

Beef + Lamb New Zealand's (B+LNZ) research team leads and carries out a wide range of research on behalf of our farmers. This quarterly newsletter provides a high-level update on current research projects. We encourage you to share this newsletter with the wider farming community. For further information, please contact research@beeflambnz.com.

Getting to know a member of the research team

Dr Suzanne Keeling is B+LNZ's Sector Science Strategy Manager, joining in 2018. Suzi has worked across animal and environmental health, biosecurity and food integrity. Suzi contributes to the scientific leadership of the research portfolio and identifies opportunities to maximise outcomes for sheep and beef hill country farmers. Her key focus is to deliver science that is robust, useful and can be adopted by farmers. In her spare time, Suzi continues pushing the frontiers of science through her dedication to mastering hot-smoked BBQ and gluten-free bread that won't be used for building material!



New Resources from Research

Internal parasites:

- > [Effects of worms factsheet](#) translated to Te Reo Māori
- > Webinar: [Insights from interviews with farmers using reduced drench](#)

Facial eczema:

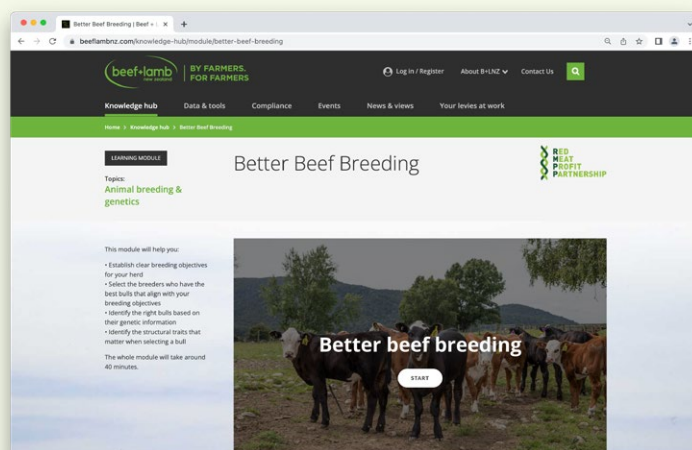
- > [Snapshot of the broader impacts of Facial Eczema](#)

Hill Country Futures Programme:

- > [Farmer stories](#)
- > [HCF e-newsletters](#): Quarterly updates on key projects and initiatives across the programme over the previous year
- > [Soil Horizons article on the digital soil mapping](#)
- > Podcasts
 - [Programme Introduction](#) - Sarah Perriam
 - [Panel Discussion](#) - Dr. Suzi Keeling, Dr. Katherine Dixon and Professor Derrick Moot
 - [Grazing lucerne on Willesden Farm](#) - Tyler Good and Professor Derrick Moot

Informing New Zealand Beef Programme:

- > [Better Beef Breeding online learning module](#)



Hill Country Futures (HCF) Programme

Forage trials and AgYields showcased at NZ Grasslands Association Conference. Results from several field studies to help inform forage selection and associated management plus the new AgYields database were presented. AgYields is a national open source database for pasture data and crop yield data. Links to the database, factsheet and tutorial videos can be found [here](#).

FarmSalus, a farmer wellbeing assessment tool, is now supported by 'Notes for facilitators' and 'Resources for rural professionals and farmers' packages.

FarmSalus is grounded by interviews with farmers and those connected to the sector. Interest in this tool continues to gain momentum and the Agri-Women's Development Trust is trailing the use of FarmSalus in two online courses. Learn more about FarmSalus [here](#).

Visit the HCF's [News and Views](#) webpage to read more about the programme.

Animal health, production, and welfare

Opportunity to increase the reach and impact of parasite management resources. Only half of the 498 farmers surveyed in 2021 and 2022 had engaged with any of B+LNZ's parasite management resources. To increase the reach and impact, resources need to be continually promoted, targeted, varied, and promoted by vets and rural professionals. Findings from these surveys will be built into any research programmes going forward.

Working collaboratively to develop a parasite management research plan. Internal parasites are quoted as our farmers' number one animal health challenge. In December 2022, we held a technical virtual workshop with researchers and commercial laboratories from NZ and Australia to discuss how we can advance diagnostic testing. We will hold a workshop with farmers, scientists, industry bodies and rural professionals from NZ, Australia, and the UK this month. The goal of this workshop is to gain insights from across the sector to develop a research programme that will help our farmers farm successfully and sustainably into the future whilst meeting the challenges of parasites and drench resistance.

Genetics

Informing New Zealand Beef Programme:

- Artificial insemination was carried out at Kepler (Pāmu) and planned for early 2023 at Lochinver Station.
- 15 in-depth farmer interviews were conducted to help inform future extension design.
- Online learning module created – Better Beef Breeding.
- More than 50 expressions of interest were received from commercial farmers interested in being part of the INZB programme. The intention is to onboard a further 10 commercial farmers this financial year.
- Beef Progeny Test field day planned for early 2023.
- Planning underway to hold in person Beef Breeders Forum this year.

Greenhouse Gas mitigations

Widespread adoption of low methane producing sheep in NZ's flock via genetics. That is the aim of the B+LNZ-led "Cool Sheep Programme" which has received co-funding from MPI. This programme builds on research carried out by B+LNZ, PGGRC, NZAGRC and AgResearch over the last 10 years. The goal is to make lower methane sheep of all breeds available to farmers, tracking farmers' genetic gains, and ensuring opportunities for farmers to get rewarded for using lower methane animals.

Acknowledgements

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We also acknowledge all the farmers who have provided access to their farms for studies, samples for testing, and shared their knowledge and expertise.

