

Motu-nui Rams

Newsletter - September 2025



A Year for Doubling Down

A Season of Recovery and Resilience

The 2024/2025 season has marked a strong recovery for sheep and beef businesses. With interest rates and product prices finally trending positively, the outlook is encouraging. National sheep numbers are at an all-time low, making it more important than ever to optimize your lamb crop to meet growing demand.

At Motu-nui, we remain focused on breeding sheep that maintain strong growth rates while tolerating worm burdens. We are really proud of the work we are doing in this space, and this years crop has only required four drenches, with the last administered in May—showing promising resilience and performance. The ram lambs are looking great and this really reinforces our overall strategy.

Innovation in Parasite Resistance

Looking ahead, we're excited to begin utilizing CARLA saliva testing to better select parasite-resistant animals. This innovation will help us refine our breeding program and continue delivering robust, high-performing stock.





Client Profile

Te Tumu Station - Jaime Pickens

2670ha, 1240 effective - 10,000SU

Last season at Te Tumu we decided to change our stock policy from purchasing composite 2ths annually to heading to a self-replacing ewe flock with a focus on

breeding a hardy low input ewe that will perform on marginal country with a big emphasis on drench efficacy.

Ben helped us find a line of M/A ewes off one of his clients that had been buying Motu Nui rams for several years, this line of ewes consisted of 2ths up to 5 year olds and made up a large proportion of the Romney ewes we purchased last season. I was extremely impressed with how hard I could push these ewes over winter to tidy up blocks without striping weight off them.

We sourced 2ths off 3 other properties all with different Romney origins that would be potential breeders we would target, these 2ths have all been run in the same mob and we scanned them separately as a comparison with the Motu Nui 2ths scanning considerably higher out of the group. See table below.

We also purchased rams off 5 different Romney breeders last year as a trial to make up our ram team, the Motu Nui rams are a really nice type and have grown out well. The condition they were in when they came out of the ewes was a real stand out for me they didn't really check at all.

	Dry	Single	Twin	Late	Total
Motu Nui	**3%**	**25%**	**65%**	**6%**	**166%**
Group 2	5%	29%	61%	5%	159%
Group 3	9%	33%	50%	8%	146%
Group 4	6%	41%	48%	5%	145%

Expanding Our Offering

We're proud to announce the acquisition of the Waipipi Rocks Black Faced Stud from Sam & Trudy Pearce. This addition makes Motu-nui your one-stop shop for both maternal and terminal ram purchases.



Client Testimonial

Te Whanga Station

"In June 2023, my partner Latasha, our daughter Willow and I moved to Gladstone, where I took over management of Te Whanga. I've known Motu Nui Romneys since my time at Patitapu Station in Alfredton. The strong ewe base gave us confidence, especially in the challenging conditions of Gladstone. After spending time with Ben and the team, I was impressed by their practical, no-nonsense approach. Their commitment to breeding fit-for-purpose rams reassures us that Motu Nui will remain one of our main ram suppliers."

— Bert Botha, Manager at Te Whanga Station

2025 Ram Orders

We are now taking orders for your 2025 Ram requirements, please go to our website, or simply click on this link to lock in your 2025 rams

https://www.motu-nuirams.co.nz/motu-nui-rams-order-forms





Grovers Corner

Finally farmers are getting the returns for their red meat they should be, with costs having escalated over 30% in past few years this has to remain constant. Looking forward, and read what you will, it looks like these returns will hold steady for a good period of time, and we will see a stabilization in costs.

It's a time to get back on track with a lot of deferred R&M to catch up on many farms along with many still picking up the pieces from the Cyclones. Also catching up on deferred fertiliser application, it is heartening to hear the sound of topdressing planes around the place which hasn't been as constant for a long time.

Observing this seasons bull sales and prices being paid, it's great to see farmers willing to invest in good genetics. With ram sales just around the corner don't forget the ram paddock, keeping up with new genetics is only going to strengthen performance to capitalize on this current market.

Although I have stepped back from the day to day running of the Motu-nui stud I enjoy still being involved helping with data collection and support for Ben & Vebz. I couldn't be more pleased/proud of the direction Ben and his team are taking the sheep. The pressure they put on them and the consistency of performance and structure is great to see. The perfect sheep for hill country and all the extreme events that get thrown at you.

All the best for spring and see you at Ram selling if not before.

Jason



Team from left: Keiren, Ben L, Jason, Vebz, Ben

Meet the Motu-nui Team

We're nothing without our incredible team:

Ben – Operations Manager, overseeing all facets of the business.

Vebz – Our admin rock star, keeping paperwork in order and beancounters at bay as well as being on hand and in the yards whenever needed.

Monty & Harv – Weekend and holiday helpers, becoming integral to the family business.

Keiren & Nadesha – Kai-tak block managers, keeping things running smoothly at home.

Ben Lilley – Our newest team member, managing Coast Road and the Mara blocks.

Jason Le Grove – Providing ongoing support when needed.

Adam Moloney – Helping out with admin from across the ditch during busy times.



Kids enjoying a break over the holidays on pest control duty

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