

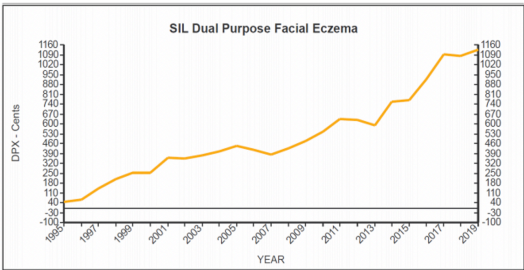
BREEDING FOR FACIAL ECZEMA TOLERANCE

Information to ask your breeder for



01. Genetic trend graphs

Ask the breeder for an FE genetic trend graph. These graphs show the average index of the flock year by year, so it's easy to see what progress a flock is making. It's one thing to be measuring; it's another to be improving. Is the breeder moving FE tolerance in the right direction?



02. Trait Leader Lists

Leader Lists are designed to provide a balance between high merit and high reliability. The trait leader list will provide a list of the current top 50 sires based on DPX. This list is often used by breeders looking to purchase rams from other breeders. However, it is a good place to check that your shortlist of breeders is featured.

Go to the sil.co.nz website: Tools > NZGE > [View Latest NZGE reports](#)

03. RamGuard™ Flock Status Rating

RamGuard™ is the programme which coordinates the dose rates given to animals when they are tested for FE tolerance.

A list of [these flock ratings](#) can be found on the sil.co.nz website, under Tools > Flocks focused on health traits > Facial Eczema Tolerance.

More stars = more tolerance.

RamGuard™ provides a certificate to breeders each year verifying their part in the programme. Buyers are encouraged to ask for this information.

Dose rate and resultant flock status rating table	
Dose rate mg/kg LW	Flock Status Rating
<0.20	*
0.20-0.29	**
0.30-0.49	***
0.50-0.59	****
>.60	*****

04. FEGold Breeders

[FEGold](#) is a brand dedicated to protecting the investment sheep breeders have made developing the FE tolerant gene pool, while providing greater clarity to the commercial farmer in regards to selecting FE tolerant rams. There are FEGold and FESilver accredited breeders.