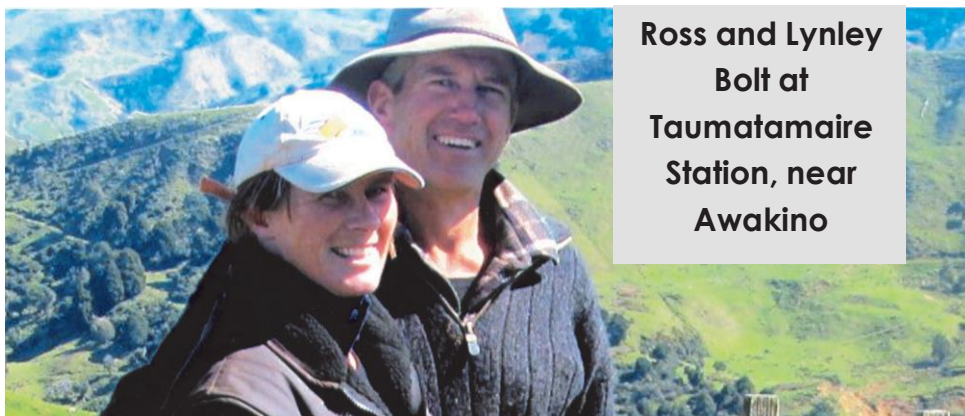


Crossing the Cheviot



Ross and Lynley Bolt at Taumatamaire Station, near Awakino

Taumatamaire Station of 1105ha near the coast at Awakino, near the Taranaki-King Country boundary, has been owned by Ross and Lynley Bolt for 23 years. With 800ha effective of moderately steep to very steep contour, the few hectares of easier country on the tops is very valuable to calve some of the cows. They run 6,400su made up of 2850 Perendale ewes, 850 Perendale ewe hoggets, 150 Angus cows and 95 Devon cows.

Devon yearling heifers are mated to Angus bulls, with the Devon steer calves sold as weaners, and the Angus calves carried on to 18 month cattle.

Six years ago they took a lease of 5 years on a 800ha farm some five miles away,

with 324ha effective which was running a flock of 900 Romney ewes and 290 Romney hoggets.

They decided to change the Romney flock to Perendales, the same as the flock on the home farm, by purchasing 10 top Herangi Cheviot Rams.

The Romney X Cheviot lambs vigour and survival was most impressive. Large proportions were drafted off their mothers with the ewe lambs retained for replacements.

These ewe lambs just kept on thriving and growing, were distinctly even in appearance with virtually no tail end and they have grown into a most impressive and attractive line of ewes, which have performed remarkably well. Lamb

weights increased from 16.2kgs to 17.8kgs, and scanning increased from 130% - 148% in the first years the Cheviot rams were used.

From Ross and Lynley's point of view, they were a more practical and profitable sheep for this country, and fitted in with the Perendale sheep they already owned.

Since losing the lease of the 324ha block in 2012 they sold the surplus ewes at the Te Kuiti Winter Ewes sale for by far the top price of the day scanning at 145% - 165%. \$196 for 2ths, \$195 for 4ths and \$187 for 6ths.

The 6 year old Cheviot rams are now being used over the Perendale ewe hoggets, which were previously mated to terminal sires, a substantial improvement in survival, virtually no hogget deaths and a very marketable and sought after crop of lambs.

The neighbours are also now using some of these now redundant Cheviot 6 year old rams.



6 year old rams, looking ready for their 7th year.