

Barrie and Yvonne Payne, New Zealand



Barrie and Yvonne Payne are one of the leading producers of merino wool in the world. Having been judged the best producer in New Zealand for five of the last six years by the world's biggest buyer of fine wools, Loro Piana, they are at the forefront of wool producing technology and innovation.

The Paynes keep a flock of 3,500 merino sheep on their 177ha farm in South Canterbury, New Zealand and breed replacements for the flock. The flock consists of 1200 ewes, 800 hoggets as well as 1500 wethers that are housed for the ultra fine wool production. They also run approximately 100 Belted Galloway cattle for breeding and fattening.

TGM was delighted when the Paynes approached them to develop a specialist system.

The Aim

Barrie wanted to create a unique bar code or baa code while each sheep was shorn. This would be printed and attached to the fleece. For management purposes he wanted to record the weights and classing characteristics of the fleece so he could further assess and improve animal performance over time.



The Process that was Developed by TGM:

1. Sheep EID tag read with Psion reader and EID number sent by Bluetooth on Psion Reader to computer.
2. Select Sheepware brings up the animal's individual record and processes a unique baa-code which is printed on a card immediately.
3. This Fleece Card then accompanies the fleece through the skirting and classing process
4. The baa-code is then read by a barcode scanner directly into a spread sheet
5. The Fleece is weighed using an electronic weigh scale and the weight is sent directly into the spreadsheet and Barrie adds the classing statistics.
6. This is then loaded into Select Sheepware for analysis later.

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The Result

This process takes only 60 seconds - speed and reliability are essential as over 400 sheep are shorn each day.

Barrie said "I had looked for many years for a system that would work for me. Because of the numbers shorn each day we needed a system that was accurate and simple to operate. We now have a system that has made our shearing operation very efficient, with electronic reading it's no longer possible to write down the wrong number - removing opportunities for error.

Most importantly we have a management system that gives us a very valuable insight into each of our animals - crucial for us in making breeding decisions. After a few years of recording we will have a detailed understanding of the flock which should be of great benefit.

We've been impressed by the speed of response from TGM. E mails are answered quickly and we've used Skype regularly. Even though we are on a different side of the world, distance is not an issue."