Summary of current Postgraduate student projects within the Massey University Sheep and Beef Research Group 2018

Paul Brett – PhD student
Home Country – Ireland
Thesis Topic – Developing a risk prediction model for Flystrike in New Zealand
Research project – the main thrust of this project is to develop a weather-driven model to predict the occurrence of flystrike, especially the start and finish of the flystrike season throughout the country. Using available real-time weather data it should be possible to make this prediction live and down to the level of a 5km grid around the country.
Supervisory Team – W Pomroy, K Lawrence, P Kenyon

Benjamin Bridgeman – PhD student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topics – Molecular and immunological studies of Mycoplasma ovipnuemoniae
Research project - Molecular and immunological studies of Mycoplasma ovipnuemoniae
Supervisory team – Rao Dukkipati, Alan Murray, Neil Wedlock and Axel Heiser

Lucy Coleman – PhD student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – The impacts of breeding with dairy bulls on dairy cow calving performance
Research Topic – Dairy Beef Progeny test
Supervisory team – Penny Back, Rebecca Hickson, Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos, Hugh Blair

Andrew Dowling – PhD Student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Controlling liver fluke in cattle
Research Topic – The economic cost of liver fluke (Fasciola hepatica) in cattle
Supervisory team – Bill Pomroy, Laryssa Howe, Ian Scott

Lukshman J Ekanayake – PhD student
Home country – Sri Lanka
Thesis topic – Early weaning of twin born lambs
Research project – Early weaning of twin-born lambs using a herb mix
Supervisory team – Rene Corner-Thomas, Lydia Cranston, Paul Kenyon, Steve Morris

Lydia Farrell – PhD student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – A dynamic bio-economic model for testing differing management systems on New Zealand farms
Research Topic – Bio-economic modelling of sheep farming systems
Supervisory team – Peter Tozer, Paul Kenyon, Lydia Cranston, Ramilan Thiagarajah
**Javier Favre – PhD student**  
Home country – Argentina  
Thesis topic – The herbage production, composition and persistence of pasture brome based sward mixes and the effect on grazing on these effects  
Research project - Ewe diet selection in pasture brome sward mixes  
Supervisory team – Ignacio Lopez, Lydia Cranston, Danny Donaghy, Peter Kemp

**Milan Gautam – PhD student**  
Home country – Nepal  
Thesis topic – Epidemiology, economics and control of Johnes disease in New Zealand  
Supervisory team – Cord Heuer, Marian Price-Carter, Peter Wilson, Anne Ridler, Patrick Biggs

**Michaela Gibson – PhD student**  
Home country – New Zealand  
Thesis topic – Factors affecting bone growth in young cattle  
Research Topic – Broken shoulders in first lactation heifers. There is currently a lack of information on bone growth in young cattle and the impact this may have.  
Supervisory team - Chris Rogers, Penny Back, Rebecca Hickson, Keren Dittmer

**Kate Griffiths – PhD student**  
Home country – New Zealand  
Thesis topic – Ewe longevity in commercial flocks  
Research project – Identifying factors associated with reduced longevity in ewes, including lamb rearing success and udder traits  
Supervisory team – Anne Ridler, Paul Kenyon, Chris Compton

**Addis Hailu – PhD student**  
Home country – Ethiopia  
Thesis topic – Build Life Cycle Analyses for young meat animals under New Zealand farming conditions  
Research project – There is substantial interest in New Zealand to change farming practices to rear all lambs / calves / kids from dairy operations. This is partly an animal welfare matter, but also an environmental and economic matter. The expectation is that these animals will be grown to a lighter weight than normal, at which time they will be slaughtered for a new class of meat; markets have yet to be developed. The project will be a mixture of on-farm data collection and computer modelling to account for the revenue and costs for these new production systems from the birth of the animal to the point of meat consumption.  
Supervisory team – Hugh Blair, Paul Kenyon, Dorian Garrick and Steve Morris

**Emmanuelle Haslin – PhD student**  
Home country – France  
Thesis topic – The impact of heavy breeding weights in ewe hoggets  
Research Topic – Should twin-born ewe lambs be grown to heavy weights when mated as a hogget  
Supervisory team - Rene Corner-Thomas, Hugh Blair, Paul Kenyon, Steve Morris
Gayani Herath – PhD student  
Home country – Sri Lanka  
Thesis topic – Identification of optimal nutrition in artificially reared young ruminants  
Research Topic – Drivers of pre-weaning growth in young ruminants  
Supervisory team – Sarah Pain, Patrick Morel, Paul Kenyon, Hugh Blair

Seer Ikurior – PhD student  
Home country – Nigeria  
Thesis topic – Use of technologies to control gastrointestinal nematodes in sheep  
Research Topic – Towards developing support tools for sustainable control of gastrointestinal nematodes in sheep  
Supervisory team – Bill Pomroy, Rene Corner, Thomas, Ian Scott.

Heidi Jack – PhD student  
Home country – Trinidad and Tobago  
Thesis topics – Feeding small ruminants using local forages.  
Research project - Cost effective feeding program for small ruminant in the Caribbean  
Supervisory team – Patrick Morel, Lydia Cranston, Jennifer Burke, Mark Waterland

Natalia Martin – PhD student  
Home country - Argentina  
Thesis - Beef production from animals of dairy origin  
Research Topic – Dairy Beef Progeny test  
Supervisors – Rebecca Hickson, Nicola Schreurs, Julie McDade, Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos, Steve Morris

Mandefrot Meaza – PhD student  
Home country – Ethiopia  
Thesis topic – Sheep udder abnormalities  
Research project – Effects of udder defects on lamb production, bacteriology and histology associated with udder defects, genomics of udder defects  
Supervisory team – Anne Ridler, Sarah Pain, Dorian Garrick

Emma Pettigrew – PhD student  
Home country – New Zealand  
Thesis topic – Do replacements born from ewe lambs displayed altered performance in comparison to those born to mature ewes.  
Research topic – Should twins born to ewe hoggets be retained as replacements and mated as ewe lambs?  
Supervisory team – Rebecca Hickson, Steve Morris, Hugh Blair, Paul Kenyon

Jimmy Semakula – PhD student  
Home country – Uganda  
Thesis topic – The relationship between live-weight and body condition score and improving the accuracy of this data  
Research project - Improving the quality of live-weight and body condition score data  
Supervisory team – Paul Kenyon, Rene Corner, Steve Morris, Hugh Blair
Masoud Soltanighombavani – PhD student
Home country – Iran
Thesis topics – The role of skin thickness and subcutaneous fat in thermoregulatory capacity of newborn lambs
Research project - Exploring genetic variation of skin thickness and its association with economically important traits in different sheep breeds
Supervisory team – Rao Dukkipati and Hugh Blair

Isabel Tait – PhD student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Selection for body condition score in sheep
Research Topic – Genetics of body condition Score
Supervisory team – Rebecca Hickson, Paul Kenyon, Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos, Dorian Garrick

Yangfan Ye – PhD student
Home country – China
Thesis topic – Integrating sensory profiling, nutritional value and physico-chemical properties of NZ lamb
Research project – Flavour Map
Supervisory team – Nicola Schreurs, Carolina Realini, Rene Corner-Thomas

Baby Yolande – PhD student
Home country – Namibia
Thesis topic – Key welfare comprimises in the New Zealand system
Research topic – This project aims to identify the key welfare compromises facing beef cattle in New Zealand, in comparison with existing beef cow welfare assessment tools from USA and UK. It will compare welfare outcomes with reproductive performance. A similar study will be completed for beef cattle in Namibia.
Supervisory team - Richard Laven, Tim Parkinson, Kevin Stafford, Rebecca Hickson
April Bliss – Masters student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – The impact of different management systems on behaviour and milk production of dairy ewes in different stages of lactation
Research project - Production, behaviour and welfare of dairy ewes
Supervisory team – Sam Peterson, Sue McCoard, Karin Schütz.

Mattes Groenendijk – Masters student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Performance of crossbred calves fed different milk allowances using an automatic feeding system.
Research project – Utilisation of automatic feeders for maximising the growth of young calves.
Supervisory team – Nicola Schreurs, Ajmal Khan

Joshua Hunt – Masters student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Utilisation of young cattle slaughtered at approximately one year-of-age for beef production.
Research project – New Generation Beef
Supervisory team – Nicola Schreurs, Steve Morris, Paul Kenyon, Hugh Blair, Rebecca Hickson, Dorian Garrick

Istianah Maryam Jamilah (Mila) – Masters student
Home country – Indonesia
Thesis topic – The effect on brain vascularity of sildenafil citrate treatment in pregnant ewes
Research project - The effect on brain vascularity of sildenafil citrate treatment in pregnant ewes
Supervisory team – Sam Peterson, Sarah Pain, Matthew Perrott

Jacobs Kok – Masters student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Carcass and meat quality characteristics of early weaned lambs fed Plantain
Research project – Forage, growth rate and weaning strategy on carcass and meat quality
Supervisory team – Nicola Schreurs, Lydia Cranston

Mapali Lipholo – Masters Student
Home country – Lesotho
Thesis topic – Enhancing the reproductive success of ewe lambs
Research Topic – Use of an ovulation stimulating hormone for ewe lambs
Supervisory team: Rene Corner-Thomas, Steve Morris
Sam Pike – Masters student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Carcass and meat quality characteristics of crossbred steers slaughtered at 8, 10 and 12 months of age.
Research project – New Generation Beef
Supervisory team – Nicola Schreurs, Steve Morris, Paul Kenyon, Hugh Blair, Rebecca Hickson, Dorian Garrick

Pavinee Watson – Masters student
Home country – New Zealand
Thesis topic – Beef and lamb by-products on the palatability of diets for cats
Research project – Beef and lamb by-products and offal on the palatability of diets for cats
Supervisory team – Dave Thomas, Nicola Schreurs, Michael Parker

Nyoni Winchester – Masters student
Home country – Trinidad
Thesis topic – Water intake of pregnant ewes
Research Topic – The impact of water on the behavior and productivity of sheep
Supervisory team – Rene Corner-Thomas, Sarah Pain

Huai Xuan (Kayla) Wong – Masters student
Home country – Malaysia
Thesis topic – Carcass and meat quality characteristics of early weaned lambs fed herb-mixes
Research project – Forage, growth rate and weaning strategy on carcass and meat quality
Supervisory team – Nicola Schreurs, Rene Corner-Thomas