# TOOLS TO FIND BREEDERS THAT MATCH YOUR GENETIC PLAN
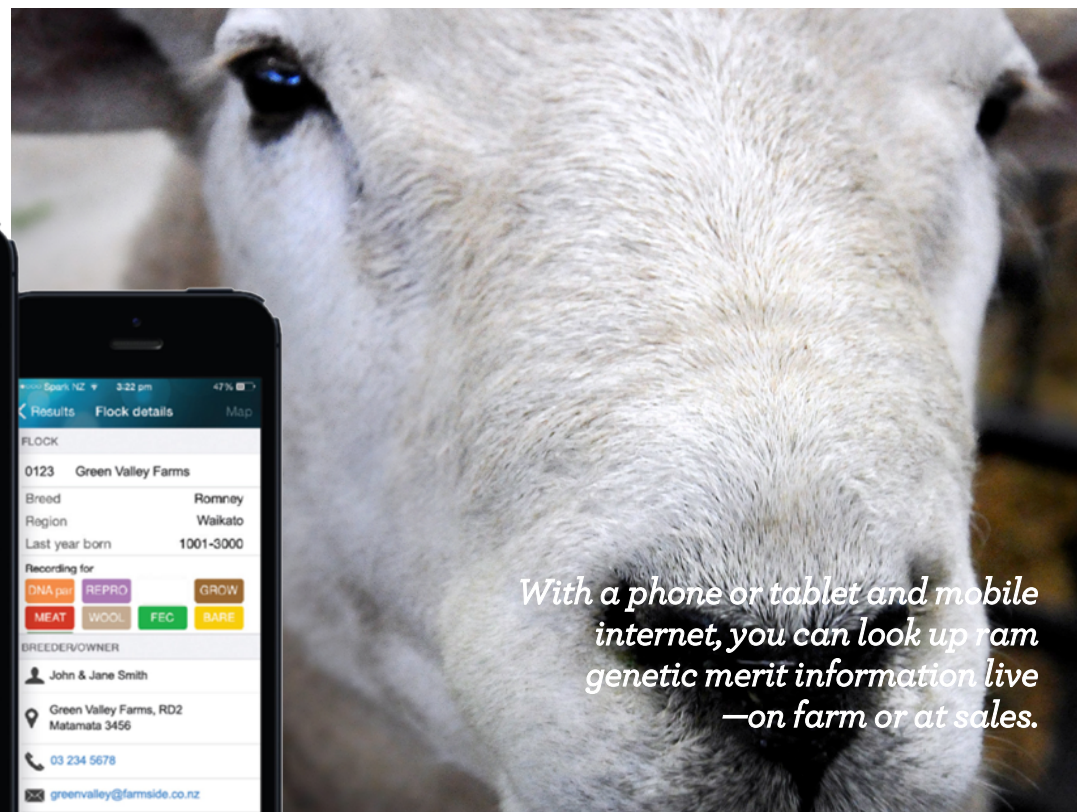
**FlockFinder App**

Find breeders recording traits you are interested in. It is more likely for a breeder to be doing well in a trait they are recording. You can also delve deeper and ask breeders to supply their genetic trend graphs on these traits.

On the FlockFinder App, you can see where are they located, how large their flocks are, and their contact details.

At the click of the button, the FlockFinder App has explanations and definitions of common eBVs and indexes.

*Top breeders put a lot of effort into breeding the right rams for their clients and welcome the opportunity to explain their breeding philosophy and the data that backs up the merit of their rams.*



*With a phone or tablet and mobile internet, you can look up ram genetic merit information live —on farm or at sales.*

## MORE TOOLS TO FIND BREEDERS THAT MATCH YOUR GENETIC PLAN

### Sire Leader lists

www.sil.co.nz/nzge

To feature on a Sire Leader list, a ram must:
– Come from a flock that is well benchmarked so his merit can be fairly compared with others.
– Come from a flock that has agreed to publish in Sire Leader lists.

The lists tend to favour mature rams with greater accuracy in their breeding values (essentially based on more progeny or measurements). They provide breeders with a guide to top rams, and flocks with top rams, for benchmarking or adding value to their seed stock.

### Percentile bands

On the same webpage, comprehensive percentile bands tables can be found which indicate just how good (or not) a breeding value or index is.

Young rams without measured progeny have lower accuracy of their breeding value estimates than older proven rams. With lower accuracy, SIL breeding estimates are more conservative, so it is wise to compare young rams with the percentile bands table that is generated for them (rather than that generated for older rams).

*You go where your breeder goes. Do you know where your breeder is going?*

### RamFinder

RamFinder is a tool for investigating specific rams or looking for groups of rams (or flocks) that satisfy your specific criteria. At first glance, it can appear complicated, but using the percentile bands table as a guide and keeping selection criteria simple to start with, this can be a powerful tool for finding the rams you want or flocks that have many rams that satisfy your criteria.

Additionally, you can check the current merit of your existing ram team to determine which rams you want to replace or weaknesses in your ram team you want to improve.

### eBV graphs

You can find the eBV graph for rams of interest when looking up rams on the RamFinder web tool. The eBV graph is an easy way to get a sense of the genetic merit of a ram, where his strengths and weaknesses are, at a glance. Some breeders are choosing to display eBV graphs on their catalogues or pen cards and it's worth asking if it is available.

### Genetic trend graphs

The ram breeder can supply his genetic trend graphs for his flock and how this compares to average for the Maternal and Terminal Sire flocks.

There are graphs for NZMW and NZTW, as well as 18 individual sub-indexes (Reproduction, Survival, Growth, Adult Size, Wool, Meat, WormFEC, Facial Eczema, DagScore, BCS, etc) and >100 eBVs.

It is reasonable to expect that a ram breeder will typically show you what the flock is good at, but you can also ask for graphs you are particularly interested in.