

Waipuna Farm – Turning Grass into Ass

Waipuna Farm

- Northern Southland
- ~400 above sea level
- 560ha effective (85% cultivatable 15% hill)
- 6.5T grown a year
- 2.5m rainfall
- 250kg/CW/ha
- Lamb 2000 terminal ewes
- Receives 400 100kg calves in Nov/Dec
- 100% kill before second winter at 260kg CW



The Calves

- Origin from Canterbury
- Target of 1kg a day from arrival to May
- Target Winter weight 270kg average
- Target min 200kg
- Spread in weights good
- Little control of what calves I receive
- Full control on what I do



The Calves

- Parasite management is key
- Avoid calves eating worms
- Drench is an ambulance
- 100% higher growth on clean pasture
- Sheep are key



The Yearlings

- Top 60% Summer kill (Jan-Feb)
- Bottom 40% backgrounded with ewes
- Finished in cells @2-3/ha
- 120ha platform
- Lambs eat surplus through Autumn
- Ewes clean out over winter (<1000 cover)



The Yearlings

- Target of 400 killed @ 270kg CW
- Aim to have a margin of >\$1000/bull
- 3 years ago 250kg CW was \$1200/bull margin



So, where's the beef?

- Most of our beef kiwi X dam
- Increases growth rates up to 30%
- Growth rates good, yield better
- @ 40% beef X, yield of 52%
- @ 7% beef X, yield of 49%
- Beef X contributed roughly and extra \$80/hd
- Kiwi X mature early – yearling CW ~230kg



The grass is greener over the fence!

FEEDER CALVES	PRICE PER HEAD
BULLS	
Angus	250
Charolais	130 - 205
Crossbred	45
Friesian	5 - 190
Red Whiteface	90 - 215
Simmental	160
Whiteface	100 - 250

Questions?