



Lincoln CT Newsletter – 2015

Another year has raced by and the 2015 CT scanning season will soon be with us. 2014 was a busy year, I scanned over 500 commercial rams trucked from Whangarei to Gore and everywhere in-between, hosted breeders groups and on top of that there was a lot of Lincoln University's own research CT scanning. In June I had the opportunity to visit Scotland's Rural College in Edinburgh where they offer a CT scanning service to farmers, including a mobile service, and got to pick their brains. From February 6-27th I will be overseas but will be available for scanning before and after these dates and will have someone checking my emails over this period to confirm any bookings that are made. I am looking forward to the scanning season ahead and hope you consider CT scanning as an important tool to include in your breeding program.

Lincoln CT – 7 slice scan

As a part of the 7 slice scan protocol you will receive an advanced report which includes raw yield figures for 3 carcass regions (hindquarter, loin and shoulder). Lincoln CT will send raw data to your SIL bureau comprising CT lean, CT fat and live weight. Cost per ram: \$100.

Ram selection

In a perfect world CT scanning all of your rams would be ideal. Obviously the more animals you scan the more accurate your breeding value (BV) results; however this involves a significant cost and is often not financially possible. We recommend you scan as many animals as possible from as many different sires as you can. The CT data that is entered into SIL applies to more sheep than those that you have scanned. For example: measurements on relatives, as well as the direct measurement on the individual, are used to estimate the breeding values. So animals that have not been measured for CT but have relatives that have CT measurements will have CT information contributing to their BV estimates. The effect CT measurements, have on breeding values and subsequent indexes will be higher the more closely related the animals are.

Interpretation of Lincoln CT data

Last year I had a lot of farmers questioning the results SIL provides after the CT data has been input, particularly regarding terminal sire breeds being penalised for being overly fatty. I agree that we need to be aware sheep don't become too lean as fat is where a lot of the taste and texture comes from, however we don't want them to be too fat either! Unfortunately, I don't have any control over how SIL calculates its data from the raw results that are submitted. If you are concerned about your rams being penalised for fat your bureau can provide a selection report that uses the Dual Purpose criteria for your terminal sire rams as well as a Terminal Sire report so that fat is taken out of the equation.

I also had a lot of farmers asking "What is the best way to interpret the data we provide?" The data provided in your Lincoln CT report is raw data. This data should not be used to compare your results with other breeder's data. It is an aid for you to make within flock decisions. The best way to use the Lincoln CT data is to enter it into SIL. The accuracy of the Dual Purpose or Terminal Sire Meat (DPM/TSM) index will increase as you add more CT data each year. If you want to be able to compare

your rams with other breeders the correct and only way is to be part of a SIL Across Flock Analysis. The CT results may not directly relate to the DPM/TSM index provided by SIL as SIL Index takes into account information from all recorded traits and from relatives. The results should be used in combination with other SIL breeding values for overall ram selection. It is also important to note that the carcass yield figure provided in the report only uses the parts of the carcass that are CT scanned and may not correlate with VIAscan yield data.

LINCOLN CT

Those breeders wishing to CT scan this year please make contact as soon as you have an idea of what date you would like to scan. This will enable us to coordinate this year's schedule. Please be sure to indicate if you require the data for mating decisions in 2015.

Contact details

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**LINCOLN CT
Booking Form – 2015**

Breeders name: _____

Breeders address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

Stud Prefix: _____

SIL No: _____

Sheep breed: _____

SIL Bureau: _____

Number of animals for CT Scanning: _____

Data required for mating 2015: YES NO

Proposed Date for CT scanning: _____

Tag numbers of sheep to be CT scanned:

Current Tag	Liveweight	Current Tag	Liveweight	Current Tag	Liveweight

PLEASE BRING THIS FORM ON CT SCANNING DAY