until there has been a period of two minutes without any bids on any lot.



*Kelso Terminals with their top backends!*

Following the sale there will be food and refreshments available, and the giant bidding screen will be converted to show the Crusaders vs Highlanders pre-season game live later in the day. It should be a great afternoon to catch up with clients and talk rams and rugby!

**Wanaka A&P Show: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March:** Always a highlight! We will again be taking a selection of rams to display in our tent that will be in our Autumn Ram sale the following week. With our **yourbid** platform on display as well we will have bidding open and operational for you to try out for yourselves! Our tent site is in the new sheep hub area by the Rugby clubrooms. Come and say hi and catch up on how the season has gone!

**Autumn Ram Sale – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March:** There are some top rams in the paddock ready for this sale, which gets to be a bigger part of our business every year. We will offer 100 rams from across all our different breeds, including some selected hogget mating sires. The sale will again be run on yourbid with bidding opening a week earlier at the time of the Wanaka show. If you need rams earlier than this date please be in touch and we can make arrangements to suit. As always we appreciate an indication of how many rams of which breed you'll require, as it helps a lot with getting the catalogue sorted out.

**Hogget Mating – Ram Lamb Leasing:** With a strong lamb growing season and good feed levels around the country we anticipate strong demand for hogget mating rams this year. We use the **kelso**. Maternal breed over our own hoggets and find they are very easy lambing, producing small birthweight lambs with very clean shoulders and narrow heads at birth. The lambs are very vigorous and their growth rates are exceptional. We have a number of clients also using them very successfully who report almost trouble-free lambing followed by terrific growth rates, with several so impressed they have decided to keep the female progeny giving great options going forward. Be in touch anytime from now to discuss timing and how to make this work for you.

**In-calf Female Sale – Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>** As usual, we will sell surplus stud Angus females in our now-annual on-farm auction. Selected R2, R3, R4 and annual draft females on offer will represent a cross-section of our bloodlines from a genuine hill-country Angus herd. It's been gratifying to hear and see how these cattle have gone on for people after the last few sales, and we're always gutted not be able to keep them all ourselves!

**Annual Bull Sale – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June** Once again the climax of the South Island Angus Bull sale week. Put a big circle on the calendar now because this year's sale bulls are already looking terrific! There are a couple of newer bloodlines coming through which will be a real cause for excitement.

**Meadowslea Exciting Expansion News** We are very excited to have purchased a neighboring 240Ha property in December 2020. Punaroa Downs is ideally set up for stud stock with 50 paddocks deer fenced and access from a central lane. We have connected the properties with a new lane way track that stretches 4.5 km from the Meadowslea home yard and climbs to 1750 feet at the top of the downs. This property gives us the scope to increase our Stud sheep and cattle operations and pass on more genetic gains to the benefit of all our clients.



*Harry and George cutting the boundary fence*

**Wanaka Property Sale** We're helping to fund this new farm by selling a 3-bedroom Wanaka property we own, and doing it on **yourbid**. Bidding is open now and will run until February 24<sup>th</sup> unless sold prior – see [www.yourbid.co.nz](http://www.yourbid.co.nz). It'd be great to see this go to one of our clients!

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