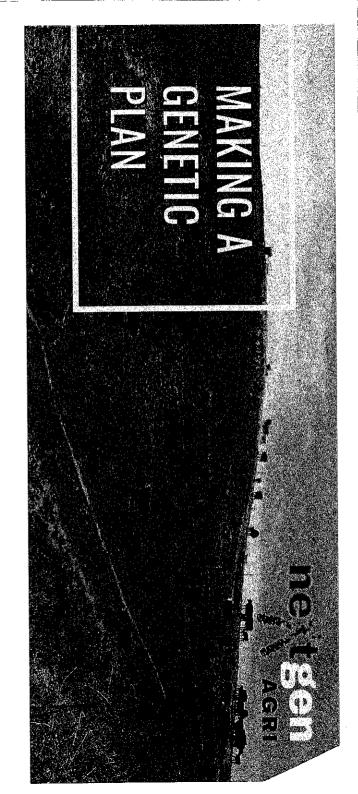




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Making a genetic plan

managed in high numbers and where labour is scarce and expensive. They can go for long periods In the world of extensive agriculture, ruminants play an amazing role of performing when times are good and surviving when times are not so good. In the majority of situations, our animals are of time without a lot of human intervention.

us more money. Selecting for higher productivity. However, it is important to also consider that a Often when we think about buying in new genetics, we think about selecting for traits that make lot of the things that cost us money or take us time managing our animals are also under some genetic control.

So as you think about the rams, bulls, ewes or cows that you will be buying this season, think not only about those that will produce the biggest cheque, think also about those that will have you writing less cheques, and spending less time.

This booklet is designed to help guide you through the four key aspects of a genetic plan:

- The traits that make you money
- 2. The traits that save you money
- 5. The traits that save you time
- 4. The traits that delight your customer

Getting in touch with neXtgen Agri:

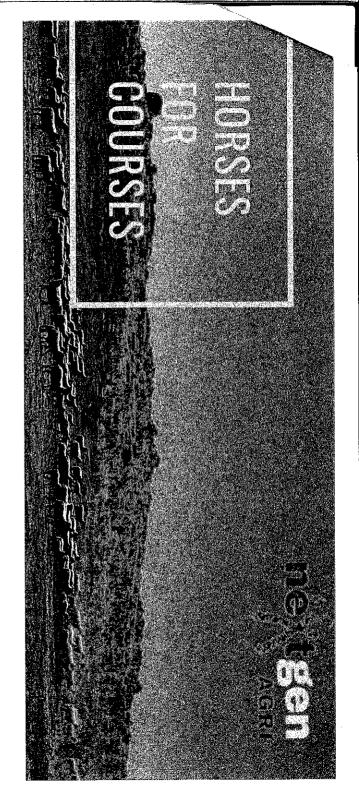
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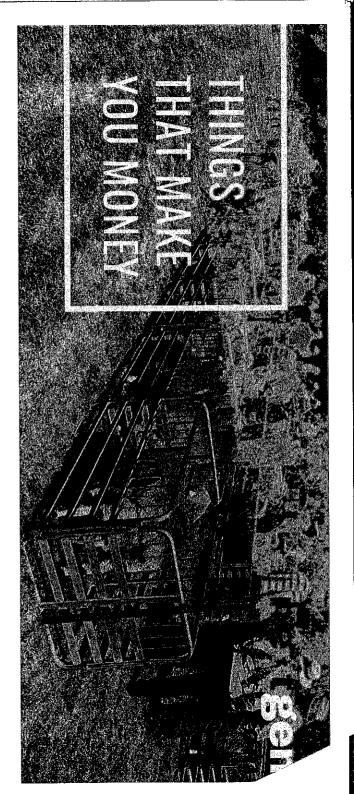


It goes without saying, but...

our preference in the type of animals we like to farm, and there is no surprise the variety we see in perfect across all of these situations. sheep and beef cattle across the world. ${\mathbb R}$ evailing markets differ considerably between areas. There is no way that a single animal type is The environments that sheep and beef cattle run in vary hugely across the world. THE perfect animal, it is about breeding YOUR perfect animal Every situation is different. Add to this fact that we all have It is important to remember that it is not about breeding Equally the

Within your enterprise you will be buying animals for different tasks, it is very worthwhile having genetic plan for each of these different tasks. bulls or rams, the rest of this document focuses on these. The main purchases you make will be for either

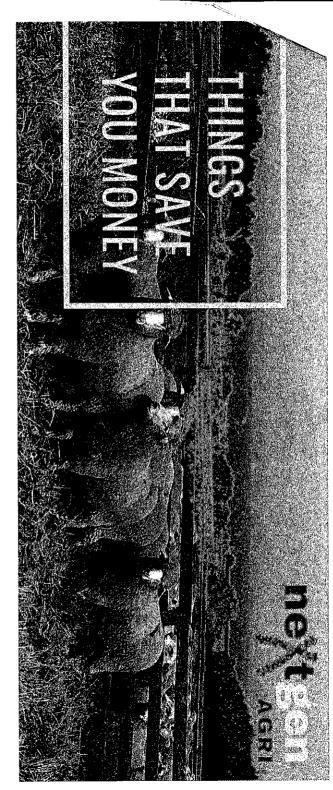
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Heavier, faster, more...

the trait you actually get paid for. For example, weaner sales might be your main income, but you enterprise focus and the type of sheep and/or cattle you are running. Try hard to get it down to animals that will produce more product, or a higher value product without additional inputs. Traditionally when we think about genetics, these are the traits that we think of first. Finding the important to your annual income. actually get paid on both the number sold and their weight, so the actual traits are weaning is an opportunity to really think about the traits that make you the most money. It will differ considerably across regions and even between neighbours. weight and reproductive rate. In the white boxes below list the TWO traits that are most your income, record them in the grey boxes. There may well be other (less important traits) that impact on It is very tightly linked to your - S

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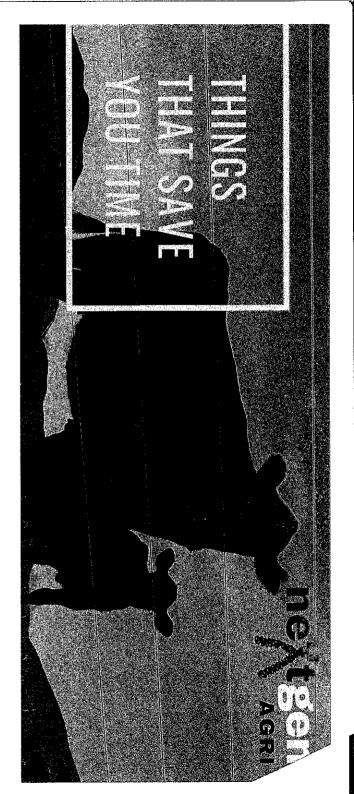
The battle against the cost-price squeeze

j these costs are independent of the animals. However, changing the genetics of the animals we We are all too familiar with the increasing costs of running an extensive livestock business. manage can have a profound impact on the costs involved in managing them. variation in how animals respond to diseases, parasites and sub-optimal nutrition. There is genetic Some

weighted to a monetary cost rather than time. An example of this is stock losses. There might be a bit of time dealing with the dead animal but in the main, the cost to the business is the loss of Most things that cost you money also take you time. that productive animal. Lamb or calf survival is another example: On this page, try and list things that more

the stock class you are writing this plan for. There may well be other (less important traits) that In the white boxes below list the TWO traits that are most important to your annual expenses for impact on your profit, record them in the grey boxes.

What are the 2 traits that are mos Traits that SAVE money for the important for reducing costs? reducing costs



Precious time

sheep, the actual costs of zinc for the footbath is minimal compared to the hours of mustering and are always more jobs to be done than there is time available. Some of these jobs are unavoidable I've never heard anyone on a farm say that they are bored and are looking for things to do! There themselves and some need room service. Breeding animals that require less labour inputs to stay but when it comes to managing livestock, some animals have the genetic potential to look after weighted to taking extra time rather than a monetary cost. An example of this is feet health in healthy and productive has so many flow on benefits for the business and the animals. things that take you time, also cost you money. On this page, try and list things that more handling required to get animals treated and inspected. Most

the stock class you are writing this plan for. There may well be other (less important traits) that In the white boxes below, list the TWO traits that are most important to your annual expenses for impact on your protit, record them in the grey boxes.

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The consumer is king

Ultimately, our extensive ruminant systems will only remain sustainable and relevant if we keep our experience or support a great product back-story is an important part of future-focussed genetic from livestock management as is practical. Incorporating traits that either enhance the consumer can be proud of. Increasingly this means removing as many chemical and physical interventions onsumers front of mind. We must always ensure that their experience consuming our products is sure it tastes great every time. a good one. For fibre, this means making sure it is fit for purpose, for meat, this means making <u>σ</u> We should aim to delight our customers, not just meet their needs. The other aspect is making sure that we farm in a way that they

In the white boxes below, list the TWO traits that would be important to the end consumer of your There may well be other (less important traits) that impact on consumer acceptance of your products your profit, record them in the grey boxes

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Bringing it all logethe

actually achieve genetic gain across the traits identified. It is therefore important to not have too many traits to focus on, particularly if you are a commercial producer and not breeding rams or balls. Now is the opportunity to distill Another key aspect of a genetic plan is the ability to ross the four key areas this document has focussed on Libellanced genetic plains about incorporating traits

Sire team: Within each of the four greas, single most important trait fro	Fire team: Person responsible:	e from: n the boxes below enter the adding a liftly trait from any
area that is important The most impo	area that is important to you. It will mean you have two traits from one. The most important traits for:	om one of the greas.
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Money saving		
Time saving		
Happy consumers		
Wild card	Other traits to watch:	Pick am additional treat. from arm of the dists
There are traits that don't earnimal should look like. They	There are traits that don't easily fit into any caregory. These may be your preferen animal should look like. They may be associated with experience of an animal type	our preference for what on animal type that works best
for the form. If there are w	for the farm. If there are visual type traits that are important to you but haven't be above, write them here:	ut haven fibeen calptimed

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time to think about what you are going-

phenotype and the genotype of your animals and those th jou are purchasing. What you see isn't always what you ge n thinking about the strategy you are going to take

What I will do to make improvement:

Mature age ewe/cow policy. Which of the older cows and ewes will get culled?

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