

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 ovipneumoniae*

Research project - Molecular and immunological studies of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*

Supervisory team – Rao Dukkupati, 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 Dukkupati 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 compromises 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

Jacobus 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