

Farm manager's report

Although the trusts other farm at Te Iringa suffered drought conditions again, Oromahoe had timely rainfall to have sufficient growth.

Late spring saw feed just keeping up to stock requirements, particularly with the bigger bulls and steers, so it was decided rather than lock up the best paddocks for haylage we would rely on extending our cell grazing system through autumn, winter and early spring with the aim of a 60 day rotation. In spite of record rainfall and four floods Oromahoe came through to this spring with excellent growth and minimal soil damage.

The ewes lambed at 135% and three crops were sown (pasja, chicory and plaintain) to enable the works lambs to be finished at satisfactory weights and value . The lambs averaged close to 20kg carcass weight and achieved a nett value of \$102.The crops are also a very important tool for hogget mating, since it is necessary to get them to a target weight of 40 kilos at mating.

The new fertilizer programme which the trust follows is the advice of Quantam laboratories and seems to be working well with clover growth being both larger and more vigorous. Quantam laboratories analyses soil samples and recommends what mix and trace elements to use, but does not sell any product.To date it appears that even with low application rates past fertilizer which has been locked up in the soil and not been plant available is now being freed.

Works cattle also did well with an average value of \$1476 nett

Even though the cash surplus of \$520000 was aided by stock from the previous drought stricken year entering this year, it was still a satisfactory result since all inputs and maintenance was undertaken and the trust had to cope with the farm at Te Iringa still suffering drought .This coming financial year (july 2014 to june 2015) has begun well with vigorous grass growth, bulls netting \$1970, 2th ewes lambing at 140% and the mixed age ewes at 151%.