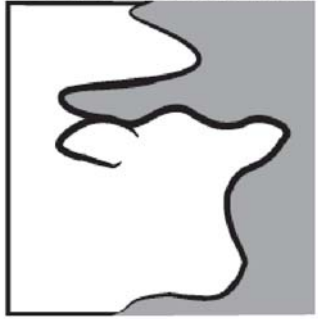


SILVERSTREAM



CHAROLAIS

THE BULLETIN

New Year 2011

Welcome to New Year issue of the Silverstream Bulletin. We trust you all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. This year again Anna and I travelled to the Mahia Peninsula south of Gisborne to spend two weeks over New Year on holiday with Anna's family. We experienced two weeks of great food, wine, weather and company.

This issue includes a client profile of Hamish and Maryann McRae from Lochiel. There is some stunning scenery on Lochiel and the McRaes have done an excellent job with the property since taking it over in 2002. We also have an article on the Aleph program run by Canterbury Meat Packers (CMP). CMP tend to fly under the radar and you don't hear much about them in the media but many of our clients supply the program and are very happy with it.

Product prices are at an all time high. Beef traditionally has tracked between 80 cents and \$1.20 per pound in the US. Currently we are seeing the price heading toward US \$2 per pound. This is likely to hold at these levels with cow herds around the world dropping substantially. In the US the cow herd is at its lowest numbers since the 1950's. Lamb and mutton prices have been amazing, particularly the price being paid for old ewes. Wool too has had a substantial lift. Wool has had more media attention in recent times than ever before. I applaud the promoters of Wool Partners Co-operative and hope they get the support required to set it over the line. I feel we are an apathetic bunch us farmers and in the overall scheme of things they could have not made it much easier to join. Wool has the potential to rise far more than any of the other commodities we produce. Hopefully we won't be talking about what could have been done further down the track.

This year Anna is running the South Island Hereford Super Sires group for the Beef Expo. We have 8 Hereford bulls from some of the South Island's leading Hereford studs which will go to Expo in Fielding this May. Unfortunately the Angus Select Sires never gained the numbers this year so the bulls they have are being run at Floridale Stud. We are also getting 8 Hereford heifer calves from Anna's parents Peter and Jill Smyth of the Na Puteputi Stud in Northern Hawkes Bay. In the next few years we are expecting a huge swing back to Herefords when people start to see a drop off in performance from straight breeding with Angus.

We had a great run at the shows this last spring and will have cattle again at the Wanaka and Harwarden shows plus we are likely to be at the South Island Field Days. This combined with the Charolais tour which is taking place in Canterbury in April and the current development we have going on at the moment should keep us busy through until sale time. Lets hope for a good rain between now and calf sale time. All things being equal there should be some good prices paid this year as options for stock are limited with less numbers of stock around. Good luck to all of you selling calves!

Will be back in touch pre- bull sale.

Kind Regards
Brent.

**SILVERSTREAM
BULL SALE 2011**

**WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE
ON PROPERTY GREENPARK,
CHRISTCHURCH**



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2010 SHOW RESULTS

ERIN D11 (POLLED)

CHRISTCHURCH 2010- MEAT & WOOL CUP CHAMPION
1ST ALL BREEDS 2YR HEIFER
CHAMPION INTERBREED PAIRS
SUPREME CHAMPION CHAROLAIS
ELLESMERE 2010 - SUPREME CHAMPION BEEF EXHIBIT
BANKS PENINSULA 2011- SUPREME CHAMPION BEEF EXHIBIT



IRENE E18

CHRISTCHURCH 2010 - INTERBREED HEIFER CHAMPION
1ST ALL BREEDS HEIFER (40 ENTRIES)
ELLESMERE 2010 - RES CHAMPION BEEF EXHIBIT



OCELOT E36

CHRISTCHURCH 2010 - 2ND ALL BREEDS HEIFER (40 ENTRIES)



EVOLUTION E168 (POLLED)

CHRISTCHURCH 2010 - 3RD ALL BREEDS BULL (40 ENTRIES)



ENTICER E30 (POLLED)

CHRISTCHURCH 2010 - CHAMPION INTERBREED PAIRS
1ST ALL BREEDS BULL (40 ENTRIES)

See us at: Wanaka Show 10th-11th March
Hawarden Show - 19th March
South Island Field Days with ASB Bank -
30th March - 1st April

LOCHIEL STATION

Hamish & Maryann McRae

CLIENT PROFILE



Hamish with his two sons, Fred and George.

muster in order to get his lambs prepared for his annual on farm lamb sale. The flock consists of 7000 breeding ewes which made up of Perendale and Romdale ewes. The ewes are shorn every 12 months pre-lamb. 2000 ewes lamb slightly earlier in September to a terminal sire while the main flock starts in October. In the on-farm lamb sale there are usually about 6000 lambs for sale.



Hamish and Maryann's favourite view.

Lochiel Station is located on the Lewis Pass opposite the Hanmer Springs turn off. This 5200 hectare property was purchased in December 2002 by the McRae Family and is run by Hamish and Maryann. Before running this property they both were at the McRae home farm 'Alphaburn' near Wanaka. Although Hamish and Maryann run the property, Hamish's parents Don and Vicki who live in Wanaka can often be found staying at Lochiel. Hamish and Maryann have three children, George who is six, Fred who's four and little Martha who is about to turn two. The children have kept Maryann busy the last few years but she is looking forward to getting back out on the farm more often. She has an interest in horses mainly for mustering but may get back into eventing when the children are older. Both boys ride and Martha is showing signs of being keen which excites Maryann.

The herd consists of 700 cows and approximately 360 Hereford/Angus cross cows are put to the Charolais bull. The rest of the cows are Hereford cows and 2/3 of these are put back to a Hereford bull while the rest go to an Angus. Calving begins in September and the calves are marked before Christmas. 250 of the Charolais cross calves are sold at Culverden. The Angus/Hereford cross steers are also sold here. While some farmers use a Charolais bull to maximise profit out of their poorer females, Hamish purposely breeds suitable cows that will cross well with the Charolais and the progeny are outstanding.



Of the 5200 hectares of the property 1000 hectares can be classed as cultivated, 2500 hectares is over-sown hill and the rest is native hill. 120 hectares is cultivated annually. Rape is usually sown first followed by one or two turnip/Italian ryegrass crops then back into grass again. There is an average rainfall of 40 inches and the property gets snow approximately three times a year. On our visit to Lochiel, Hamish had just finished a full



Silverstream bulls out with the cows.

This breeding policy was already in place at Lochiel before Hamish and Maryann took over when run by Alistair Dunbar the previous manager. Hamish likes the policy as it means he has mainly traditional steers plus Charolais



steers and heifers for sale. The extra weight he achieves from the Charolais plus having the Charolais heifers which are particularly sort after lift the overall average of the calf operation. Last year the calves averaged just over \$500. If he sold all traditional he thinks he would struggle to do much better than \$400 when you see what the smaller end traditional heifers bring. The

Charolais cross calves from Lochiel had already achieved a strong following and continue to be one of the feature lines in the North Canterbury calf sales. At the prime stock show prior to the Christchurch A & P Show, Lochiel heifers finished 1st, 2nd & 3rd in the heifer section. To maintain a reputation of the Lochiel cattle, Hamish pays a lot of attention to the bulls he buys of all three breeds. He needs bulls that are rugged and sound with good constitution. They generally like to have a good look prior to auction. Hamish service tests all the bulls every year prior to mating. That plus attention on trace elements has helped keep a high incalf rate through some trying seasons at Lochiel in recent times. Hamish and Maryann like coming Silverstream to buy their bulls because they like the selection of bulls, they have had great success with the progeny and the bulls themselves, with some of the bulls purchased by the previous manager still there. Hamish also quoted while we were there that he really enjoyed dealing with the people at Silverstream!

CMP'S ALEPH PROGRAM SUITS CHAROLAIS CROSS CATTLE.

Aleph Inc. is a Japanese company that began in 1968 as one restaurant that served hamburgers it now manages over 300 restaurants nationwide. Canterbury Meat Packers (CMP) has been supplying Aleph for 10 years but spent 6 years prior to that establishing a relationship. The Japanese consumers demand high quality, safe, and environmentally friendly food so the contract through CMP requires low-input carefully monitored farming systems. Aleph requires low chemical inputs but does not require certified organic farming. One condition for meeting Aleph supply standards is that whole grain feeding is not allowed. This is a sign of the importance Aleph places on natural grass-fed beef for the Japanese consumers. Aleph will not accept broad based application of herbicides. If an entire paddock is sprayed a one year stand down period is required before stock can be grazed back there again. One of the conveniences of supplying Aleph as opposed to certified organic is that restrictions on fertiliser use are relatively minimal. Aleph accepts solid fertiliser but there are stand down periods for stock once the fertiliser has been applied. Any hormone sprays require a one year stand down period. The cattle supplied must be beef-type animals. There are also restrictions around animal health treatments. No growth hormones or antibiotics can be used. In total 152 chemicals are

banned. Suppliers are audited to make sure they meet the standards set by Aleph. The audit process involves a check on the yards, pastures and a careful look at the AHB forms which record arrival dates and drenching history. CMP take time to identify potential Aleph producers before inviting them into the Aleph producer group. This program is suitable for producers who want to look after the environment but there is also a bonus on price. There is approximately a 20 cent premium plus bonuses. Charolais cross cattle are well suited to this program as they readily fit into the required specifications which is between 245kg -350kg carcass weight.



Charlotte & Bruce Fisher at the Banks Peninsula Show with Tinkerbelle

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BULL SALE 2011**

WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE

**SILVERSTREAM CHAROLAIS
JARVIS RD, RD4
GREENPARK
CHRISTCHURCH 7674**

