

ISSUE

02

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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# NZBGBA

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### Presidents Brief:

Welcome to issue 2 of our e newsletter.

I hope the 2014 breeding season treats all members well.

Our association marks 25 years this year. In this issue is some history of the Boer Goat both before the New Zealand Association was formed and after. Some interesting reading.

Our association is not large enough to have a performance scheme tailor made for our members; therefore this NZBGBA Executive endorses and encourages breeders to read the article on Kid Plan Australia and how it can assist in determining the better breeding lines of Boer goats in New Zealand. Geoff & Tracy Moore have joined Kid Plan to record estimated breeding values for animals bred from their imported animals. This program is an option for answering the performance recording requirements talked about for some time. The executive is progressing well on formulating a budget for the financial year. The next stage is to arrive at budgets for future years, so we can progress the industry further.

At our last executive meeting portfolios for each of the executive members was discussed, and these are being developed.

The pedigrees on the SIL database are still being worked on with NZ Sheep Breeders. Progress has slowed with the NZ Sheep Breeders being tied up lately on their own studbook. Please be patient as this is worked on. NZ Sheep Breeders have been informed on the urgency, with the 2014 breeding season being well underway, the problem needs to be resolved as quickly as possible.

If you are submitting pedigrees for registration please ensure that your information is correct and also remember to double check whatever is returned from NZ Sheep Breeders. You as breeders have a responsibility to know that the Boer goat that you are selling matches the pedigree registered against it.

The 2014 NZBGBA South Island Boer Goat Championships are being held between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Since the shows inception in 2006 it has been held in Christchurch and I know the Canterbury Boer Goat Group is looking for all the local breeders who are not showing for their help. Please contact Geoff Moore if you can assist in any way.

This year the Executive has decided to have a small area close to the ring set up and manned as a point of contact for anyone with enquiries about our breed or wanting to join as a member. All Executive members have agreed to help man this stand and also welcome anyone willing to help out over the three days. Enjoy the show and I will see you there.

## Communication and Education Portfolio.



1989 - 2014

This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the New Zealand Boer Goat Association.

During the past 25 years there have been many stud breeders and commercial farmers who have been members. The current membership reveals that there are 2 members who have been members from the beginning.

Ron and Sue Cornelius – Ron and Sue were the original Keri Downs Quarantine Farm managers and were involved in the Quarantine process and are breeders in their own right. Ron was elected to the first NZBGBA Executive.

Stephen and Fiona Andrews – Stephen is a founding member of the New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Association, American Boer Goat Association and the Boer Goat Breeders Association of Australia. Stephen is a current Executive member and has been one many times in the past and is also an Australian accredited L2 judge. Stephen was also elected to the first NZBGBA Executive.

Both these couples have shown a tremendous affinity towards our noble breed and have dedicated a large part of their life towards being active members who have also forged a well-respected International reputation.

There are several other members who have been farming Boer Goats for 20 years and also some over 15 years. All have contributed to both the Association and the advancement of the Boer Goat in New Zealand.

Without members like you our Association could not prosper – many thanks from all.

As an Association our challenge is to find and nurture the young breeders who will continue to drive the Boer Goat into mainstream farming.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of November till 14<sup>th</sup> November the Canterbury Group is hosting the NZBGBA South Island Championship at the Christchurch Show grounds. This is a great opportunity to show, benchmark your goats against the best. Judging is on the Wednesday, with promotion days on Thursday and Friday so tell all your friends and contacts not to miss this once a year opportunity. If you want quality genetics then you will see them in the ring.

With the new website running a little smoother it is interesting to note that there have been a number of enquiries made directly through the Members Directory and in a couple of cases a potential new member has been linked to the nearest member via the directory.

The cost to join the Association is \$125 per year. There have been several instances of new members joining for \$120. Please ensure if you are helping people to join our Association that they use the PDF version on the website. Can anyone with a copy of the old \$120 membership application form please destroy it?

NZ Grasslands Conference – 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November, The Cellar Door, 143 Centennial Ave, Alexandra.

One of the guest speakers is our own NZBGBA member Barry Wills. Part of Barry's presentation is the effect of stock on native grasses including the advantages of using Boer Goats on Wilding pines, Briar and Matagouri bushes.

Thank you to Geoff and Tracy Moore (Crusader Boers) for your article on KidPlan.

Please remember that the NZBGBA is always looking for articles by members for the e letter. The closing date for articles or advertising for the December Issue will be the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

## 2014 NZBGBA South Island Boer Goat Championship.

November 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

Once again the Canterbury Boer Group is hosting the NZBGBA South Island Championship.

Pierre Bouwer is a highly qualified Level 3 Australian Judge with a long, active association with Boer Goats.



### Curriculum Vita of Mr John Peter Bouwer (Pierre)

Pierre Bouwer is one of the original founders of Highveld Stud International, which was established in 1996.

Highveld Stud was one of the original large importers of Boer Goats, Savanna Goats and White Dorper & Van Rooy sheep into Australia.

Highveld Stud has, over the years, won all major show awards in both Boer Goats & White Dorper sheep at all the major Royal Shows in Australia. Highveld Stud has been awarded Most Successful Exhibitor at these shows numerous times, in both breeds.

Today, Highveld Stud specializes in the breeding and marketing of “the Australian White,” a new sheep breed which has gained wide recognition in Australia and overseas. Highveld Stud is one of the founding partners of this new breed of meat sheep, and Pierre Bouwer has been instrumental in the breed’s establishment from its very inception. Highveld stud has exported large numbers of breeding stock in all the above breeds to the USA, Canada, New Zealand,

China, Brazil, Malaysia and Taiwan.



Pierre is one of Australia’s most accomplished judges of small livestock, and is one of Australia’s most popular and experienced Boer Goat judges. He has judged Boer Goats numerous times, at all the major Royal Shows in Australia, and was the first Australian judge to have judged Boer Goats at the prestigious Sydney Royal Show. Pierre Bouwer is also an accomplished equestrian and has competed in many World Cup qualifying competitions in Australia, in the sport of show jumping.

Pierre Bouwer may be contacted at;

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AUSTRALIA

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# The Boer Goat in South Africa.

## Early history before 1985.

In tracing the history of the Boer goat in South Africa one finds that almost every writer has a different view of the development of the breed.

Epstein (1971) holds a very realistic view of the Boer goat and claims that the breed was developed from the Khoikhoi goats as well as goats from the "Southern Bantu". Barrow (1801) gives the most likely indication of the ancestors of the Boer goat. He states that near the Hartebeest River in the Northern Cape he found a tribe of Namaqua Hottentots who possessed a flock of small handsome goats that were spotted like the leopard. The fact of the matter is that many of the old guard researchers and breeders, not yet fully realise what a powerful tool "selection" is, particularly when accompanied by good feeding and management.

In the first Boer Goat Journal 1959, the late Theunis Jordaan described the development of the Enobled Refined Boer goat as well as his own Bufflesfontein Boer Goat Stud as follows. This stud of enobled refined Boer goats was established in 1931 with my purchase of one buck from a farm in Bedford and half of the does that belonged to a partnership of which my father W G Jordaan was a partner. These does were descended from 15 does my father purchase in 1918 from a farmer in Somerset East which were white, smooth coated with lighter heads.

Then he bought a buck from the Cradock area. It was a large red dappled buck with a strong constitution. This buck and ewes were therefore the foundation of the current flock. About 60 years ago all farmers kept a few Boer goats. In those days however, they were almost all colours of the rainbow, many long haired and a mix of ear shapes. The only trait that farmers considered in those days was constitution. The colour, proportion, uniformity and pigmentation did not matter in the least. In 1925 my father bought another buck and a few years later another from the same farmer in Bedford. It is remarkable how often the red dappled goats were used by breeders in the Eastern Cape. Today many breeders deny that the bucks were multi coloured. Van Rensburg (1938) divides the goats in South



Ancestors of the Boer goat - 2008 SA National Show

Africa as follows: Milk goats, Angoras and Boer goats. He also states that many of the different types of Boer goats appear in the same flock. Many of the older Boer goat breeders discriminated against long haired goats because they often got stuck in thickets, were more easily infected with external parasites and harder to keep clean than short haired goats.



In 1959 the Boer Goat Breeders Association was formed in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Through a strict Breed Standard with



selection criteria of constitution, colour, confirmation and meat capacity the Enobled Boer goat was developed.

**Reference:** Dr Q Campbell

Enobled Boer goat

# Landcorp helps export the Boer Goat around the world.....

## Early History of New Zealand Boer Goat: 1985 - 1993

### Part 1

While looking for new Angora genetics in South Africa during 1985, Alan Aiken the Landcorp representative came across the Boer goat. Instantly the connection was made between using the Boer goat as a terminal sire over all the different goat breeds in NZ for weight gain, muscle mass and improving body size.

Landcorp imported 200 Boer goat embryos into New Zealand. These were “flushed” and quarantined at Iridor Station in Zimbabwe then brought to New Zealand and implanted at Soames Island Quarantine Station in May 1987.

Also during May 1987 a further collection of embryos took place at Keymer Farms in Zimbabwe owned by David Banks. The donors for this second flush were completely different to the first flush at Iridor. Because of quarantine regulations and the seasonal nature of the goat’s reproductive cycle, these embryos were not implanted until 1988. The goats born from these embryos created the base of the New Zealand Boer goat herd farmed by Landcorp at Keri Downs Quarantine Station in Northland.

In 1989 Landcorp created a second herd of Boer goats at Eyrewell Quarantine Station in Canterbury from their last collection in Zimbabwe. Goats created from breeding programs at these Quarantine Stations were released to the farming public in 1993.

A second company also imported embryos from Zimbabwe in 1987 and started a breeding programme in a Quarantine Station at Flock House. Animals from this Quarantine Station were also released in 1993 under the African Goat Flock name.

In 1988 a third company, known as Australian Breeding Management, also known as Terraweena purchased embryos from South Africa. When they were released from quarantine in Australia during 1995 the original embryos had grown to approximately 2,000 Boer goats.

Prior to the release of the Landcorp Boers, Landcorp implanted Boer embryos into recipients at Olds College in Canada. These were the first Boer embryos and later live kids to be born in North America. These Boers stayed in quarantine until the New Zealand release in April 1993, at which time they were able to be released into Canada and the USA.

The release from quarantine of the New Zealand Boer goats to the farming sector was not for the faint hearted. Many buyers were from America and prices paid were in the tens of thousands per goat. An original auction brochure from 1993 shows the highest price paid as over \$NZ50,000 for a two tooth buck, with both bucks and does regularly fetching \$NZ20,000. Even a few years’ later better bucks were still commanding \$5,000. Some of the original Landcorp embryo bucks like “Doemaker” and “Old Man” were sold to USA breeders as older bucks but still were producing kids at 10 years old.



For some breeders such as founding and current NZBGBA, BGBBA member Stephen Andrew had the foresight to buy top quality breeding stock while still in quarantine so that when released to him 5 years later they had been bred on, multiplying his original goat numbers many fold.

Stephen’s involvement includes New Zealand and Australia with judging, extensive NZBGBA executive terms and as a sponsor at the prestigious Royal Sydney Show.





Early Landcorp Red Boer bucks

Ron and Sue Cornelius who were involved with the Boers as early Keri Downs Quarantine Farm Managers are also founding and current NZBGBA members. Ron and Sue domiciled the original Red Boer buck KDQ 544/88 “old Brownie” and others in their later years of life at their home farm.

These days Ron and Sue are largely “retired” from Boer goats but are still members and keep one or two Boers. Many years ago Ron and Sue donated a trophy for the Supreme Champion Red Boer Goat which was competed for at the North Island Championship and is now competed for at the South Island Championship.

Landcorp remained the dominant driver of the breed until a change of leadership and stock class by the early 2000’s. With the genetic base largely

made up of the original ZIM embryo’s, then added to with some Australian Breeding Management bucks it would be fair to say new genetics were badly needed by early 2000.

Being unable to import genetics directly from South Africa, New Zealand was lucky to have an Import Protocol in place with Australia who had in recent years imported new genetics. These “new genetics” were to be the life blood of the next generation of Boer Goats.

On my recent travels to South Africa comments made to me by elder statesman and Boer Goat breeder Theuns Botha,



Early Landcorp Doe


suggested that some of the embryos from David Banks were sired by bucks loaned by him but he could not comment on the other bucks and does used. Theuns is the owner of the world famous Kanonfontein Boer Goat stud and breeder of the famous “Tommy line”. Recent extensive research of the embryo pedigrees shows a small detail that leads me to believe this was the case.

On the pedigree, buck ZIM 01/80 has a Dam number of D52. D52 was the mother of the great “Tommy”. This would also reinforce comments that Wyn Cruickshank (Alpha Boers) has consistently made about the Banks does 2/88, 5/88, 3/89 and the 106 line being the most feminine, meaty, robust correct does with plenty of width.

**References:** Article compiled from Dr Stuart Southwell – Premier Genetics NZ, Geoff Minchin, and Warwick Ferguson.

The next two pages are part of the Catalogue from Landcorp's inaugural Boer Goat release Sale. The offering was advertised in late 1992 but not released until 1993.

LANDCORP  
**Boer Goat**  
AUCTION CATALOGUE



120 2-tooth Bucks and 20 mixed age Does

Saturday 30 January 1993 12 noon

Keri Downs Quarantine Station  
Purerua Road Kerikeri New Zealand

November 1992



Dear Goat Breeder

Landcorp Farming Limited invites you to attend the first annual auction sale of Boer Goats at Keri Downs Quarantine Station on 30 January 1993.

MAF Qual have advised that the release of the Boer goats will be permitted during April 1993 and this catalogue details the initial offering of this exciting new breed.

The release of Boer goats in particular represents a major milestone in the development of the New Zealand goat meat industry. Landcorp Farming Limited is proud to be the first to offer you Boer goat genetics selected under New Zealand conditions. The datasets from which we offer these selected animals are impressive, including performance records taken either directly, or indirectly on 2752 animals including recipient females bred at Keri Downs.

As the New Zealand meat goat industry moves more closely to the demands of market specifications, the importance of consistent selection of profitable, performing goats increases. The Animalplan-derived Breeding Values (BVs) are the best predictions of genetic potential for economically important traits in goats currently available in New Zealand.

Landcorp Farming Limited has technically evaluated the most likely traits of economic importance, and provided the BVs for these. Of course, BVs for the individual traits listed in the catalogue do not constitute an exhaustive list of traits which could be considered in any goat selection programme. Clearly you will wish to consider these BVs in conjunction with assessments of your own. However, Landcorp Farming Limited recommends the use of trait BVs in order to minimise the guess-work in your selection decisions.

Additional data will be available from our Computer Information Bureaux operating at the Quarantine Station on the inspection days of 28 and 29 January, and again on sale day.

Finally, I commend the offering to you and I look forward to our meeting at Keri Downs on the 30th January. I am confident that the New Zealand Boer Goat will impact very greatly on breeding quality meat goats in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely



Bernard Cird  
General Manager  
Landcorp Farming Limited



## Kid Plan – Breeding Values

Following the success of Lamb Plan Australia, which is a national system for identifying sheep with superior genes that can be used for generating profit, Kid Plan was launched for the Boer and Meat Goat Industry.

Kid Plan is part of Sheep Genetics Australia, which is a national genetic evaluation and information service. Breeding values are designed to compare the genetic potential of stock across a range of traits, independent of environment and location.

Kid Plan provides practical information on the value of an animal's genes for production, in the form of Estimated Breeding Value's (EBV's) and specialized indexes.



We joined Kid Plan and entered our 2013 born animals to get us started with breeding values. Over the next year weights were recorded from birth to yearlings and entered for each animal. The goats were weighed five times to meet each weight group set by Kid Plan then entered into the program.

Other traits such as eye muscle depth and worm counts can also be recorded.

We now have the start to breeding values which will give us more information on the animals that are performing for growth and meat production.

The cost is \$80 Aus per year for the program and \$2.50 Aus per animal entry; you can enter

a number of weights for one animal at the same time.

For a flock with 50 kids each year with weights entered once a year it would cost \$205Aus to belong to Kid Plan, with the valuable information you receive it is well worthwhile and would encourage other goat farmers to participate so we can build up a history of breeding values in NZ. We see this as essential for the future of goat farming.

[www.sheepgenetics.org.au](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au)

For more information go to the website above or contact me directly.

Geoff & Tracy Moore

Crusader Boers

Ph 03 312 0012 or email [gtjbmoore@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gtjbmoore@xtra.co.nz)

## Urinary Calculi in Bucks and wethers:

Urinary calculi (kidney stones) are caused by feeding concentrates which have an excessive amount of Phosphorous or magnesium or an imbalance of calcium to phosphorous in an animal's diet.

The balance should be Calcium 2: Phosphorus 1.

It most commonly occurs in bucks or wethers as they have a very long urethra (compared to a doe) which means they cannot eliminate stones as easily as does. The mineral salts build up in the urinary tract and form a hard mass which is extremely painful to the goat and, at worse, can lead to its death.

### Clinical signs:

1. Difficult urination/frequent attempts
2. Dribbling of urine may occur and animal is very vocal (in obvious pain)
3. Stretching out and/or kicking its belly
4. Off feed
5. There may be crystals evident in the hairs at the end of the penis.

The build-up of pressure from not being able to urinate may cause the bladder to burst (water belly) in which case the animal will probably die. It is important to not let it get this far (it occurs over several days) by being vigilant and aware of the clinical signs above. If the animal's belly has become extremely swollen a vet should be contacted immediately. Even then, there is no guarantee the animal will survive.

### Prevention:

It is important to monitor an animal's diet if they are being hard fed or supplementary fed to prevent the possibility of urinary calculi. Check the phosphorous/calcium ration on pellets. Avoid large amounts of soy meal or corn. Avoid pre-packages horse feeds as these are not balanced for ruminants.

Large amounts of lucerne hay are also not good for bucks because of the phosphorous/calcium imbalance. It is better to provide good quality grass hay for bulk. Roughage will increase salivation and rumination which will increase the amount of phosphate excreted in the urine.

Access to good quality water is also important for the animals to drink freely and flush out any possible stones. Bore water can be a problem as it has high concentrates of minerals. In drought conditions access to brackish water or low water in dams can also cause problems.

Natural preventatives such as the addition of unpasteurised cider vinegar to an animal's diet (as little as a teaspoon a day has found to be successful) and the immediate drench of cider vinegar or Vitamin C may help the animal to dissolve and pass the stones in the early stages of urinary calculi (Pat Coleby: Natural Goat and Alpaca Care, Second Edition, 2000 Collingwood)

Be aware of the problem and don't let it occur.

Feeding animals is common sense, the same as feeding humans. Too much of any one thing is not a good diet. We have fed a mix of pellets, crushed corn, crushed lupins and a mix of chaff, combined lucerne and oaten hay with molasses added without any problems for many years. Bi carb soda is added liberally to the buck's feed. The hard feed is always introduced slowly, the ration given based on the animals weight and the purpose (usually to condition before a major show), and the feed is reduced slowly prior to the animals going on to pasture alone (for joining). Young bucks are given initially about 1 cup of feed mix each and monitored to see who eats the feed.

Once they all have a taste of it there is no problem with increasing the quantity but initially the monitoring is important to prevent the Mr Piggy's eating more than the shy feeders and pushing them away. We find once animals have acquired a palate for hard feed they generally self-monitor and will walk away when they have had enough.

Grain poisoning (acidosis) usually occurs when animals are off hard feed and then given too much to start or accidentally gain access to a large amount of hard feed.

So be aware of what you are feeding, be vigilant and ask breeders at shows what they have found to be successful for their goats, stud or commercial.

The old saying prevention is better than cure is never more applicable than in the case of urinary calculi.

Anyone who has suffered from kidney stones will agree!

#### **Foot Note:**

Unless caught early enough Urinary Calculi is always fatal. The end symptoms are a very distressed buck with a burst bladder and hugely swollen testicles which is the beginning of the end for him.

If you notice your buck straining to pee or peeing in very, very short bursts then you should suspect UC. If you are amongst your goats on a daily bases and did not see him straining the day before then you may be lucky.

This was the case for me when doing a regular foot trim and footbath. A hogget buck was not happy and I suspected UC and being the weekend meant a rather large vet bill and probably the words UC operation (\$2500 plus). After looking through a few websites on the internet I decided to do stage 1 myself. There is two points that the buck will be blocked, at the penis end or at the S bend which is deeper inside the body – hence the vet bill.

I put the buck into a head bail with him standing, put a white sheet under him and massaged the soft spot between his anus and testicles which is where the end of his penis shaft is. This action extended his penis out and with a pair of clean, sharp scissors I snipped off the curly thin piece of skin at the end of his penis. This small piece of skin was semi erect before snipping off, but the moment that I cut it, urine exploded forth and continued for nearly 30 seconds. It bled marginally so I sprayed it with iodine. The purpose of the sheet was so I could find the small piece that I cut off and inspect it for tiny granules which of which there were plenty.

The buck was much happier and it did not seem to trouble him but over the next week I made sure he had access to clean water with added salt to ensure any remaining granules were dissolved and excreted out.

Removing the end flesh does not stop them from mating but an operation to remove the blockage inside the goat usually renders it not fit for mating due to having to re- route the urethra out the anus.

Foot Note: by Warwick Ferguson.

**Disclaimer:** The articles contained herein are individual views and ideas, not necessarily those of the NZBGBA Executive or members. Where any suggestions are made with respect to health issues, it is advised that you consult your Veterinarian. Any overseas editorials or photos are reproduced without any alteration.