2026 WINTER NEWSLETTER

Isn’t it great to be loved, the media and public have finally recognised what we all have known: agriculture is the backbone of the economy with the red meat sector producing $48.7b of spending with the addition of $17.3b to GDP.

WEATHER

Weather seems to be the conversation most common in the Pirinoa District with annual rainfall figures overtaken in less than 7 months!

At home we have had 828mm for the 6 months to the end June with an average of 14.5mm / rainy day.

At Moikau we had 1361mm for the 6 months to the end of June, an average of 21.25mm per rainy day; one occasion measuring 411mm in 24 hours and 300mm in under 10 hours.

There's been quite a bit of expense and time spent trying to rectify the situation, most of it goes back do the approach the council have had doing the absolute minimum to the keep the river within its banks, so when it gets out all hell breaks loose. They now assure us that they will be more proactive, watch this space, we will.

Below: we lost the bridge over the Turanganui River twice this year to flooding

LAMBING 2026

For all that we have actually had quite a good farming year, and tend to forget how tight things would have been had it not rained substantially when it did. A tight spring ensured that when it did rain we had quality feed everywhere, interestingly very little worm trouble with the high ME feed.

The Mixed age scanned at 184%, two tooths at 176% with an average of 180%. This is all net of triplets.

The 1400 hoggets mated worked out at 111%. All stock is in great order.

Turanganui ewes lambing 2025

WOOL MAKES A COMEBACK

Congratulations to all those who believed in wool long enough to see the prices turn for the better. Perhaps good things do come to those who wait!

But there's no bonanza, in our own case once the shearers were paid, the woolshed roof was replaced, there's enough left over for a box and a half of Chinese dagging combs.

We had two lines of second shear make over six dollars greasy but by the time you take the oddments into account and the improvement coming as the year progressed, the average greasy price for the year ended up at $2.96 and 6kg ssu wintered. The wool price has come a long way with a way to go yet!

LAMB AND BEEF DEMAND

Lamb and beef have had a great run, rising to levels undreamt of only two years ago. Again, in our own case the top line for beef reads well but in a trading system you're handling a lot of other people's money and as they say "all boats lift in a rising tide".

Product	2024	2025	2026
Store lamb	345	493	630
Fat lamb	673	968	1185
Beef	657	846	980

A 150% lift for beef and more for lamb in little more than 2 years!

The diet drugs and keto style diets We worried about reducing food demand have actually shifted the demand for protein with doctors encouraging the patients to eat more quality protein, just where the red meat, particularly grass-fed fits in. The demand for protein is so strong then it has turned whey protein from a byproduct of the cheese making process to the cheese being a byproduct of the whey production.50 years ago one of the challenges for the old South Featherston dairy company was having enough land to spread the whey on.

The Arable Sector takes another hit with Malteurop's planned closure of its Ashburton and Feilding plants. This on the back of the Heinz Wattie and McCains factories closing in the Hawkes Bay.

Apparently, there is some of this land is earmarked for Dairy conversions, while other is Livestock but a significant amount of investment required on infrastructure.
This should equate to greater demand in the store stock.

I often look at the arable sector and think that their productivity gains per man have been a lot easier than those in livestock, but for livestock the gains came over 60 years ago in the form of the easy-care sheep. Crutching trailers, conveyors, jetting races, four wheelers, have all contributed to per man production but it is the productive free moving animal that has allowed expansion to occur.

Despite this farm input costs have been rising steadily and are now 28% above the 2022 level, which was when we had the last ram price increase. And you guessed it we are looking to lift prices approximately 15%.

RAM BUYING

Our new ram pricing is detailed below:

Tier	Old price	New Price
1	$1950	$2300
2	$1650	$1900
3	$1400	$1600
4	$1100	$1250

Last year we signalled the end of the Romdales being sold from Turanganui, and that they will continue to be produced and sold by Mt Guardian. It has been a pleasure dealing with Tim and Woody Anderson and the Romdale clients over the last 13 years. Expansion at Mt Guardian enable Woody to take this portion of the breeding on and us to focus on the Romney. We wish Tim and Woody all the best in the future.
Woody can be contacted on 027 469 2378 or 03 319 2962.

Lastly Mark and Jenny Chamberlain who farm at Totora Valley decided to retire this year while prices were hot. They had been getting rams from Turanganui for 23 years and set out to sell their sheep well. Their two tooths made $400 with an average of $374, congratulations Mark and Jenny.

We look forward to making contact with you during the spring, we will have dates shortly so sing out if you're ready for one.

All the best for the spring ahead hopefully the medias "super El Nino" is a fizzer just like the medias National Partys leadership challenge.

It would seem the media are trying to make the news not just report it!

Regards, the Turanganui crew

L-R: Steve Aburn, Jayden Hume, Guy Warren, Mike Warren, William Warren, and Mason Hayes. Pictured Right - Anna Telfer and son Clyde

nextgen AGRI

Mike 027 446 5312

warren.m@xtra.co.nz