



# THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 52 / NUMBER 1

MAY 2022



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# Poll Dorset Special offers

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Available only to Australian Poll Dorset Association members.

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DEVICE

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\*Available only to Australian Poll Dorset Association members. Mention this ad and provide membership credentials when placing order. Standard freight charges applicable.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



***Firstly, as you would all probably be aware by now Sam has moved on to the big smoke (Melbourne). Alana has taken up the challenge of working with us. I would like to welcome Alana to the Poll Dorset Association, and I hope she enjoys her time with us.***

While some have had a good break to the season, others I know are still waiting and I hope it won't be too long before it does. In the meantime, most will be gearing up for lambing if you haven't already started and hopefully it all goes well for you and you don't have too much trouble with the usual problems i.e., foxes, mastitis etc.

As I write this, Prime lamb have dropped to their lowest point for some time. There are several reasons for this but hopefully a rise in prices is not too far away.

Now is the time to do your flock returns and I appeal to everyone to not put off doing them. If done straight away it will make it much easier for our office staff, especially if there are issues to sort out, then the earlier they are found the better.

The Board meeting was held in mid-March but with so much COVID around at the time, some unable to attend in person and others not comfortable travelling to Bendigo it was held online. The first day all sub committees met and on the second day the whole board came together over Zoom. I travelled to Bendigo on the second day to be with Margot and Alana in the office, this made it easier from an admin perspective. A full report of the meeting is in this magazine.

This year is an election year, not just for the Country but also for our board members. Five members have indicated that they will be retiring from board duties. I thank them for their time on the board. I also encourage all members to think about standing for nomination as it is not often, we have so many vacancies on the board all at once.

A Board member:

Should be prepared to attend 2 Board meetings during the year in March and September.

When elected a Board Member then becomes part of a sub-Committee i.e., Promotions, Finance, etc.

Should be dedicated to always promoting the breed.

If you would like further details at all, feel free to contact me or any other Board member.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Jamie Lee and Joe on the arrival of their first child, a bouncing baby boy Jed – we hope they enjoy their new life as a family of three.

In closing I hope to see you all around the shows in 2022, hopefully they will be back to as normal as we can be.

**Geoff Davey**

PRESIDENT



*Fourth Generation Poll Dorset Breeder, Eleanor Bouchier, helping out with lamb shearing at Timberlea, Picola, Vic*



## 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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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 27-29** NSW State Sheep Show  
- Dubbo
- JUNE 17-18** NSW Dorset Championships  
- Cowra
- JULY 15-17** Australian Sheep & Wool Show  
- Bendigo
- SEP 3-11** Royal Adelaide Show
- AUG 26-28** Australasian Dorset  
Championships
- SEP 22-OCT 2** Royal Melbourne Show
- SEP 24-OCT 1** Royal Perth Show
- OCT 6-8** Royal Launceston Show
- OCT** Royal Hobart Show

## ACROSS THE PENS

### ACROSS THE PENS

Thank you to those who have already completed their flock returns on the database or have mailed them back to us. If you are having any difficulty at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to Alana or me – (03) 5443 9902 – we are here to help. There is still plenty of time before late fees apply and the aim this year is to again bring the Flock Book in a timely manner.



### MEET ALANA

Alana Wilkinson joined the office on 1 February following Sam's departure – She has hit the ground running and is available every day from 9am to 3pm. Alana spent many years with Rural Finance in Victoria before it was acquired by the Bendigo Bank and became Rural Bank. Her role there was managing the Scholarship programme so will be known to some of you from that role.



### APDA BOARD

Once again Covid-19 prevented the board meeting in person in March. All members joined via Zoom and the minutes are included in this issue.

### SALE DATES

Please let us know when your sale dates are confirmed so that we may publicise them on the Poll Dorset website.

## ACROSS THE REGIONS

### Wet weather doesn't deter central vic

Due to a wet weather forecast, the venue for the Victorian Central Regions Family Day was changed from Daylesford Showgrounds to Fairburn shearing shed at Porcupine Ridge on Sunday, 3rd April, 2022. Three studs brought 15 lambs to the Region's second Lamb Extravaganza. After a picnic lunch with 16 members, Eddie Davis, ably assisted by Chelsea Wilkinson, judged the lambs in four classes. Ella Smith was a recipient of the regions Junior Certificate of Appreciation and John Harbour, from Harbours butchers, Ballarat was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation.

**Champion Ram Lamb:** Hillend Partners (R.Grieve) Clarke's Hill, Vic. Reserve: Blauvelt (P.Flanagan) Coimadai, Vic.

**Champion Ewe Lamb:** Hillend. Reserve: Blauvelt.

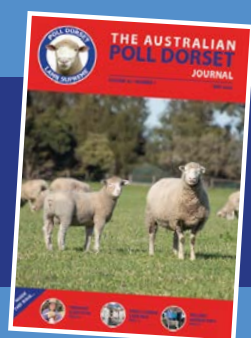
**Champion Lamb:** Hillend (Ewe Lamb).



Eleanor Grieves holding the champion lamb and Patrick Flanagan the reserve.

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### Front Page:

Ewe & Lamb, courtesy of Warrawindi Farms.

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## PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

***We are approaching the end of our 2021/22 promotions campaign. This year a "Boxing theme" was used to enhance our advertising programme. The ads were eye catching, colourful, and to the point. Print ads appeared in all the major rural papers at appropriate intervals. The positive feed back from these ads has been overwhelming.***

Our promotions campaign has been extended to encompass advertising opportunities such as face book and websites.

This year, it was an initiative of the Promotions Committee to purchase promotional material to distribute to members. The purpose behind this initiative is to have promotional material on hand for members to use at appropriate events, instead of leaving everything to the last minute. All members received bumper stickers, hats and stubbie holders. The fluro hats really stand out in a crowd and it is great to spot them on people's heads at markets and shows. Members are encouraged to contact the office if they have an event coming up and would like some merchandise to distribute.

Quite a few Regions used their funds from Regional Promotions Grants to advertise Poll Dorsets. Signs have been put up near sale yards, radio advertising has been utilised and industry websites and email feeds have all been used to promote Poll Dorsets. Well done to those Regions. It is disappointing that some regions are still not using their allocated funds.

Planning has already started for our 2022/23 campaign. I feel that we need to seriously look at TV advertising. This is an area that we have discussed before but have never really explored. TV is one of the most widely used forms of communication in Australia. There is a wide scope of advertising opportunities, and we need to get on board. The setting up costs are high but the benefits are high, with instant access to our target markets. We should not overlook this opportunity.

The Promotions Committee has repeatedly asked for more ideas for promotion from Board members and the general membership, but little has been forthcoming. As one of our industry friends says, "You can't sell a secret" and this is all too true. So, lets have your ideas, your photos and your input.

Alana Wilkinson has been appointed to take Sam's place. The Promotions Committee looks forward to meeting and working with her in the future. I would like to thank Margot, Patrick and Jamie Lee, who are all working hard to give Poll Dorsets a new, modern and up to date look. There are exciting opportunities ahead and we need to make the most of them to stay relevant in our industry.

### Alistair Sutherland

PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

## MARCH BOARD MINUTES

*The board Meeting of the Australian Poll Dorset Association Inc was held at Sheep House, 1/6 Merino Court, East Bendigo on Wednesday and Thursday, March 16 & 17, 2022 via Zoom.*

### PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present at Sheep House was Geoff Davey and via Zoom Isabelle Roberts, Damon Coats, Tania King, Alistair Sutherland, James Corcoran, James Frost, Garry Armstrong, Rod Davies, Will Milroy, Sascha Squiers, Andrea Rowett, Laurie Fairclough. Andrew Scott was an apology.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The financial statement and budget were received:

The following motions were resolved:

**"That the Budget be accepted"**

Carried

**"That a Share portfolio subcommittee be formed with President Geoff Davey, Treasurer Sascha Squiers and member George Carter"**

Carried

### PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Jamie Lee Oldfield and Patrick Falconer joined the meeting. Discussion centred on the continuation of the current branding and introduce further promotion and promotional products this year.

The following motions were passed:

**"That we accept the ACM proposal with an allowance for additional spend in Tasmania"**

Carried

**"That we do a trial in one major lamb producing area in each of the five states using TV advertising"**

Carried

**"That we add pens to our list of promotional products"**

Carried

### MAJOR EVENT FUNDING

The following motion was passed

CW NSW region - \$2200 for sponsorship of Sydney University Intercollegiate Meat Judging team.

Adelaide region - \$1,000 Advertising funding for 2022

Central Western NSW - \$3000 primarily for social media and video production.

CW Region Poll Dorset Youth Day - \$1000

WA APDA - \$2,100 for advertising and promotion

The motion was passed – **"That smaller regions funding to be extended so that they may still apply for \$2,000 and larger regions can apply for \$4,000"**

Carried



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## MARCH BOARD MINUTES

### FLOCK REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

New members endorsed were –

- Ben Evandell, Noojee
- Lachlan Charlton
- Grant Rothe
- Bill Harris
- Mulwaree High School
- Elliot Banghart
- Penny Hoy

The following motion was passed –

**From a ewe transfer fee perspective, “That the age of transfer of lambs be changed from six months down to three months”** Carried

### HUMAN RESOURCES

The following motion was passed –

**“That the APDA accept the increase in fees as outlined in the letter from the ASBA”** Carried

### MAJOR SHOW APPOINTMENTS

- Sheepvention – Laurie Fairclough, Stockdale
- NSW Dorset Championships – Joe Scott, Valley Vista
- Australian Sheep and Wool Show - Robert Grieve, Hillend
- Sydney – James Corcoran Snr - Gooramma
- Melbourne Royal - Sascha Squiers, Dongadilling/Shirlee Downs
- Adelaide – Damon Coats, Ilfracombe



Photo courtesy of Emi Hughes, Bernalta Stud, Sampson Flat SA

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# Frensham flocks to Poll Dorsets

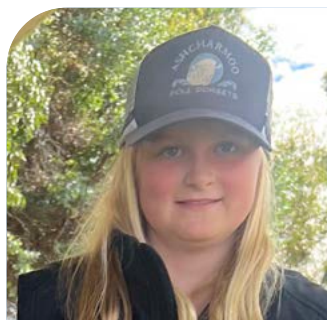
*Courtesy of Leonie Mutch, Agriculture Teacher and Coordinator of the Livestock Team Frensham, Mittagong, NSW*

Frensham is a girls boarding school located in Mittagong, south of Sydney. The school runs a small flock of Poll Dorsets as which are used in the teaching of Agriculture from Years 9 – 12. The flock is also managed by the Frensham Sheep Team which consists of 25 girls from Year 7 – 12 who comes from the Southern Highlands, Sydney, rural NSW and interstate. The Team competes a range of local agricultural shows such as Crookwell, Goulburn and Camden and has, on occasion, competed at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The school's Poll Dorset flock originated in 2018 with the generous support from Lorraine, Brian and James Frost from Hillden Poll Dorset Stud, Bannister, who initially supplied the school with some ewes and a ram. James Frost also provided further support through assisting the Sheep Team with instruction in preparing sheep for shows. James also supported our local Show Group, South Coast and Tablelands though providing sheep, and his Overjudge expertise, for Young Judges competitions on several occasions. More recently, James Corcoran Snr and James Corcoran Jnr, Gooramma Poll Dorset Stud, Galong, have provided the school with some ewe lambs to add new bloodlines into the flock.

This year we have also been very fortunate to have Narlisa Cooper, Ashcharmoo Poll Dorset Stud, Marulan (and a Frensham parent) assist the students on a weekly basis during

Sheep Team training. Narlisa has shared her considerable knowledge of sheep production and preparing and showing sheep with the students. The valuable advice and generous support from these experienced and successful sheep breeders have been greatly appreciated by the Frensham Sheep Team.



**Name:** Charlotte Cooper

**Age:** 12 – Year 7

**Where do you live?** Marulan, NSW

**Why did you get involved with the school's sheep program?** I got involved in the sheep program because I like showing sheep and hanging out with the girls on most afternoons.

**What's your favourite part of working with sheep?** My favourite part about working with sheep is getting hands-on with the animal.

**What is your favourite sheep's name and why is it your favourite?** My favourite sheep name is 'Bully'. He is a big ram that sired some of our lambs and all of his offspring have his personality.

**What is your biggest achievement in agriculture?** My biggest achievement in agriculture is probably being able to handle animals.

**What do you want to do when you finish school?** When I finish school, I would like to go to university and one day become a Veterinarian.

SAVE THE NEW DATE



# August 5th

## 2022

Hosted by the  
South Western Region  
at the  
Finley Showgrounds

# POLL DORSET

# YOUTH DAY

youth@polldorset.org.au





**Name:** Sophie Hanrahan

**Age:** 14 – Year 9

**Where do you live?** Glenquarry, Southern Highlands, NSW

**Why did you get involved with the school's sheep program?** In Year 7, my

friends joined the Team and I thought it would be fun to try something different. I ended up really enjoying it and continued in Year 8 and now in Year 9.

**What's your favourite part of working with sheep?**

I like working with animals in general, and sheep are just easy to be around. They are really funny sometimes when we are drafting them. None of them will go and then suddenly they will all be sprinting.

**What is your favourite sheep's name and why is it your favourite?** I don't really have a favourite name for a sheep, but my favourite sheep would have to be one of the more jumpy ones. They make life interesting when you are trying to lead them.

**What is your biggest achievement in agriculture?**

I haven't really had many achievements to do with agriculture, but I have won some ribbons at shows, such as the Crookwell show.

**What do you want to do when you finish school?** I

haven't really thought about it much, but I would like to go to university and study some sort of science, or medicine.



**Name:** Lucy Arnott

**Age:** 16 – Year 11

**Where do you live?** Coolah, Central West, NSW

**Why did you get involved with the school's sheep program?** I live on a sheep producing farm and

growing up I loved to go and help dad with sheep work. When I came to Frensham I was homesick and the sheep program offered me something that I have known all my life, at school. With encouraging staff and older students in the sheep team, I have enjoyed showing sheep as part of Frensham's sheep program which was something that I had not experienced before I came to Frensham.

**What's your favourite part of working with sheep?**

I like working with sheep because they are much quieter than cattle and they respond well to human contact. I also like that they are smaller than humans, so they are much safer for kids - so I grew up working sheep not cattle.

**What is your favourite sheep's name and why is it your favourite?** My favourite sheep is Janice who is a Poll Dorset two-tooth ewe who we show at school. She is my favourite because she is really friendly, and she is a bit fat so she cannot run away that fast, so I can put the halter on her. Janice also went really well at Crookwell Show where she came second in the Poll Dorset ewe two-tooth class. She is named after a lady that lives on the farm next to ours, Jan.

**What is your biggest achievement in agriculture?** My biggest achievement in agriculture was at Robertson Show in 2019 when I was in Year 8, where I was participating in the Grain Young Judges Competition. Not coming off a cropping farm I hadn't handled much grain. However, studying grain at school meant that I came first in the competition for junior grain judging

**What do you want to do when you finish school?**

When I finish school, I would like to become an Agricultural Engineer and a Grazier growing sheep and cattle. Growing up on the land I know that my passion lies in agriculture, and I really like maths and engineering at school.

### Charlotte Close is the coordinator of the YOUTH YARNS SECTION

If you have any ideas or contributions to make relating to youth involved with Poll Dorsets please email [youth@polldorset.org.au](mailto:youth@polldorset.org.au)



**Central West NSW Poll Dorset Youth Day**  
**Thursday 4th August 2022**  
**Cowra Showground**  
**High School age - 25yrs**

**For more details contact Ruth 0438642113**



# Around the Show Mat

**Goulburn Show** held on the 5th March 2022. Judged by Gordon Close, Closeup Poll Dorset Stud, Finley, NSW. The Poll Dorset competition was entirely youth handled, with Aschamoo Poll Dorset Stud (Charlotte and Ashley Cooper), Frensham School and Elizabeth McArthur High School competing.



Participants in handlers competition at Goulburn Show: Bec Halcomb, Alexia Hypatidis, Mont Gill, Charlotte Cooper, Kayla Maclaren, Zaylen Kendall, Tom Bradley, Alec Croker



Elizabeth McArthur High won Reserve Champion Ewe, with Alec Croker handling. Aschamoo won Champion Ewe, which went on to win sheep of the show. Charlotte Cooper holding the ewe also went on to win Junior Handler.

**Glen Innes Show** (Below) held on 12th February and **Walcha Show** (Right) held on 12th March.



Abelene Park also had Champion Poll Dorset Ram and Interbreed Champion Ram at Glen Innes

**Lang Lang Show** held on 15th January 2022. Judged By Charlotte Close, Closeup Poll Dorset Stud.



Josh Poulton of Dianella Poll Dorset Stud, Riddells Creek, exhibited Champion Ram, Ewe & Lamb for Poll Dorset Section and Reserve Interbreed Champion Ewe at the Lang Lang Show.



Abelene Park Poll Dorset Stud's Tobi (12) and Maiya (10) Douglas exhibited Interbreed Champion Pair of Rams, Interbreed Champion Ram & Supreme Sheep of Show at Walcha.



# Australia seals FTA deals with India and UK

The Australian sheepmeat industry have welcomed the signing of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA). The agreement eliminates the current 30 per cent import tariff levied on Australian sheepmeat on entry into force. Australia has only exported 111 tonnes of sheepmeat to India over the past 5 years, with premium cuts making up the majority of this trade.

"This focus will undoubtedly continue, with Australian sheepmeat helping meet the ongoing import demand in India for quality product servicing 5-star catering and high-end retail segments." Roger Fletcher, Australian Meat Industry Council Board & Director Fletcher International Exports said. "The agreement fits well with Australia's diversified portfolio of export markets, whereby our industry carefully matches specific cuts with market segments and cuisines. The removal of the tariff will go a long way to providing more certainty for this trade – especially as the majority of other global sheepmeat customers are paying significantly less duty when importing Australian lamb and mutton."

In addition to eliminating sheepmeat tariffs, the agreement binds the tariff on raw skins and hides at zero and eliminates the 10 per cent tariff on processed skins/hides.

Australia and the United Kingdom have also formally agreed to immediate tariff-free quotas on a number of Australian exports, with plans to remove the taxes entirely in a decade. The Australia-UK FTA will deliver benefits and opportunities for many Australian producers. For sheep meat this means Australia will have immediate access to a tariff-free quota of 25,000 tonnes rising to 75,000 tonnes in year 10, with tariffs eliminated after ten years.

"Through the agreement Australia is well placed to leverage 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," said Bonnie Skinner CEO Sheep Producers Australia.

## 2021 saleyards survey

The 2021 edition of MLA's annual saleyards survey is out now. The results reinforce that industry is in both a sheep flock and cattle herd rebuild, with less transactions taking place as producers retain livestock. In 2021, there were 17 million saleyard transactions made across both livestock species, down 10.2 per cent from the 18.9m transactions recorded in FY20.

Sheep make up 79 per cent of all saleyard transactions at 13.4 million head, while the remaining 3.5 million head of saleyard transactions are cattle.

While most saleyards experienced a decline in throughput, Guyra, Deniliquin, Gracemere, Mareeba, Mortlake, Casterton, Ballarat, Warracknabeal and Naracoorte experienced increases of over 10 per cent. Wagga remains the largest saleyard in Australia, transacting 1.8 million sheep and 113,000 cattle in the 12 months to June 30, 2021.

11 per cent of all national sheep transactions occur through Wagga. Collectively, the top five saleyards of Ballarat, Hamilton, Bendigo, Wagga and Forbes contribute 37 per cent of all

sheep yardings. Hamilton overtook Bendigo as Victoria's second largest sheep selling centre, while Leongatha overtook Barnawartha as Victoria's biggest cattle market.

## Above median April to June rainfall likely

April to June rainfall is likely to be above median for northern WA, the NT, Queensland, eastern NSW and scattered areas of Victoria (chance of exceeding median is greater than 60 per cent), increasing to very likely (chances of exceeding median is greater than 80 per cent) for far northern Western Australia, northern NT and northern Queensland.

Below median rainfall is likely for a small area of western Tasmania (chance of exceeding median is less than 40 per cent). Elsewhere, there are roughly equal chances of above or below median rainfall (chance of exceeding the median is close to 50 per cent).

There is an increased chance of unusually high rainfall (in the top 20 per cent of historical records) for April to June across the northern half of Australia (up to 4 times the usual chance) and eastern NSW (1.5 times the usual chance). However, it should be noted that in tropical areas the wet season is drawing to a close, meaning average rainfall at this time of the year is starting to decrease.

The May outlook shows a wetter month is likely for small scattered parts of the north, and a drier month is likely for parts of the south-west and near the western NSW-Queensland border, but most areas have roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier month.

## Sheep Producers Australia new CEO

Sheep Producers Australia has announced the appointment of Ms Bonnie Skinner as the new Chief Executive Officer. Ms Skinner has broad experience working within the agricultural sector and has been an integral part of Sheep Producers Australia's team having commenced working with the organisation in July 2018 as the Product Integrity Policy Manager to being appointed the Deputy CEO in 2021.

"Bonnie has been appointed after an extensive and thorough Australia-wide recruitment process. The Board and I are delighted that she has been successful and look forward to continuing to work with her on behalf of the industry," said Andrew Spencer SPA Chair.

"Bonnie has an extensive background in biosecurity and animal science, with a strong balance of practical experience and understanding of the political considerations associated with the red meat industry supply chain. Bonnie has been acting in the role of CEO since October 2021 and was the preferred candidate amongst a very strong field."

"Sheep meat production is a significant industry that supports nearly every region in southern Australia and has underpinned the prosperity of the country and employed generations of Australians. As CEO, I will continue to advocate on issues that affect sheep production businesses and to ensure a productive, profitable and sustainable sheep industry. This is the time to embrace a culture of collaboration and innovation," said Ms Skinner.

## Flock numbers on the rise

*Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia and ABARES*

The national flock is predicted to grow by 4.9 per cent to 74.4 million head in 2022, reaching its highest level since 2013, according to Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) latest Sheep Industry Projections.

Continued strong seasonal conditions across key sheep producing states of New South Wales and Victoria, as well as a favourable autumn and winter rainfall for Western Australia in 2021 were the key drivers in boosting the flock's growth in 2022.

MLA's Market Information Manager, Stephen Bignell, said with continued strong domestic production conditions and slaughter volumes expected to increase significantly in 2022, the Australian sheepmeat industry had outperformed expectations.

"With an influx of lambs expected to hit the market in early to mid-2022, slaughter volumes are predicted to reach 21.6 million head in 2022 meanwhile sheep slaughter is expected to reach six million head in 2022, marking a 17.6 per cent increase on 2021 levels," Mr Bignell said.

"Given the abundance of feed across the key lamb producing regions of eastern Australia during both 2020 and 2021, average national lamb carcase weights are expected to gain a modest 0.2kg to reach 25kg in 2022.

"Production is set to increase in the next few years to record levels. In 2023 it is predicted that production for lamb will be at an all-time high of 567,000 tonnes which will subsequently flow through to higher exports.

"Overall, Australia's sheepmeat industry is positioned to strengthen, and confidence remains high across most parts of the industry, including the production end where seasonal conditions and overall historical market prices have never been more favourable."

Mr Bignell said as the high-value Australia-UK- Free Trade Agreement (A-UK FTA) comes into effect later in 2022, the Australian sheepmeat industry was in a well-built position to further strengthen and capture global opportunities in both emerging and established markets.

"Australia will benefit from enhanced access to the UK market. This will include a tariff-free volume of 25,000 tonnes of sheepmeat in year one, increasing to 75,000 tonnes by year 10," Mr Bignell said.

"Australia is likely to emerge as the only country with the production and transport infrastructure available to meet supply challenges over the next decade as well as ongoing demand from markets that lack the capacity for domestic supply."

### Flock

In 2021, the sheep flock was at its largest size since 2017 with a projected total of 70.9 million head. After years of drought induced turn-off, flock growth continues to increase steadily on the back of encouraging seasonal conditions. MLA forecasts that the national flock will reach 74.4 million in 2022, marking an 4.9 per cent increase on 2021 levels.

### Slaughter

In 2021, lamb slaughter was predicted to reach 20.25 million head, approximately 350,000 head higher than 2020. Due to the large size of the 2021 lamb cohort MLA expect a promising influx of lambs to hit the market in early 2022, with lamb slaughter expected to reach 21.60 million head in 2022. Meanwhile, sheep slaughter is expected to reach six million head in 2022, marking a 17.6 per cent increase, or 900,000 head on 2021 levels. These projections for higher sheep slaughter represent the maturation of the Australian sheep flock rebuild and follows consecutive years where older ewes have been retained on-farm. COVID continues to challenge the processing sector. If unresolved, labour shortages could significantly affect Australian abattoirs and reduce slaughter capacity at a traditionally critical time of year for lamb processing

### Carcase weights

MLA isn't forecasting significant changes to carcase weights in 2022. Given the abundance of feed across the key lamb producing regions of eastern Australia during both 2020 and 2021, average national lamb carcase weights are expected to gain a modest 0.2kg to reach 25kg in 2022. Price premiums for trade and heavy weight lambs continue to provide producers with an incentive to add additional kilos to animals.

### Shearing

Over the last two installments of MLA and AWI's Wool and Sheepmeat survey, the percentage of Merino breeding ewes has fallen from 76 per cent to 72 per cent, highlighting a move away from wool production to meat production. This move towards meat production can be attributed to several factors including lower wool returns, higher lamb prices and difficulties in sourcing Shearers. The difficulty in sourcing shearing staff is a result of increasing shearing rates in New Zealand, which has reduced the number of NZ shearers who choose to work in Australia. The shearer shortage has led many producers to extend the period between shearings, sometimes to two shearings every three years. Additionally, some producers are paying above the standard rate to secure shearers – putting upward pressure on shearing costs. In the last three years since February 2019, the EMI (Eastern Market Indicator) which measures wool price performance has fallen by 28 per cent, from 1,934¢/kg back to 1,389. In the corresponding period, the National Trade Lamb Indicator has increased by 30 per cent to 865¢/kg.

### Major export market summary

	2021 tonnes	YOY % change	2021 market share	2021 tonnes top 5 cuts	2021 top 5 cut %	Grassfed 2021	Grainfed 2021	Chilled 2021	Frozen 2021
China	120,224.20	1.40%	35.30%	62,147.64	51.70%	120,224.20	-	-	120,224.20
United States	93,349.09	18.80%	73.30%	62,559.24	67.00%	93,349.09	-	40,446.47	52,902.62
Malaysia	25,819.55	3.80%	86.10%	20,793.73	80.50%	25,819.55	-	68.21	25,751.34
Dubai	16,829.72	-3.50%	63.50%	12,830.12	76.20%	16,829.72	-	11,556.40	5,273.32
South Korea	16,104.50	-1.00%	92.10%	9,980.06	62.00%	16,104.50	-	5,922.62	10,181.88

Source: MLA, IHS, DAWE



## Labour shortages

In 2022, labour shortages are expected to be an area of significant concern for the red meat industry right across the entire supply chain. The shortages that industry will face will affect the availability of farm hands and managers, through to boning room staff in processing plants as well as truck drivers. The impacts of a labour shortage on the processing sector are difficult to forecast or quantify. However, securing more staff through skilled and non-skilled visa programs will be critical to ensure reliable supply to both the domestic and international markets of Australian sheepmeat. New government visa programs are a welcome development and should provide red meat businesses with access to a larger employee pool.

## Global supply chain disruption

Supply chains and logistics are a major hurdle for the sheepmeat industry in 2022 and 2023. The issue covers both the difficulty in getting product to the desired market and the cost of freight. Ongoing disruption, initially stemming from COVID-19, has seen continued delays and large price increases in shipping routes globally. Shipping costs worldwide have increased by 434 per cent in 2021, with many ships initially earmarked for smaller routes redirected to larger ones, while shipping companies rapidly raise prices and change schedules to meet market conditions. Locally, this has been felt through higher prices, greater uncertainty and delivery delays.

## Domestic demand for sheepmeat

With uncertainties and trade tensions in the international markets, the importance of the domestic market is increasing. Localising more of the Australian meat consumption lowers the impact of supply disruptions associated with international events. Lamb consumption in Australia makes up a large proportion of total global lamb consumption. However, the domestic utilisation of lamb has been gradually dropping since 2015. Australia domestically consumed 60,645 tonnes of lamb in the March quarter of 2015, falling to 39,751 tonnes in the September quarter of 2021. The quarterly utilisation has cumulatively dropped by 34 per cent, whereas the retail price has increased 40 per cent over the same period, trending upwards from \$13.29/kg to \$18.59/kg. The sales volume of lamb shows strong resilience to the price movement in Australia's domestic meat sector. In 2021, the retail price of lamb remained relatively stable. Compared to the 11 per cent growth of the beef and veal retail prices, the quarter-on-quarter increase for the lamb price in the September quarter of 2021 was less than 1 per cent. Meanwhile, chicken and pork saw a decline of 0.4 per cent. The relative price change among the major proteins suggests consumers are shifting their consumption towards cheaper meats.

## Global markets summary

2021 saw over one million tonnes of sheepmeat exported globally, down 6.1 per cent on 2020 volumes. Australia was the largest exporter, followed by New Zealand and the UK, which shipped 62,000 tonnes. China remained the largest import market for sheepmeat at 372,000 tonnes, followed by the US, which imported over 115,000 tonnes, and the UK, at 43,000 tonnes (Source: IHS Markit). In Australia, overall sheepmeat exports increased by 0.5%. At the same time, the overall value of sheepmeat exports rose by 5.3 per cent to \$3.96 billion. This reflected a strong increase in the unit value of sheepmeat products from Australia, with each unit of sheepmeat valued at \$9.05/kilogram compared to \$8.54/kg in 2020. The volume of chilled sheepmeat exports dropped by 12.2 per cent, while frozen exports increased in 2021 by 4.9 per cent. Lamb

represented 65.3 per cent of total exports, while mutton accounted for 34.7 per cent. Exports into the US increased by 18.7 per cent in 2021, to 93,349 tonnes. Of this, chilled lamb accounted for 43.3 per cent, frozen lamb accounted for 32.3 per cent and frozen mutton accounted for the remaining 24.4 per cent. Over the decade, Australian sheepmeat exports are projected to increase by 20 per cent to 488,000 tonnes per annum in 2031 (Source: OECD/FAO).

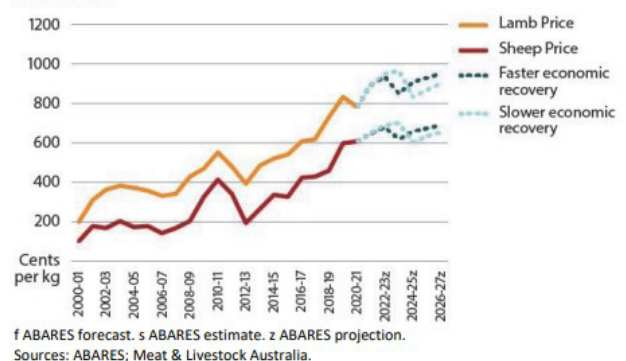
## Price

The 2022 saleyard prices for sheepmeat categories have been mixed, however they are outperforming the long-term historical averages. In 2021–22, lamb saleyard prices are expected to increase 14 per cent to 893 cents per kg, whilst sheep saleyard prices are expected to rise 7 per cent to 648 cents per kg. Lamb prices in the current financial year have been supported by strong export demand from the United States. Lamb and sheep prices are expected to rise over the short-term to 2022–23 due to strong export demand in the United States. If the pace of the global economic recovery is slow, prices are expected to continue increasing until 2023–24, as higher global inflation supports global demand for sheep meat. However, over the medium term to 2026–27, domestic lamb and sheep prices will also be influenced by seasonal conditions. Although the timing of a dry year is uncertain, the occurrence of drought-like conditions is expected to weigh on saleyard prices in both scenarios.

## Value

The gross value of production of the sheep meat industry is forecast to break a new record of over \$5 billion in 2021–22, supported by record high prices and rising sheep meat production. Global inflation is expected to ease by the middle of 2022 and global incomes are expected to rise. As a result, lamb prices are expected to rise by 5%, averaging 934 cents per kg in 2022–23. Sheep prices are expected to average 678 cents per kg in the same year. Prices could rise more quickly if global inflation remains high. In this scenario, inflation is expected to come down in 2024–25. This longer period of inflation would support sheep meat prices in the short term to 2023–24 but weigh on prices over the medium term to 2026–27. By 2026–27, the value of the sheep meat industry is expected to range between \$5.6 billion and \$6.1 billion depending on the path of global economic recovery (Figure 12.1). The value of Australian sheep meat exports is forecast to reach \$4.4 billion in 2021–22. This is being driven by strong sheep meat exports to the United States. By 2026–27, dependent on the scenario, the value of exports is expected to be between \$4.6 billion and \$5.1 billion. In the slower economic recovery scenario, meat prices in the US are expected to continue rising faster than general inflation over the next two years.

**Figure 12.2 Lamb and sheep saleyard prices in Australia, 2000–01 to 2026–27**







# GREYWOOD

## Poll Dorset Stud



**1st on property ram sale  
September 2022**

**Dubbo NSW**

**Ram pictured:** 200792 - Semen Sales Available

For enquiries please contact **Charlie Coddington** on 0477 864 994

Find us on Social Media





## World-leading technologies

*Courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia*

World-leading objective measurement technologies in lamb were on show last month at a special event held at Gundagai Meat Processors (GMP) in Gundagai, NSW.

GMP has been working in partnership with Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) to enable the objective measurement, sortation and future grading of lamb carcasses under the new Meat Standards Australia (MSA) cuts-based model.

Guests to the event were given the opportunity to see the technology in action, which can measure hot carcass weight, lean meat yield and intramuscular fat (IMF) in lamb. These measurements can then be inputted into the new MSA model for sheepmeat, which will predict the eating quality of nine cut by cook method outcomes (grill and roast) for each carcass.

"This is an incredibly exciting development and one we have been working towards for a number of years," said Jason Strong, MLA Managing Director. "As an industry we are not far off MSA grading for lamb, much like we already do in beef."

"These technologies enable the development of value-based payment systems based on eating quality, leanness and other attributes desired by consumers," said Mr Strong.

"Feedback provided to producers based on these technologies can be used to incentivise continual on-farm improvement in lamb production, ensuring greater compliance and a greater ability to consistently meet market specifications."

The technologies and methods on show at GMP included:

- Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) - an objective

measurement tool to assess lean meat yield, bone and fat composition of each carcass.

- MEQ Probe - a needle probe that uses spectral imaging to measure the amount of intramuscular fat in lamb carcasses.
- MSA grading - uses hot carcass weight, lean meat yield and intramuscular fat to predict a quality score for nine cut by cook methods for each carcass.
- Health 4 Wealth - a standardised approach to the collection and feedback of animal disease and defect data to producers.
- Radio frequency identification - hook tracking of processing gambrels which are read to provide individual carcass tracking and sortation.
- Feedback to producers - enhanced systems which communicate the performance of individual animals in the consignment against the target specification, which can now include new eating quality measures.

For Will Barton, Chief Executive Officer at GMP, these technologies have the potential for processors and brand owners to segment their production and generate greater returns.

"These technologies provide us a more in-depth analysis of intramuscular fat and lean-meat yield in lamb, so we can use this information to market our brand and products to better meet the needs of our customers," said Mr Barton.

"Traditionally, lamb in Australia is of a high-quality but subject to variations of quality. These new technologies allow us to grade and sort carcasses to achieve a more consistent and improved eating quality."

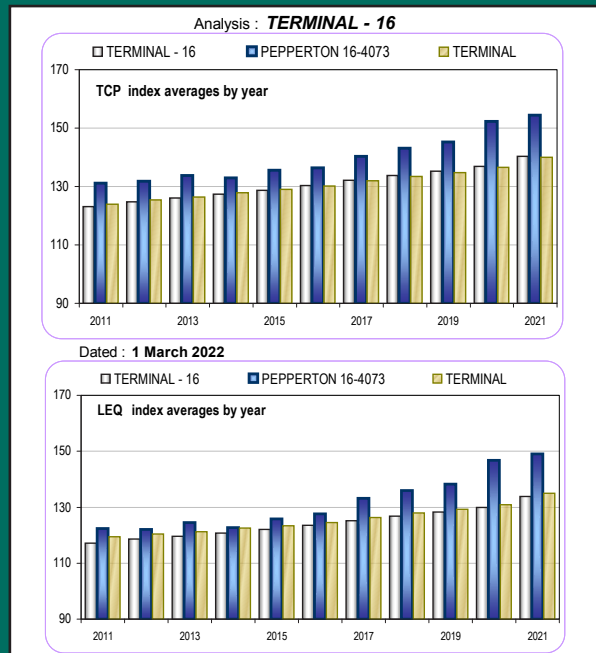
"Producing MSA-quality lamb will help us to compete with other premium proteins. With this technology, our lamb will be of the consistently high quality that our domestic and international customers expect. Aussies who love their lamb have a lot to look forward to," said Mr Barton.

## "Pepperton" Poll Dorsets

Sale Wednesday 12 October at 1pm  
On Property and Online



Semen available in Pepperton 200179 and 200200



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Pepperton Farm, Elmore, Vic  
**Mob:** 0428 326 190  
**Email:** pepperton@bigpond.net.au  
**Website:** pepperton.com.au

The total conformation and performance package



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## Annual Sale - Thursday 13th October

### \* Exciting sires include \*

- Linton 625/16
- Rangeview 65/19
- Old Woombi 135/12
- Old Woombi 425/18
- Derrynock 400/19
- Derrynock 57/20



(photo taken after rams used for 2022 joining)

id	wwt	pwwt	pfat	pemd	TCP	LEQ	sire
16/21	11.5	17.6	-0.5	3.0	160.4	158.2	OW 425
78/21	12.3	19.3	-0.5	2.0	158.0	159.0	L 625
128/21	11.4	17.8	-0.8	3.1	160.2	153.2	R 65
257/21	11.2	16.2	0.2	4.3	155.5	145.2	D 400
356/21	12.0	18.6	0.3	3.6	160.3	160.2	D 57



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COMMERCIAL FOCUS - COMMERCIAL RESULTS



# \$68 million to step up ag traceability

More than \$68 million in Australian Government funding will shore up Australia's agricultural traceability systems and increase access to premium overseas markets.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud said investing in strong traceability frameworks and systems could add up to \$1 billion a year to the bottom line of Australian farmers.

"We're working with the states and territories and industry to create the National Agricultural Traceability Alliance and National Agricultural Traceability Hub," Minister Littleproud said.

"It will bring industry groups, research bodies, state and territory bodies and governments and together. We're organising a National Traceability Summit so we can all share our ideas and map out how we can work to make the most of this multi-million dollar investment. The hub will be a way for government and industry groups to work together to create successful traceability projects that will deliver financial benefits to our farmers.

"Traceability systems will continue to show consumers that our products are safe, clean and meet sustainability standards.

"Customers have shown they are willing to pay more for a product that can meet provenance and sustainability standards so our farmers will get a better price for their product.

"On the other side of the coin, by using the latest technology and data we are helping our farmers reduce their costs of production."

### Fast Facts:

- Australia could lock in between \$400 million and \$1 billion of additional value if traceability can demonstrate provenance, sustainability or organics. For example, certified 'grass fed beef' gets an additional \$1 per kilogram in the US market, of which half goes back to the grower.
- Harmonisation of traceability frameworks and regulatory technology could save businesses \$225-\$325 million per year by reducing staffing and streamlining paper processes.
- Enhancements to improve the speed and accuracy of traceability could reduce the economic impact of a biosecurity outbreak by 78-89 percent over ten years, saving \$15-\$17 billion.

Sheep Producers Australia has welcomed the announcement.

"This is the time to embrace a culture of collaboration between jurisdictions and across supply chains in order to protect and enhance Australia's multi-billion dollar red-meat and livestock industries," SPA CEO Bonnie Skinner said.

"National traceability reform will ensure that livestock traceability can evolve and meet future biosecurity and market access requirements as well as unlock productivity gains throughout the supply chain, securing a strong future for sheep producers both domestically and within our global markets.

"Traceability is key to maintaining our international reputation and securing international market premiums for Australian sheep producers. We know we produce some of the best produce in the world. By enhancing traceability and transparency at every step in the supply chain, we can make sure the rest of the world knows this as well."



## 18TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

### Wednesday 5th October 2022

▶ **Featuring 15 Elite Poll Dorset & 160 Flock Rams**  
Highlights include impressive sons of Mallee Park 36, Rangeview 007, Janmac 21 & a select group of Bruan 309 sons.

Inspection of Ram Lambs is encouraged & several are eye-catching at this early stage. Thankyou to all who supported us in 2021.



### POLL DORSET & WHITE SUFFOLK STUDS

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# PROVEN POLL DORSET GENETICS



## ANNUAL SPRING RAM SALE

**Tuesday 27 September 2022**

On-Property - Arian Park, NSW

Online - Sale interfaced with AuctionsPlus

**12.30PM EST**

**350  
RAMS**

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always  
welcome.



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# Terminal Index now includes lambing ease

*Courtesy of Gabby Sherring, LAMBPLAN Development Officer*

Annually Sheep Genetics implements enhancements to the LAMBPLAN evaluation to provide breeders with the latest tools to make genetic gain. This year the Sheep Genetics analysis will undergo significant enhancements that breeders can expect to see results from in early May. The enhancements that impact the Terminal LAMBPLAN analysis include:

- the redevelopment of our Sheep Genetics database systems
- improved accuracy calculation logic
- refinement and rollout of the Data Quality Score (DQS) and Ramping Up Genetic Gain Reports
- Terminal Index update to include Lambing Ease
- Enhancements to the Sheep Genetics website including reporting of results

### The redevelopment of the Sheep Genetics database systems

The database redevelopment will involve consolidating the LAMBPLAN, MERINOSELECT and Research databases into a single data warehouse. As many of us know, there have been significant advances to technology since LAMBPLAN was created more than 30 years ago, and the volume of LAMBPLAN records, especially since the inclusion of genomic information have become available, has grown extensively. From early May LAMBPLAN runs will be created from the new Sheep Genetics database. This will also put us in a good place to integrate the Sheep Genetics data with data from other parts of the sheep supply chain, such as NLIS and processors, when it becomes available.

What you can expect to see: Breeders can expect to see some movement in their breeding values as a result of enhanced ways of exporting the data to the analysis.

### Improved accuracy calculation

The growing number of genotypes in our LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT evaluations pose issues with computational time for our runs. There has been extensive development work to improve the logic in the evaluation to make sure we can still provide you with breeding value results within 10 days of a run cut off. One of the developments being implemented this year is the improved accuracy calculation logic. This is the way in which we calculate the accuracy that is published along with all ASBVs and indexes.

What you can expect to see: Breeders can expect to see small movements in the accuracy published alongside their breeding values.

### Rollout of the Data Quality Score

We have been road testing the Data Quality Score at multiple Regional Forums and breeder events, gathering your feedback on what you love and would like to improve on. We have developed the Data Quality Score to be included in the Ramping Up Genetic Gain reports, which will be ready for Sheep Genetics clients to access on the search site in early May. If you'd like help to interpret your DQS, please reach out to Sheep Genetics.

What you can expect to see: Breeders and their service providers can routinely access the Data Quality Score and Ramping Up Genetic Gain report via the results section of the Sheep Genetics website. These reports will be refreshed every run.

### Inclusion of Lambing Ease in all Terminal Indexes

Sheep Genetics undertook an index review, where we surveyed a range of people from the sheep industry about our indexes in each of the analyses. This review highlighted the industry's desire to emphasise the importance of improving weaning rates and reducing lambing losses at birth. To incorporate this feedback into our indexes, we have included the Lambing Ease (LE) ASBV into all Terminal indexes (TCP, EQ and LEQ). Having LE included will allow reduced mortalities of lambs, less labour required for lambing assistance and increased weaning rates.

What you can expect to see: Breeders can expect to see some movements in the TCP, EQ and LEQ indexes as a result of the inclusion of the LE ASBV in the index. These changes are small and generally impact those animals with an unfavourable LE breeding value.

### Enhancements to the Sheep Genetics website

Members of Sheep Genetics will access their results reports via the Sheep Genetics search site. When you submit data to Sheep Genetics via email as normal, you will receive an email notification back to notify you that results are ready to view. On the search site, you will be able to view all the results reports you see currently, with the added bonuses of customising traits, exporting to pdf, and additional data break downs. There are also additional new features that are being added to the search site. These include more reportable traits, ways to assign service provider permissions and more.

What can you expect to see: An email when results from a LAMBPLAN run is complete which will direct you to log in into the search site to access your results. Here you will find customisable reports to access your results.

For all of these enhancements, Sheep Genetics will be hosting online webinars over the coming weeks and will also have fact sheets available. To ensure that you are prepared for the changes please register to attend a Sheep Genetics webinar and upcoming Regional Forum to hear more. To sign up for Sheep Genetics communications please head to [sheepgenetics.org.au/news/](https://sheepgenetics.org.au/news/)

**Contact Gabby on [gsherring@mla.com.au](mailto:gsherring@mla.com.au) or +61 (2) 8055 1830**

**More info: <https://www.sheepgenetics.org.au/>**



SW 19-105



SW GOLDIE 20-627



# SPRINGWATERS

POLL DORSET STUD EST. 1979

## Annual On-Farm Sale Friday 30th September 2022

### 215 RAMS ON OFFER

This year all rams offered will be available at our on-property sale, featuring sons of **POCOCK** and **GUINNESS** as well as the first sons of **GOLDIE** (SW 20-627) purchased by Redline Stud for \$20,000 at the 2021 sale.



Showing at Cowra Dorset Championships, Bendigo ASWS and Bendigo Australasian

Guinness SW22-18 semen available

Corcorans Plains, Boorowa, NSW  
Dane Rowley | 0422 560 361 | [springwaters.com.au](http://springwaters.com.au)



# 2021 Bowan Park Trial Carcase Results

Visit <https://www.bowanpark.com.au> for more reports and information

Bowan Park Poll Dorset stud research flock is open to all members of the Australian Poll Dorset Association (APDA) and provides them 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 other in the same cohort of lambs.

## Lamb Selection

- Average age of lambs for slaughter 16-20 weeks \*NOTE: The majority of these lambs were at a marketable (22 – 26kg HCWT) at 14 weeks. The extended period on farm with high quality feed has resulted in a higher condition score than preferred for ideal carcase specifications.
- Lambs killed 27/9/21 at Gundagai Meat Processors (GMP). Carcase data was collected by UNE Meat Science team, co-ordinated by Dr Peter McGilchrist.

## Dressing Percentage

- The cohort averaged 52.20%
- The highest dressing % for an individual lamb was 56.5%

## Eye Muscle Measurements

- The cohort EMA averaged 17.97cm<sup>2</sup>
- The largest EMA was 25.2cm<sup>2</sup>
- The cohort FAT averaged 5.94mm

## Intramuscular Fat and Shear Force

- The preferred level of IMF in lamb meat is between 4% and 6%, with a current industry mean value of 4.3%. The IMF range in Information Nucleus Flock lambs was between 2% and 7% (lambs 210+ days of age).
- Shear force is a guide to the consumer perception of tenderness and is the force required to cut through a cooked sample of meat using a standardised cutting blade after five days ageing (SF5). Lower shear force values represent more tender meat. Shear force over 42N is considered tough.

- The cohort averaged IMF 4.35%, SF5 33.8N
- The highest IMF was 7.77%, the lowest SF5 was 20.44N
- NOTE: Industry expectations for IMF and SF5 are based on lambs 210+ days of age. This cohort are 130 – 150 days of age. The age and maturity of the lamb may or may not have an influence on eating quality trait measurements.

## Observations from Bowan Park Convenors

### Performance Data

- Birth weights and growth rates must be balanced out. There are too many higher weight lambs that could be a problem if nutrition is not correct pre lambing.
- Growth rates are good, but must be balanced with overall muscling
- Increasing dressing % can be a real bonus to the \$/head at slaughter
- Growth was found in a variety of genetics – both in sires with high growth ASBVs, and sires without ASBVs
- IMF was found in sires of untested and tested pedigrees
- IMF% must be addressed at the genetics level, but not the detriment of ideal birth weight and high growth
- There are genetics out there that have high LMY and high IMF ... we just need to find them

### Visual Assessment

Top 3 to improve:

- Fuller hindquarter shape
- Foot and leg structure
- Consistency of type (within and between sires)

### Implications for the Poll Dorset breed

- We need more QUALITY DATA
- We need more CARCASE DATA
  - For our own knowledge of how the animal actually performs
  - ASBVs for carcase traits are most useful if there has been progeny tested
- We need more genetic variation tested
  - Untested does not equal poor quality - it just means an absence of knowledge

## 21BP Carcase Results Summary

Sire	# lambs	Empty Pre-Slaughter Weight (kg)	Carcase Weight (kg)	Dressing (%)	Carcase EM Fat (mm)	Carcase EM Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	IMF (%)	Shear Force (N)
Derrynock 190156	11	58.7	31.1	52.9	6.7	19.5	4.3	32.7
Janmac 190021	13	57.8	30.1	52.1	6.3	17.2	3.9	37.2
Hillden 190110	13	51.9	26.6	51.1	5.5	15.8	4.2	33.2
Fairbank 190299	13	55.5	29.3	52.8	6.6	19.2	3.8	40.6
Linton 160625	12	54.7	28.3	51.7	6.5	18.3	4.7	28.7
Linton 170232	3	46.0	24.9	54.1	4.3	16.7	4.7	31.1
Pepperton 190123	13	52.8	27.7	52.5	5.6	18.7	4.5	34.0
Rangeview 190045	12	52.0	26.9	51.6	5.7	19.1	4.3	35.3
Springwaters 180022	13	54.9	28.1	51.0	6.6	17.3	4.1	34.9
Shirlee Downs 190408	12	56.3	29.5	52.1	6.4	17.8	3.9	31.5
Valley Vista 200086	12	52.3	27.2	51.9	4.1	18.6	4.8	33.6
Tattykeel 170400	13	53.3	28.2	53.0	7.1	17.7	5.0	30.9
Rene 190247	12	53.4	27.8	52.0	5.6	18.1	4.3	33.5
Gooramma 170313	8	52.2	27.4	52.4	6.2	17.6	4.1	37.5
Ridgehaven 190083	10	52.6	27.7	52.6	5.9	18.0	4.7	32.4
<b>Average</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>28.06</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>33.8</b>

# RECENT RESULTS

## SUMMER SALE & GUNDAGAI SHOW



### Inaugural Summer Sale

Friday 14th January

Total clearance of 38 ewes to a top of \$3,600, averaging \$1,978 and 88 rams, with a top of \$4,600 twice, averaging \$2,685.



### Annual Gundagai Show

Saturday 19th February

Valley Vista exhibited the Champion Ram and Champion Ewe, with the ram Valley Vista 79-21 judged supreme.



### Bowan Park Poll Dorset Trial 2021

Valley Vista entered and are breeding with the two sires which recorded the highest progeny IMF average, including Valley Vista 86-20 - semen packages available.

*"Breeding sheep with high growth rate, length and muscle".*



Valley Vista, Coolac NSW 2727



/valleyvistapd



Andrew: 0419 208 272



[www.valleyvista.com.au](http://www.valleyvista.com.au)



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# Selecting low emitters in NZ

New Zealand is making significant gains when it comes to selecting sheep that produce less methane.

Nearly half of all total greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand comes from livestock, with 18 per cent of that from sheep, which is its an important part of Beef & Lamb NZ's focus.

General manager of Genetics Dan Brier told the Global Sheep Forum recently that New Zealand has a target of lowering methane 10 per cent by 2030.

And New Zealand had the foresight to see methane was going to be a challenge for the industry in the future, beginning to research solutions back in 2003.

"The key goal of mitigation research is to try and separate the link between the amount of pasture an animal eats from the amount of methane that animal produces," he said.

"So for every kilogram of pasture that your sheep eats in NZ it will produce 21 grams of methane - if you grow it faster it will produce more methane, but slower and it will still be 21 grams.

"Our goal is to break the link, to make it 18 or 16 grams of methane produced for every kilo of pasture taken in."

How to do this? Collaborative industry research in New Zealand has focussed on four main research areas - low greenhouse gas feeds, vaccines, inhibitors, and low methane animal genetics.

Mr Brier said so far, genetic selection offered the biggest opportunity, as not only could it mean less emissions, but also more productive animals.

"Genetics selection for low methane is a bit of a holy grail because genetics is like rust, but in a good way - it never sleeps," he said.

"If you breed an animal and make the right breeding decisions, you get payback for that for generations and generations.

For instance our industry in NZ is now essentially 30 per cent more efficient now than it was 30 years ago and that is largely driven by genetics and feed."

Genetics is also set and forget, rather than requiring changes to management practices, Mr Brier added.

AgResearch NZ began measuring methane emissions from one of their well documented research flocks, and by mating high emitters with high emitters and low emitters with low emitters, established it was a heritable trait.

Mr Brier said the heritability was about 0.2.

"(That is ) similar heritability to that of weaning weight... a lot of our farmers spend a lot of time trying to select for faster growing lambs, so this (methane emissions) is about the same heritability and it is about twice the reproductive traits which our farmers also select for," he said.

They began taking measurements 11 years ago, and initially found there was a 4 per cent differentiation across the flock.

This has now grown to 11 per cent, and they have found no adverse genetic impacts - meaning it doesn't negatively correlate with any other traits.

Research has expanded to a number of flocks across the country, with the measurement tools heading out to farms for the past three years.

Mr Brier said they were now at the stage of providing breeding values for the trait.

"Breeding value means that we have done enough real tests, collected enough traits, that we can begin to estimate how their relatives will behave," he said.

"We've got up to 10,000 tests and that is a magic number - we know the accuracy is good enough that we can move from flock level measurement to industry level measurement."

Any sheep producer already doing genetic evaluation can tap into methane measurements by registering via methanebv.co.nz, and a trailer with the technology visits them on-farm.

It costs \$30/sheep and each producer needs to do 80-120 sheep each, but it is part-funded by Beef & Sheep NZ.

This year, they intend on taking a further 5000 measurements and using those to estimate how the methane genetics are changing across the industry's entire flock.

Mr Brier told the online forum that Nithdale Genetics, a stud at Gore, NZ, have sold the first rams in the country with "lower than average methane emissions".

And the next step for Beef & Lamb NZ Genetics was creating an index which includes methane.

"Genetics is as close as we've got to something that farmers can do to actually reduce their methane without having to just reduce stock, or rely on sequestration," Mr Brier said.



# Be on alert for mastitis

### Signs of mastitis

- Differences in size of two halves of the udder
- Not eating, away from the mob, sick looking
- Udder changed temperature or consistency.
- How hard the udder is, how hot it is and milk output - are both sides producing the same sort of milk.
- Swollen lymph nodes

The abundance of grass leading into the autumn has set many sheep producers up well for lambing, but it has also increased the risk of mastitis.

Vet Stuart Barber says elevated levels of mastitis comes hand in hand with the high milk production prompted by a good amount of grass.

Dr Barber is a lecturer and researcher at the University of Melbourne in veterinary and agricultural science, as well as coming from a Poll Dorset producing family.

"For the first few weeks after lambing in those areas that have had a good season it wouldn't be surprising to see high levels of mastitis," he said.

"The first sign in a Poll Dorset ewe is they've stopped eating... that is a big sign in my books as it takes a lot to stop them feeding.

"Looking at those sheep as soon as you can identify them is critical - the biggest thing that makes a difference to successfully treating mastitis is early treatment - every day you leave it the less likely it is you will get the ewe back to full production."

This means observation of lambing ewes is key, as is ensuring those who are monitoring lambing ewes have the skill set to identify mastitis. For every ewe that has clinically obvious mastitis that you can see, there are likely another five to 10 in the flock that have sub-clinical symptoms that you can't see, Dr Barber said.

"If you don't get those nasty cases of black and blue mastitis within 36 hours you will probably only save them about 50 per cent of the time, even if you have really good treatment.

"Where feasible it is good to get those ewes and their lambs out of the flock, as the lamb will carry bacteria at the back of the throat and can cross-contaminate if they suckle other ewes, so moving them to the hospital zone will reduce transmission.

"In terms of keeping those ewes, presuming they have recovered 100 per cent there is no risk, but genetically speaking they are more likely to produce offspring that are more likely to get infection down the track - if they are not in the top for other traits I recommend culling those ewes."

That said, culling for clinical mastitis will make little progress in limiting mastitis risk in your total flock, Dr Barber said. "But if you select on sub-clinical mastitis (means collecting milk samples through lactation) you will make progress as it is a much bigger group - that is where genomics will come into play down the track, particularly around the ram flock in regards to being more or less likely to sire ewes that are more or less likely to get mastitis."

While there is no commercially available medicinal prevention for mastitis in Australia as of yet, there are some management measures producers can adopt to lower the risk.

"The key thing to think about is anything that can cause damage to the end of the teat can increase mastitis risk, such as sharp stubble that might cut the end of the teat or wet and windy conditions can chaff the teat," Dr Barber said.

"If you have paddocks where wind speed can be decreased by trees then put twin bearing ewes in there - you are more likely to have mastitis in multiples as there is more chance of bacteria getting in as they are getting suckled twice as much.

"And Poll Dorsets get up to peak production quite quickly, so managing this is crucial - if you have milk dripping from the teat canal it is a perfect avenue for bacteria to get up through the teat," he said.

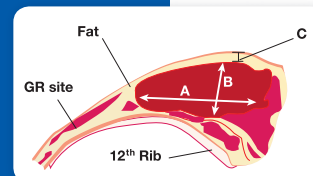
"We can see mastitis anytime pre-lambing through to lamb at foot and also post-weaning - if a ewe has a mastitis at weaning time, then when the lamb goes off the milk is being continually produced and there is opportunity for bacteria to take off then."

If you are identifying cases of mastitis in your flock, taking milk samples to find out exactly what bacteria is causing the issue is the first step of treatment.

"Not every milk sample produces an answer, by sending three to five samples at once you will increase the chance of getting an answer - and the right answer - and the cost per sample will be less."

Dr Barber said some Poll Dorset flocks can have mastitis outbreaks of up to five per cent of the flock, and at that level it was well worth establishing a solution.

"The longer term goal across the industry needs to be around prevention - we don't have a registered vaccine, we need more research and funding of the genomics and genetics of mastitis and more research on not relying on antibiotics."



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# Producers have tail docking responsibilities

Producers need to be aware of their animal welfare responsibilities when it comes to tail docking.

And stud breeders should be out in front, setting an example.

This is according to Veterinarian and University of Melbourne researcher Stuart Barber.

While animal welfare codes of practice or husbandry guidelines vary from state to state, all of them require producers to leave at least one palpable joint when docking lambs' tails.

"The ideal is three palpable joints, or in ewes the tail should reach the end of the vulva and males be the same length," Dr Barber said.

"If you go to shows, very few Poll Dorsets would meet best practice."

There were a number of reasons for length requirements in tail docking, the primary one being skin cancers, Dr Barber said.

"Most producers would have had vulva cancer in older ewes if you had been cutting tails short for a long time, especially in hot conditions," he said.

"Reason two is increased risk of rectal and vaginal prolapse - when sheep start coughing they don't have the muscle tone around the tail they need.

"Reason three has only been established in the past few years, with short tail length now associated with arthritis - we can expect to see increased levels of arthritis or joint damage in lambs if their tails are short.

"And you get less flystrike as well - short tails mean less muscle tone to direct fecal pellets, so you get potential of scouring, while a third joint tail means less fecal contamination."

Dr Barber said there were no reasons - apart from appearance - to dock tails shorter than best practice.

"If you leave a longer tail on a ram it might look different - but that's ok," he said.

"It is not increasing costs, it is decreasing animal health costs and increasing production - it makes a lot of sense because it means less arthritis and less rectal prolapse and they are really challenging to deal with...there is such a good reason to go to that length from health, welfare, production and profit, that it should be a no-brainer."

Dr Barber said it was important for the breed to discuss how it wanted to present itself on the tail length issue.


"It can be quite difficult to make the change, as it does change the look of the rams - the challenge is then for everyone to move towards best practice so they are all in line," he said.

Dr Barber added that difficulty for breed wide change stemmed from getting a stud stock competition and sales advantage because of aesthetics.

Implementing best practice on ewes first was the easiest way to transition, he suggested.

"If all breeder's ewes have tails that are ideal length, gradually over time we can get people to understand rams are better with longer tails as well.

"If we can see progress on ewes that is a win, good way to bring everyone along because less overall dollars in the ewe side and people aren't quite as caught up on their appearance."



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# Poll Dorsets sweep interbreed awards at Sydney

*Courtesy of Stephen Burns, The Land*

Poll Dorsets were once again awarded all the broad ribbons available in the interbreed competition at Sydney Royal Show over Easter.

Graham, Kirsty, James and Ross Gilmore, Tattykeel Poll Dorset stud, Oberon, exhibited the champion group of one ram and two ewes, the supreme pair, supreme prime ram lamb, and the supreme prime lamb ewe and exhibit.

The Poll Dorset ewe with a double cross of the 2015 Sydney Royal supreme prime lamb ewe and a double cross of the 2016 supreme prime lamb ewe was sashed the 2022 supreme prime lamb exhibit.

The supreme exhibit had been awarded grand champion Poll Dorset ewe under judge James Corcoran Snr, Gooramma Poll Dorsets, Boorowa, as well as being part of the first-placed pair of ewes class. Mr Corcoran described her as an outstanding young female, alert and very feminine.

"Her leg placement was perfect each time I looked at her," he said. "And with a beautiful hindquarter and amazing topline we couldn't go past her."

The Poll Dorset ewe beat the supreme prime lamb ram, a Poll Dorset also from Tattykeel, for supreme. The milk-tooth, bare shorn ram had been sashed senior and grand champion ram for the Poll Dorset breed by Mr Corcoran.

"He just presented himself so well," Mr Corcoran said. "He stood out, but I like his moderate size and smooth shoulders which is important for easy lambing."

In the Poll Dorset judging, the junior and reserve junior champion ram, both born after 1 August and shorn, were also exhibited by Tattykeel.

When commenting upon the grand champion ewe on the Poll Dorset mat, Mr Corcoran thought her an 'outstanding' ewe.

"It took me a long time to sort this lineup," he said. "The grand champion just had that extra bit of style, she is balanced and with smooth shoulders and a great loin. Her sister was nearly as good but she is still a super ewe."

The reserve grand champion ewe had each been shown as a pair the grand champion ewe and supreme interbreed exhibit.

Meanwhile, a short wool Poll Dorset ram, showing milk teeth only, and exhibited by the show team from St Lawrence's Primary School, Coonabarabran, was judged into the grand champion schools exhibit during the schools interbreed competition.

Judge Peter Matus, from Bathurst, thought the grand champion exhibit a complete young ram with an amazing conformation.

"He is a power packed ram, full of meat, really something," Mr Matus said. "For his sheer volume of meat for a young ram he is outstanding."

The champion ewe, also Poll Dorset, exhibited in the short wool ewe class, displaying two sheep and over, was paraded by the show team from Elizabeth Macarthur High School, Narellan.

Mr Matus said she is an outstanding female, but was just pipped for the grand championship.

"She has a tremendous loin and beautiful finish," he said. "She is very correct and stands well."



Judge James Corcoran Snr and RAS of NSW president Michael Millner with James Gilmore, Tattykeel, Oberon, exhibiting the senior and grand champion Poll Dorset ram.



James Gilmore, Tattykeel Poll Dorset stud, Oberon, parades the supreme prime lamb exhibit during the 2022 Sydney Royal Meat and Dual Purpose Breed Sheep Show.



Graham, Kirsty and James Gilmore, of Tattykeel, Oberon, with the Peter Taylor Memorial Perpetual Trophy for group of one ram and two ewes. Photos: Brett Tindal



# WA's first sheep show for the year at Williams

*Courtesy of the Western Australia Poll Dorset Association*

**Champion Ram:** Shirlee Downs, Quairading, WA (80/21)

**Reserve:** Brimfield, Kendenup, WA (593/21).

**Champion Ewe:** Shirlee Downs (6/21).

**Reserve:** Brimfield (119/21).

**Grand Champion Poll Dorset:** Shirlee Downs (ewe 6/21)

The Williams Gateway Expo sheep show was held on April 9. All participating breeders should be very proud of their efforts this year, with positive comments from judge Roy Addis, Nutrien Stud Stock, acknowledging the outstanding carcasses and muscling of the Poll Dorsets throughout all classes. A true attribute to our WA breeder's genetic selection and management.

- Studs in attendance:
- Brimfield
  - Dongadilling
  - Elspeth
  - Rockalong
  - Shirlee Downs



Champion ewe and grand champion Poll Dorset, exhibited by Chris and Stella Squiers, Shirlee Downs, Quairading, WA, with judge Roy Addis.



Stella Squiers, Shirlee Downs and Dongadilling Poll Dorset studs, won first place for both the Meat Breeds Sheep and Merino Sheep Junior Judging.

The WA Poll Dorset Association would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the organisers of the Williams Expo for ensuring this event could go ahead (adhering to the tight COVID restrictions) allowing breeders to exhibit their studs.

Stella Squiers, Shirlee Downs and Dongadilling Poll Dorset studs, Quairading, who competed in the Young Judges Competition at Williams Expo (April 9th) and earned first place for both the Meat Breeds Sheep Judging and Merino Sheep Judging.

Stella has a keen eye for identifying correct structure and desirable carcass traits in her Poll Dorsets at home and brought her expertise to the competition and spoke very confidently about her placings.



Champion Ram, exhibited by Chris and Stella Squiers, Shirlee Downs, Quairading, WA, with judge Roy Addis.



Reserve champion ram exhibited by Max Whyte, Brimfield stud, Kendenup, WA, with judge Roy Addis



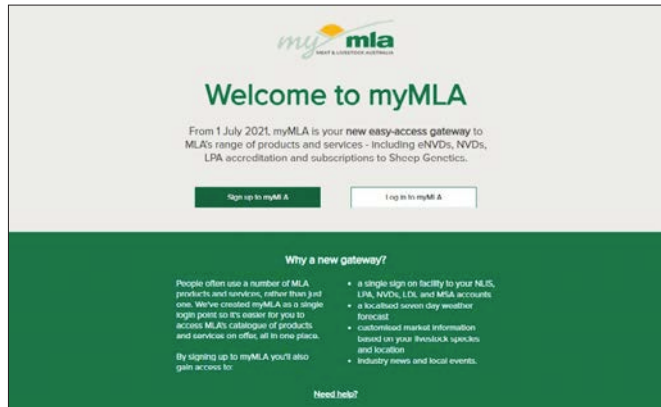
Reserve champion ewe exhibited by Max Whyte, Brimfield stud, Kendenup, WA, with judge Roy Addis

# HOW TO CREATE eNVD

The electronic National Vendor Declaration (eNVD) system is the faster, easier way to complete livestock consignments – including the LPA NVD, MSA vendor declaration, national health declarations and NFAS forms.

Follow these steps to use the eNVD system and create your livestock consignment on your mobile device, tablet or desktop computer:

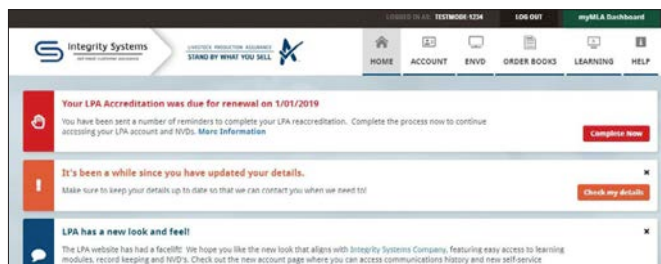
1. Go to [www.mla.com.au/mymla](http://www.mla.com.au/mymla) to log in to myMLA.



2. In the myMLA dashboard, go to the menu at the top of the page and select 'Linked accounts', then click 'LPA' on the dropdown menu that appears to access your LPA account. If you don't have a myMLA account or don't have your LPA account linked to myMLA, follow the steps in the 'Linking your industry and integrity accounts' flyer (included in your LPA accreditation pack) to sign up to myMLA and/or link your account.



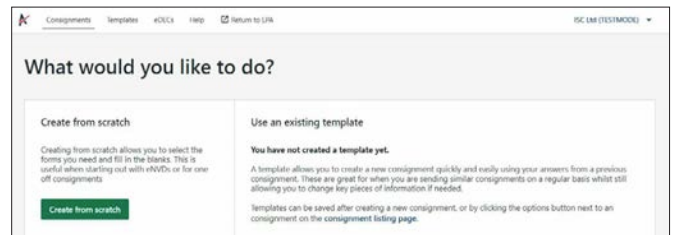
3. Once you have logged in to your LPA account, press the 'eNVD' button on the menu at the top of the page to access the eNVD system.



4. Click 'create a new consignment'.

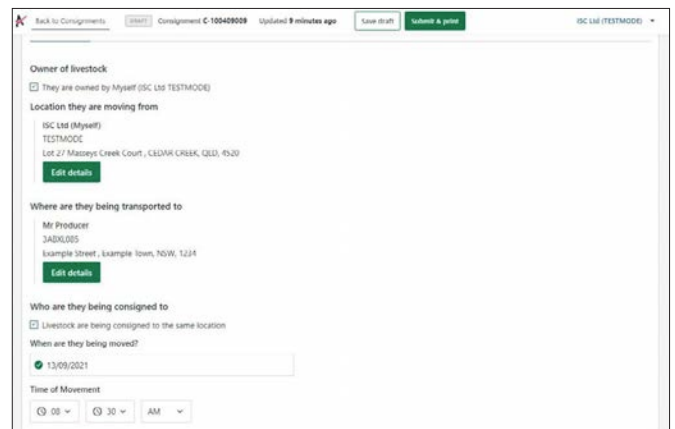


5. Select 'create from scratch' to create a new consignment from scratch or, if you've created a template from a previous consignment that you would like to use, select the template from those listed in the 'Use an existing template' box.



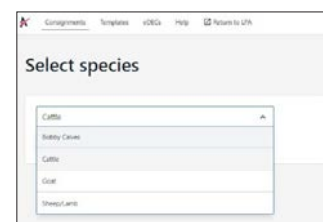
6. Enter movement information details for the livestock being consigned, including the:

- owner of the livestock
- location they are moving from
- where they are being transported to (the destination)
- who they are being consigned to (the consignee)
- when they are being moved.



7. When all details have been completed, click 'next'.

8. Click on the white box and select the species of livestock you will be moving from the drop-down menu that appears.



9. When you have selected the species of livestock to be consigned, click 'next step'.

10. Now you can select the consignment forms you will require. A consignment will require at least an LPA NVD. Select the LPA NVD (or the EU LPA NVD if you are consigning EU-accredited cattle) and then tick the box next to any other forms you may require such as MSA, NFAS or health declarations forms.





# HOW TO CREATE eNVD

- Once you have selected the forms you need, click 'next step'.
- Now click 'add livestock description'.

- Fill out all the details of the livestock in the box that appears before pressing 'add' to add a livestock description. You can add as many livestock descriptions as you like.

- Once you have all the livestock descriptions completed for the consignment, click 'next'.

- Complete the history, food safety and chemical treatments sections relevant to the consignment. These sections have the same questions as the paper version of the forms you've selected.

- The declaration will appear for you to complete. You only need to sign once, and the signature is applied to all forms you've completed. When you sign the eNVD, you are declaring your livestock are meeting the LPA requirements. Fill in your details and click 'next'.

- The transporter should complete this next section, either on your mobile device or on a printed version. Once your transporter has completed the form, click 'save draft'.

- Consignments can be submitted at any point after the movement information. To submit your consignment, click 'submit' at the top of the page.
- After submitting a partially or fully completed consignment, you'll be taken to the consignment summary page. Click on 'print' to preview and print all forms that are included in the consignment. Print three copies of the consignment – one for your records, one for the receiver and one for the transporter. If the consignment is partially completed, once printed all remaining information will need to be included at the point of transport.

### ADC back to Bendigo

The Australasian Dorset Championships is planning to return to Bendigo in the last week of August for the first time since 2019.

The event's sale has been hosted online-only for the past two years due to Covid-19, but all going well the show and auction will be held in person at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds this year.

Chair of the event Robert Grieves, Hillend stud, Clarkes Hill, Vic, said while planning was still underway, there were plenty of exciting new things on the schedule.

"We are still in the planning process, but we will have extra classes, including LambPlan classes we haven't had before, and we are trying to cater for all Poll Dorset breeders," he said.

"Everyone seems keen to get back into it and we are looking at having a live auction as well as offering rams online again."

The event will run from Friday August 26 to Sunday August 28, with Chris Marr of Gererdan stud at Gooloogong, NSW, adjudicating. There will also be an associate judge for the Poll Dorset ewe and the Dorset Horn classes.

The WFI sponsored Champion of Champions ram contest will also return, with sheep from a range of eligible shows across the country competing for the \$3000 prize.

This year the ewes will also get a go, with a \$1500 prize for the winner, with competitors being drawn from the same shows as the rams.

Mr Grieves said the new ewe competition would hopefully give breeders an extra incentive to show more females this year.

Last year the Australasian Dorset Championships held their

annual ram sale online, selling 22 of 29 lots for an average of \$7102. The top priced ram (pictured) was offered by Rangeview stud, Pipers River, Tasmania, and sold to South Australian stud Mullinger Park for \$23,250.



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Quarter page	\$219	\$274
1/8th page	\$162	\$202

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**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.

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