

Beer or B.E.E.R.; which is best?

Many Stud sheep breeders provide liberal (and expensive) amounts of brewed beer at or after their ram sales.

Does this improve the genetic quality of the rams?

Perhaps there are improvements...

- The purchased rams look much better after a few beers.
- The breeder is much more of a good bloke because he supplied beer.
- The rams will have higher quality lambs because of the beer.
- The wool quality on merinos will be enhanced due to the beers offered.
- The rams seem to be better value because beer was freely available.



These highlighted goals are very important for achieving your vision for improving your flock and increasing your profitability.

At Glen Holme we are committed to providing B.E.E.R. at our sale.

We offer the **Best Environmentally Evaluated Rams** that we can; B.E.E.R.

We test all our sheep with the toughest challenges that seasons and our farm environment will allow.



- They stay outside in all weather, allowing us to determine which wools can handle both dry and dusty conditions or large rainfall events. We visually score for both wool colour and fleece rot and only offer the better rams.
- They are run at high stocking rates to challenge their growth and doing ability. Only the better genetic performers rise to this challenge. Sometimes both twins make it through classing into the flock.
- We weigh fleeces and track liveweight gains.
- We expect our ewes to lamb without assistance in the paddock, mirroring commercial realities.
- We do not provide self-feeders for rams. This practice is one of the habits that has held back the progress of some breeds enormously in the past.
- Our sheep are assessed in large management groups to allow “the cream to rise to the top” showing that the top performance really is exactly that. Outstanding performance can be measured in percentage gained.
- Single and twin bearing pregnant ewes are run together for lambing through to weaning to assess real performance without it being skewed by differing feed and energy inputs allocated to the different mobs. Genetic progress cannot be made using skewed data.
- We do not “show prepare” animals because of an inherent necessity to create small, inaccurate management groups where any subsequent data collection has low accuracy and we recognise that show preparation is not relevant to commercial producers.



- We do not have irrigated pastures to keep green feed up to our young sheep. They must not just survive; we have an expectation that they need to thrive on paddock feed through the Summer and Autumn period where no pasture usually grows.
- We condition score all our hogget ewes prior to mating as part of the classing process. High stocking rates put pressure on condition scores, allowing us to remove the poor doers.
- We measure fat and muscle as an aid to identify animals that thrive.
- We do not jet for blowflies as a management tool; except in extreme circumstances, i.e. some age groups in perhaps one year in twenty, no blanket or preventative treatments. Certainly, this means that we need to be sharp with our animal care protocols; but it is the only way to identify which animals succumb to attack and which express resistance.
- We minimise drenching to allow the expression of both worm tolerance or resistance. Of course, all sheep that are thriving will have greater natural resistance to parasitic attack.
- We refuse to use anti-biotics to treat mycotic dermatitis. The only way to successfully reduce this disease is by identifying and classing out the animals that get it. Our incidence of mycotic dermatitis in the Glen Holme flocks is close to zero, and the purchase cost of antibiotics to treat is has been \$0 in the past 50 years.

Which form of beer / B.E.E.R will best serve your sheep enterprise?

