

THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 52 / NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2022

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POLL DO YOUTH E Page 9-11

INSIDE JE.



FOOT & MOUTH UPDATE PAGE 14-16



AROUND THE SHOWS PAGE 32-41

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well Spring is nearly here, and, in most parts, it should be a very good Spring, with lots of feed around. Last Journal I wrote that the Prime lamb market was not where we would like it to be, 3 months has passed if any thing it is lower now. Unfortunately, we may have to get used to these new rates for a while yet.

I would like to thank Alistair, Jamie-Lee and Patrick for putting the TV ads' together with Sam Kekovich as the spokesperson which was a great pickup. While this has cost a bit more than our normal advertising, I feel it will be a great promotion for our breed, with Ram selling season coming up.

I would also like to wish a successful Ram selling season.

Isn't it good that the Show season is back on, after 2 years of no shows to speak of. While exhibitor numbers have been down a bit at some shows I hear numbers are looking good for the Australasian in Bendigo.

I encourage everyone to come to the Show and Sale. Also don't forget that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday morning, it would be good to have a large crowd there after 2 years of online meetings.

I was a bit disappointed that no one put their hand up to join the Board, if the breed is going to go forward, we need people to actively put in the work to promote our great breed and keep it moving forward. This does not just happen it takes time and effort. And as the saying goes many hands make light work.

It is with regret that Alana after 6 months has decided to move on. I would like to thank her for the time and effort she has put into the job, and I wish her well in her new job.

Geoff Davey 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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12th Annual On Property & Online Ram Sale Wednesday 5th October, 2022 at 1:00pm 10 Specially Selected 90 Flock Rams Sale rams available for inspection





109-21 (left) Junior Champion Ram & 48-21 (right) Reserve Junior Champion Ram @ Hamilton Sheepvention

183-21 (right) ChampionEwe & 195-21 (left)Reserve Champion Ewe@ Victorian Sheep Show

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ACROSS THE PENS

RETURN OF SHOWS

It has been so good to catch up with everyone at Bendigo, Hamilton and the Australasian Championships after such a long break between shows. Congratulations to everyone who was enjoyed success at the events this year.



FLOCK BOOK

This year only 12 studs were yet to complete their flock return in time for inclusion and these will be listed in the Flock Book as deregistered. Should they be renewed between now and December, we will list you in the December Journal as a late renewal.

SPRING SALES

Good luck everyone with your on farm sales, we look forward to a successful selling season for all.

The December Journal will carry results of all sales so please send them through to secretary@polldorset.org.au

NEW STAFF MEMBER

This month we farewell Alana Wilkinson who has been with us for the past six months. Unfortunately for us, Alana has been offered a new role with most school holidays available to her so with two young children we have unfortunately had to say goodbye. We expect to name her replacement this month.



Could you be missing out?



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEP 3-11	Royal Adelaide Show
SEP 22-OCT 2	Royal Melbourne Show

- SEP 24-OCT 1 Royal Perth Show
- OCT 6-8 Royal Launceston Show
- OCT 29 Royal Hobart Show



PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

Ram selling season is approaching fast. The Promotions team has set a campaign of advertising in place with ACM and across other advertising platforms.

Recently our focus has been on the production of a 15sec TV ad. Margots' connections led us to engaging Sam Kekovich as our narrator for the ad. The ad will be played at strategic times across all WINTV networks in prime lamb producing regions. The ad will start in NSW in mid-August and then roll out progressively across other states.

It is good to see that the Poll Dorset ENews letter is going out more regularly.

This is my final report as Promotions Chair and Federal Council Board Member. I would like to thank the promotions team for their assistance during my term as Chair and wish the new team well.

Alistair Sutherland

PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Front page:

Australian Sheep & Wool Show Supreme Poll Dorset exhibit from Valley Vista with Joe Scott, Robert and Caitlin Grieves, Andrew Scott, Don McKinnon and Margot Falconer





Enquiries always welcome: Roger & Dianne Trewick Pepperton Farm, Elmore, Vic Mob: 0428 326 190 Email: peperton@bigpond.net.au Website: pepperton.com.au

National Biosecurity Strategy

Australia's first ever National Biosecurity Strategy, released in August, outlines the key actions for all Australians to ensure a stronger biosecurity system.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt said the National Biosecurity Strategy would provide clear direction to ensure our system remains fit to meet the challenges of the next decade and beyond.

"The management of Australia's biosecurity system is becoming increasingly complex, creating new challenges for governments, industry and community stakeholders in protecting our agricultural sector," Minister Watt said.

"Strong and efficient biosecurity is even more important as we respond to emerging challenges including diseases on our doorstep including Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever, Lumpy Skin Disease and Xylella.

"The strategy provides a new strategic direction for Australia's biosecurity system to 2030 and beyond.

"It joins together governments with industry stakeholders as we look to secure Australia's primary industries well into the future.

"By aligning all the key players, we can ensure everyone works together to counter the biosecurity threats we face.

"Australia's biosecurity system is a critical national asset and a shared responsibility, and this strategy is for all Australians.

"It is critical all Australians play their part to safeguard our clean, green, world class biosecurity status."

National Farmers Federation President Fiona Simson said the National Biosecurity Strategy was an important framework to ensure that all parts of our system are best placed to protect Australia from an increasingly complex risk environment.

"A coordinated, well-resourced, and innovative biosecurity system is fundamental to the success of our agricultural industries, and in supporting the goal of becoming a \$100 billion sector by 2030," Ms Simson said.

Wool and Sheepmeat Survey

Australian sheep producers have reported a total breeding flock of 42.5 million head, an increase of 500,000 ewes since last year, according to Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and the Australian Wool Innovation's (AWI) Wool and Sheepmeat Survey Report for June 2022.

The survey, run three times a year, collects sheepmeat industry livestock numbers and lamb production expectations.

Merinos accounted for 72% of the total breeding ewe flock. Merino breeding ewes were further divided into Merino ewes for pure bred Merino production and Merino ewes for crossbred production and 'other' Merinos, accounting for 51%, 19%, and 2% of the merino flock, respectively.

There were 22 million lambs on hand reported by Australian producers.

Merinos made up 55% of the total lamb flock, at 12 million head, followed by First Cross and Pure Meat lambs (accounting for 19% and 17% of the national lamb flock respectively).

The breeding ewe population was largest in the Great Southern

region of Western Australia at 5.6m, Central West NSW at 5.0m and Southeast NSW at 4.8m.

While the number of lambs on hand in the survey was greatest in Central West NSW at 3.1 million. This was followed by southern WA at around 2.7m head.

A total of 7.3 million lambs were marked in the four months. Merinos accounted for the largest proportion of lambs marked in the past four months at 47%. First cross breeds and Pure meat accounting for 28% and 18%, respectively.

A total number of 7.6 million lambs are expected to be sold in the next four months, approximately 34% of the total number of lambs on hand. Of these: Merino, First cross breeds and Pure Meat are expected to account for 36%, 29% and 23% of lamb sales respectively.

Look out for Barber's Pole

Barber's pole worm (Haemonchus contortus) is a blood sucking roundworm of sheep and goats, with minor crossover into cattle.

The worm gets its name from the 'Barber-pole' colouration of the female worm as its blood-filled intestine and uterus intertwine.

Typically, Barber's pole worms favour warm, humid conditions.

Its lifecycle is like other roundworms.

The eggs are passed in an animal's faeces, they hatch, develop to an infectious stage, are eaten by a susceptible animal and develop into an adult worm in the animal's fourth stomach.

Signs of Barber's pole worm include anaemia due to blood loss and lethargy.

Affected animals may flop down when mustered briskly and have extremely pale inner eyelids and gums.

All body condition types can be affected and in more chronic cases you may see 'bottle-jaw' due to loss of blood protein.

MLA PDS Tool

A new online search tool allowing users to search all active and completed Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) projects is now live on the MLA website.

This resource allows people to search for Producer Demonstrations by topic and/or state/region of relevance, making the findings of each PDS more accessible, allowing producers to incorporate the outcomes into their own production systems.

Users can access a summary of the project alongside progress updates and findings.

Extension materials and resources can also be accessed as well as the contact details of the PDS facilitator as a way of encouraging producers nationwide to engage with Producer Demonstrations that can benefit their operations.

The search tool can be accessed by going to the PDS webpage (mla.com.au/pds) and clicking the access the PDS search tool button or directly at mla.com.au/pds-search

Project progress and resources will be uploaded to the search tool on a quarterly basis, with the next update due in August 2022.





Annual sale TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER On-Property Hawksedale VIC @ 1pm

Selling 5 Selected Rams, 120 Flock Rams

All Stud rams eligible for full registration and stud transfer, genomic 50k tested and sire verified for your assurance and confidence.

7						
TAG	WWT	PWWT	PEMD	LMY	LEQ	ТСР
210031	12.08 TOP 5%	17.67 TOP 10%	1.95	4.54 _{TOP 10%}	132.44	143.70
210089	7.39	10.19	1.44	1.85	122.64	127.19
210122	10.89 _{TOP 20%}	16.83 TOP 20%	2.45	4.25 TOP 20%	135.65	148.69 TOP 20%
210213	8.56	12.93	1.45	3.61	134.87	136.34
210359	8.09	12.65	1.45	3.20	130.48	135.16

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Website: www.shellal.com



*Enquiries also welcome on our 2021 drop stud ewes

YOUTH YARNS

South West NSW Region Youth Day

5th August 2022 held at Finley Showgrounds.

Winners of the Junior Judging Competition Experienced

1st Angus Bain – Finley High School

2nd Jebediah Meyervale – Finley High School

3rd Hugh Burton – Finley High School

Intermediate

1st Sam Williams - La Mar Poll Dorset Stud, Culcairn

2nd Sienna Burke – Finley High School

3rd Erin Chesworth – Finley High School

4th Amanda Stevenson – Finley High School

Novice

1st Ryan Bauer - Finley High School

2nd - Ned Bergmeier - Wagga Christian College

3rd - Lilliana Meyervale - Finley High School

4th - Sophia Owers - Wagga Christian College

Overall Junior Judge Winner – Sam Williams – La Mar Poll Dorset Stud, Culcairn.

Ian Gray Herdsman Award* – Erin Chesworth – Finley High School

*sponsored by Fox and Lillie Rural with a woollen doona and a week's work experience.



Finley Youth Day Winners



Finley Youth Day Group



Overall Junior Judge Winner at Finley Youth Day Sam Williams, La Mar Poll Dorset Stud, Culcairn

How a 13-year-old is mixing it with the nation's top sheep breeders

Courtesy of Fiona Myers, Weekly Times

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who started his own stud at 15, young Sam Williams is already making big moves in the industry.

A passion for sheep breeding has started early for Sam Williams, who at just 13 already has his own Poll Dorset stud.

And there are big dreams ahead for the young breeder from Culcairn, NSW, who wants to be one of the leading studs in Australia.

Breeding sheep is in his genetics, and so, too, is starting young.

Sam's grandfather, Laurie Thompson, started the Gartlee Dorset stud at Myrniong at just 15, running them on his parent's dairy farm.

The Gartlee Poll Dorset stud was sold before Sam found his passion for breeding sheep, but he managed to track down some of the genetics bred by his grandfather to establish his own venture.

He now has 60 ewes and two rams, and plans to keep expanding.

His parents Marita and Rod Williams are not novices to the sheep world but are amazed at his ability to look at any of his sheep and be able to tell their breeding.

"Sam can see a lamb running up the race and tell us who its mother is, its sire and its breeding," Marita said.

"While other kids might be looking at their phone, Sam is reading pedigree Poll Dorset books."

Sam recently won the junior judging at the southwest NSW Poll Dorset Youth Day and as part of his prize, will be an associate judge at the Australasian Poll Dorset Championships Show and Sale on August 26-28

Sam has plans to show his own sheep "to display and respect the breed" but is just as happy pottering about with them, taking pride in their performance at home.

"I want to have one of the leading studs in the industry and be successful and have fun," he said.

Central Western NSW Region Youth Day

Courtesy of Ruth Klingner

On Thursday 4th August, the Central West NSW region held our Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra Showgrounds. A great day was had by all, with around 150 secondary school students and farm trainees participating. There were eight schools who attended plus a number of participants who organised to come independently. The participants came from Bathurst, Blayney, Canowindra, Coolac, Cowra, Cudal, Forbes, Gunnedah, Orange, Peak Hill, Tullamore, Wagga, Yeoval, and Young.

The day consisted of both sheep and chop junior judging and a wide range of talks and demonstrations. The talks and demonstrations included:

- Pregnancy scanning demonstration and talk about why we pregnancy scan.
- Talk on performance testing covering on farm testing, muscle scanning and DNA testing.
- Butcher demonstration, showing where all the different cuts of meat come from.
- Talk on sheep health and animal ethics.
- Talk on sheep nutrition and demonstration of fat scoring. The students were able to have a go at doing the fat scoring themselves.
- Lamb market suitability. Four lambs were displayed (store, trade, export and ram lamb). The students got learn about the different markets and then had a go at working out which market each lamb would suit.
- Talk on farm safety
- Talk about the benefits of Poll Dorsets and how to select a sheep
- Talk on careers in agriculture
- Talk on how to start a Poll Dorset stud including interviews with a student and a school who have recently each started their own stud.

Congratulations to the winners on the day:

Emma Clark memorial junior stockman award. This prize is determined by their results in both the junior judging competitions and their overall participation on the day. - Laura Price (St Raphael's Catholic School)

Champion School - St Raphael's Catholic School, Cowra

1st Intermediate/Experienced junior sheep judging – Samuel Klingner (Forbes High)

1st Beginner junior sheep judging – Angus Lee (TRAC)

1st Intermediate/Experienced junior chop judging – Laura Price (St Raphael's Catholic School)

1st Beginner junior chop judging – Peter Jones (Canowindra High)

Thank you to all the region members who put in a big effort to make the day the success it was. Without our members volunteering their time and their sheep, this day would not be able to go ahead. Thank you to the speakers, and a special mention to the speaker who stepped in only a couple of days prior to the day due to the original speaker getting covid. Also, thank you to the teachers and parents. Thank you to those who sponsored the day: Thomas Foods, Cowra Show Society, APDA, Elanco, Zoetis, MLA, NSW region of the APDA and Bowns Sportspower Forbes.



Elliot Bangert, Boornong

Elliot started his own Poll Dorset stud Mizpah last year with eight pregnant ewes and a stud ram purchased from Ridgehaven stud, Cudal.

"I love the sheep breed as a whole and I think it has a really strong future in the industry, I don't think it is going to go out of fashion anytime soon," he said.

"And I also love their character, I think they are nice sheep."

Elliot attended the Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra and told the other attendees about his experience so far.

"Firstly I am aiming to breed sheep that I like the look of - I want to breed sheep that are relevant to the industry and that are going to perform well for the buyers," he said.

"I am originally not from an agriculture family so it has been a bit difficult starting off...I am lambing at the moment and it is hard because I am not used to the problems that sheep face, especially around lambing, but it is going alright and I am enjoying working out how to solve those problems."



Laura Price, St Raphael's Catholic School

Winner of the Emma Clark memorial junior stockman award was Laura Price of St Raphael's Catholic School, Cowra.

The award is determined by their results in both the junior judging competitions and their overall participation on the day.

On why she attended the Poll Dorset Youth Day, Laura said "I wanted to learn and have the opportunity to extend my knowledge and learn more about junior judging and just to see everything that is happening within agriculture".

Laura is studying agriculture at St Raphael's and hopes to be an agricultural teacher in the future.

Ruth Klingner, Organiser

Ruth Klingner led the Central West NSW Poll Dorset region in organising the youth day at Cowra.

"It is important to allow high school age students to gain experience of the sheep industry - obviously we focus on Poll Dorsets but more of the day is general sheep industry things, from pregnancy scanning through to junior chop judging - so if nothing else they learn how to pick a decent chop," Ruth said.

"It is giving them a hands on experience to learn some information about the sheep industry and allowing them to have a taste of what is available in agriculture for them."

Ruth added that while many in the breed had been given opportunities through growing up on farms and attending shows or doing junior judging, it was crucial to share that experience further.

"I would have loved if there was a day like this when I was going to high school, so being able to share some of what we've experienced and the opportunities we've had and give the kids that opportunity they might not have otherwise had is great".



Beginner junior sheep judging awardees Bryce Marshall (3rd), Thomas Haycock (2nd), Angus Lee (1st(.



Intermediate junior sheep judging awardees Thomas Garner (2rd), Georgia Norman (2nd), Samuel Klingner (1st)



Intermediate junior chop judging awardees Makayla Murphy (3rd), Phillip Klingner (2nd), Laura Price (1st)



Intermediate junior chop judging awardees Makayla Murphy (3rd), Phillip Klingner (2nd), Laura Price (1st)



Champion School St Raphael's Catholic School, Cowra





Hillden 490-21 2nd June drop Ram ASWS For sale in September online sale Sire: Hillden 110-19



Hillden 110-19 1st sons heavily represented in September online sale and November on property sale

Congratulations to the Valley Vista Stud on the Supreme Champion at the NSW Dorset Championships with their exhibit sired by Hillden 110-19

Online Stud Ram Sale

Tuesday 20th September 2022 – 12pm 😈 AuctionsPlus



Inspection Day Saturday 17th September 10am – 4pm

On property Ram sale Friday 4th November 2pm



Brian and Lorraine Frost "Hillden" 620 Bannister Lane, Bannister NSW - Phone (02) 4844 3134

James Frost - Mobile 0427 483 134



25th Annual On Property Sale Friday 30th September 2022 - 1.00pm 150 Quality Performance Tested Rams

Sale interfaced with: 😈 AuctionsPlus

Agents - Elders & Nutrien (3% rebate to outside agents in attendance at vendor's discretion)

Featuring progeny from Hillcroft Farms 1082-07, Ulandi Park 14-19 and Aberdeen 566-17.

National Johne's Program MN3 Check our website for further information and updates on all sale rams Clayton and Andrea Rowett, RSD 33A, Kapunda SA 5373 (63 Murray's Road, Marrabel) (08) 8848 6038 Clayton 0408 852 927 Charles 0499 193 661 WWW.Ulandiparkpolldorsets.com.au Accredited Brucellosis Free



INDUSTRY NEWS

Foot-and-mouth disease: a threat to Australian livestock

FMD at a glance

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a potentially devastating disease that can affect cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven hoof animals.
- Look out for symptoms in livestock such as fever, drooling, blisters and reluctance to move.
- Report any signs of illness immediately by calling 1800 675 888 or your local vet.
- Protect your farm now with good biosecurity practices. This includes looking for mud, manure and mucus on footwear, clothing and equipment of anyone who visits your farm.
- An uncontrolled outbreak could lead to immediate closure of our meat export markets for more than a year. Control costs have been estimated at more than \$80 billion dollars over 10 years. Even an isolated, rapidly controlled outbreak could cost several billion dollars to eradicate.
- It is found in many parts of the world, and has been reported in countries in Africa, the Middles East, Asia and South America. While it can cause serious production losses the most significant impact of the disease occurs because of its effect on trade in livestock and livestock products. Countries without the disease, which include many of Australia's major trading partners do not import from, or severely restrict imports from FMD-infected countries.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease affecting all cloven hoof animals – cattle, pigs, sheep, buffalo, deer, camels, alpacas, llamas and goats. Horses are not affected by FMD.

Since May Australia has been monitoring an outbreak of FMD in Indonesia, including the tourist destination Bali.

FMD could enter Australia through meat, dairy products, contaminated soil, untreated hides, and on vehicles and equipment that have been in contact with infected animals. This includes contaminated material on clothing and footwear.

While there is no human health threat from the disease, if FMD enters Australia there will be severe consequences for animal health and the trade of Australian meat and livestock.

Australia has detailed response plans and arrangements in place to deal with FMD. So far, we have reviewed import permits for animal products from Indonesia that may carry FMD and have suspended those of concern. We have heightened awareness at borders, including increased vigilance around traveller flights arriving from Indonesia.

We are strictly checking for contaminated equipment and clothing, as well as all animal products brought in by travellers. We are also assisting Indonesia to help control the disease, including by supplying vaccines to Indonesian livestock producers.

Good farm biosecurity is a critical layer of defence – if FMD does get across the border it can still be stopped from reaching our livestock. All Australian livestock owners should know how to protect their livestock and properties from the disease, and the signs and symptoms of FMD, how to report it.

Protection

To prepare and protect your animals:

- maintain strong biosecurity measures on your property, including keeping accurate records of visitors and livestock movements
- don't allow people who have visited FMD infected areas within the last 7 days to visit your farm or handle your livestock
- ensure all footwear, clothing and equipment of anyone visiting your property is free of mud, animal manure and mucus
- don't feed meat, animal products or imported dairy goods to livestock – this is actually an illegal practice throughout Australia as it can cause many illnesses in livestock animals.

For free farm biosecurity advice and resources visit farmbiosecurity.com.au

Reporting and symptoms

If your animals show signs of FMD, you must report it immediately.

Call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888, or your local veterinarian.

Keep an eye out for:

- Fever
- drooling and excessive salivation
- reluctance to move
- blisters on the mouth, snout, tongue, lips or between and above the hooves. Blisters may be intact or rupture – exposing raw tissue and causing pain.

The situation is rapidly changing. Keep up to date by visiting agriculture.gov.au/footandmouthdisease

Common biosecurity risks

Effective biosecurity procedures address the identification and containment of disease outbreaks when they occur and detail the measures in place to prevent disease spread.

Watch out for these common on-farm biosecurity risks:

- visitors or workers who have travelled from an infected country carrying disease or contaminated clothing (e.g. work boots)
- vehicles and machinery that is rusted, contaminated, or is carrying foreign soils or plant matter
- introduced livestock that may be diseased/contaminated
- contaminated feed
- invasive plant species that may affect current biodiversity
- invasive animal species such as pigs and foxes
- parasites worms, flukes, ticks
- waste materials through water and soil

Ensuring your livestock are, and remain, free of serious infectious diseases protects your animals and business - allowing you to maximise farm productivity and minimise stock losses, animal discomfort and medical treatment costs.

Ensure your biosecurity plan is up-to-date

Australia is currently free from some of the world's worst animal diseases.

An infectious disease outbreak would have significant trade and environmental impacts, meaning Australia may no longer be recognised for our clean, green and high-quality red meat status

Completing a Farm Biosecurity plan is the first step to protecting your business, your livelihood and that of the wider industry.

Animal diseases are a major threat to Australia's red meat livestock industries. Even with Australia as an island nation, our international relations – through trade, tourism and work visas – mean we are susceptible to many biosecurity threats.

These most notably include diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) which have been recently identified in Indonesia.

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program requires LPA accredited producers to protect their livestock and properties with a documented biosecurity plan, to help uphold the safety and quality of our Australian red meat.

Protect your business from animal disease

To protect your property and livestock from risk, LPA accredited producers must implement on-farm biosecurity systems including:

- complete a documented Farm Biosecurity Plan for each Property Identification Code (PIC)
- ensure all livestock movements onto the PIC have a known health status e.g. through a Livestock Health Statement/ Declaration or equivalent
- inspect all introduced livestock for signs of ill health or disease on arrival and keep them in isolation for a period of time
- regularly inspect livestock for ill health and disease and take appropriate action where necessary
- ensure livestock do not stray onto or from the property
- keep records of livestock movements, as well as vehicle

and visitor movements where reasonable and practical

- have local veterinarian or animal health officer contact details available and report any unusual disease, illness, or mortalities as soon as possible
- stay up to date with animal health warnings and bulletins issued by your state or territory department of agriculture/ primary industries and know the signs and symptoms of infectious diseases
- implement other procedures or practices that help minimise the risk or spread of disease.

Completing a Farm Biosecurity Plan

Each LPA accredited producer must have a documented Farm Biosecurity Plan that covers each of the following:

- Manage and record the introduction and movement of livestock in a way that minimises the risk of introducing and/or spreading infectious diseases.
- Where reasonable and practical, control people, equipment and vehicles entering the property minimising the potential for property contamination and, if possible, keep a record of such movements.
- Prevent and control animal diseases on-farm by regularly monitoring and managing livestock.
- Every LPA-accredited producer must ensure biosecurity requirements are fulfilled on-farm to minimise risk and protect our wider industry.

The LPA website allows a farm biosecurity plan to be completed entirely online. Producers can access ISC's detailed step-by-step guide to create and upload documents to your LPA account to learn how to complete your digital farm biosecurity plan.

Australia's red meat industry cannot risk the entrance of infectious diseases or invasive pests and weeds. All members of the value chain, on and off property, have a responsibility to ensure diseases and other biosecurity risks are not spread to our livestock, so our products are safe for consumption, and we can stand by what we sell.

EEP THIS BIOSECURITY PLAN WITH YOUR	OTHER FARM RECORDS AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE IF RE	EQUESTED BY AN AUDITOR.
ave implemented a farm biosecurity plan for other purpor n additional farm biosecurity plan for LPA. You can comp You should complete the template to reflect your current f he section is relevant but you do not currently have syste	rt producers to meet the biosecurity requirements of the Livestock Produ- ses (e.g. J-BAS, SheepMAP) and it covers the elements listed within this to slete and save property risk assessments and biosecurity plans online i arm biosecurity practices. Where sections are not relevant for your prope ms in place, select 'No' on the template. This will not affect your LPA accre intial biosecurity risks on your property. This template should be reviewed	In your LPA account. In your LPA account. Inty, you can select 'Not applicable'. If editation but should be used to help you
Property name	Owner	
Property address	Manager	
PIC	Veterinarian name	
Date	Veterinarian phone number	
Review date (12 months from date above)	Local Animal Health Office number (government)	
Completed by (signature)	Emer	gency Animal Disease hotline: 1800 675 888
	STOCK INVENTORY	
Stock type (i	e. cattle, sheep, goats)	Stock number (average for the year)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Sheep and beef producers advised to get livestock valued

Courtesy of Terry Sim, Sheep Central

AUSTRALIA'S sheep, cattle and goat producers have been advised to get their stock independently valued to ensure compensation is paid in the event of a Foot and Mouth Disease or other emergency animal disease incursion.

Foot and Mouth Disease is not in Australia, but Hamilton district wool grower and beef producer Michael Blake said livestock producers could be faced with the destruction of their stock with no compensation if an incursion occurred and they did not have a prior valuation.

Mr Blake and his wife Cathy's farm, Bally Glunin Park, has been operating under a biosecurity plan since 2001 and he has helped develop industry standards in biosecurity, animal welfare, sustainability, quality assurance and occupational health and safety.

Mr Blake has also done real-time FMD training in Nepal through the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization.

Although the current AUSVETPLAN and its accompanying documents are under review, Mr Blake said there are things livestock producers can do to avoid minimise disappointment and the financial impact should they be caught in a disease outbreak and face the destruction of their livestock.

This included having accredited valuations on all livestock and wool on hand, and of other items such as fodder, fencing, fencing equipment and buildings that livestock might be in contact with.

"That would be the first thing I would do – get your livestock valued with your agent – don't leave it to the last minute.

"Farmers should have an inventory of their stock, identifying ages, classes, sex and whether they are stud or commercial animals," he said.

"Have your agent put current values against each stock category – an AuctionsPlus accredited agent would be the preferred valuer. "If you don't any valuations there is a small paragraph in there that says the value of livestock is the value of the day," Mr Blake said.

"If you've got a valuation document you can argue that is the value or price, but if you don't have a valuation they can determine that the value is zero, because once you have Foot and Mouth Disease, the value of the livestock is zero."

Mr Blake said according to the AUSVETPLAN livestock owners may be considered ineligible for compensation if they fail to report a suspect emergency animal disease, or within an appropriate timeframe.

Version 5 of the AUSVETPLAN's operational manual for valuation and compensation contains several clauses covering various situations, but producers should also be aware that state and territory legislation determines the process that owners should follow to claim compensation for animals and property destroyed during an EAD response.

According to version 5, the value of livestock or property is calculated as the farmgate value on the basis of a sale at the location when it was destroyed or died of disease. No allowance is made for loss of profit, loss occasioned by breach of contract, loss of production or any other consequential loss.

Commercial livestock values are based on an average of published Meat & Livestock Australia National Livestock Reporting System prices from two saleyards closest to the affected area. Stud sheep will only be considered as stud sheep if they are registered with a breed society.

Wool value is determined by the most recent Australian Wool Exchange market report on the AWEX website.

Mr Blake said farmers should also have a biosecurity plan with map and identified pit sites, taking into consideration access, visibility and ability to replant with trees.

After a presentation on FMD preparedness at the Sheepvention Rural Expo in Hamilton, Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Graeme Cooke agreed that the livestock will be assessed as having no value if producers did not have a prior valuation or if they not report an EAD.

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Commitment to national traceability

The NSW Government has received unanimous support for the development of a national, industry-led mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification (eID) system during a meeting of Australian Agriculture Ministers.

NSW Minister for Agriculture Dugald Saunders said there is now a strong mandate to start working on how best to implement a national system for sheep and goats.

"Individual traceability for sheep and goats will be critical in the event of an emergency disease outbreak like Foot and Mouth Disease in Australia," Mr Saunders said.

"It's also great to see NSW Farmers throw their weight behind a national eID system for sheep and goats during an emergency vote at their annual conference."

Mr Saunders said a national framework will be urgently developed by federal and state agricultural departments with industry input for consideration at the next meeting of agriculture ministers.

"My commitment to sheep and goat producers is that they will have their voices heard during all stages of the implementation and development of a national traceability system."

Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) and WoolProducers Australia (WPA) has welcomed the agreement to advance a national approach to Australia's livestock traceability system and the recognition of the urgent need for individual identification for sheep, and seeks clarity on the next steps and the opportunity to collaborate.

"The rapid and reliable tracing of sheep plays a significant part in an emergency disease response. The faster the animals are traced the greater the chance of controlling the disease outbreak and so minimising its economic and social effects. As a sector, we have consistently highlighted that the consequences of failing to strengthen our traceability system is unacceptable," said Bonnie Skinner, SPA CEO.

The AMM communique notes our Agriculture ministers acknowledge the seriousness of the biosecurity threats and recognise biosecurity is a shared responsibility between governments, industry and the community.

SPA has been deliberately and proactively working on the continual improvement of Australia's livestock traceability capability since 2018 and supports whole-of-system traceability reform, of which individual electronic identification (eID) is a vital component.

"Whilst trials indicate that eIDs deliver quicker tracing of livestock movements, which is critical for any Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) incursion response, these tags will only be effective if the underpinning systems are robust and nationally harmonised," said Jo Hall WPA CEO.

This includes investment into the database, sustainable and equitable cost-sharing arrangements, and establishing a statutory governing model that can hold all stakeholders to account. "For mandatory eIDs to succeed the state governments, under whose remit traceability falls, must come together quickly to agree to determine and adhere to guaranteed nationally harmonised business rules. The first step in the sheep traceability reform is to agree to these rules and how they will be implemented consistently," said Ms Hall.

SPA and WPA know that the cost to transition the sheep industry from mob-based to individual identification, and the associated system changes required to support that transition, is the most significant step in evolving into a more robust system.

"It must be recognised by government and the general public, that loss of market access for Australian livestock products including wool and meat due to a disease outbreak will be devastating not just to industry but to the entire Australian economy, it is therefore essential that appropriate cost sharing arrangements for the establishment and maintenance of such a system is agreed to by industry and government," added Ms Hall.

"Given the inherent complexity of traceability, it is only through national cooperation and collaboration that we can strengthen the current system and evolving to the system we need with the required level of urgency. We look forward to working collaboratively with government, industry stakeholders and producers to develop and implement a national eID system that works for everyone throughout the supply chain," said Ms Skinner.

SPA and WPA acknowledge the announcement of a new Commonwealth biosecurity taskforce to be established, ensuring Australia is fully prepared to respond swiftly to growing biosecurity threats, and welcome additional measures to strengthen Australia's biosecurity.



Spring Ram and Ewe Sale Thursday, September 29, 1.30pm

To be held at 1171 Nundle Road, Piallamore via Tamworth NSW - Interfaced with AuctionsPlus

50 Stud and Flock Poll Dorset Rams 15 Maiden Poll Dorset Stud Ewes - unjoined Marshall Douglas - 0408 961 883



78TH ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE

STUD RAM OFFERING TO INCLUDE:

Tag	Sire	BWT	PWWT	PEMD	PFAT	IMF	SF5	ТСР	LEQ
210103	Bruan 190140	0.4	19.0	3.2	-0.2	-0.1	3.0	160.0	157.5
210549	Newbold 190095	0.5	17.7	2.6	-0.7	-0.6	4.6	150.1	143.0
210016	Bruan 190007	0.3	17.3	3.2	-0.2	0.05	0.2	159.4	157.9
210148	Bruan 190140	0.3	18.0	1.4	-0.9	0.14	1.8	153.0	153.6
210104	Woolumbool 196431	0.5	16.6	3.0	-0.8	-0.3	2.4	153.7	149.5

Full Stud Ram list at newboldstuds.com.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

World-first sustainability scorecard for sheep and wool industry released in Australia

Courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia

The first Annual Report of the Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF) was released at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo in July, delivering on the world-first commitment of the Australian sheep and wool industry to create a data-driven yearly snapshot of sustainability performance.

Led by Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) and WoolProducers Australia (WPA), the SSF is underwritten by four themes: caring for our sheep; enhancing the environment and climate; looking after our people, our customers and the community; and ensuring a financially resilient industry. Within those themes are nine focus areas and 21 priorities - monitored and measured by 58 data-driven indicators.

SSF Sustainability Steering Group (SSG) Chair and respected livestock veterinarian, Dr Scott Williams, said the Annual Report creates an important foundation for the sheep and wool value chain and its stakeholders.

"This is a major milestone for the Australian sheep and wool industry," Dr Williams said.

"We are the largest producer and exporter of premium quality fine wool and the largest exporter of sheep meat in the world.

"We are now one of the most transparent sheep and wool industries as well.

"From reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation to animal husbandry practices and on-farm safety, the Annual Report is a documented baseline on how we as an industry are performing."

CSIRO research last year found the Australian sheep meat industry was already climate neutral and the latest Annual

Report shows the sheep meat and wool industry has held steady on net emissions (9.13 million tonnes CO2e in 2019). In further good news, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data reveals that productivity gains have driven the emissions intensity of raising sheep (6.8kg CO2e/kg liveweight) and greasy wool (24.4kg CO2e/kg greasy wool) down nine per cent between 2005 and 2020.

Rates of ground cover have improved with 63.4pc of sheepgrazing land achieving over 50pc ground cover since summer 2019 - a 13pc increase on the previous year. The industry also continues to invest in seeking new and innovative ways to assist the red meat industry meet its target of carbon neutrality by 2030 (CN30) and help Australia reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Worms and breech flystrike are among the most important health challenges for the industry and genetic improvement is a means to prevent disease, with a key measure of success being the change in Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) over time – specifically Worm Egg Count (WEC) and Early Breech Wrinkle (EBWR). A reduction of 10pc in WEC ASBV and 15pc in EBW ASBV in the latest reporting period indicates that flock resistance to worms and breech flystrike is increasing.

The industry is also trending away from mulesing, with a directional increase in non-mulesed and ceased-mulesed wool as a proportion of the total clip recorded from National Wool Declaration results in FY2021. More definitive data will be released in the mid-year update of the Annual Report including the percentage of producers who mules Merino sheep and non-Merino sheep.

Independent Chair of the SSF Board and sheep producer, Lucinda Corrigan, said the Annual Report was an evolving document with more indicators under development, but the inaugural edition already contains a number of firsts.

"In order to be able to create the data needed for the Annual Report, we undertook a Life Cycle Assessment of the entire Australian flock to determine the carbon footprint of our industry," Ms Corrigan said.

"We also harnessed satellite imagery to measure and display vegetation changes across our sheep-grazing regions.

"The deep insights generated from these projects represent an important development in our understanding of the impacts on and of our 234-year-old industry."

Sheep Sustainability Framework



Caring for our sheep



Enhancing the environment and climate



Looking after our people, our customers and the community



Ensuring a financially resilient industry

MARKETS

Premiums for commercial sheep and lamb remain at all-time highs

Courtesy of Damien Thomson, AuctionsPlus

A review of the final sale price against pre-auction reserve levels for AuctionsPlus commercial sheep and lamb sales shows highs are still being maintained into 2022.

While recent weeks prices and clearance rates have been subdued immediately following the auctions, the average final sale price over reserve secured by sold lots has been \$19.43/ head so far in 2022.

This is an increase of 80 per cent from the drought influenced returns of 2019 (Figure 1), when the average value over reserve was \$10.77/head.

The full year average for 2021 was \$19.96/head. The average price is taken across all sheep and lamb categories, including all breeds, to give a general overall picture of the sheep and lamb market.

The average reserve price in AuctionsPlus commercial sheep and lamb sales sits at \$211.83/head so far in 2022. Selective buying has been observed in both the commercial sheep and lamb in 2022.

The slowing pace of the flock rebuild, along with frustrating slow lamb finishing conditions, has contributed to buyers taking more care in their buying decisions.

As flock numbers expanded, producer focus has turned from increasing absolute numbers at any price, as was the case following the immediate breaking of the drought in 2020, to ensuring the genetic quality of their flock and offspring going forward.



Figure 1: Average value over reserve and average sale price: 2016 - 2022 YTD (3rd June)

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Ramming Home the Benefits of Online Selling

Courtesy of Teeah Bungey, AuctionsPlus

AuctionsPlus seedstock ram sales have grown significantly in recent years, hitting 48100 head for the most recent 2021-22 financial year – up from 4128 head in 2017-18.

With multiple packages to suit all seedstock producers, AuctionsPlus connects buyers nationwide across all forms of auctions, from online only sales through to live video streaming. 2021-22 registered a total of 390 ram sales held online – jumping 42 per cent on the previous year.

In recent years, the sheep industry has placed an increased focus on meat production and flock rebuilding, with the frustrations of wool production well publicised.

As such, it comes as no surprise that the Composite and Australian White breeds have experienced the biggest lift in ram numbers listed online.

Since 2018, Composite listings have increased from only 36 head in 2017-18, to 3906 head in 2021-22, while Australian White ram listings have increased from 23 head to 1889 head in 2021-22. While shedding and British breed rams have seen the biggest year-on-year percentage increases since 2018, the Poll Merino breed has seen the highest number of rams sold on AuctionsPlus, totalling 23042 head over the period.



Figure 1: Aurticeo/Nex run intimp, ris. feed offried FY18-22

2021-22 saw the total transaction value of AuctionsPlus ram sales surpass \$121 million, while the average online gross per sale was \$314,664.

Reviewing pricing results, it's no surprise that the Australian White breed took out the highest average online sale price in 2021-22, at \$6873/head in a year when commercial records for the breed were continually broken.



Looking at clearance rates for the top seven breeds listed online in 2021-22, Australian whites were at the front of the flock at 94 per cent, followed by 91 per cent for Poll Dorset rams – with the average for the seven breeds at 85 per cent.



Figure 3: FY22 Average Price and Clearance Rates

The last four years has consolidated demand for improved sheep genetics, as producers across the country have become more willing to look further than their local area. On average since 2018, 61 per cent of online purchases have travelled interstate, with 2021-22 seeing 51 per cent of purchases head interstate.

Table 1: Percentage of a	online purchases	travelling i	interstate.	(FY18-FY22)

% Of online purchases travelling interstate		
FY18	65%	
FY19	71%	
FY20	67%	
FY21	52%	
FY22	51%	

With the 2022 spring selling season fast approaching, bringing with it an influx of seedstock sales to AuctionsPlus, the question remains as to the impact the season and continued rebuilding phases for the industry will have on sales. Will 2021's record breaking prices be beaten?

Global demand for Australian sheepmeat

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Favourable seasonal conditions have supported above average lambing percentages and a larger breeding ewe flock, which continue to drive the national sheep flock's growth, according to the latest Sheep Industry Projections update from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

A strong start to Western Australia's season coupled with above average rainfall patterns for most sheep regions of New South Wales and Victoria will see the national flock rise by 7.2 per cent or 5.1m in 2022, to 76m head.

On the back of this growth, lamb production is forecast to reach record levels at 549,000 tonnes in 2022, with higher carcase weights driving the increase.

International demand for Australian sheepmeat continues to rise, with export markets outperforming year-to-date levels. The large 2021 lamb cohort, heavier carcase weights and firm slaughter rates in mutton, are delivering favourable supply to several key markets.

Strong export growth in emerging markets such as Malaysia, Japan and South Korea demonstrate the diverse range of countries Australian lamb and mutton can go, according to Ripley Atkinson, Senior Market Information Analyst at MLA.

"On top of booming markets in Asia, the United States has quickly emerged as Australia's number one destination for lamb exports," Mr Atkinson said. The United States imported 35,053 tonnes of sheepmeat from January to May, which was 3 per cent higher than at the same point in 2021. Nearly 87per cent of exports to the US were lamb, which was an increase of 13 per cent.

"With sheepmeat production in plentiful volumes and international demand for Australian product remaining robust across key established and emerging markets, the outlook for the Australian sheepmeat industry is bright.

"It is evident in both production and export terms that the national flock has recovered from the rebuilding and COVID-19 events," Mr Atkinson noted.

National flock growth and slaughter

In 2022, MLA is forecasting that the national flock will reach 76m head, its highest level in almost a decade. Continued above-average rainfall patterns have supported higher lambing percentages, driving this growth and a larger breeding ewe cohort.

MLA has revised the sheep flock higher by 2.2per cent compared to the February release. This will mean that the flock is expected to grow by 7.2 per cent to 76m head this year.

For 2023, MLA expects further growth to 78.75m, which is 23 per cent or 14.75m head higher than the 100-year low recorded in 2020.

While for 2022 lamb slaughter, MLA has revised figures higher by 2 per cent or 400,000 on its February projections to reach 22m head. This is due to is strong production fundamentals riving a second large lamb cohort delivering increased supply.

Mutton slaughter has been revised upwards by 2per cent on February projections to 6.12m head this year and is expected to rise next year by 24per cent to reach 7.58m.



MARKETS

Carcase weights

Average lamb carcase weights are forecast to remain firm on February projections, reaching 24.9kg/head in 2022. For 2023, MLA has revised carcase weights down 2 per cent or 500g to 24.6kg/head with seasonal conditions expected to ease and return to the long-term average. However, the implementation of improved genetics and on-farm production management will ensure that 2023 carcase weights remain historically high.

"The Australian sheep flock is growing strongly and with carcase weights remaining at historic highs, the country is well positioned to continue supplying high quality protein to both the domestic and international markets.

"Industry confidence has further been buoyed by favourable seasonal conditions, robust export demand and strong market prices, exciting times ahead," Mr Atkinson said.

Exports

Already in 2022, Australian sheepmeat exports for lamb and mutton are higher by 5per cent and 7 per cent respectively, compared to 2021.

China remains Australia's number one export market for sheepmeat, accounting for 35 per cent of total volumes this year. The growth of emerging markets such as Papua New Guinea (growing 69 per cent year-on-year), Malaysia (growing 34 per cent year-on-year) and Singapore show the global diversity of Australia's sheepmeat exports.

The US takes its place as Australia's second largest exporting country, with lamb exports growing 13 per cent in the year to May, compared to 2021.

In value terms, the US lamb trade was worth A\$414m between January and April, demonstrating both volume and value are a significant part of the US demand for Australian lamb.

MLA is forecasting lamb exports to reach record levels in 2022 at 308,000 tonnes.

The historically high carcase weights and an uptick in slaughter volume flowing through to higher overall production are delivering this.

Mutton exports are expected to remain firm on 2021 levels before rising by 24 per cent compared with 2020 levels next year.

Looking ahead

Actual lamb supply for the remainder of winter is expected to continue to be unseasonably high as processors work through the 2021 backlog and cohort. This is to address processor throughput issues, logistical challenges and on-farm transportation which hindered lamb supply earlier this year.

If supply continues to remain unseasonably high, prices may not reach their traditional 'winter peak' period that is due to the supply lull that occurs from June to August.

Another large lamb cohort is expected for the 2022 lamb drop with optimal breeding conditions and increased breeding ewe numbers underpinning this assumption.

With sheepmeat production reaching record levels and international demand for Australian product remaining strong across key established and emerging markets, the outlook for the Australian sheepmeat industry is relatively bright. It is evident in both production and export terms that the national flock has recovered from COVID-19 events and that the rebuild is well and truly maturing. Looking at the domestic lamb price forecast, five industry analysts (excluding MLA) are forecasting the National Trade Lamb Indicator will reach 785c/kg cwt by the end of 2022. This would signal a marginal lift on where the indicator currently operates at but a 7 per cent or 61c decline from where the indicator finished in 2021 at 846c/kg cwt.



*Graphic illustrates year-on-year change

The Bowan Park Open Day

All lambs are on display in the sire groups 2022 cohort on farm data. 2021 cohort final report.



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COMMERCIAL FOCUS

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The Thackeray family will lamb down more than 3000 firstand second-cross Poll Dorset lambs this year at "Woornack", between Young and Grenfell, NSW.

Hugh Thackeray said rapid growth and finishing ability was the main focus for their lamb enterprise, which runs alongside a self-replacing Merino flock and a cropping operation.

"You get as many as you possibly can on the ground and get them off as quick as possible," he said.

Hugh farms with wife Carmen and his parents Richard and Jenny, joining 2000 first-cross ewes to Poll Dorset rams on their home property, and for the first time this season 1200 Merino ewes to Poll Dorsets on an adjoining lease block.

They generally sell between 80 and 90 per cent of their secondcross lambs straight off mum direct to processors, with the handful left over sold as store lambs, also without weaning or shearing.

"We turn everything off by summer so we are only holding breeding ewes over, and we try to sell everything, regardless of age or quality, direct, and if it can't go direct it goes on AuctionsPlus," Hugh said.

"With the new Merino-Poll Dorset enterprise we will get a portion to killable weight and the remainder sold to a restocker type job.

"It's important to know your cost of production, know where

you are achieving a certain profit margin, and also not trying to do everything."

By this Hugh is referring to the fact their operation won't feed or grow out lambs to heavy domestic or export weights once they are weaned while there are others out there specifically set up to do just that.

"We've also got 1500ha of cropping so if you spend too much time on one enterprise you miss out on the other one."

The family has a long standing relationship with Poll Dorsets, Hugh said, having used them as their terminal sires for two generations, sourcing them from the same local stud the entire time.

Rams are selected on muscle, fat and early growth, with recent purchases for the Merino flock also taking birth weight into account.

Hugh said they were getting the flow on effects of the investment being put into the breeding of the Poll Dorset rams they purchase.

"About five to six years ago I changed from buying average priced rams at the sale to buying in the top 10 per cent and paying above the average, and it has paid dividends in turning suckers off much quicker then we were before," Hugh said.

"Everything has got to be sustainable, it is not just about getting the highest prices, we want to get high numbers off and look after the place to do it again next year."

Why else do they stick to Poll Dorset sires for the best prime lambs?

"As long as the weather goes with you it is all too easy," Hugh said.

"When something works, why change it?"



Methane output ASBVs on the horizion

Carbon Neutral by 2030 (CN30) is an ambitious target for the Australian red meat and livestock industry to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030.

This means that, by 2030, the industry aims to make no net release of GHG emissions into the atmosphere.

Speaking at the 2022 Livestock Genetics Forum in Adelaide earlier in the year, University of New England's Sam Clark discussed two projects that are using genetics to work towards this goal - the Genetic improvement pipeline to reduce methane and improve productivity in the Australian beef industry and Selection for more methane efficient sheep.

"Not all animals were created equally - some animals will produce more or less methane per day," Mr Clark said.

"What our role in genetics is to think how much of this variation is genetic?"

Mr Clark told attendees that the National Livestock Methane Project, which concluded in 2015, found the heritability of methane production was 0.31, which is considered by industry to be moderately heritable

"We can make good changes to methane outputs using a trait that has heritability of .3"," Mr Clark added.

"How do we find more efficient animals? In animal breeding it is a pretty simple answer - measure, measure and measure some more.

"To find animals that have that low methane production, we have to actually measure them."

Methane projects being undertaken by a number of industry bodies, including the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Meat and Livestock Australia, are building reference populations of sheep to allow researchers to understand what animals produce.

Mr Clark said the two current projects were aiming towards the same thing - developing a pipeline for collection of emission data, form a reference population for genomic selection for reduced GHG emissions, and create EBVs (estimated breeding values) for emission traits for selection of low emitters. "The overall goal is to reduce individual animal methane emissions while improving overall productivity," Mr Clark said.

To measure sheep emissions, a portable accumulation chamber is being used.

"It is essentially a little plastic box that will travel around between farms...we put an animal inside the accumulation chambers to measure their outputs, and we also measure feed intake...feed intake could be a very useful measure of how efficient that production system is," Mr Clark said.

"The project already includes measurements for reproduction traits, wool traits, weight traits, many of the key breeding traits already selected for.

"So it is using the existing pipeline of Sheep Genetics and adding two more traits, methane and feed intake."

This year there will be 5000 resource flock lambs, and 5000 breeder and resource flock ewes recorded for methane output, all of which will be genotyped.

Once the data has been collected industry will be able to better determine what can be achieved through genetics, and adapt the importance of methane emissions in breeding value indexes accordingly.

By making a 1 per cent reduction in methane outputs in the flock each year through genetics, it will equate to 5 megatonnes over 30 years.

"So if we don't add methane (reduction) into our production system and don't record it, we have a net change of 10 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent being saved from our production system."

Mr Clark said while there were supplements which improved methane outputs, they would always have to be paid for, while genetics doesn't.

"Genetic change is permanent, cumulative and long lasting - if we stick to a breeding objective and people remain disciplined about making that genetic change, long term permanent change is possible," he said.

"Reducing individual animal methane emissions whilst improving overall production efficiency is possible with genetics, and it is an accumulative long lasting process, and the sooner we start the better because 1 per cent a year adds up over time."



Information from breeder flocks: Reproduction traits, wool, weights, genotypes

Sam Clark - University of New England

mla

SHEEP GENETICS

Analysis enhancement and revised database

Courtesy of Sheep Genetics

Every year, Sheep Genetics make updates to the genetic evaluation to ensure that the service remains world leading and results in the greatest possible genetic progress for producers.

According to Michael Crowley, General Manager of Research, Development and Adoption at MLA, the analysis enhancements and revised Sheep Genetic databases are an integral part to delivering breeding values to industry.

"The evolution of database technology, the growing number of animals with ASBVs, and the growth of genomic information were key reasons for undertaking these analysis enhancements. "These factors along with creating a system that is more serviceable with increased flexibility is essential in the delivery of these genetic tools to the industry.

"The new database and enhancements will allow us to develop new genetic products for commercial breeders, as well as provide easier access to the latest ASBVs.

"It also allows for integration with other industry and commercial data which benefits industry, and the utilisation and flexibility of data capture means that there are more datasets available for a greater variety of needs."

2022's analysis enhancements contained several updates that will impact most Sheep Genetics users.

As a result of these enhancements users can expect to see changes to breeding values and indexes.

It will be important that ram breeders and ram buyers utilise the percentile bands available on the Sheep Genetics website to re-benchmark themselves.

Database redevelopment

The Sheep Genetics database systems have been redeveloped for several key reasons:

- To make the Sheep Genetics systems more serviceable
- To future proof the genetic evaluation systems
- Allow integration of genetic databases with other industry databases
- Equip the systems to deal with growing amounts of genomic information
- To use the best data available for evaluation

The redevelopment process involved consolidating the different LAMBPLAN, MERINOSELECT and Research Databases into a single Data Warehouse.

Breeders will notice changes to their breeding values for 5 key reasons;

- 1. Updated business rules about which breed codes and pedigree get sent to analysis.
- 2. Updated data filtering including threshold ranges for traits
- 3. Updated age stage ranges. Going forward breeders are encouraged to record animals for traits when the average age of the group fits within the age range they are targeting.
- 4. Updated methods for building files that contain data from

research kills. This new method accurately accounts for how animals have been managed on-farm as well as the group they were slaughtered in.

5. Updated lifetime group logic to ensure that the environment an animal has been raised in is accurately accounted for.

These updates have been made to ensure that the best available data is available to underpin the calculation of breeding values. When receiving results after an analysis run breeders will be sent an email from Sheep Genetics. Results will now be accessed from the Sheep Genetics search site. Here you can find customisable, printable reports. You will also be able to download ASBVs to import into your software.

Data Quality Score Reports

The Data Quality Score (DQS) report is now available for breeders to access online

Data is the cornerstone of Sheep Genetics' evaluations.

Optimising data quality is vital to enhance the reliability of ASBVs, make accurate selection decisions and maximise genetic gains.

The Data Quality Score (DQS) will now be routinely reported back to breeders by Sheep Genetics as part of the 2022 enhancements.

The DQS is made up of measures of data quality, quantity and timeliness as measured by:

- The amount of data, including the number of animals and traits being recorded
- Completeness and accuracy of records, including how well pedigree, birth date and birth types and performance traits are recorded
- Data structure, including progeny numbers and sire representation across groups, and linkage
- Timeliness, which is a measure of how promptly data is submitted to the evaluation from time of collection

Displayed as a single combined score for the flock, the DQS evaluates data from the last 5 years. The score is provided both as a value out of 100, where the higher the value the better the data quality, as well as a star rating to reflect the range that your score fits. For example, a DQS score that sits between 60 and 80 out of 100, will receive a 4-star rating.

It is important to note that the DQS has been developed to explicitly measure the quality of the data being collected and submitted for genetic evaluation. This is different from the accuracy values reported with ASBVs. Accuracy is mainly capturing the quantity of data that contributes to a breeding value, rather than how well that data has been captured. The DQS does include measures on how well pedigree and fixed effects information is captured. For example, the depth of pedigree available or individual birth dates.

The DQS is privately reported to breeders via the results portal, in the future the star rating will be displayed publicly. Continue development to make the DQS available to smaller analyses and support for new members of Sheep Genetics.

Updated Terminal indexes to include Lambing Ease (LE)

The index review conducted by Sheep Genetics in 2020 highlighted that breeders and ram buyers were concerned that lambing difficulties were not being considered in any of the terminal indexes.

Reducing lamb losses is a key priority to industry therefore all

SHEEP GENETICS

Terminal indexes (TCP, EQ and LEQ) have been updated to include Lambing Ease Direct (LE_DIR) in the indexes.

Putting a negative emphasis on high BWT rams would punish the WWT and PWT responses, so instead LE has been included to limit the impact on growth, while reducing the problem of lambing difficulties. -

There are high correlations between the old indexes and the updated indexes that include LE. These correlations range between 97.4% - 98.2% for each of the indexes.

This indicates that the ranking of animals is very similar between old and updated indexes.

If a breeder doesn't score Lambing Ease, they will still have information informing this trait in the indexes via correlated traits to Lambing Ease such as gestation length and birthweight, however scoring this trait directly will provide the most accurate information for the ASBV and index calculation.

More information on scoring Lambing Ease can be found on the Sheep Genetics website.



150.4 143.69 Terminal op 20% Top 59 Carcase Production 135.66 155.53 147.46 50% Top 19 op 10% Including Lambing 120 130 140 150 160 142.16 Eating Top 10% Quality 145.65 128.9 137.73 152.06 Including 50% Гор 20% Top 5% Lambing Ease op 1 130 150 120 140





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Don's Dorset devotion

"If you do nothing in life, nothing happens."

Poll Dorset breeder Don McKinnon has lived by that slogan, and it has certainly proven true for him.

The long time Dorset lover started with Dorset Horns in 1956, his first ram being 93/57 from Newdevon in Adelaide, before buying in his first Poll Dorset ram Allendale 162/59 - both of which he recalls easily from memory.

"Those sort of things mean a lot to me," Don said.

Don and the McKinnon family started the Derby Downs stud in 1960 at Derby Farm, Leichardt, Victoria.

He was there for the start of the Poll Dorset breed, and remembers how it was a hard sell at times.

"Because the Dorset Horn was the dominant prime lamb breed, when the first Poll Dorsets came out of South Australia people used to hold horns that had come from the Dorset Horns up to the pollies heads to show how they looked just like the Dorset Horn," Don recalled.

But at Derby Downs, now based at Marong, they adopted the new poll genetics early on.

"We just like lots of others at the time would get what was a fairly good poll ram and just put them over your horn ewes and nearly all your lambs would be polled and about 50 per cent of your ram lambs would be clean polled," he said.

Don judged the first Poll Dorset showing at the Sydney Royal in 1978.

When asked why Poll Dorsets were his breed of choice, Don replied "I just love the breed."

"I could have gone anyway when I first went farming, I was tempted by Corriedales at one stage and I love seeing a good Merino - I still do," he said.

"My Dad used to breed prime lambs and he used to buy some of the Douglas' and others Dorset Horn sheep...so I gradually fell into Dorset Horn.

"And then horns were a problem and so there was no doubt that like everyone else we wanted to see a day where we could breed a sheep without those horns with the same quality as the old Dorset Horn."

The Dorset Horn was the background of most of the "better prime lamb sires", according to Don

"The White Suffolk introduced the Dorset to get the black out of the Suffolk, so the Dorset influence is just about everywhere in any decent prime lamb," he said.

After 62 years of breeding, Don said the size of the sheep has been the biggest change in the breed.

"I used to kneel down to hold my sheep...now I stand up! It is amazing the change that has happened," he said.

"And it is probably floating back the other way now to reduce the size and get more shape into them."

Don's life "went off in lots of different directions", namely a large earthmoving and contracting business which took him off farm.

"I came back to help at showtimes, but it is only the last 10 or 12 years I have been back farming full time," he said.

From the trotting track in Bendigo to a golf course on the Gold Coast, Don's business took him across the country, but he has remained a councilor on the Bendigo Show Society since 1967.

Don played perhaps the pivotal role in ensuring the Australian Sheep and Wool Show remained at the Bendigo Showgrounds, and had access to the facilities it needed to grow into the event it is today.

"In 2001 after the first show here, our local member Jacinta Allen - now deputy Premier of Victoria - was willing to support us and see what could be done about upgrading the facilities because we only had marquees," Don remembers.

"So on 21st November 2001 she took us to meet John Brumby, the state treasurer at the time, and he offered about \$2.5 million to upgrade facilities."

However agreement on how, or more importantly where, the funding would be used was not unanimous amongst sheep breeders, with some pushing for a move to a different location.

As then president of the Bendigo Show Society, Don campaigned for the ASWS Show to remain at the showground, and was finally victorious when the Exhibition Centre was opened at the showgrounds in 2005.

"That was our first step and that was only about half the space that the ASBA (Australian Sheep Breeders Association) wanted...so then eventually I went to the drawing board and this (the current sheep pavilion) was my design.

"ASBA to this day have free use of the showgrounds for this (ASWS) event, and in return contribute funds to assist the Bendigo Show Society in any future requirements."

Don said his long fight to ensure the Australian Sheep and Wool Show remained at the Bendigo Showgrounds and have the facilities now available to it, meant he was particularly passionate about the show.

Which was why he and wife Marj were more than happy to contribute a substantial amount to the event this year to ensure they were able to get insurance and continue on, after Covid-19 lockdowns saw the event canceled the night before it started in 2021.

In honour of that contribution, and his long time support of the event, the supreme Poll Dorset exhibit of the ASWS has now been named in perpetuity the Don Mckinnon award.

"It was a little bit overwhelming for me - I very much appreciate it," Don said.



AROUND THE SHOWS

NSW State Sheep Show: Tattykeel Poll Dorset duo unbeatable

Courtesy of Hannah Powe, The Land

INTERBREED SHEEP RESULTS

- Supreme interbreed champion group: Tattykeel Poll Dorset stud, Black Springs.
- Supreme champion interbreed ewe: Tattykeel 210131, Tattykeel
- Supreme champion interbreed ram, supreme sheep exhibit and supreme inter-species exhibit: Tattykeel 210113, Tattykeel

CONTINUING their Sydney Royal Show reign, the grand champion Poll Dorset ram and ewe from the April event have backed up their success taking the same honours at the NSW State Sheep Show.

The eye-catching pair, exhibited by the Gilmore family of Tattykeel Poll Dorset stud, Black Springs, were unbeatable throughout the Dubbo competition also winning interbreed champion ram and ewe of show.

Rising to the top of the field of 31 Poll Dorset sheep exhibited by four studs, Tattykeel 210113 won champion ram and supreme Poll Dorset exhibit of show under judge Daryl Dixon of Ashbank Poll Dorset stud, Dubbo.

He was by Tattykeel 'Mastermind' 170014, the \$27,000 top-priced ram sold by the stud in 2018 to the Fern Hill stud, Glen Innes, that also sired the 2021 supreme sheep of show and Dubbo Show supreme inter-species exhibit, Tattykeel 'Masterclass' 200060.

Coming from the shorn ram under 1.5 years, he had also won the supreme prime lamb ram at the 2022 Sydney Royal, and impressed judged Mr Dixon with extra quality among a terrific line up of Poll Dorset rams.

"It is hard to find anything wrong with him - he has the type, substance, balance and parades well," he said.

The ram went on to be supreme sheep exhibit of the show before being crowned the supreme inter-species exhibit of the

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Champion Poll Dorset ewe went to Tattykeel 210131 which came from the pair of two ewes under 1.5 years class. She was the supreme prime lamb ewe and exhibit at Sydney Royal this year and also sired by Tattykeel 'Masterclass' 200060.

"She is a very correct ewe with length, depth and width, good Dorset type and a good clean head and body," Mr Dixon said.

The ewe was also sashed supreme ewe exhibit of the show.

It was "splitting hairs" when it came down to the final decision between the champion ram and ewe for the supreme title, with Mr Dixon saying they are two fantastic sheep.

"You could go either way for supreme, but it is harder to breed good rams and hard to get a ram with this quality," he said.

"He has the length, a strong topline that he carriers over his hindquarter and down his side... he has great Dorset type."

Cranbook Poll Dorsets, Canowindra won both the ram and ewe objective measurement classes.



The champion and reserve rams with James and Ross Gilmore, Tattykeel stud, Black Springs, and judge Daryl Dixon (centre), Ashbank Poll Dorsets, Dubbo.



The champion and reserve ewe with James and Ross Gilmore, Tattykeel stud, Black Springs, and judge Daryl Dixon (centre), Ashbank Poll Dorsets, Dubbo.

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AROUND THE SHOWS

Valley Vista wins NSW Dorset Championship's supreme exhibit sash

Courtesy of Hannah Powe, The Land

VALLEY Vista Poll Dorset stud has come away with a truckload of awards from the 2022 NSW Dorset Championships.

The Scott family of the Coolac-based stud won grand champion ram, grand champion ewe, supreme exhibit, most successful exhibitor and best strike rate, along with reserve junior and senior champion rams.

Judged by Rod Davies from Wrattenbullie stud, Naracoorte, South Australia, the recipient of the Bromar NSW supreme exhibit sash was the senior and grand champion ram, Valley Vista 155-21.

The April 2021-drop ram was by Hillden 110-19 and out of a ewe sired by Valley Vista 138-14 'Fyfe' who is the most influential sire at Valley Vista, according to Joe Scott.

A "clear winner" with soundness and great carcase, Mr Davies said he had no trouble putting him up.

"He is a hell of a ram with great bone, good spine, he walks well... and has a tremendous hind quarter," he said.

"In my opinion the impact he could have on the breed is enormous."

Recently weighing 138 kilograms, he came from the Gererdan Trophy Ram class for the ram under 1.5 years shorn, not more than two centimetres of wool.

Also vying for the overall champion title was the junior champion ram, Springwaters 770-21, from the Rowley family of the Springwaters Poll Dorset stud, Boorowa, and the intermediate champion ram, Abelene Park 36, exhibited by the Douglas family of Abelene Park Poll Dorset stud, Woolomin.

Reserve junior champion was Valley Vista, reserve intermediate champion ram was Mt Bathurst 262 exhibited by Mt Bathurst stud, Black Springs, and reserve senior champion was Valley Vista 150-21.

Overall performance ram went to Springwaters 129-21, an April 2021-drop ram exhibited by Springwaters stud. Weighing 134kg, he had an eye muscle depth of 53mm, an eye muscle width of 106mm, a fat depth of 8mm and an eye muscle area of 43.26 square centimetres.

Grand champion Poll Dorset ewe was Valley Vista 10-21, an April 2021-drop ewe which came from the woolly ewe under 1.5 years class.

Mr Davies said she was an "outstanding ewe".

"She's got bone, she's got structure, she's got meat - anyone would be proud to have her in their front paddock," he said.

Joe Scott echoed the judge's praise saying, she had been a "standout since the start".

"She won her class at Sydney and was the champion ewe at Gundagai Show," he said.

"She will be retained and most likely we will use her in ET [embryo transfer]."

Reserve champion Poll Dorset ewe went to Valley Vista 454-21, a spring 2021-drop which displayed style and type from an early age, according to Andrew Scott.

"We will likely be flushing the champion and reserve ewes to the grand champion ram," Joe said.

Valley Vista also won the group of one ram and two ewes under 1.5 years, the group of three rams one in wool, two unshorn under 1.5 years, and the sire's progeny group (Hillden 110-19).

The NSW Mixed Pair of the Year was also exhibited by Valley Vista



Supreme exhibit of the NSW Dorset Championships exhibited by Andrew and Joe Scott, Valley Vista stud, Coolac..



Andrew Scott, Valley Vista, Coolac, with reserve champion senior ram, judge Rod Davies and Joe Scott, Valley Vista, with senior champion ram, which went on to be grand champion and supreme exhibit.



Judge Rod Davies with Intermediate Champion ram from Abelene Park, Woolomin, with Marshall Douglas, and reserve from Greg Healey, Mt Bathurst stud, Black Springs



Junior champion ram exhibited by Dane Rowley of Springwaters, Boorowa, and reserve by Joe Scott, Valley Vista, Coolac.



Champion and reserve champion ewes from Valley Vista, held by Joe and Andrew Scott, with judge Rod Davies.



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ASWS: Valley Vista wins inaugural Don McKinnon supreme

Courtesy of Bryce Eishold, Stock & Land

A generous donation by one central Victorian sheep breeder which ultimately saved the Australian Sheep & Wool Show has had a Poll Dorset award named in his honour.

The Australian Sheep & Wool Show named the award after Don McKinnon, Derby Downs stud, Marong, following the significant donation last year.

The amount has not been publicly revealed, but organisers of the show said the donation helped keep the show afloat after it was cancelled due to COVID in the hours before it was set to start in 2021.

The inaugural Don McKinnion supreme champion sash was awarded to Valley Vista Poll Dorset stud, Coolac, NSW, whose April 2021-drop ewe Valley Vista 210010 was unbeaten in her class.

Valley Vista Poll Dorset stud principal Andrew Scott said it was a "great achievement" to win the inaugural award with the "smart, stylish" sheep.

"To win Don's inaugural award means a lot because over the years he's put in a massive amount of work to the show and the industry in general," he said.

"We class her as probably one of the best ewes we've bred and she's so correct, right from the word go she's been a stand-out sheep.

"She will go into an embryo program and be used in our stud so we'll flush her and try and get as much of her genetics as we can."

Mr Scott said the result of winning supreme Poll Dorset champion added to their most successful year to date since the stud started showing the breed.

"We had 16 sheep down here and we were really pleased with how they stacked up and have come through," he said.

Poll Dorset judge Robert Grieve, Hillend Poll Dorset and Dorset Horn stud, Clarkes Hill, said it was hard to select the best ewe.

He was assisted in the judging ring by his daughter, associate judge Caitlin Grieve.

"The ewe was a very feminine ewe with good wool, she was wellstructured and had a beautiful, clean Dorset head on her," he said.

"The whole breed was very even the whole way through because there was no tail so you'd have to congratulate the breeders on the sheep they presented because they didn't make it easy for the judge."

Springwaters Poll Dorset stud, Boorowa, NSW, won grand champion ram with the junior champion, an August 2021-drop sheep, whose father won supreme champion Poll Dorset in 2019.

The Rowley family of Springwaters also exhibited the reserve junior champion ram, while Valley Vista exhibited senior and reserve senior champion rams.



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Nutrien Matt

0427 211 697
Valley Vista won the group of three rams class, as well as champion and reserve mixed pair.

Yentrac stud exhibited the champion group of one ram and two ewes.

Derby Downs stud, Marong, Vic won both the ewe lamb and ram lamb classes.

Australian Sheep & Wool Show chief executive Margot Falconer said the award named after Mr McKinnon was worthy recognition of his contribution.

"When we were shut down last year, the financial result was devastating because it was the night before and we had spent all the money," she said.

"There were members who called and offered us help, and Don and Marge McKinnon were two people who made a donation to the Australian Sheep Breeders' Association."

The donation followed a letter from Ms Falconer to ASBA members calling on their assistance to help cover the cost of a COVID insurance policy.

"It was a brand new policy introduced after last year, because last year you couldn't insure for COVID," Ms Falconer said.

"We put a call out to members and Don was most generous.

"We decided to name the supreme exhibit for the Poll Dorset breed after Don and it will remain that way moving forward."



Grand champion Poll Dorset ram with Dane Rowley, Springwaters, Boorowa, NSW



Senior and reserve senior champion Poll Dorset rams from Valley Vista, held by Sally and James Scott, with judges Caitlin and Robert Grieves and Valley Vista principal Andrew Scott.



Junior champion ram and reserve exhibited by Dane, Dennis and Joe Rowley, Springwaters stud, Boorowa, NSW, with judges Caitlin and Robert Grieves



Yentrac stud, Burrumbeet, Vic, exhibited the champion Poll Dorset group of one ram and two ewes, held by James Frost, Rob McCartney and Katie Shapcott



Grand champion Poll Dorset ewe exhibited by Joe Scott, Valley Vista, with judges Caitlin and Robert Grieves, and reserve champion ewe exhibited by Paul Brown, Derby Downs.

Campbelltown Show, Tasmania

Judge: Esther Glasgow, Estjam stud, Woolsthorpe, Vic

Champion Poll Dorset Ram: Will Milroy, Rangeview, Pipers River, Tas.

Reserve: Paul Day, Sunnybanks, Penguin, Tas

Champion & Reserve Champion Poll Dorset Ewe: Paul Day, Faraday Park, Penguin, Tas

Champion Interbreed Group: Poll Dorset - Faraday Park







Victorian Sheep Show, Ballarat

Judge: Brendan Mansbridge Brooklyn Park & Tymon studs, Eugowra, NSW

Champion Poll Dorset Ram: Elizabeth Wilkinson, Brightside, Purnim, Vic.

Reserve: Esther Glasgow, Estjam, Woolsthorpe, Vic

Champion & Reserve Champion Poll Dorset Ewe: Peter Cain, Glenore, Carisbrook, Vic



Victorian Sheep Show reserve champion ram exhibited by Esther Glasgow, Estjam, judge Brendan Mansbridge, and grand champion ram exhibited by Chelsea Wilkinson, Brightside.



Peter and Charlotte Cain from Glenore stud exhibited the champion and reserve champion ewe at the Victorian Sheep Show. Pictured with judge Brendan Mansbridge

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Derby Downs wins Sheepvention supreme PD with four-monthold ewe lamb

Courtesy of Bryce Eishold, Stock & Land

A four-month-old Poll Dorset ewe lamb has claimed the breed's highest title in a stunning rise to victory at Sheepvention.

The April 2022-drop ewe lamb outpolled older ewes, and incredibly the highly-decorated rams, in a "complete surprise", according to its owner, Paul Brown, Derby Downs Poll Dorset stud, Marong.

"It was a bit of a surprise really because I didn't expect it to win champion ewe either," he said.

"She is a very correct little ewe lamb and just stood up there and presented herself.

"Occasionally the ewes do beat the rams but I don't think I've ever heard of a ewe lamb beating a ram."

The Marong stud won a string of ribbons during the three-day event, including the most successful lamb exhibitor at Hamilton.

It comes weeks after the stud won the ram lamb and ewe lamb Poll Dorset classes at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo.

"We also won the group of three with one ram and two ewes and they were all lambs too at Hamilton," Mr Brown said.

"We'll keep this ewe in our stud and hope to show her again next year."

Meanwhile, Konongwootong Poll Dorsets, Konongwootong, won supreme champion Poll Dorset ram.

Poll Dorset judge Laurie Fairclough, Stockdale Poll Dorset stud, York, WA, said it was a credit to the breeders.

"It takes a fair bit of work to get the stock up to the standard where they are," he said.

"It doesn't just happen overnight, it's years of genetics and getting the feed right to keep them just spot on."

Mr Fairclough, who has previously judged the breed at the Melbourne Royal Show, said the line-up of sheep was impressive.

"The ram was a fantastic ram and had all the attributes a Poll Dorset should have," he said.

"The supreme exhibit was a ewe lamb and she just had everything that a breeder looks to try and breed.

"She was a very correct, young sheep and probably the most correct sheep in the shed I reckon."



Sheepvention returns for 2022

Courtesy of Jessica Sutherland

Results

Supreme Poll Dorset Exhibit: Derby Downs, Marong (Ewe Lamb)

Grand Champion Ram: Konongwootong, Konongwootong

Junior Champion Ram: Glenore, Carisbrook

Champion Ewe: Derby Downs

Group 1 ram & 2 ewes: Derby Downs

Sire Progeny: Glenore

Mixed Pair: Glenore

Most Successful Exhibitor: Glenore

Most Successful Lamb Exhibitor: Derby Downs

Most Successful Ram Exhibitor: Konongwootong Dorsets

Sheepvention returned this year after a two-year hiatus.

Although covid restrictions have been eased, exhibitors and visitors were still cautious to attend such a traditionally large gathering.

Eight Studs from the South West Victoria, North Central and the Wimmera/Mallee attended Sheepvention - exhibiting about 80 sheep.

As part of the new Sheepvention format, the novice and ewe classes were judged on Sunday afternoon and the rams on Monday morning.

Mr Laurie Fairclough from the Stockdale Studs at York W.A was our judge and Ms Annie Tischler from Tarraleah Stud at Edenhope was his Associate.

Although smaller in numbers there was still a great representation of Poll Dorset sheep displayed.



Senior & grand champion ram exhibited by Konongwootong stud



Derby Downs stud exhibited the grand champion ewe and supreme Poll Dorset exhibit.



Junior champion ram and reserve exhibited by Peter and Charlotte Cain, Glenore stud.



Judging of the group of three rams, with the team from Bright Side on the left and Estjam on the right



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Naracoorte Hamilton Region Field Day

Courtesy of Jessica Sutherland

Our 2nd Regional Field Day was held on Friday 19th August at the Naracoorte Showgrounds. The day was a great success with over 60 rams exhibited to an audience of about 60. Rams from Allendale, Janmac, Konongwootong, Morton, Mullgundwa, Mullinger Park, Warrawindi, Wrattenbullie, all brought a team along for fellow breeders and prime lamb producers to view.

Studs were invited to bring a group of three rams out onto the show floor, for Geoff Davey from the Geejay stud and our Federal Council President to judge. Allendale was awarded the best group of three rams, with Konongwootong second.

There was plenty of time for social interaction while enjoying a lamb BBQ. Regional Breeders took the opportunity to view and study rams that will be coming up for sale in the next few months. Rod Davies and his very small band of helpers are to be congratulated on another very successful day.



A ram line-up at Naracoorte



The team from Warrawindi stud



Shannon, Isaac and Alistair Sutherland, Konongwootong



Angus and Alister Day, Allendale, with their group of three rams



Team Janmac with Grant Hausler

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BWT: 0.20	PWT: 17.9
PEMD: 2.6	LMY: 5.23

Phone: Andrew Gillett 0429 660 584 Email: wunnamurra@outlook.com.au



Tattykeel - 'Supreme' 030550

Sire: Tattykeel 'Rippa' 020140 (sired by Hillden 'Colt') Dam: Tattykeel 990389 (Dam of 'Premium' 040181 & 'Trifecta' Sire of Dam: Baringa 970017

Phone: Tania King 0429 720 062 **Email:** Shellalpolldorsets@gmail.com Progeny eligible for full stud registration



Valley Vista-210155

Sire: Hillden 110-19 Sire of Dam: Valley Vista 138-14 (Fyfe)

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Courtesy of AWI's The Broader View

Production

Whilst Australia overwhelmingly supplies the fine (less than 24 micron) global wool apparel sector by producing 68 per cent of the wool required, our percentage of the global production of the non-Merino broad wool sector is just 8 per cent. The most notable shift in Australian production in this sector has been the wool type produced, as many lamb breeding enterprises have switched away from the traditional Merino/Border first cross and first cross ewe/Dorset methodology. The introduction of differing breed types under the 'composite' banner - which contain higher percentages of straight fibre, kemp and dark and medullated fibres - has seen a dearth of wool produced in the 26 to 34 micron sector. No distinction in on-farm identification has been regulated, as most wool sale lots of this composite infused wool type is bale branded similarly to the traditional crossbred wools. Buyers at auction though are certainly making a distinction, with starkly differing returns for producers being achieved for similar micron wools. This is partly responsible for the lowering of the average micron price guides. Classing standards are also poorer in the broader wool sector, with a higher percentage of growers in this segment opting to go without a wool classer and use the D (unclassed) certification, which again contributes to the lowering of the average micron price guides. In the very good (too good) growing season we have had across much of Australia, this lack of classing has only accentuated discounts applied to the broader wool clip.

Export

China imported 76.1 per cent of all Australian wool broader than 24 microns in the first half of the 2021/22 season up till December. The Czech Republic has imported 16.1 per cent and India accounts for 5.1 per cent of the export of our broad wools. Ten other countries take lesser amounts making up the total of 13 countries that import Australian broad wool.

Price

It is noteworthy that wool has recovered to the similar US dollar price levels that were on offer pre COVID when measured by the industry 'all of market' standard Eastern Market Indicator (EMI). However, that simplistic analogy does not reveal the struggles that the broader wool sector is facing. In fact, it masks it. When using the EMI as the measurement stick, the average price of Australian wool is US\$10.381.56 per clean tonne, at the end of February 2022. When isolating the broader wools (23.5 to 32 micron) though, price levels for this sector are lagging considerably and are 42% lower on average than what was on offer before March 2020, whilst their finer micron counterparts in the Merino segment are 13.6% higher on average for the same period. The low-price structure at present for broader wools is evident when compared to other alternative fibres used in textiles. The broader wools have fallen to where they now have almost zero value above those competing fibres, and in the case of wools broader than 31 microns, prices are now lower than the polyester staple. Frustratingly, the alternative fibres have pushed much higher in price during the same period in which the broad wools have depreciated by 42 per cemt. Acrylic has added 34 per cent to its value during COVID (to US\$2,922.04) and polyester fibre has also pushed



Garry Armstrong

Please note our On-Property Sale will be interfaced with

AUCTIONS PLUS

WOOL

31.4 per cent higher (to US\$2,105.45). Interestingly though,the premium synthetic, nylon, has almost matched the gain of the Merino wool increase by moving around 15 per cent dearer (to US\$6,536.63). The standout performer though has been cotton, which is almost double its pre COVID price, being 96.9 per cent more expensive (at US\$3,070.61), and sits close to the level of 28 micron Australian wool (US\$3,082.48).

Limestone Coast wool quilt range

Located at Naracoorte in the heart of South Australia's Limestone Coast, leading wool bedding brand MiniJumbuk has a range of quilts filled with Dorset wool sourced from local woolgrowers.

Although Woolmark licensee MiniJumbuk has been handcrafting wool bedding products for more than 45 years, its newLimestone Coast Wool Range realises one of the company's long held dreams: to produce premium quilts proudly filled with fine quality wool grown locally in the Limestone Coast.

MiniJumbuk Managing Director, Darren Turner, believes being located in a rural area offers a unique advantage to build relationships.

"Few farmers get the opportunity to see where their wool goes and the 'paddock to quilt' story is an exciting aspect of the project," Darren said.

"The Limestone Coast has historically been a great woolgrowing region, and we've sourced wool from a number of Dorset growers. Dorset wool's characteristics of good crimp and good loft, offer a nice resilient wool ideal for our quilts.

"From the farmer through to the incredible MiniJumbuk team, there is a sense of pride seeing their raw materials,care and attention to detail transformed into premium quality bedding products and shipped to major cities within Australia and around the world.

"Our farmers are delighted to partner with MiniJumbuk and know that their wool is improving someone else's life through better quality sleep."

For the launch of the Limestone Coast Wool Range, MiniJumbuk profiled three of the farms that supply their wool for the range. In the videos, the farmers explain how the region's Mediterranean climate ensures their sheep have a consistent source of green feed for most of the year, which helps ensure healthy and happy sheep. The farmers also tell how pleasing it is for them to know not only where their wool is used, but that it is used in a quality product produced locally by MiniJumbuk, which strengthens the rural community.

There are five quilts in the Limestone Coast Wool range, each with a different number of wool layers to suit individual sleeping needs.



"Being a farmer within the Limestone Coast, I think helping a business within the Naracoorte region is a really good news story because it's helping the community throughout." Kerry DeGaris, 'Killanoola', Bool Lagoon



"It's great to see one of our products being distributed around the world and by a renowned business like MiniJumbuk that has done great things promoting the Limestone Coast worldwide." Nanni DiGiorgio, 'Sterita Park', Lucindale



"We want to be part of the Limestone Coast Wool Project with MiniJumbuk because it's really good to keep our wool local because we've never had any idea where our wool goes previously." Will Limbert, 'Tarloop', Bool Lagoon

GREYWOOD Poll Dorset Stud

1st on property ram sale September 7 2022 Dubbo NSW

Ram pictured: 200792 - Semen Sales Available

Find us on Social Media



For enquiries please contact Charlie Coddington on 0477 864 994

Even the most resilient people need support

Courtesy of Zoetis

Considering the vastness of Australia and the number of people who live in regional and rural areas, it's a concerning fact that remoteness is a major risk factor contributing to mental health issues and suicide, with the suicide rates being 60% higher than rates in major cities. In addition, people in outer regional, remote or very remote areas of Australia face more barriers to accessing health care than people living in major cities, making it harder for them to maintain good mental health.

In a continued effort to raise awareness of mental health in rural and regional Australia, leading animal health business, Zoetis, has partnered with Beyond Blue to support mental health initiatives and reduce the stigma around mental health. Over the past six years, Zoetis has raised \$600,000 for the Beyond Blue Support Service by donating \$5 from each sale of the company's livestock, pig and poultry vaccines and drenches. In 2022, Zoetis aims to once again reach its \$100,000 fundraising target by the end of the year.

"Zoetis works closely with rural Australia through interactions with the country's farming community, agricultural stores, veterinarians and their families. We are proud to once again be supporting Beyond Blue and the important work they do," says Lance Williams, Zoetis Senior Vice President and Cluster Lead, Australia and New Zealand. "The money raised goes directly to the Beyond Blue Support Service to continue helping people living in remote areas. To date, thanks to Zoetis's donation, over 12,000 people have been able to get the support they need through the service. Together we have made strong progress in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of those who live in rural Australia, and we are passionate about helping again this year."

With many farmers, small business owners, workers and parents feeling the pressure it is vital that people receive mental health support as early as possible to prevent their issues leading to more serious mental health conditions. Financial hardship, isolation and stigma can take a toll on those in distress, placing their mental health at risk. It's important to remember that depression and anxiety are common conditions, not weaknesses, and with the right treatment, most people can recover.

Beyond Blue Chief Community Officer Patrice O'Brien said the journey to better mental health can start with small actions. "It's important to make looking after ourselves a priority and set goals for sleep, exercise and 'me' time. Maintaining social connections, keeping in touch with friends and family, and being part of a community provides a supportive network. Also, understanding which tools and strategies work well for you in tough times and reaching out for that extra support when you need it are really important."

Feeling connected with others can reduce stress and build resilience. The main thing for everyone to know is that, "You are not alone and you don't have to work things out by yourself," Ms O'Brien said. "Whatever the reason, Beyond Blue wants people to know that no problem is too big or small to reach out. Sometimes, just talking to someone can make a difference."

The Beyond Blue Support Service offers free and immediate counselling, advice and referrals via phone, webchat or email. In addition to the support service, Beyond Blue has resources and information online at www.beyondblue.org.au, including Online Forums which offer peer support in a safe, moderated setting.

People can support the Zoetis initiative from July 18 to October 31, 2022. For every animal health product sold by Zoetis, they will donate \$5, up to \$100,000, to Beyond Blue. For more information on how you can help Zoetis to raise vital funds to support mental health in rural communities through its partnership with Beyond Blue please visit www.zoetis.com.au

For more information about depression and anxiety, visit www. beyondblue.org.au. To talk to a mental health professional for free, contact the 24/7 Beyond Blue Support Service on 1300 22 46 36. Free web chat is also available from 3pm until midnight at beyondblue.org.au/getsupport and you can join the forums for free and download the BeyondNow app from the website.



7th of October 2022 : 160 Stud & Flock Rams

the 13th of January 2023 : Stud & Flock Rams; & Stud SIL Ewes



POLL DORSET STUD



VV210006

- Will lead our sale rams at Valley
- Vista on-property sale.
- Been used heavily in the stud already
- Is in the Bowan Park Sire Progeny Trial current cohort.



VV210010

 NSW Dorset Championships Grand Champion Ewe Australian Sheep & Wool Show Grand Champion Ewe and Supreme Exhibit



VV210155

- NSW Dorset Championships Supreme Exhibit
- Australian Sheep & Wool Show 1st Shorn Ram & Reserve Senior
- Champion.
- Will be retained in the stud and semen available

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

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NCO



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lan Reynolds -Greyhome Poll Dorset Stud

APDA Life Member and past president

31 January 1937 - 20 May 2022

An extract from his Eulogy courtesy of fellow APDA life member and past president John Jasper.

He was well respected for his knowledge and ability for sheep assessment in the industry and was invited to judge at many shows throughout WA and also judge at the Perth and Adelaide Royal Shows. He also judged other breeds at those shows, particularly South Suffolks, which he had a soft spot for as a breed, having had a stud of them before he started breeding Poll Dorsets. He was on the WA State PD Committee for well over 40 years from the late 60s though to recent years taking on roles of Chairman in 1974 to 1976 and as treasurer from 1977, until he retired from the Committee.

lan was elected to the Australian Poll Dorset Council in 1975 and served there with distinction for 20 years as one of two Western Australian elected Councillors. In that time on Council, he was on many sub committees always making a valuable contribution. He was elected President of the APDA Council in 1981-83 a position he took on with great enthusiasm in times when there was a lot of turmoil in the Association. Ian handled it well, always with fairness and common sense at the forefront of his decisions.He was made a life member in 1996 of the APDA in recognition of his outstanding services to the breed in all areas. Ian was only the 6th person to receive such an award in the Associations 42-year history at that stage.

lan always enjoyed showing livestock at the Perth Royal Show. Starting with helping his uncle, the late Merv Reynolds, with his large and successful exhibitions of pigs and sheep of many breeds.He started exhibiting Poll Dorsets at the Perth Royal in the mid-seventies and had many successes, winning both Champion Ram and Champion ewe on a number of occasions. I am sure he got a lot of pleasure out of his wins, but because of his humble modest nature, and apart from a wide grin, he appeared to take it all in his stride.

His interest in the Perth show continued after lan stopped showing sheep. He stepped into the role of section steward for the Poll Dorsets. A position he worked tirelessly in, before and during the show, keeping the event running smoothly.

lan was always modest when he won with his sheep at a show, but he always showed more enthusiasm when he was able to share the win with his fellow competitors. No where better was this the case than when he bred a Poll Dorset ewe, he called Show Girl. The reason for this name will become fairly obvious as I tell the story. Showgirl or Greyhome 74 of 93, her registered title, was born in 1993. She was an outstanding ewe with a lot of size and muscle and structurally as good as you could wish for. Ian of course, being a good judge of sheep, recognised how good she was and so exhibited her at the Wagin Woolorama in 1994, where she was awarded Champion ewe, Supreme Poll Dorset and Supreme all breeds Champion. Quite a feat for a ewe to win a supreme award as rams generally dominate winning of this award. Buoyed by his success here lan set his sites on the Melbourne Royal Show later in that year. In those days, the mecca of sheep meat breed shows.

The rest is history as Showgirl won the Champion Ewe and all breeds Grand Champion ewe ribbon as well, a feat that hadn't been achieved by any Western Australian Poll Dorset before or since. This was a great achievement for the Greyhome stud in winning such a prestigious award

Not satisfied with that lan returned over the Nullarbor to Cunderdin with Showgirl in the back, where they rested her up for a few days before heading off with her to the Perth Royal Show.

Like before the rest is history. Showgirl was awarded Champion Poll Dorset ewe and for the third time awarded the Supreme Champion Poll Dorset of the show.

lan was well regarded among his peers in farming as an innovator and early adopter of new technology and was always willing to share his experiences whether successful or otherwise.

He was a tireless worker at what ever he took on whether it was for himself, his family, friends, or community. In doing so he built a reputation as a very good farmer and an excellent citizen in the Cunderdin area and beyond. He held is family in the highest esteem, worshiped his wife Isabel and his 5 daughters, as most of you who knew Ian, would attest.



SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	DATE	TIME	STUD RAMS	FLOCK RAMS
Abelene Park	NSW	29/09	1.30pm		50
Aberdeen	NSW	4/10	1:00 PM		250
Armdale	NSW	23/09	1.30pm		120
Armdale Park	NSW	30/09	12.30pm	16	180
Ashbank	NSW	14/09	1:30 PM		120
Ashcharmoo	NSW	22/10	1:00 PM		
Avondale	NSW	07/09	1:00 PM		100
Barwon	NSW	14/10	1.30pm		150
Bowan Park (Open Day)	NSW	09/09	1:00 PM		
Bruan	VIC	17/10	1:00 PM	8	150
Brurob	VIC	14/10	1:00 PM	8	80
Coledale	VIC	22/09	1:00 PM	10	110
Cranbrook	NSW	01/09	1:00 PM	5	50
Derrynock	VIC	13/10	1:00 PM		
Dursley	NSW	01/09	9.30am		50
Englewood Park	VIC	12/10	1:00 PM	10	102
Estjam	VIC	7/10	3:00 PM		
Geejay	VIC	27/09	1:00 PM	3	50
Glenore	VIC	5/10	1:00 PM	10	90
Goonigal	NSW	09/09	1:00 PM		100
Gooramma	NSW	16/09	1:30 PM		150
Greywood	NSW	07/09	12.30pm		20
Hillden (online)	NSW	20/09	12:00 PM	20	
Hillden	NSW	4/11	2:00 PM	10	140
Icon	VIC	6/10	11.30pm		
llfracombe	VIC	3/10	1:00 PM		110
Ivadene	VIC	4/10	1.30pm		
Jackson	VIC	20/10	1:00 PM		40
Janmac	VIC	5/10	1:00 PM		210
Jewsharp	VIC	18/10	1:00 PM		120
Konongwootong	VIC	20/10	11:00 AM	10	190
Kurralea	NSW	27/09	12.30pm		350
Majella	VIC	16/09	1:00 PM		110
Mallee Park	VIC	22/09	11:00 AM		140
Marocara	NSW	06/09	2:00 PM		160
Melton Vale	TAS	1/11	2.001101		100
Mt Bathurst	NSW	13/10	1:00 PM		80
Mulgundawa	SA	10/10	1:00 PM	4	150
Mullinger Park	NSW	01/09	1.001 101	т	
Narranmore	NSW	09/09			100
Newbold	SA	23/09	1:00 PM	12	88
				12	
Pembroke	VIC	6/10	1:00 PM	7	60
Pepperton	VIC	12/10	1:00 PM	7	43
Pepperton	VIC	12/10	1:00 PM		

SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	DATE	TIME	STUD RAMS	FLOCK RAMS
Pinewalla	NSW	7/11	1:00 PM	10	120
Ridgehaven	NSW	08/09	1:00 PM	20	130
Riverbend	WA	13/10	2.30pm		50
Rosewood	NSW	4/10	1:00 PM		90
Rowallan	NSW	02/09	1.30pm		160
Shellal	VIC	11/10	1:00 PM		
Springwaters	NSW	30/09	1:00 PM	15	200
Stokesbay Genetics	SA	18/10	1:00 PM		
Tellarup Brook	WA	12/10	1:00 PM		60
Ulandi Park	SA	30/09	1:00 PM	20	130
Valley Vista	NSW	7/10		10	150
Valma	TAS	17/11	3.00pm	14	150
Valma (Online)	TAS	19/09			
Warburn	NSW	28/09	12.30pm	9	51
Warrawindi	SA	14/10	10:00 AM	6	150
Wilgarna	WA	23/09	2:00 PM		
Woolumbool	SA	5/10			
Wrattenbullie	SA	10/10	1.30pm	6	130
Wunnamurra	NSW	15/09	12:00 PM		200
Yentrac	VIC	28/09			
Yentrac	VIC	19/10			



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\$219	\$274
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