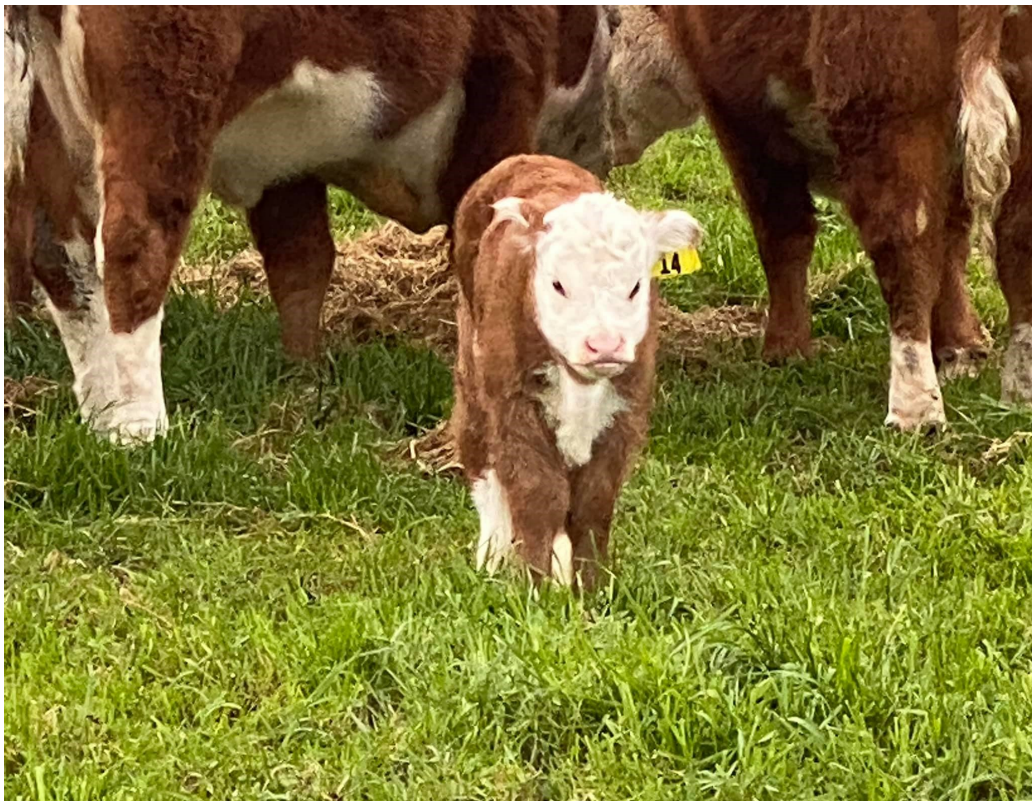




NZ MINIATURE HEREFORD
BREEDERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER



Don't forget to like us like us on

August 2020



Contacts info for Council

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We apologise for lack of communication however with Covid having an effect on us all and only a few people to do things please be patient with us we will get things done.

We do have subs due which I have included in the newsletter.

President's Report – August 2020

Chairs Letter in lieu of the 2020 AGM

Kia Ora tatou katoa,

I trust this letter finds you, your families and miniature Herefords well.

Due to Covid-19 we did not hold a physical AGM, so I am writing this letter to convey the important items of business for the association.

Our membership currently stands at 19. During the year we regretfully had resignations from Graham Hunkin and Stephen Collier both long-serving members who committed a great deal of energy and time to the association, once again I thank both Graham and Stephen for their support and hard work over the years. We also lost Natalie and Steve Fletcher to their new farming venture, just north of Taupo. We thank them for their contributions to the association and wish them well for the future.

Currently the executive stands at four, the minimum allowable under our rules. We would gladly accept any nominations or offers to become involved in the running of the association.

We've had quite a year – drought, pandemic, and ongoing economic uncertainty.

Financially we are in a good position, with a balance in excess of \$7,000. Little has been spent since our last AGM.

As of July 1, our membership subscriptions are due. We have kept the cost to \$50 per farm per year. Invoices will be sent out shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vicky Ashton for keeping us informed through the newsletter and regularly updating our Facebook page.

Thank you also to Jim Haliburton for his work as Registrar an important job in a breeding organization.

Let us all go well into the future,

Kim

GENOMICS INFORMATION

Since December 2017, NZHA breeders have been able to Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) DNA test animals by using either 10K SNP test at Genomnz or 50K SNP tests and more recently 100K SNP tests at Neogen (previously known as GeneSeek).

The benefit of SNP testing over microsatellite testing is largely resulting in increased accuracy and genomic prediction. If you wish to read more about the benefits of genomic testing,

What Service Providers are available to NZHA Breeders?

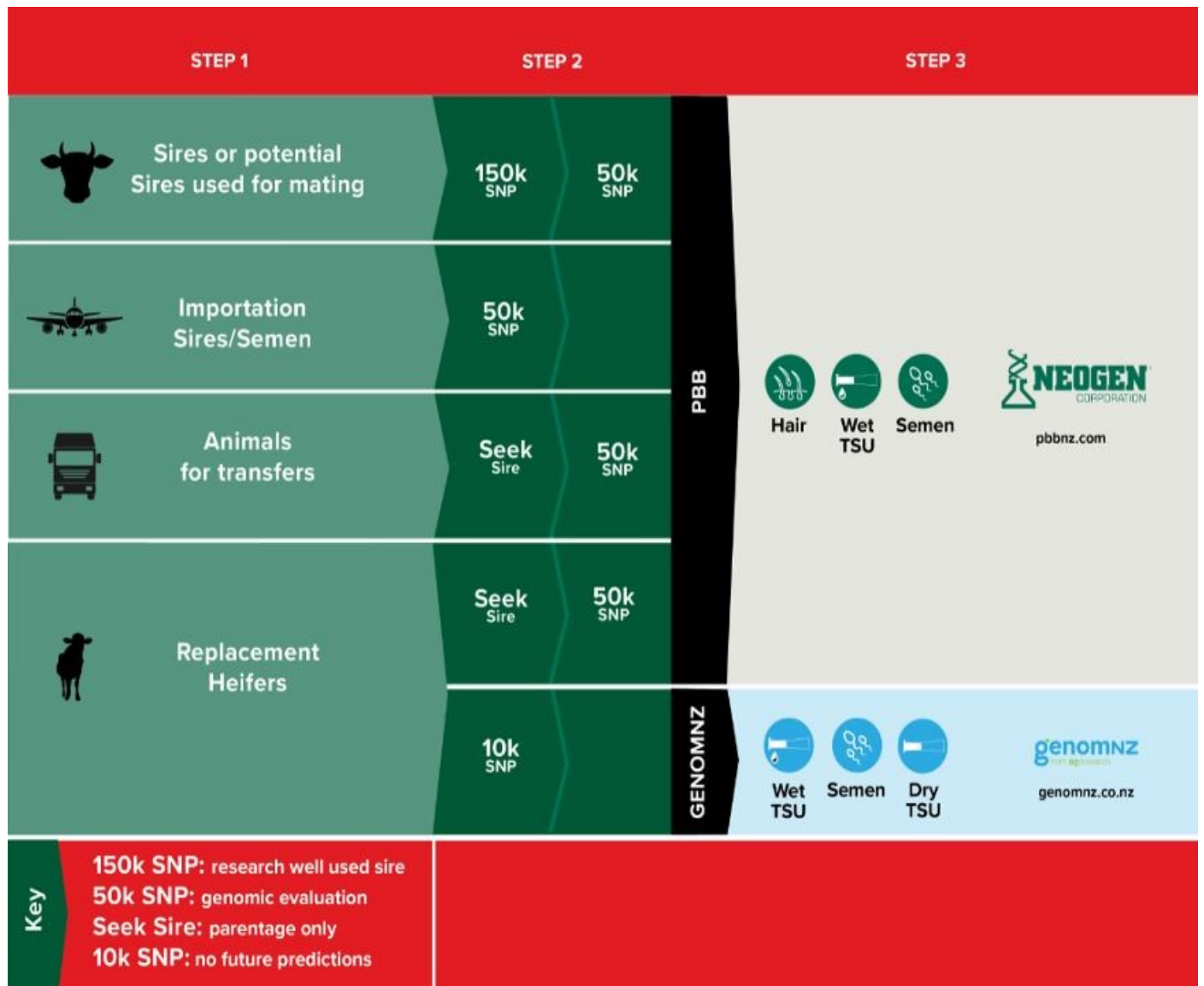
Choosing which test best suits your farming operations, dictates which service provider to choose and thus what form your sample needs to be.

The current choices of service providers which have verified their SNP DNA test for NZHA genetic defects and provide a DNA profile include:

- Neogen - located in Australia - samples sent to PBB
- Genomnz - located in NZ - samples sent directly

To break down the SNP DNA process, NZHA and PBB have broken this into 3 Steps:

Step 1 – What Test? - Which Test do I want and thus which service provider do I choose? (see below infographic.)



Did you know we are required to do DNA through the SNP test now ?

Here is the fact sheet. Go to the Hereford Association web site for more info

ENOMNZ FACT SHEET

- Genomnz accepts wet or dry TSUs.
- TSUs can be ordered from PBBnz.

All DNA samples for GENOMNZ tests are to be submitted directly to Genomnz. You will be asked to complete an Ag Customer Account application form which is found on their website <https://www.genomnz.co.nz/sample-submission/> and submit it with your samples along with a DNA Profile & Parentage on line submission form.

If you require parentage test and the sire or dam have been tested with another service provider, please contact PBB registry to discuss parentage test using the services of PBB and TREE.

Definition of available DNA SNP Tests available at Genomnz:

Parentage test (200 SNPs):

\$25 plus GST

- Parentage assignment
- Single gene reporting
- Client ownership of the 200 SNP genotypes and DNA samples
- New Zealand based storage of DNA and database storage of genotypes

10K test, Parentage Plus (7000 SNPs):

\$35 plus GST

- Parentage assignment
- Single gene reporting
- Client ownership of the 7000 SNP genotypes and DNA samples
- New Zealand based storage of DNA and database storage of genotypes

For more information, contact genomnz@agresearch.co.nz or on 0800 DNA Lab (362 522).

Sample Kits can be bought through PBBnz:

WET or DRY Tissue Samplings Units (TSU) - \$3.56 plus GST

Copied from the Hereford Association website.

Winter is here !



The shortest day has gone and seeing young calves around and early lambs can fool you. It's not spring and we have the rest of winter to face, so stock need to get through to spring in good order. A lot of nasty weather is still to come, so be prepared with a plan to look after animals that may have been struggling in the wet and cold of winter. There will be a few frosts to come too, but at least they produce fine sunny days.

Pasture management

The countryside may look green, even where it's been a brown desert for months, but there's very little real pasture cover. The textbook says it's time to build up pasture for stock which are in the later stages of pregnancy. Remember pasture is always the cheapest feed, but it will never be enough, so you need plenty of good supplementary feed (hay and silage), to give the pastures time to grow.

You can't just 'set stock' leaving stock in the same paddock all the time and expect the plants to grow. Sheep and especially cattle need long feed to be able to 'crop' it, as they have no top teeth like horses, which can nibble pastures right down to the soil. When stock are forced to eat bare pastures, they inevitably ingest a lot of soil which is bad for their teeth and digestion.

Supplements cost money to produce of course, so make sure what you feed out is not wasted, and that large animals like cattle don't pug the pasture around their feed. If you feed out from racks or troughs, move them regularly or better still, have a special dry area or feed pad to protect the soil from damage. Damage from pugging smears the delicate soil crumb structure and can take a long time to recover.

So only feed out hay that stock can clean up, or they'll use it for bedding and won't come back to eat it. Silage fed out in large heaps will burn the pasture which may take months to recover, and weeds will grow on the resulting bare patches faster than grass and clover.

With rising temperatures Nitrogen fertiliser is promoted to give spring pastures a boost, but this will only work when the 10cm soil temperature is above 6°C and soils are not waterlogged. The boost will be short lived if other soil nutrients, especially Phosphorous and pH are low.



A dressing of 25kg of N/ha would be plenty. And note this is not kg of fertiliser so work out the N applied. Urea in pellet form is the best option, but keep it well clear of creeks and wet parts of the paddock, and apply a number of small dressings rather than one large dollop.

Pasture produced by high rates of N can cause Nitrate poisoning in cattle so check with your vet and get a test done and advice through your vet clinic before grazing lush green new growth. It happens after a summer drought along with dull days not allowing good photosynthesis.

In wet weather, up to 80% of precious feed is wasted by heavy cattle pugging it into the soil so always use a back fence when grazing and a mobile water trough on the grazed strip. If strip grazing in wet weather, move stock across the long ungrazed pasture and not the grazed parts to avoid more pugging damage.

Make sure the electric fence is working well (buy a voltmeter), as you don't want stock to break out on to saved pasture and cause more damage.

The key point is that stock have to be well fed, and if you don't have the feed and cannot afford the cost to buy in, then get rid of some before spring.

And in these days of increasingly heavy traffic, never graze the road verge no matter how much feed is growing, as the risks of accidents and possible legal proceedings are too great. If you have a property near a road, then it would be wise to check your insurances, as you never know what can happen with animals escaping when frightened by traffic



Cattle

As always, the main cattle priority is young stock on the farm, as they need to keep growing to reach their target weights for mating if they are going to be kept for breeding, or to be sold in the sale yards. There are far too many skinny stock around farms in July waiting for the 'spring flush' which often never comes as the farm is overstocked.

Mature cows that have only suckled one calf last year should not be a priority. Cows with beef genes are rarely a problem as they hold their condition well all year round. Problems arise mostly in cows with dairy genes that milk body condition off their backs while suckling more than one calf, so they take more feed and more time to replace condition.

Research has shown that if young stock stop growing, it takes more feed for them catch up which takes up more time, and this will have lasting effects on their mature weight and size. They will be stunted cattle compared to their peers for the rest of their days and it is a good idea to cull them.

Skinny breeding cows are prone to 'metabolic diseases' such as [milk fever](#) (lack of calcium) and [staggers](#) (lack of magnesium). They may also go down with ketosis (lack of readily available energy so need glucose). Cows that have had subclinical Facial Eczema in autumn may be much more prone to these problems when they calve.

Cows should calve at [Body Condition Score](#) 5, which means they must have rounded hips. So check our website for an easy way to learn condition scoring as the DairyNZ system is too complicated. An 'average BCS' for a herd is regularly used by farm advisors and is a very dangerous and useless statistic. You really want to know how many cows are in the lower BCS range, as any under BCS 3 are technically 'emaciated' under the Dairy Cow Code of Welfare, and need urgent special feeding and health care.

Skinny cows need a lot of feed and at least 6 weeks to replace condition. They need 180 kg of Dry Matter on top of feed needed to maintain the cow to gain one BCS. And that's a lot of top quality pasture, which will be in very short supply in July.

If calves and yearlings have dull coats and start scouring, don't rush to buy drench and especially not pourons – even if there are great specials on offer. Check with your vet before buying any animal health product. Internal parasites certainly are a possibility as a cause of ill thrift, but the chances are that it's something else or a combination of problems, and the vet may need to do blood tests or Faecal Egg Counts for a correct diagnosis.

Get all the gear ready for calving – and be prepared for the unexpected very early calf. It's essential to save some colostrum from the first cow to calve, and put a few plastic containers of it in the freezer, which will be useful for any calf (or lamb) that may need a booster later in spring. The thicker the colostrums, the better quality it is in terms of antibodies. Don't dilute it.



Keep an eye on any udder development in yearlings, just incases any got pregnant as calves, as they'll need to be aborted (induced) by a veterinarian as soon as discovered. Never try to rear one of these mini calves if they live. It's better to get them euthanased by your vet. Make sure the mothers have passed their afterbirth, which can take a few days.

Before you decide to rear any calves later in spring (its far too early now), think long and hard about the time involved and the cost, and if you haven't reared any calves before, then talk to some experienced calf rearer and don't rear more than 10-12 calves to start with.

The best idea is to get these calves from the one farm in a single consignment, rather than buy them in ones and twos from the saleyard where they could have had a stressful journey to the sale and be exposed to a range of bugs from other farm's calves. Check our website for [information](#) for first-time calf rearers.

If you want to rear calves to make money by selling them as dairy weaners, make sure you do a full budget and include a cost for your labour. You could be very disappointed.

General

- Check your current financial budget and watch for unexpected expenses such as having to buy in more feed.
- Pay bills regularly and keep your farm records up to date
- Keep a farm diary to record when jobs were done.
- Check all machinery is serviced ready for spring.
- If you have an ATV, always wear a helmet and get a roll bar fitted. Even look at extra clip on wheels for the rear.
- Check power fences and water supply.
- Clean out all troughs and put mesh over them or use a few large rocks to prevent young lambs drowning in them, but making sure they can drink from them easily.
- Prune all trees overgrowing roadways and buildings.
- If trees are threatening power lines, contact the correct authorities for advice before any action.
- It's the best time to plant trees for both shade and emergency feed in droughts – eg willows and poplars.
- Check you farm security system as rural crime is on the up again with increasing drug use driving petty crime.
- Bikes, even the kids' bikes are popular, along with the meat in freezers, alcohol, electric and electronic goods, chain-saws and even ag chemicals and animal health products.
- Keep your gate closed at all times as burglars like a fast entry and exit. Reverse the top gudgeon so they can't lift it off
- Get a bleeper on your driveway so you know when somebody is arriving. Video surveillance may be worth the cost too depending where you are.
- Do a regular backup of all computers.
- Check any firearms you have are legal and safely stored.

Make sure ALL your cattle are fully compliant with [NAIT](#). This includes those you are rearing for homekill.

Copied from [www. Nzlifestyleblock.co.nz](http://www.Nzlifestyleblock.co.nz)



FOR SALE

Sire: Ruzak Park Digger

Dam: Mount Marua Emma

\$1000.00 plus GST. Is in calf and currently grazing in Wellington so can be transported from there.

Date of Birth: 14/08/2012

Winsome is a wonderful mother and easy to handle.

AI Semen Straws also For Sale:

Diamond S Starbuck – 12 straws available \$160.00 per straw (Plus GST)

CSF Guage – 54 straws available \$160.00 (Plus GST) per straw

SSR Cooper – 54 straws available \$160.00 (Plus GST) per straw.

Price includes the release fee from their current tank location in Cambridge.

please contact Gillian McKenzie

Home: 09 9747560 Mobile: 0210479441 or email thumper20@ubernet.co.nz



FOR SALE

18 month old bulls for sale.

\$1,400 plus GST

Sire **Esprit Sargent 201**

Phone Sharon Obrien

07542 0061



Bull

Heifer:- Fresia 1767 190005. Sire:- Emerald Springs Star 1767 150001.
DOB, 18-9-2019 Dam:- Emerald Springs Tulip 1767

160004.

Price:- \$600.00 Plus G.S.T.

Heifer:- Daffodil 1767 190011. Sire:- Emerald Springs Star 1767

150001

DOB, 29-11-2019 Dam :- Emerald Springs Opal 1767

140004

Price:- \$ 500.00 Plus G.S.T.

Heifer:- Dahlia 1767 190012. Sire:- Emerald Springs Star 1767

150001.

DOB, 4-12-2019 Dam:- Emerald Springs Assure 1767

140006.

Price:- \$ 500.00 Plus G.S.T.

As you can see the bigger heifer is two months older than the other two. We are keeping one of the small heifers. Chief's father was polled and he was considered polled at disbudding, but has developed little stubs. His SNIP (DNA) test was Polled, or scure.

For Sale

Contact

Jim and Bev Halliburton

Jim & Bev Haliburton

jimbevh@xtra.co.nz

06 877 8252



Next page more photos

Details previous page on the heifers below.



Below

BULL - Chief 1767 180004. Sire:- (CSF Gauge, U.S.A., AI)
Dam : Dido, (Grovenorth 1645 90012)
Price:- \$1800.00 Plus G.S.T.





A pic of Samson, who looks a little surprised at having his photo taken Kim Wright and Doug Bairds Bull.

Have you any cute pics of your cows , calves or bulls???? Send them to me. We want to see them.





Rocklyn is pretty busy right now with calving and lambs

This is Ruby, My sister has taken her on as her mum decided she wanted another calf and not hers.



This is Chance. I named him this as we lost him for two days after he was born. He had hidden himself and his mum was calling out but no calf. Any way finally found him and I was surprised he was still alive. I carried him up our hills back to his mum and she feed him straight away.

One lucky little bull..

1st August 2020



Description of supply

Total \$50.00

Annual Membership Fee - 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2021

Please forward payment in favour of NZ Miniature Hereford Breeders Group to:

Kim Wright

39a Cemetery Road RD5

Wellsford 0975

Bank Account for direct deposit... Westpac 03 0363 0373252 00 (Quote your name as reference please)

Completion for next Newsletter

Send your cutest photos to me of your cows/calves or bulls and I will put them into the next newsletter for the members to vote which they like the best.

Let me know if you are keen??

Might be fun .

vlashton@me.com

