



## C. Alma Baker Trust (NZ) Ltd Open Day - Limestone Downs

**Date:** Tuesday 18 February 2025

**Start time:** 10.00 am at Woolshed

Welcome/introduction – Chairperson – transfer of assets to New Zealand

MC – Paul Kenyon

**Topics to be covered:**

- 10.00 am** General Manager to introduce Dairy staff then Sheep & Beef Manager who will introduce his staff.
- 10.20 am** Limestone Downs farm performance – David Hawkins
- 10.50 am** **Delving into the genetics of shedding** – Dr Nick Sneddon, Senior Lecturer in Animal Breeding and Genetics, (Massey University)  
This talk will cover the heritability and genetic correlations of traits measured in the course of the shedding study. Some information we have found on which parts of the genome are associated with shedding and how the breeding up programme is progressing.
- 11.10 am** **Where do all the ewes go? Ewe culling and deaths on NZ sheep farms** – Dr Anne Ridler, Associate Professor Sheep and Beef Cattle Health and Production (Massey University)  
This talk will detail a study done on 34 NZ sheep farms tracking ewe losses (culling and deaths) across a year, including some on-farm factors associated with losses.
- 11.30 am** **Nitrate losses under sheep pastures** – Dr Lydia Cranston – Senior Lecturer livestock production systems (Massey University)  
Massey University has a research site designed to measure nitrate leaching. The results Of several years data will be presented and implications within for the sheep industry discussed.
- 11.50 am** **Sheep and beef farming beyond 2025** – Pita Alexander
- 12.45 pm** Lunch
- 1.30 pm** Farm tour

**Notes:**

- If possible, bring a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Motorbike helmets are required on quads, no passengers are allowed and no riding on the back of farm Utes is permitted.
- Farmlands are kindly putting on a barbeque for lunch or you can bring your own packed lunch.
- Tea and coffee will be provided.
- We will proceed wet for fine, so wet weather gear may be need.