



## B+LNZ Genetics Team

B+LNZ Genetics is evolving, in line with the ever-changing dynamics of the beef and sheep sectors. What is constant is our commitment to delivering improved genetic evaluation.

The team (from left to right):

- **Graham Alder** - General Manager
- **David Campbell** - IT Programme Manager
- **Dr Michael Lee** - Lead Scientist
- **Sharl Liebergreen** - Technology and Extension Manager
- **Eleanor Linscott** - Science Manager
- **Sharon McIntyre** - Genetic Evaluation Technical Manager
- **Dr Annie O'Connell** - Extension Officer
- **Max Tweedie** - Extension Officer
- **Pam Schofield** - Office Administrator

[More information on team](#)

B+LNZ Genetics works closely with AgResearch and AbacusBio specialists, who are considered important members of the wider B+LNZ Genetics community. It is worth noting that the relevant person responds to enquires submitted via [silhelp@sil.co.nz](mailto:silhelp@sil.co.nz)

## SHEEP



## B+LNZ Genetics Sheep Central Progeny Test (CPT)

The structure of the B+LNZ Genetics CPT has changed.

[More information on the CPT](#)

Two Hub sites and three (currently) Next Generation sites will work in unison to create connectedness and enable benchmarking of rams for industry. Expressions of interest to place rams at the Hub sites are now in for 2017 and numbers are up on previous years.

[Watch 5-minute video update on CPT from 2016 Sheep Breeder Forum](#)

A 2014 review of the CPT identified the following opportunities:

- 1) Test more rams
- 2) Test young rams and make them available to industry
- 3) Use commercial environments
- 4) Partner with industry

These opportunities are now goals within the new CPT structure – all with an eye to improving the test's value to commercial farmers.

## BEEF



### **B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test**

The New Zealand beef industry has been energised with the establishment of a progeny test.

[More information on the BPT](#)

The third year of mating is underway and outcomes for commercial farmers, to date, demonstrate the value of using breeding values: *“More than 80% of the expected weaning weight advantage predicted by EBVs is being realised on New Zealand commercial farms.”*

## S.I.L.



## NZGE

The New Zealand Genetic Evaluation (NZGE) has been established. The move to a single weekly evaluation that includes all SIL flocks will enable more and better access to genetic information, when ram breeders and farmers make breeding decisions.

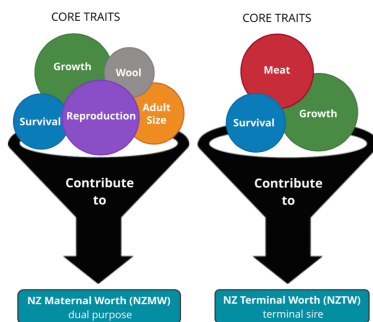
[One-pager: Introducing the NZGE](#)

[One-pager: Genetic trends and SIL tools](#)

Data for 8.3 million animals goes into the NZGE, making it the world's largest genetic evaluation for sheep. There are 1135 flocks, of which 564 are active.

[Watch a 15-minute video on national evaluation and reporting by connectedness](#)

The NZGE is a step towards standardising the conversation about a ram's merit and benchmarking. Commercial farmers are frustrated by the lack of a common yardstick to compare rams between breeders. One evaluation that draws on all available information will ultimately enable better breeding decisions. Breeders are encouraged to talk with Bureaus or B+LNZ Genetics about the NZGE: how it varies to SIL-ACE and other across flock evaluations, and how you can make full use of it.



## Standard Indexes

New Zealand Maternal Worth (NZMW) and New Zealand Terminal Worth (NZTW) are new standard indexes, rolled out alongside the NZGE. They are a step towards standardising a ram's merit and benchmarking. The higher the index figure, the better the ram.

[One-pager: Choosing rams just got easier](#)

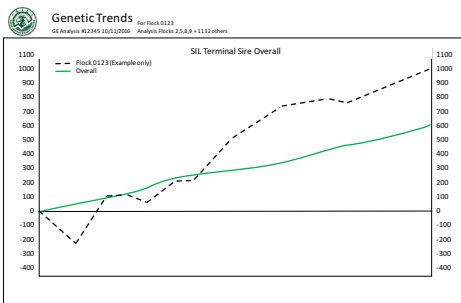
[One-pager: How to use the standard indexes](#)

## ACE Leader Lists

For many years, the New Zealand Sheep Industry has used lists of the top 200 sires for various sub-indexes and indexes.

[SIL website – ACE Leader Lists](#)

This tradition continues, with the establishment of the NZGE, NZTW and NZMW Indexes. Now, breeders and farmers can also investigate flock connectedness information, percentile band tables and industry wide genetic trends.



## Moving the SIL data servers

The SIL data servers are being moved from AgResearch to a modern tier 3 data centre in Hamilton. Data centres provide greater redundancy and resilience, with respect to power and internet connectivity – thereby minimising unforeseen outages and disruption to breeders' businesses. The change over is scheduled for Saturday 21 January.

**Note:** The SIL system will be unavailable from 7am Saturday 21st until 12noon Monday 23 January.

