



# THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 53 / NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 2023



## SPRINGWATERS SIRE Sweeps ram ribbons at ADC

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE...



LAMBEX BACK  
ON AGRICULTURE  
CALENDAR  
PAGE 15



BOWAN PARK  
RESEARCH FLOCK  
PAGE 17



LATEST SHOW  
RESULTS  
PAGE 21-28

# PRACTICAL, PROFITABLE POLL DORSET PERFORMANCE GENETICS



Lot 2 K223-22

## TOP PRICE POLL DORSET RAMS

Lot 2, K223-22 & Lot 3, K433-2 sold for \$5250 twice.

Lot 2 was purchased by Cambral Farming, Temora, NSW & Lot 3 to Janmac Poll Dorset Stud, Goroke, Vic.

## ANNUAL SPRING RAM SALE RESULTS

Total clearance - 306/306 Rams sold with a sale average of \$1572.

Our thanks to all successful purchasers & underbidders, both in the sale shed & online, existing & new clients, family & friends for your support for our 26th Annual Sale.

We breed practical, functional & easy care sheep that meet our customers' breed performance & carcass standards to deliver optimal returns at market.



Lot 3 K433-22



Poll Dorset | White Suffolk | Suffolk | Ultra Whites

[kurralea.com](http://kurralea.com)



Ben Prentice | 0429 814 549  
ARIAH PARK - NSW

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[lucy@kurralea.com](mailto:lucy@kurralea.com)

# Dear Members

*How should one open their first APDA Presidents message? This was the question I asked myself, even after being involved with this fantastic breed all my life – I was stuck, but I wanted to be inspirational and encouraging to you all and coming into the chair in such a downward market for sheep & lambs makes this difficult. But I want to draw strength from the current market also and let you know it will be okay, farming goes in cycles, no two years the same. You have heard it all before and it makes us resilient, makes us stronger and makes us who we are today.*

It is with much pleasure that I introduce myself to you and write my first Presidents report after a brief transition of four months as the vice, something unprecedented in the history of the Poll Dorset federal council. I would like to thank the board members for entrusting and electing me to this role and thank our outgoing interim President, Isabele Roberts for her work over the past twelve months.

Going forward as your President, many of you already know me, but for those who don't, I will endeavour to be transparent and always approachable. I will serve you all as I understand that there are members who choose different ways to market, breed or showcase your sheep and every breeder has different views on shows, breeding, and even what method to use when scanning. And at the end of the day this is all okay, it is your business, but to be fair, one thing as members of our wonderful association is, we must all play within the rules and regulations of our breed, as set out in the current flock register.

As I take on this role, it comes as many challenges are now facing the lamb industry. We are all coming off strong seasons and record highs from 2022 to a dramatic fall in lamb (and

mutton) prices and even some low ram sales clearances for 2023. We are experiencing a downward shift after a high and the lamb and sheep industry is experiencing tough times. But we need to try to turn the negative into a positive. Let us focus on the consumers of our wonderful lamb for a minute, the record number of lambs in supply is driving these lower prices domestically and has now allowed lamb to be more affordable to all Australian households. Processors are working overtime, and lamb consumption is up 14% on this time last year, and this has to be a positive! We want lamb to be affordable, if its not affordable we won't have an industry.

The markets are improving weekly, and I would expect them to remain stable through to Christmas. Here, in southern and central Victoria we are now seeing the Spring flush of lambs hit the markets and in Hamilton last week with 32,000 yarded the trade market was \$5-\$10 head stronger with lighter lambs also up \$10-\$15. Restockers were active even with the dry conditions now evident in the southwest of the state which gives encouragement and shows confidence in lamb industry going forward.

I would like to encourage all members to attend your regional meetings, this is the place to have a voice and to find out what is happening in your region. Your region/association is only as strong as its members. Furthermore, I would like to ask that all region secretary's/ members please read the 'Funding for Poll Dorset Promotion and Events' section in the journal. It outlines the funding available and the requirements. The board will meet next on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Bendigo.

I also wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Angela Close and send my sincere sympathy to Bill, daughters, Sarah, Kate, Edwina, and families from the Newbold stud in South Australia. We are all thinking of you.

And finally, from my family to yours, best wishes for a Happy Christmas and may 2024 be a happy prosperous year for you all.

**Tania King**

PRESIDENT



## THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

The Australian Poll Dorset Journal is the official journal of the Australian Poll Dorset Association Inc.

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# WRATTENBULLIE

POLL DORSETS



2023 Royal Adelaide Show Supreme  
Poll Dorset Exhibit Tag 220068  
**Semen collected & available**



Top priced 2023 sale day Stud  
Ram



## Sale results:

Stud Rams Ave \$4,116/head  
Flock Rams Ave \$1,371/head

Brad Davies - 0438 266 732

[wrattenbullie@gmail.com](mailto:wrattenbullie@gmail.com)

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# ACROSS THE PENS

As we near the end of another year, it is timely to reflect on the highs and many successes of 2023 – we do hope that everyone had a bumper sale and inside today you will see the sales results and the many winners from shows across the country this year.



## JAMIE LEE OLDFIELD

Many of you will know Jamie Lee and Joe Scott very well and we wish them all the very best with the impending arrival of baby number two – Jamie Lee is taking maternity leave and we do hope to welcome her back in 12 months time.

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

We wish all our members a very happy and prosperous Christmas – our office will be closed from Friday December 22 until Wednesday January 3. Phones and emails will be monitored so do not hesitate to contact the office should you require our assistance at all during this period.

## CONDOLENCES

We recently heard of the passing of Angela Close, loving wife of Bill and mother of Kate – Angela has died after a long illness and experienced a very sad and difficult few years. We send our heartfelt sympathy and best wishes to the entire family.





# GLENORE

POLL DORSET STUD

'Breeding Top Quality Rams since 1962'

## SALE RESULTS

Glenore's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ram Sale

12 Stud rams sold to \$10 000 to average \$3917, with an overall sale of 78/93 rams sold to an average of \$1535

Top Price: Glenore 72-22 sold to Derby Downs Poll Dorset Stud for \$10 000

We at Glenore would like to thank all our clients for their support throughout 2023 and wish you the best of luck for the season ahead.

We hope you have a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year!

The Cain Family



Glenore 72-22

Peter and Gillian Cain 'Glenore'

582 Carisbrook-Eddington Road, Carisbrook, Victoria, 3464

☎ 0407 843 711 | ✉ [petegillcain@bigpond.com](mailto:petegillcain@bigpond.com)



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# SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

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*The Annual General Meeting was held at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds at the Australasian Championships and the September Board Meeting was held at Sheep House, both on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September.*

## Election of Office Bearers 2023/2024

**President** – Tania King

**Vice President** – Laurie Fairclough

**Finance/Treasurer** – FJ George Carter

**Admin & Planning Chair** – Damon Coats

**Promotions Chair** – Isabele Roberts

**Flock Registration Committee** – Chair: Tania King, Damon Coats, James Frost, Liz Mann.

**Research & Development Chair** – Andrew Scott.

## Finance Report

For the Association 2023 has been a very tough year, with lower income from membership, ram levy collections and registrations/transfers. Expenses have been hit by inflation, promotional spending above collections and 'non pure' debate costs, all impacting the balance sheet.

The following motions were carried –

“Members empower the Board to investigate and find a suitable auditor that will ensure due diligence for members for the 2024 audit.”

“That the finance report be accepted.”

## Promotions Report

Isabele Roberts read the Promotion Report as provided into the Poll Dorset September 2023 Journal and hoped that everyone would have a positive ram sale this season.

Meeting discussed that it is disappointing that the Journal could not be provided prior to the ADC event. It has happened for a number of years, and it is important that the journal is distributed prior to the show.

The following motions were carried –

**“The APDA will ensure the Journal is posted two weeks prior to the Australian Dorset Championship event each year.”**

**“Following the recommendation at the AGM meeting of the 50% credit for advertisements in the September Journal be refunded to affected members. “**

**“That the promotions report be accepted”**

## Flock Registration Report

The following applications and renewals were approved –

**Mr H & R Cox ‘Bocoble’, M & M Picker ‘Yarraman’, K & L Sturgess ‘Redline’.**

## General Business

**It was moved that Brittany Bolt be offered to join the board in a casual vacancy position.**

## Deregistered Flocks

There were 45 deregistered flocks at the time of publication of the 2023 Flock Book.

\*Further changes have occurred since the meeting/publication with 3 studs applying for renewal.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**FEB 23-25** Royal Canberra Show

**MAR 8-9** Wagin Woolorama

**MAR 22 - APR 2** Sydney Royal Show

**MAY 10-12** NSW State Sheep Show - Dubbo

**JUNE** NSW Dorset Championships - Cowra

**JULY 19-21** Australian Sheep & Wool Show - Bendigo

**AUG 4-5** Hamilton Sheepvention

**AUG 7-9** LambEx

**AUG 10-18** Ekka Royal Queensland Show

**AUG 31- SEP 8** Royal Adelaide Show

**SEP 13-15** Australasian Dorset Championships

**SEP 21-28** Royal Perth Show

**SEP 26-OCT 6** Royal Melbourne Show

**OCT 10-12** Royal Launceston Show

**OCT 24-26** Royal Hobart Show

# DNA Regulations for Ram registrations

**The following DNA requirements apply on ALL rams requiring registration, registration and transfer, or any amendments to current ram registrations from 1st July 2023.**

DNA sire verification has been introduced to increase the accuracy and quality of pedigree information available to its members.

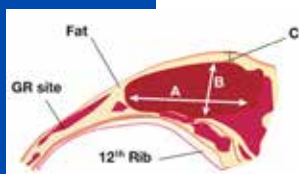
### New Registrations

1. From 1st July 2023 ALL rams are required to be DNA tested for the purpose of Sire Verification (SV) prior to registration.
2. All DNA information must be provided to the Australian Poll Dorset Association Inc (APDA) on the DNA Test Results Form.
3. No ram will be allocated a stud registration number without the DNA Test Result Form being submitted to the Secretary of the APDA – you will find the form on the website

4. The DNA test is to be carried out at an approved genetic testing laboratory. Test results from any other laboratory will be inadmissible. This is to be done at the breeders or applicant's expense. The APDA have approved the following genetic testing laboratories in Australia as they do both genomics and sire verification.
  - a. NEOGEN
  - b. XytoVet
  - c. Intertek
5. When a ram has been DNA tested, and.
  - a. Successfully DNA verified to the sire, they will be recorded as Sire Verified (SV) in the APDA online members Database and (SV) after their registration number in the printed Flock Register for Poll Dorset Sheep in Australia.
  - b. Where a sire is DNA tested but not sire verified the ram will be recorded as DNA tested in the APDA members Database.
6. Sire Verification can only be done if the sire of the animal has been DNA tested.
7. Where a registered ram has not been DNA tested OR registered prior to 1/7/2023, the ram will be recorded as "Not DNA tested" in the APDA members Database.
8. If a discrepancy occurs in the sire verifying results that cannot be resolved, the board has the right to determine the registration outcome of the ram, which may or may not result in a registration being revoked.
9. The APDA recommends that all potential stud rams be DNA tested PRIOR to being offered for sale. This will avoid any delay in the registration process, that may or may not occur.
10. The APDA will not own or store the DNA sample or own the results or any animal material - only the results will be recorded. These results will not be shared for the confidentiality of members.
11. The APDA accepts no responsibility for any rams that are deemed unregistrable under the DNA registration regulations.

### Modifications to Existing Registrations

1. Any rams that have been DNA tested prior to 1st July 2023 can have their results included in the members online database by filling in the Registered Ram DNA test results form and forwarding to the APDA secretary.
2. The sire of any registered ram can only be amended if the animal is DNA sire verified (SV) to another ram.
3. The dam of any registered ram can only be amended if the animal is DNA parent verified (PV) to both sire and dam.



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# Sheep Producers Australia Tag Procurement Project

Sheep Producers Australia has received the final report for the Tag Procurement Project

Following on from the national commitment to transition to electronic sheep eID, Sheep Producers Australia agreed to investigate options for developing and maintaining a national tag tender and procurement system to provide low-cost, incentivised eID tags for Australian sheep producers.

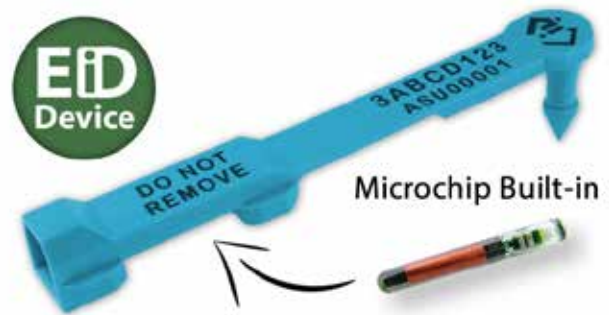
Sheep Producers Australia commissioned an extensive, national consultation process involving stakeholders from across government, manufacturing, retail and producer representative groups.

“The Board agreed it was critical to carry out this consultation to look at existing systems rather than spending time and money developing a potential model before fully grasping the risks and complexities involved. It was important for the consultation to be thorough and done properly, and thorough consultation takes time.” Andrew Spencer Sheep Producers Australia Chair.

Consultation considered complexities and stakeholder views on existing and potential NUS tag tender and procurement systems. The feedback from stakeholders indicated a high level of risk for Sheep Producers Australia or an industry body attempting to establish a national system in a densely populated and mature NUS tag market, particularly if participation was voluntary.

“The Board reviewed the report and, taking into account the key findings and feedback from consultation, concluded that the organisation will not continue to pursue any further investigations into this project.”

“We remain committed to the implementation of national harmonised traceability for sheep and will continue to advocate for additional transitional support for producers.” Mr Spencer.



## Successful Stage two of Coledale Dispersal

**POLL DORSET STUD**  
Flock 1543

*Brucellosis accredited OJD vaccinated  
Lambplan performance tested*

*(Right) Retiring principle Wallace Binnie with new Principle of Coledale Poll Dorset Stud Xavier Burton with top priced ram Coledale 76/22 sold for \$8000.*

**Sale report**  
110 Rams offered  
96 Rams sold Ave \$1516.00  
120 Ewes 1/1/2 yrs Offered  
90 Ewes sold at Auction Ave \$735.00

*Wallace & Sue Binnie thank all clients and fellow breeders for their support and friendship over our 54 yrs of breeding poll dorsets. We wish Xavier every success with his future breeding programme.*



Contact Wallace and Sue Binnie 0427 944 035 [wbinnie@bigpond.com](mailto:wbinnie@bigpond.com)





Valley  Vista

POLL DORSET STUD

# SUMMER SALE

- 30 JOINED STUD EWES
- 100 AUTUMN 2023-DROP RAMS

## FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY

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# Funding for Poll Dorset promotions and events

Each year the APDA supports a number of events, activities and advertising campaigns across the country. The Flock Ram Levy funds these activities, and our members and regions come up with the concepts and help implement them.

In the last 3 years, our normal activities have been somewhat affected by COVID, and along with this, there has been a bit of confusion in regards to how and when to apply for funding. The following guide is here to assist the regional committees when applying for funding.

## There are 2 main funding streams available:

### 1. Major Events Funding

This funding is for programs and events that APDA Regions support in person. These can be one off or regular events. These events aim at promoting our breed and our people, or provide education and learning opportunities. Examples of events that have been funded previously are SA Youth Sheep Expo, Naracoorte/Hamilton Annual Field Day, LambEx, Regional bus tours.

<b>Event Promotion:</b>	All material published must be inline with the current APDA design brief. The APDA secretariat can assist with providing existing proofs. If graphic design is required, this is available and can be costed as part of the application.
<b>Funding Base:</b>	Funding is made available from the APDA Flock Ram Levy, collected from APDA members through the annual flock return.
<b>Funding Approval:</b>	Funding applications are considered and approved/not-approved in March, should the event occur/need to be booked outside this approval period, applications will be considered as they are received.
<b>Funding Applications:</b>	Applications must be received on the "Major Events Funding" Form.  All information required must be provided before they will be tabled for consideration.
<b>Communications:</b>	All region secretaries will be notified by the Secretariat as soon as approval decision has been made.
<b>Application Deadlines:</b>	Funding applications must be received by 1/3/24. Any applications received after this date will be considered (see above "Funding Approval").
<b>Promotional Material:</b>	If printed products or material creation (eg banners) are required, these can be done with the assistance of the APDA Secretariat, and costed as part of the application.
<b>Payment of Invoices:</b>	Invoices for approved applications are to be forwarded to the APDA Secretariat for payment.  Any expenses not approved in the application process will be incurred by the APDA Region
<b>Funding Lapse:</b>	Invoices must be received by 1/3/25. Funding approval lapses following this date.

### 2. Regional Advertising Funding

This funding is available for APDA Regions to participate in region-specific advertising with a focus on driving flock ram sales.

<b>Advertising Format:</b>	The type and location of the advertising is flexible, and is to be proposed by the members of the region.
<b>Advertising Proofs:</b>	All advertising material must be inline with the current APDA design brief. The APDA secretariat can assist with providing existing proofs. If graphic design is required, this is available and can be costed as part of the application.
<b>Funding Base:</b>	Funding is made available from the APDA Flock Ram Levy, collected from APDA members through the annual flock return.
<b>Funding Level:</b>	Funding levels are reviewed annually in March, and are based on numbers of flock rams sold in the previous reporting period.
<b>Funding Applications:</b>	Applications must be received on the "Regional Advertising Funding" Form
<b>Communications:</b>	Following the March APDA Board Meeting, all region secretaries will be notified of the available funding and be provided with the appropriate documentation.
<b>Deadlines:</b>	Funding applications must be received by 31/7/24. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted.
<b>Deadline Considerations:</b>	The Regional Advertising program is in addition to the APDA Federal Promotions Schedule. Where there is possible overlap of type and location of advertising (for example, in the ACM publications), the applications need to be received prior to the 15/6/24.
<b>Advertising Material:</b>	If printed products or material creation (eg banners) are required, these can be done with the assistance of the APDA Secretariat, and costed as part of the application.
<b>Payment of Invoices:</b>	Invoices for approved applications are to be forwarded to the APDA Secretariat for payment.  Any expenses not approved in the application process will be incurred by the APDA Region
<b>Funding Lapse:</b>	Invoices must be received by 1/3/25. Funding approval lapses following this date.

### APDA Region requirements

In order for the APDA Region to be eligible to receive funding, they are required to:

- Have submitted audited financial statements for the previous financial reporting period
- Have a current region committee

### Application Forms

Major Event Funding and Regional Advertising Forms are available from the secretary or at <https://polldorset.org.au/marketing>

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Flock 1143

**POLL DORSETS**

Est. 1966



## 2023 Sale Results



**Derrynock 940/22 - \$14,000**  
Sold to Kobyboyn pastoral

- \* 21/38 ewes sold to \$1200 – av \$680
- \* 18 stud rams sold to \$14,000 – av \$5400
- \* 116/125 flock rams – av \$1530

### Stud ram purchases include:

- \* \$9000 – RD & SE Horspole, VIC
- \* \$7500 – Wrattenbullie stud, SA
- \* \$7000 – Konongwootong stud, VIC
- \* \$7000 – Uondo pastoral, VIC



**Derrynock 867/22 - \$10,000**  
Sold to Camborn stud



**Derrynock 909/22 - \$7500**  
Sold to Wrattenbullie stud, SA

**A big thankyou**

**To all who attended and bid at our 2022 sale.**

**And congratulations to everyone who has continued success with Derrynock genetics!**

**\* Please enquire for semen sires \***

Ted Beattie  
0409 189 116

Simon Beattie  
0429 330 562

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# LambEx stamps itself back on national agriculture calendar

Sheep and lamb producers across Australia are rejoicing and raising lamb chops in salute as the pinnacle in Australian sheep and lamb – LambEx - makes a much-anticipated return on the national agricultural calendar.

In a major coup for South Australia, LambEx will converge on Adelaide 7-9 August 2024 at the Adelaide Convention Centre bringing sheep and lamb to the city!

The biennial event hasn't been held since 2018 according to South Australian lamb producer and LambEx Chair Jason Schulz who has high expectations for a delegation of 1,200+ in Adelaide in 2024.

"Established in 2010, the event has rotated around major sheep producing states, with 2014 being the last time it was staged in Adelaide with the last event in 2018 in Western Australia," he said.

"We have big ambitions for LambEx in 2024. We are bringing lamb to the heart of the city to showcase our great industry and put the spotlight on our premium sheep and lamb products to a broader consumer base," Jason said.

"LambEx is distinctive in the fact that it is the only industry forum that incorporates and encompasses the entire supply chain for the sheep and lamb industry giving it appeal both here in Australia and abroad," he said.

"We are talking the complete end-to-end spectrum of the sheep and lamb industry from sheep meat producers, wool growers, graziers, processors, exporters, service providers and stud breeders through to those leading the charge in innovation such as scientists, researchers and aspiring students," said Jason.

"LambEx really is an important platform to bring the industry together again after a six-year hiatus so there is a lot of hype and anticipation to deliver one of the biggest and best events yet," he said.

Mr Schulz likened LambEx to a 'festival of sheep and lamb' where the industry unites as one to celebrate its success and seeks to pave the future roadmap of the industry.

"There is a lot going on globally at present and we are at a pivotal point in terms of ongoing sustainability with impacts in regard to carbon, on-farm efficiencies, renewable energies and technology driven change, let alone current market conditions and volatility which every sheep and lamb producer is facing – and feeling - right now," he said.

"We are super excited to bring the industry back together in August 2024 to address the future challenges and collectively find solutions to what the market may present," he said.

Designed by members of the industry for the industry, Jason Schulz said LambEx 2024 will deliver the on trend topical thinking and issues, leading innovation and tech, the latest in science and research, and an extensive trade exhibition with the boldest and best products and services on offer.

"Program development is well underway and there is every intent to curate a program that absolutely compels attendance

if you work in or provide services to the Australian sheep and lamb industry," he said.

"In addition, being in my home state of South Australia, delegates will be sure to be salivating with a smorgasbord of the finest locally grown and sourced produce," he said.

"I can guarantee at LambEx 2024 there will be an abundance of lamb, sheep, top notch speakers, chefs dishing up supreme lamb-inspired delicacies and plenty of take-away knowledge and action to leave every delegate inspired," he said.

Registrations will open in early 2024. Like to be a part of LambEx?

The LambEx 2024 Sponsorship Prospectus is now available for interested parties including trade exhibitors.

For more information visit [www.lambex.org.au](http://www.lambex.org.au)



LambEx media launch key stakeholders & partners



LambEx Chair Jason Schulz speaking at the launch



Adelaide Chef Duncan Welgemoed preparing lamb at the launch



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## 2023 Ram Sale Wrap

200/205 Poll Dorset rams sold to a top price of \$26,000 and averaged \$2472



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## 2023 Bowan Park Trial Results

Bowan Park Poll Dorset stud research flock is open to all members of the APDA and provides them with the opportunity to assess their flock genetics and benchmark them within the Poll Dorset breed. The purpose of the progeny trial is to compare the performance of one sire to another in the same cohort of lambs. The lambs are all bred and grown together on the same farm, giving a unique situation where stud stock can be compared from birth through to slaughter.

The 2023 cohort is made up of 312 AI lambs, plus 163 naturally mated backup lambs, all born within a 4 week period. 16 sires were included in the trial; sire selections were made with criteria that ranged from high performers, show champions and pedigrees of untested genetics. Two sires are included as year on year link rams (Linton 160625, Ridgehaven 190083), which enables comparison across cohort years.

Full reports are available on the website [www.bowanpark.com.au](http://www.bowanpark.com.au)

### On Farm Performance

Growth of the lambs in measured at regular intervals to show actual weight gain at different stages of maturity.

Heaviest lamb at:

- 4 weeks – 27.5kg
- 10 weeks – 47.8kg
- 14 weeks – 55.8kg
- 17 weeks – 65.0kg

### Open Day

The drop of lambs were made available to viewing late September. This provided an opportunity for the sire contributors and the general public to visually appraise the lambs in their sire groups

### Carcase Testing

A selection of lambs was sent to Gundagai Meat Processors on 29/9/23, where carcass data was collected by UNE Meat Science. Results are outlined below, reported as averages per sire.

The sire contributors were also invited to see the lambs on the hook, which is an incredibly valuable experience.



L to R Andrew Gillett, George Carter, Lisa Rowley, Sally Scott, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Jamie-Lee Oldfield

Sire	# lambs	Empty Pre-Slaughter Weight (kg)	Carcass Weight (kg)	Dressing %	Carcass EM Fat (mm)	Carcass EM Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	IMF %	Shear Force (N)
<b>GOORAMMA-210110</b>	11	48.5	24.6	50.6	4.60	16.81	3.53	46.53
<b>BLAUVELT-220023</b>	14	54.8	28.9	52.7	4.79	17.91	4.27	35.00
<b>BRIGHTSIDE-210023</b>	16	52.2	27.3	52.2	4.31	17.12	3.64	38.26
<b>ALLENDALE-210002</b>	13	49.1	25.1	51.1	3.58	18.12	3.24	42.19
<b>HILLDEN-210099</b>	13	55.1	29.3	53.0	4.77	17.76	3.76	31.72
<b>FAIRBANK-210132</b>	12	49.1	25.9	52.8	3.67	17.61	3.69	38.48
<b>DELORAINE DOWNS-210288</b>	13	51.9	27.1	52.3	3.23	19.22	2.97	50.74
<b>WUNNAMURRA-190065</b>	14	52.7	27.8	52.7	4.50	18.93	3.82	36.05
<b>LINTON-160625</b>	8	51.8	27.1	52.1	4.13	17.90	3.91	30.05
<b>RIDGEHAVEN-190083</b>	7	54.9	29.6	53.8	4.14	17.43	4.31	46.67
<b>VALLEY VISTA-210155</b>	4	54.7	29.2	53.2	4.25	16.72	4.22	38.37
<b>VALLEY VISTA-210079</b>	15	56.3	29.4	52.0	4.33	17.19	3.89	43.83
<b>PUNCHGROVE-140016</b>	15	55.2	28.2	50.9	4.47	18.66	3.42	41.32
<b>RIDGEHAVEN-210140</b>	11	51.9	27.0	51.9	4.27	17.76	3.72	35.39
<b>RIDGEHAVEN-210153</b>	13	56.0	29.4	52.4	5.38	17.55	3.80	30.12
<b>RIDGEHAVEN-210417</b>	13	52.1	27.4	52.5	4.00	17.64	4.24	38.61
<b>Average</b>	192	52.9	27.7	52.2	4.29	17.84	3.74	38.97

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# Are we there yet?

*Courtesy of Matt Dalgleish*

**Market Morsel**

Earlier in the week we took a look at some deflated prices for livestock. The lamb chart showed a pretty good uptrend in pricing from the early 1990s with steady growth in lamb export markets gradually supporting higher and higher sale yard prices.

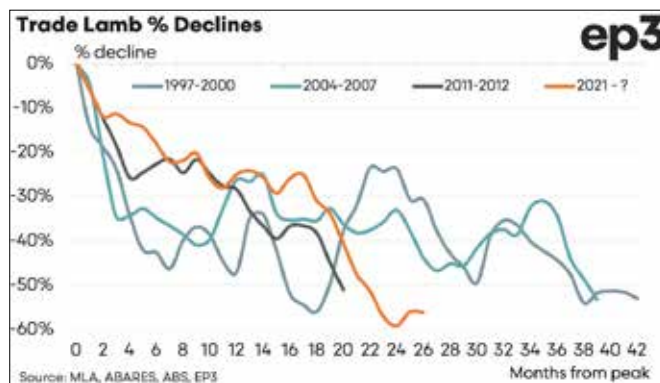
However, the uptrend wasn't without its cycles of peaks and troughs. Prior to the current correction in lamb prices there were three other downtrends in the market seen since 1990 (see the grey shaded area on chart below). Two of these periods the lamb price decline lasted around 40 months (April 1997 to October 2000 and July 2004 to October 2007) while the other was a good bit shorter at 20 months (March 2011 to November 2012). The current down trend has been in place 24 months.



Analysis of the last three downtrends compared to the current price decline in lamb pricing shows that while the timeframe for the correction varied between 20 to 40 months the magnitude of the falls in percentage terms was pretty similar.

The 1997 to 2000 decline saw a 53% price decline over a 42 month period and the 2004 to 2007 decline saw a 53% price drop over a 39 month period. Meanwhile the 2011 to 2012 downturn in lamb pricing saw a 51% drop over a 20 month period.

The current downtrend has seen lamb prices drop by 59%. Personally I think that's enough pain for sheep producers but we are still yet to go through the spring lamb flush for this season. Let's hope that most of the market correction has already eventuated and any further downward price pressure will be kept to a minimum. During October 2023 the trade lamb market has climbed higher, perhaps the worst of the price correction is over.



Note – percentage price declines have all been calculated using deflated lamb pricing, so that prices from peaks to troughs are adjusted for inflation and reflect current dollar values for lamb.

# The Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement offers access to the UK market for Australian sheep producers

The Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement will deliver benefits and opportunities for many Australian producers.

For sheepmeat this means Australia will have access to a tariff-free quota of 25,000 tonnes rising to 75,000 tonnes and tariffs eliminated after ten years.

“Through the agreement Australia is well placed to provide counter-seasonal supply to the northern hemisphere.

Substantial transition quotas will allow improved access for Australian producers to provide high-quality Australian lamb to meet British customer demand.”

The security and expansion of current markets is important for Australian sheep producers and creates ongoing certainty for the industry.

This agreement demonstrates both countries commitment to free trade as a driver of economic growth and stronger bilateral relationships.

“The agreement provides a fantastic opportunity for Australian producers, is of mutual benefit to both parties and reflects a collaborative and productive partnership.”

“Sheep Producers Australia would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Prime Minister on finalising the Australia-UK relations and the years of work by the Australian Government for their commitment to this agreement.”

Quotes can be attributed to Bonnie Skinner CEO Sheep Producers Australia.

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### Perth show



With the champion Poll Dorset ram lamb from the Brimfield stud, Kendenup, were stud co-principal Gail Cremasco and judge Adrian Veitch, Kaya Dorper and White Dorper studs, Narrogin.



The champion Poll Dorset ewe lamb was exhibited by Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading. With the ewe were judge Adrian Veitch, Kaya Dorper and White Dorper studs, Narrogin and Shirlee Downs handler Danika Squiers



With the grand champion and champion Poll Dorset ram exhibited by the Squiers family's Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, were judge Adrian Veitch (left), Kaya Dorper and White Dorper studs, Narrogin, with Indiana Squiers and her father and Shirlee Downs co-principal Sascha Squiers.



The champion Poll Dorset ewe was exhibited by the Brimfield stud, Kendenup. With the ewe were co-principals Max Whyte (left) and Gail Cremasco and judge Adrian Veitch (left), Kaya Dorper and White Dorper studs, Narrogin.

# Springwaters sire sweeps ram ribbons at ADC

**More than 250 sheep headed to Bendigo from four states for the Australasian Dorset Championships this year, which returned to its usual fixture of the second weekend in September.**

It was a "big powerful ram that owned the showfloor" that came out on top, being sashed as the supreme exhibit of the show and WFI Champions of Champions ram.

Exhibited by the Rowley family, Boorowa, Springwaters 91-22 "caught the eye" of judge Will Milroy of Rangeview stud, Pipers River, Tasmania, as soon as he saw him - and he wasn't the first judge to admire the Springwaters 627-20 son.

The ram had previously been supreme exhibit at the NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra in June, and then grand champion Poll Dorset ram at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo in July.

These accolades, along with the senior and grand champion ram awards from the ADC itself, made the ram eligible to compete in the coveted WFI Champions of Champion class, going head to head with other show-topping sires from throughout the year.

Also competing to be the top Poll Dorset ram of year was the grand champion from Hamilton's Sheepvention, exhibited by the Mitchell family, Rene stud, Culcairn, NSW; the grand champions from the Hobart Royal and Deloraine Show, Tas, both exhibited by Killara stud, Penna, Tas; and the champion from Campbell Town Show, Tas, exhibited by Sunnybanks stud.

The championship was judged by Will Milroy, Laurie Fairclough, Stockdale stud, York, Western Australia, and Isabele Roberts, Ridgehaven stud, Cudal, NSW.

Mr Milroy said the winning rams' power and presence was what put it on top.

Springwaters also exhibited the reserve senior champion ram of the ADC show, while studs from Tasmania, Victoria and NSW shared the remaining ram ribbons.

Intermediate champion ram was Faraday Park 220009, exhibited by Paul Day of Sunnybanks and Faraday Park studs, Penguin, Tas.

The ram went on to be sold for the top-price at the event's sale, when Laurie Fairclough, Stockdale stud, and Isabele Roberts, Ridgehaven stud, bid to \$16,000.

Mr Fairclough would take the ram back to WA, with Ridgehaven to utilise semen in the sire.

Reserve intermediate ram was Glenore 12-22, exhibited by the Cain family of Glenore stud, Carisbrook, Victoria.

In the junior section, Yentrac stud, Tatura, exhibited the champion with Yentrac 632-22, with Abelene Park 196-22 from the Douglas family, Woolomin, NSW, in reserve.

Patrick Flanagan of Blauvelt stud at Coimadai, Vic, won champion ram lamb, with Valley Vista stud, Coolac, NSW, in reserve.

The ewes were judged the day prior, and it was the champion ewe lamb from the Scott family of Valley Vista which ended up as grand champion ewe of the ADC, and Champion of Champions ewe.

The five-month old ewe lamb, Valley Vista 230207, was sired by Valley Vista 210155, a ram which won the WFI Champion of Champions Ram at the same event in 2022.

"She was a fantastic ewe lamb, she came out of the ewe lamb class and was chock-full of meat, really traditional Dorset head and sappy skin," Mr Milroy said.

"If you can breed sucker lambs like that any day of the week that's what we're in it for."

The reserve champion ewe lamb was also from Valley Vista, as was the Champion Ewe, Valley Vista 220076 - which was previously sashed Supreme Interbreed Exhibit at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in July.

Reserve champion ewe came from Hillden stud at Crookwell, NSW, with their ewe in the wool Hillden 220023 backing up the same ribbon she won at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show.

The ADC saw 39 lots offered at the multi-vendor sale, with 30 sold at auction to the \$16,000 top price and averaged \$5313.

Mr Day's Sunnybanks and Faraday Park stud offered six lots, selling five to the sale topping price and averaging \$6000.

Fellow Tasmania stud, Mr Milroy's Rangeview and Rangeview Park, also offered six, selling five to average \$4417, while the Mitchell's Rene stud sold all three offered to a top of \$6000 and averaged \$4666.

Abelene Park offered four lots, adding a wildcard from their ribbon winners, and achieved the second highest price of the sale at \$12,500, averaging \$8125 for their lots.

Yentrac sold two of three rams to a top of \$6000 and averaged \$3333, while the Killara stud offered and sold three, averaging \$4000.



*Champion of Champions Ram*

## AROUND THE SHOWS



*Champion of Champions Ewe*



*ADC Champion Ewe*



*ADC Junior Champion Ram*



*ADC Intermediate Champion Ram*



*Top-price ram*



*ADC Champion Ram Lamb*

# Finley High School wins Melbourne Royal Show interbreed

*Courtesy of Joely Mitchell Stock and Land*

A NSW high school has taken out the two pinnacle prizes in the Melbourne Royal Show's sheep competition.

Finley High School, Finley, NSW, won both interbreed champion ewe and interbreed champion ram in an impressive field of entries.

The school did one better than last year, having won interbreed champion ram in 2022 but not quite getting the clean sweep.

Finley High School principal Jeff Ward said he was "immensely proud of the students, staff and agriculture program".

"It's been a long process and this is the culmination of a lot of hard work," Mr Ward said.

He said they had been showing sheep at Melbourne for more than 20 years.

"Melbourne is the ultimate for us, even though we're from NSW, Sydney is seven hours away from us so we're more attracted to Melbourne," he said.

"It's a great opportunity to showcase our animals, and it is part of the curriculum, too."

He said the agricultural program was a big part of the school.

"We've got some wonderful things going on in our school but a lot of people know about our agricultural program and that's because of the great people and teachers that started this 20 years ago," he said.

Finley High School year 11 student Erica Hammond was brought to tears after the ram she was handling was announced as the interbreed champion ram.

After getting photos taken with the ram, Ms Hammond said she was "so excited" by the win.

"We won the same title last year, so to do it back-to-back is even more rewarding," she said.

"He's such a good, little ram, he's going to produce some beautiful lambs if we decide to cross him over our ewes.

"And he's not even six-months-old yet.

"He weighs 88 kilograms, has a fat depth of 12 millimetres, which is the same as one of our older rams who performed well and got senior champion of the breed, and his muscle depth is already at 42mm.

"For a young one, he's developing very well and at a very-quick rate."

She said she loved being involved in the sheep industry.

"Finley High School offers such a great agricultural program, it's amazing," she said.

Finley High School agriculture teacher Gary Webb said they did not expect to win either award, let alone both.

"When we won interbreed ram last year, I thought 'that's not going to happen again, at least not for a little while, not little, old Finley High School', so we're very excited, the kids will be over the moon," he said.

"The winning ewe is lovely, she always has been since being a lamb, and she's been showing beautifully wherever she goes."

He said they were a small operation.

"We only breed with about 25 ewes each year, so artificial insemination is important," he said.

"Hillden [Poll Dorset stud, Bannister, NSW] have been supporters of ours for about 21 years with semen.

"[The champion ewe] is sired by Hillden 808."

Judge Chris Badcock, Fairbank stud, Hagley, Tas, was one of four judges assessing the interbreed line up.

Mr Badcock said he had placed both Poll Dorsets highly in his placings.

He said it was rare to see a ram lamb perform so well in the interbreed.

"It's not uncommon for a lamb to get a champion ribbon, but to get an interbreed, you don't see that often," he said.

"For a lamb, he's shown exceptional growth and muscling for age.

"When judging the interbreed, you're trying to find the best representation of each breed, and he probably did the least amount wrong.

"He's very correct."

He said the ewe was "very smart and feminine".

"She has heaps of length, a beautiful shoulder, and is a very-stylish sort of ewe," he said.

"She shows herself really well."

Mr Badcock said the quality of the interbreed classes was very strong.

"There were lots of good sheep to pick from, which made our job hard," he said.

In the earlier interbreed classes, the champion heritage sheep of the show was won by Barry Shalders, Willow Drive, Grassmere, with his three-year-old ram that was supreme of the breed.

The ram trifecta of the show was won by Sayla Park Suffolk stud, Kilmore, while the sire's progeny championship was won by Sweetfield Corriedale stud, Mount Moriac, and the breeder's group championship went to Sayla Park.



*Finley High School students Bethany Loughridge, Kate Tilley and Maggie Bramley, agriculture teachers Gary Webb and Robyn O'Leary, principal Jeff Ward and kneeling students Erica Hammond and Cheyenne Tucker, with their interbreed champion ram and ewe. Picture by Branded Ag Marketing*



# Cheyenne Tucker, Finley High School, wins Poll Dorset supreme

*Courtesy of Rachel Simmonds, Stock and Land*

Finley High School students are reigning champions after winning most major prizes in the Poll Dorset category at the Melbourne Royal Show.

Finley High School Year 10 student Cheyenne Tucker, Finley, NSW, said she's rapt after winning both grand champion ram, Ulysses, and grand champion ewe, Talia, and for her "special" ram to make supreme exhibit.

She said she has been studying agriculture since Year Seven, but started studying sheep in 2022.

"I led him at his first show, I have a special connection with him," she said.

"At the start of this year at Cowra, Poll Dorsets, I placed third with him.

"I'm very excited, it's my first time doing the rams at the Melbourne Royal Show."

Finley High School won Poll Dorset supreme champion at the 2022 Melbourne Royal Show.

Finley High School agriculture teacher Gary Webb said showing was part of their program to help engage students in agriculture.

He said there were 31 students attending during the sheep showing, and they developed a mentorship program with senior and junior students.

"We've had a great start to the Melbourne Royal Show, we've been bringing cattle and sheep here every year, this year we have 16 steers, 12 sheep and next week there will be about 11 stud cattle as well," he said.

"It just enables the students to experience the big show and encourages them to be involved in agriculture."

Mr Webb said the supreme exhibit ram was sired by Hillden 110, which was a "fantastic ram" and they had semen donated.

"He is really something special, at the Australian Poll Dorset Show the grand champion ewe was also a lamb, and her sire was this ram's father," he said.

"It's been through consistent support from other Poll Dorset breeders, Ian Grey was a great supporter initially, since then we have the Frost family from Hillden, they supply us with semen for about 12 years for our breeding program out of their top rams.

"We can join about 27 ewes a year and that's big for us because land is at a premium."

He said they also had strong hopes for the ewe, which was a reserve champion Poll Dorset ewe at the Cowra, New South Wales' Poll Dorset fare.

Ms Tucker said she hoped to develop her own cattle stud after school, and felt excited at the prospect after being part of a most successful exhibitor team at Finley High School.

She lives on her family farm with Speckle Park cattle.

"I'm going to start a stud, I'm going to go to cattle and do Poll Herefords," she said.

"I've just always been interested in them."

Poll Dorset judge, Pinnacle Suffolk stud principal Nick Lawrence, Bordertown, SA, said the ram lamb was the best Poll Dorset in the breed category for its top line and breeding.

"The ram lamb is an April-drop ram lamb shown in the wool, he's 88.5 kilograms, he's 42 in the eye muscle, he carries himself very well and has an excellent top line and breed type," he said

"Overall, he was the best Poll Dorset I could find here today."

He said the ewe was very correct, with similarly-excellent traits, but the ram lamb's power put him above to win supreme.

"Finley High School were the most successful exhibitors and took out most of the major prizes, they did very well," he said.

"They're a great group of kids backed up by people with very good sheep knowledge."



*Poll Dorset judge Nick Lawrence and Finley High School Year 10 student Cheyenne Tucker, with the supreme champion ram. Picture by Rachel Simmonds*



*Cheyenne Tucker and Erin Chesworth, Finley High School, and Poll Dorset judge Nick Lawrence, Bordertown, SA, with the grand champion ewe and supreme champion ram. Picture by Rachel Simmonds*

# Ekka results

Chris Rubie – Sovereign Poll Dorset. A Warwick stud sheep producer was left smiling ear to ear on Saturday, taking out two champion of champions titles at the Ekka.

**Champion Poll Dorset Ram:** Chris Rubie

**Reserve Champion Poll Dorset Ram:** Chris Rubie

**Champion Poll Dorset Ewe:** Chris Rubie

**Reserve Champion Poll Dorset:** Chris Rubie



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# SA Sheep Expo Report

In the final week of April, the 2023 SA Sheep Expo was held at the Adelaide show grounds. The Australian Poll Dorset Association sponsored 10 first-time entrants to the event. The expo offers an education program catering to youth interested in the sheep industry, from ages 12 to 23. It serves as a platform for participants to learn and discuss about technologies, strategies, and opportunities within the industry. Moreover, it provides exposure to potential career paths and an opportunity to connect with both peers and industry experts in the field.

The program featured a diverse range of lectures covering topics such as public speaking, livestock photography, marketing, junior judging, genomics, to ram testicular assessment. Furthermore, every participant was allocated a sheep to care for throughout the three days and to show in the handler classes on the last day. Newbold studs provided sheep for the Poll Dorset breed display and allocation sheep this year. Junior participants (under 14s) were paired up with a senior participant (over 18s) for the duration of the expo, providing opportunity for mentorship and exchange of tips and tricks.

The event also includes assessments on handling, presentation, junior judging, photography, and marketing assignments. Senior participants were also assessed on the buddy system, as well as a senior interview.

Here is what some of the sponsored participants had to say about the event:

### Justus Hitchins

In the April school holidays I attended the 2023 sheep expo in hope to learn more about the growing sheep industry. The three days were extremely informative and a great experience. We attended many different lessons covering all the different aspects of the sheep industry, from shearing demonstrations to how the wool is then made and used, photography and marketing lessons, the designing of shearing sheds, and so much more. The nights consisted of listening to different people sharing their experiences, problems, and solutions and how they came to what they were now doing and the different paths they took. Listening to these people share all about the journey was so inspirational and educational showing us that there are so many wonderful jobs and opportunities within the sheep industry that you may not have even thought about. The lessons were a great way to learn about everything and even possible career choices or even give enough of an insight to show us that that job is not for us, allowing us to focus on other opportunities. The 2023 sheep expo was an amazing opportunity where many we all found many friends that share the same interests and made the three days an enjoyable experience.

### Will Sinnett-Jones

The 2023 SA sheep expo was a great experience for me, as I got to learn many skills and make new friendships! Without the scholarship from the Poll Dorset association, I wouldn't have been able to go so I am extremely grateful for that. Overall, I can't wait till next year!

Photo courtesy of Andrew Hall. Australian Poll Dorset Association Adelaide region representatives Mark Grossman, Bill Close, and Emi Hughes with the 2023 Scholarship winners at the 2023 SA Sheep Expo.



# Hobart show results

- Judge:** Dane Rowley, Springwaters. Five exhibitors
- Shorn Ram under 1.5 yrs:** Sunnybanks 1, Killara 2, Maccelslie Park 3.
- Shorn Ram under 1.5 yrs shorn within 28 days:** Killara 1, Maccelslie Park 2.
- Shorn Ram born on or after August 1 previous year:** Sunnybanks 1.
- Ram Lamb:** Sunnybanks 1 & 2, Lyndowns 3.
- Shorn Ewe under 1.5 yrs., Pen of 2 ewes and Ewe Lamb:** Sunnybanks 1.
- Champion Ram:** Killara, Reserve Sunnybanks.
- Champion Ewe and Reserve:** Sunnybanks.
- Mervyn Weston Trophy and R.A.Hughes Supreme P.D. exhibit:** Sunnybanks.
- Interbreed Champion Ram:** Killara



*Champion Poll Dorset & Interbreed Champion Ram Royal Hobart Show 2023*

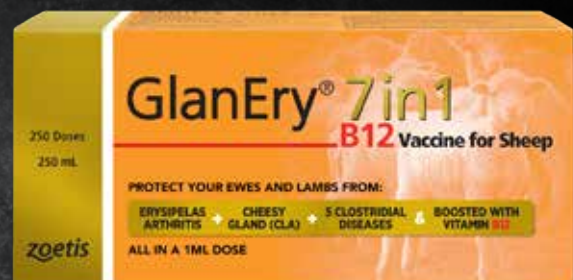
# Adelaide Royal Show results

We apologise for the lack of results from Adelaide - they were unavailable at the time of going to print.

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## THE ZOETIS STORY



### WHO WE ARE

We are a Fortune 500 global animal health company dedicated to supporting veterinarians and animal producers and their businesses in ever better ways. Building on more than 65 years of experience, we are the world leader in the discovery and delivery of quality veterinary vaccines, medicines and diagnostic products, complemented by biodevices, genetic tests, and precision livestock farming.

 **10,600**  
EMPLOYEES WORLDWIDE

 APPROXIMATELY 1,100 VETERINARY  
R&D SCIENTISTS AND SPECIALISTS

 **CUSTOMER-  
OBSESSED CULTURE**

 **100** COUNTRIES WHERE  
PRODUCTS SOLD  
45 COUNTRIES WITH DIRECT PRESENCE

 **300** PRODUCT LINES

**7** PRODUCT CATEGORIES

**8** ANIMAL SPECIES  
SUPPORTED 

 **FINANCIAL STRENGTH**  
PROVEN & SUSTAINABLE FUNDAMENTALS

**27** MANUFACTURING SITES  
IN 13 COUNTRIES 

### WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

In advancing animal health, we believe we are making a vital contribution to public health and well-being. After all, a safe, abundant and sustainable supply of meat, poultry, fish, milk and eggs begins with healthy animals. And by helping maintain the health of our pets – a growing source of companionship and emotional support – we are enriching the lives of people all over the world.

 **INCREASED URBANIZATION/  
REDUCED FARMLAND =**  
Increased pressure to raise farm animals  
efficiently with limited natural resources

 **POPULATION GROWTH +  
PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH =**  
Increased demand for animal protein/  
companionship/pet wellness

### HOW WE OPERATE

As the global leader in animal health, we are fully dedicated to serving the real-world needs of producers and veterinarians as they raise and care for their animals. In doing so, we are guided by Our Core Beliefs, a proven business model, and a track record of execution and investment that has helped us deliver strong financial results and investor returns.

### CORE CAPABILITIES



Direct customer  
relationships



High quality  
manufacturing



Continuous  
innovation

GUIDED BY OUR CORE BELIEFS

COMMITTED TO  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### WHERE WE'RE GOING

Our vision is to have our products, services and people be the most valued by animal health customers around the world. We are building and integrating a unique set of capabilities and assets to address customer needs – from prediction and prevention to detection and treatment – or what we call the Continuum of Care. Thanks to a clear strategy and a simplified way of working, we are leading the industry in helping address growing marketplace needs around pet health and improved livestock productivity.

### FOCUSED ON FIVE KEY PRIORITIES:

- Drive Innovative Growth
- Enhance Customer Experience
- Lead in Digital & Data Analytics
- Cultivate a High-Performing Organization
- Champion a Healthier, More Sustainable Future

## SALE RESULTS

STUD	STUD RAMS Sold	STUD RAMS Top	STUD RAMS Average	FLOCK RAMS Sold	FLOCK RAMS Top	FLOCK RAMS Average
Allendale	16/16	\$7,000	\$3,112	102/103	\$2,000	\$1,259
Australasian Dorset Championships	30/41	\$16,000	\$5,313			
Bo-Bar						
Chrome (Icon)				76/79	\$1,400	\$771
Coledale				96/110		\$1516
Cranbrook	6	\$5,400	\$3,717	48/48	\$2,200	\$1,665
Derrynock	18	\$14,000	\$5,400	116/125	\$2,600	\$1,530
Dursley				46/49	\$1,500	\$1,027
Englewood Park				88/88	\$2,800	\$1,452
Estjam				38/50	\$3,600	\$1,262
Fairbank				57/57	\$2,000	\$1,175
Faraday Park/Sunnybanks				20/20	\$1400	\$1020
Glen Devon				86/96	\$3,000	\$1,150
Glenore	12	\$10,000	\$3,917	66/81		\$1,535
Gooramma		\$24,000		135		\$2,302
Ilfracombe				69/98	\$2,800	\$1,120
Ivadene	13/13	\$11,500	\$3,638	78/79	\$2,200	\$1,340
Jackson				50/50	\$1,400	\$1,008
Kurralea		\$5,250		306/306		\$1,572
LSK	6	\$4,200	\$3,500	94/96	\$3,000	\$1,603
Majella				101	\$3,200	\$1,690
Melton Vale				129/119	\$2,100	\$1,208
Mulgundawa	2	\$2,600	\$2,500	130/130	\$2,400	\$1,350
Mullinger Park				168	\$3,400	\$1,318
Narranmore				70	\$4,900	\$1,580
Newbold	12	\$5,000	\$3,000	54	\$2,400	\$1,098
Paxton				75/105	\$2,400	\$1,000
Pinewalla				100/110	\$1,800	\$1,178
Ridgehaven				137/144	\$3,300	\$1,840
Rowallan	1	\$4,400		123	\$4,000	\$1,700
Springwaters	14	\$26,000	\$7,892	186	\$4,500	\$2,089
Ulandi Park		\$6,750		129/150		\$1,485
Wrattenbullie			\$4,116			\$1,371

# Farmer puts passion for genetics into practice

*Courtesy of Sally Rae, Rural Life (New Zealand)*

A driven young Southland farmer has added another string to his already busy bow with the acquisition of a sheep stud. Rural editor Sally Rae talks to Pete Gardyne about his farming philosophy.

When Pete Gardyne selects Poll Dorset rams for next mating season, he will not have to travel far.

Mr Gardyne and his wife Esther, who operate a large-scale farming operation in Southland, bought the Ohio Poll Dorset stud this year from their longtime ram supplier Trevor Potter.

Despite already having a fairly hefty sheep operation with close to 8000 ewes and about 1500 hoggets which were also lambed, the additional challenge of stud breeding has been a desire for some time.

With a passion for genetics and also a very analytical mind, there was an appeal of “getting in and going that step deeper”, Mr Gardyne said last week.

The Ohio stud, which comprises 300 ewes, was founded by Trevor's father, the late Roland Potter, at Pukerau in 1972 and is one of the country's noted Poll Dorset studs. The Gardyne and Potter families have had a long relationship.

Pete, 36, — a two-time runner-up in the Young Farmer of the Year contest — has been in charge of buying rams for the family group for about 15 years and the only ram breeder he was still buying from when he started was Mr Potter.

A few years ago, he indicated he would be interested in acquiring the stud if Mr Potter ever decided to sell, so he was the obvious choice when Mr Potter chose to scale down.

To have someone who was both keen and also a very good stockman take over was pleasing, and it was also good to see the stud going as a whole entity rather than being split up at auction, Mr Potter said.

Part of the negotiations — which was not negotiable, Mr Gardyne laughed — was the continued involvement of Mr Potter.

“I'm smart enough to know I don't know everything,” Mr Gardyne said.

Mr and Mrs Gardyne, with their sons Hayden, 9, Nathan, 7, Daniel, 5, and Aaron, 3, farm 1300ha under the name Arkley Farm. Of that, they own about 160ha and lease the remainder.

With home base at Knapdale, near Gore, the properties were spread from Pyramid to Pukerau and ranged from arable flats to fairly hard tussock country.

Their operation comprised predominantly sheep, beef, arable and some winter cow grazing.

Asked whether he preferred livestock or cropping, Mr Gardyne said he was unusual in that he genuinely enjoyed both. Blessed with a short attention span, he was keen to swap jobs around. He enjoyed working with livestock and having a team of dogs but he also enjoyed “playing with tractors” as well.

The Gardyne family has farmed with a balance of livestock and grain for almost 150 years. Mr Gardyne returned home to the

farm at the end of 2007 and spent eight years working with his parents, working his way up to managing the property while his father looked after the grain side. In 2015, his brother Michael joined the operation and there was a “rejig”.

Talking about succession was something he believed was very important. It was a hot topic and it could be “very, very hard unless the previous generation are excited about it”.

The best thing the family did was split up the day-to-day operations but kept “the big picture” together. That meant machinery was shared and livestock was sold within the group but it removed any niggles and day-to-day frustrations. It also was not that hard to do, he said.

It was important to have individual areas of responsibility.

“You don't go farming to not have freedom. You can have economies of scale without sharing a bank account,” he said.

Key to the Arkley Farm operation was its people and the Gardynes were fortunate to have good staff. They had three main blocks and each block had a stock manager.

The Poll Dorset stud was his “baby” and he did the lambing and tagging, introducing electronic identification (EID) tags.

“If they [the sheep] are in the yards, I'm there,” he said.

But he was not there for the day-to-day stock-moving side of things, although he would regularly accompany the stock managers around the paddocks to view the stock.

Having scale meant the Gardynes were fortunate when it came to adding a stud to their already busy mix.

“We can throw people at a job when we need to ... we've got the people to do that. EID will speed things up a bit on that side,” he said.

At this stage, tagging at birth was likely to continue and he really enjoyed lambing, even if it did get “a bit wet” in September. During the flooding in Southland, he was swimming half-day to day-old lambs to get to dry land while his dogs were floating backwards.

When it came to genetics in the stud breeding industry, Mr Gardyne said he was learning fast and he naturally enjoyed that side of things. He also enjoyed seeing what other studs had in their history.

The Potters had always been strong cullers and that was something that appealed to Mr Gardyne who had an on-farm policy of “no passengers”.

Sheep farmers needed to have the best sheep they could possibly have which made as much money as possible, were as easy to farm as possible, and were killed as fast as possible and at the heaviest weights possible.

For a terminal sire, he found the Poll Dorset “fitted the bill”.

“As commercial buyers, we know [the Ohio sheep] have the goods.”

When Pete and Esther split their business from his parents, they had 2000 ewes. That had grown to nearly 8000 in eight years and they had bought a lot of sheep in. But there was “genetics and there is genetics”, he said.

And in a world where there were so many things out of the control of farmers, including the weather and markets, genetics was one thing they could control.

The Gardynes tended to behave more like dairy farmers than

## ACROSS THE DITCH

sheep farmers; they earned money by finishing livestock and they wanted to put as much feed as possible into growth, rather than maintenance, maximising that growth. Efficiency was crucial.

When it came to selecting rams, Mr Gardyne said he was big on both eye appraisal and figures. He believed the sheep and beef industry was not data driven enough.

When previously buying 30 rams a year both for himself and other family members, it was most important to pick the ram breeder first. They had to be aligned with the farmer's vision and breeding objectives.

After looking at the sheep — “a Ferrari on bald tyres is a waste of time, if it's not structurally sound then it's dog tucker” — he would compare figures and have a better look.

“I'm very strict on both. If it's not sound, see you later. It's got to be both — I don't want to breed from rubbish,” he said.

When they first started farming the Knapdale property, it was in “need of love”. After taking over in July, they only tailed 85%. Then they bought ewes from the Hopcroft family and tailed 145% the following year.

“I'd like to think some management but most of that was genetics. We would have been 20 to 30 years breeding that line of sheep we bought. That's what we've done here buying 51 years of the Potters' good breeding ... I can't magic 51 years up,” he said.

At this stage, Mr Gardyne was continuing to run the stud as Mr Potter had. He would be selling stud rams at the Gore ram fair and he had taken on Mr Potter's client list and it was “business as usual”.

In the future, there were plans to expand. Like anything, expansion provided scale and “grunt” and more ability to reinvest in technology and genetics.

But there had to be balance, there could not be growth just for growth's sake, the quality had to remain. Both he and Mr Potter were interested in intramuscular fat and eating quality.

Among the Ohio flock was a special 12-year-old ewe who had twins and triplets alternate years until having single lambs the last two lambings. Both mother and offspring were doing well this year.

When it came to the future of the sheep industry, Mr Gardyne said lamb was a “wonderful product” and a lot of land was best suited to sheep.

An example was the Potters' Pukerau farm where the country was “pretty heavy” and they did not winter cattle there.

“Sheep are the best thing for a lot of places.”

On the Knapdale farm, it got dry in summer and sheep's natural feed demand suited it.

Sheep also complemented their grain operation. They cleaned up stubble after harvest, pushed chaff down into the ground to make cultivation easier, and it was a great way of returning organic matter to the soil.

As far as the current state of the sheep industry, the reality that as much as there was a desire to premium-ise what sheep farmers were producing, they were still selling on the commodity market and commodities went in cycles.

Farmers should focus on what they could control. For them, it had been genetics, regrassing, fertiliser, drainage, fencing and

making their farm “as productive as we can possibly make it”. Costs should be watched during both good and bad times.

The wool industry was a “disaster” and he believed the problem was the selling system. Every sheep farmer set the reserve price of wool and that gave a weak selling situation.

The Gardynes had been having a small-scale commercial experiment with shedding sheep. But just because they did not need shorn did not necessarily mean they were a good sheep.

“We are cautiously playing in that space with a level head,” he said.

Last year, his wool account was negative \$111,000 and that, he hastened to stress, was not a dig at their shearing contractor. Anyone who complained about shearing costs needed to pick up a handpiece, he said.

The Ohio stud would retain its prefix, which derived from Mr Potter's great-grandfather who imported cattle from Ohio in the United States for his Holstein-Friesian stud.

Mr Potter, who said Mr Gardyne had always been “very good” at picking his rams, said the highlights of stud breeding had been meeting people, including ram clients, and stud breeders from around the world, along with the challenge of striving to breed a really good animal — one that was sound and with really good figures.

Mr Gardyne said he was now looking forward to sitting down with his ram clients and seeing where he could be of help, selling rams that were going to “put money in your pocket” — “sheep that work for you, not you working for your sheep”.



*Pete Gardyne (left) with his wife Esther, holding youngest son Aaron, 3, and Trevor Potter inspect rams at the Gardyne family's home base at Knapdale, near Gore, last week.*  
PHOTOS: SALLY RAE



*Daniel, Aaron, Hayden, and Nathan Gardyne all enjoy the rural lifestyle, particularly lambing time.*



# Barrie Rae, Romney Stud (New Zealand)

**Long-time Poll Dorset breeder Barrie Rae died at home on his North Otago farm in late July.**

From a non-farming background, Barrie developed a passion for stud sheep breeding from a young age and established a Romney stud more than 60 years ago.

That was followed by the Cragniue Poll Dorset stud in 1972 with the initial purchase of 14 ewes from the Lowe family's Windermere stud.

Ironically, the ram with the biggest influence in recent years on the Cragniue flock has been a Windermere sire.

A respected stockman, Barrie enjoyed judging at shows throughout the South Island and imparting his knowledge on young people.

A highlight was judging Poll Dorsets at the 150th Canterbury A and P Show in Christchurch. Most recently, he was delighted to judge the supreme livestock exhibit, with his daughter Sally, at the Mackenzie Highland Show in Fairlie, particularly when there was a Poll Dorset in the line-up (belonging to Speed and Paula McIlraith).

However, it was a Hanoverian saddle horse which ultimately took his eye - horses being another lifelong passion, having received his first pony at the age of 3.

For many years, Barrie worked in with Andrew Brown, from the Aorere stud, and the pair Al'd extensively with Australian semen, including from the likes of the Kentish Downs, Kurralea and Hillcroft Farms studs.

That injection of genetics was to have a major impact on the Cragniue flock.

Barrie could be described as an old-fashioned stockman - a sheep had to be able to eat and walk, was always his theory - and figures came next.

His focus was very much around bone, hindquarter and constitution.

He continued to run the stud up until his death and had been excited about the upcoming progeny of an Ohio ram, purchased from Trevor Potter, at the Gore stud fair in January.

Farming was Barrie's life, although he did have another interest - breeding fancy pigeons, and he was renowned as the top breeder of white fantail pigeons in New Zealand, even importing pigeons from Australia at one point.

He was fascinated by breeding and genetics and often likened it to sheep breeding.

Barrie was an active member of the Poll Dorset breed society committee, until stepping down recently.

He enjoyed the fellowship of fellow breeders, including a memorable tour through New South Wales in the 1990s.

He is survived by his wife Lyn, son Paul and daughter Sally.



## COMMERCIAL RAM SEEDSTOCK SPECIALISTS



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This ram displays bone with a great carcass shape & true sire presence. Sired by Warburn 24 he will be used heavily in our A I program across elite ewes.

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Thankyou again to all who supported our successful 2023 Sale.

*The Hausler Team*



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**SOD:** PUNCHGROVE 170017  
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**Wt 9th Aug:** 128.5 kg

LE_DIR	BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD
0.62	0.32	10.19	15.57	-0.04	3.32
IMF	SHRFS	LMY	PWEC	TCP	LEQ
-0.44	3.56	4.37	33.15	152.66	144.18

# Ulandi Park

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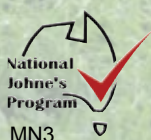
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# ADVERTISING RATES

## ADVERTISING RATES

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	Members	Commercial
Back cover	\$751	\$938
Inside front or back cover	\$601	\$751
Double page spread	\$889	\$1112
Centre spread	\$947	\$1184
Full page	\$543	\$679
Half page	\$358	\$448
Quarter page	\$219	\$274
1/8th page	\$162	\$202

## SERVICE FEES

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The following basic typesetting/layout fees will apply where professional artwork is not supplied:

Full page	\$104.50	Up to 4 photographic scans are included in the service fees. Additional scans are \$5 each.
1/2 page	\$82.50	
1/4 page	\$60.50	
1/8 page	\$49.50	

Service fees do not apply where the complete advertising copy layout is supplied as a high resolution CMYK PDF file.

**PLEASE NOTE: Advertisements:** Print ready advertisements must be supplied as a CMYK (not RGB) PDF. Full page advertisements need a 3mm bleed and crop marks.

**Supplied photographs:** When sending photographs electronically for advertising or editorial use, they need to be at least 1MB in file size and high resolution; and attached as a jpeg file.

**Word, Publisher, Powerpoint** and **other** file formats **cannot** be used for full production but may be supplied as a layout guide - however, photos must be supplied separately.

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Full page (full bleed)	303mm deep x 216mm wide
Full page bordered	270mm deep x 182 mm wide
Double page spread	303mm deep x 426mm wide
Half page (H)	130mm deep x 182mm wide
Half page (V)	270mm deep x 88mm wide
Quarter page (V)	130mm deep x 88mm wide
Quarter page (H)	62mm high x 182mm wide
One Eighth page	62mm high x 88mm wide

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All advertising and service rates are subject to change.

Issue	Advertising material	Date posted
May	Closes April 14	April 28
September	Closes August 8	August 23
December	Closes November 13	November 27


Advertising bookings required a full week before advertising material closing dates.



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