



Beef + Lamb New Zealand Sheep Breeder Forum

Programme Tuesday 19 May 2026

8:15am Welcome

B+LNZ's focus for 2026/27

Alan Thomson, Beef + Lamb New Zealand

This opening session sets the scene for the forum, with B+LNZ Chief Executive Alan Thomson outlining the organisation's focus for 2026/27. It will provide a high level overview of programmes and priority areas across the organisation, and explain where sheep genetics fits within these strategic pillars.

From review to roadmap: B+LNZ's sheep genetics strategy

Jason Archer, Beef + Lamb New Zealand

Jason will discuss the strategic direction of B+LNZ's sheep genetics programmes, drawing on findings from an in-depth review completed in 2025. Ongoing genetic improvement remains one of the key drivers of productivity gains across New Zealand's sheep industry, with breeders playing a critical role in delivering these benefits to commercial farmers. The session will also cover the role of B+LNZ in providing tools that support progress, and the future investment and funding models required to sustain long-term genetic gain.

Morning tea

Interactive breakout workshops

Delegates will rotate through three 30-minute interactive workshops designed to encourage discussion and hands-on engagement. These will include a demonstration of a new genetics tool launching in 2026, alongside facilitated feedback sessions to gather perspectives on specific topics and future priorities.

Lunch

New Zealand Genetic Evaluation update

This post-lunch session puts the spotlight on our national sheep evaluation system, providing an update on areas of work underway within the NZGE and nProve. Presenters will share progress across a range of projects and research areas, including parasite resilience, meat quality, facial eczema, feed efficiency, and shedding sheep traits.

Afternoon tea

Open mic: Q&A session

This final session brings everyone together for an open mic Q&A, providing an opportunity to explore topics not covered in the programme, or dig deeper into themes from earlier presentations and workshops. It's a chance for open discussion, shared perspectives, and practical conversation to close out the event. With questions expected to flow thick and fast in both directions, we've allowed generous time for discussion.

5:00pm - Sheep Breeder Forum ends

5:30pm - Pre-dinner drinks for forum attendees

7:15pm - Evening dinner (combined with B+LNZ Farmer Council and Kāhui members)