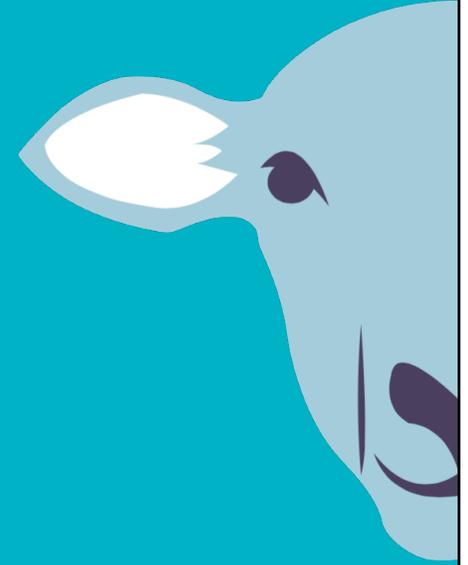


**B+LNZ GENETICS**  
**SHEEP BREEDER FORUM**

**2016**



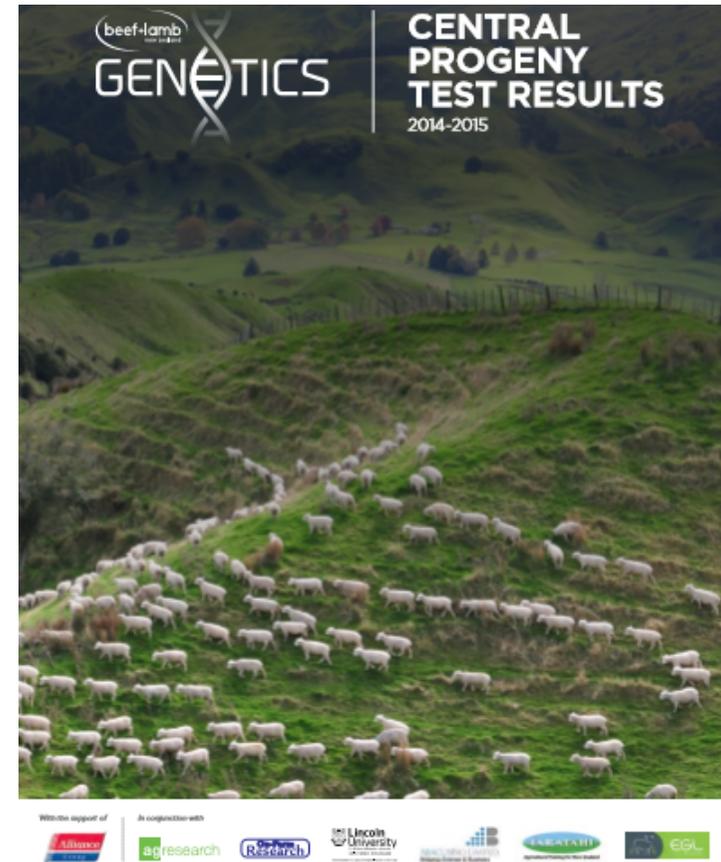
# **B+LNZ Genetics**

## **Central Progeny Test**

Graham Alder, B+LNZ Genetics

# CPT: Background

- Established in 2002, run on one to five properties and under four different titles
- Various industry partners and service providers (e.g. Alliance, B+LNZ)
- CPT has provided essential infrastructure to enable National Across-Flock and Across-Breed analyses (e.g. SIL ACE)



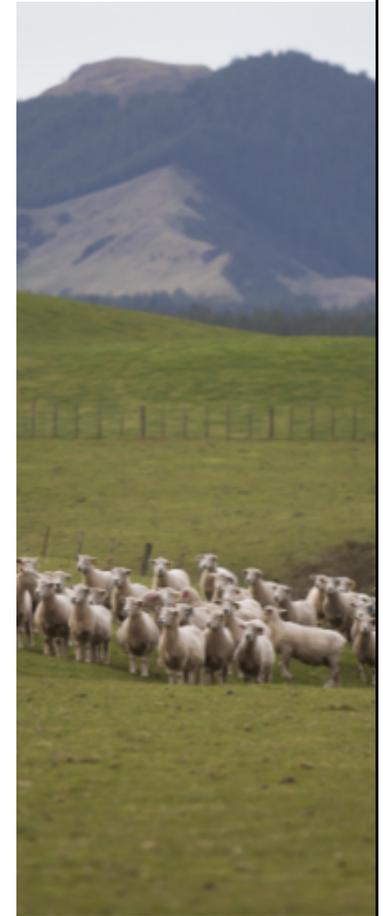
# CPT Objectives

- Identify sources of high performing rams by strengthening comparisons across flocks and breeding groups
- Develop genetic parameters for understanding of novel traits
- Foster links between Ram Breeding Groups
- Provide a genetic resource for add-on R&D projects of value to meat and wool farmers and industry



# Findings of the CPT review

- CPT is delivering very good results to the sheep industry, with good engagement with breeders, but not commercial farmers
- Majority of the CPT animals were run on research farms in easier environments that does not reflect where commercial sheep are farmed
- CPT should work with industry progeny tests to assist in design and best practice to extend the influence of the CPT



# The 'new-look' CPT

- Transform existing CPT sites into HUB flocks:
- Key Features:
  - **Harder Environments:** Invermay, Onslow View and Taratahi phase out Poukawa (Hawkes Bay) and Ashley Deans (Lincoln)
  - **Connectedness focus** using widely-used rams by AI
  - **Standard SIL traits**
  - **Best Practice Performance Recording**
    - e.g. Electronic Recording, DNA pedigrees etc.)
  - **Deliver R&D objectives**
    - e.g. Measurement of new traits; upgrade of SIL meat yield module, work in IMF and Feed Efficiency

# The 'new-look' CPT

## Work with industry to establish 'Next Generation Flocks' (NGF)

- Preferably existing progeny tests run by breed groups
- Focus on evaluation of greater numbers of young rams with some creating connectedness in later years
- SIL standard traits
- Best Practice Performance Recording protocols



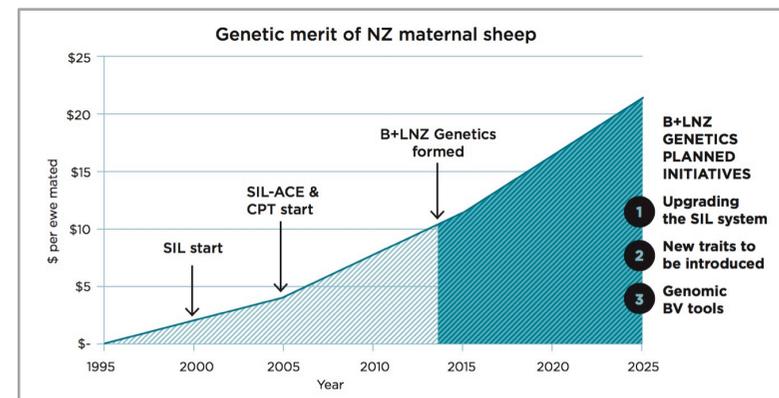
# NGF Concept

- ‘*Community of Interest*’ that has an existing progeny test, or is willing to establish one
- NGF: Partnerships between the group and BLG, not solely a BLG activity
- Group can measure any other traits, but at their own cost
- BLG contribution through activities; e.g. assistance with design and “best-practice” recording, and potentially DNA parentage and AI to connect to the Hub flocks



# Intended outcomes

- Maintain and improve the existing genetic infrastructure for national genetic evaluations
- Increase the number of progeny tested rams evaluated in partnership with industry, and in particular younger rams
- Tailor outputs to commercial farmers to get wider industry engagement in genetic improvement
- Improve the Genetic Merit of NZ Sheep





**THANK YOU**