



POLL DORSETS ...

producing meaty lambs with rapid growth, quick maturity and high lean meat yield



Quick Facts:

HIGH growth rates
QUALITY carcasses
ADAPTABLE and versatile
VALUABLE skins and wool
EASY management
EXCELLENT mothers
HIGH fertility

The Poll Dorset breed is known for its rapid growth rates and early maturity, shapely carcasse with ideal fat coverage and high lean meat yield. These characteristics are ideal for meat production and make Poll Dorsets the perfect sire choice.

High growth rates and early maturity

Poll Dorsets have very high growth rates that enable lambs to reach targeted market weights quickly. Most Poll Dorset sired lambs are trade ready (18 – 22 kilograms carcasse weight) from 12 weeks of age.

The breed's entrenched background is one of early maturity, meaning lambs are sale ready and 'finished' for market at an earlier age.

Poll Dorsets have the added advantage of continuing their growth through to heavy export weight lambs (28+kg CWT). This gives lamb producers marketing options for their business.

Outstanding carcasse attributes

Lean meat yield (LMY) is the key measure of carcasse value. Poll Dorset genetics lead the way in LMY, resulting in higher value carcasses. Carcasse evaluations have also shown an ideal fat to muscle ratio. This is highly important in maintaining consumer appeal and taste acceptance.

Poll Dorsets also exhibit ideal muscle patterns. A large loin and shapely hindquarter result in a higher proportion of quality cuts of meat. Visual appeal is essential for butcher demand and consumer acceptance.



Find a breeder near you

Visit www.polldorset.org.au

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Easy management

Poll Dorsets lead the way in producing market relevant sires. Breed development has resulted in a body shape that minimises birth difficulties, whilst maintaining carcase shape. Open, wool free faces reduces wool blindness and minimises the problems of grass seeds in eyes.

Maternal attributes

Poll Dorsets are well known for being excellent mothers. Their protective instincts and strong bonding ability mean that most of the lambs born will thrive. Milk production is good in both quantity and quality, enabling the lambs to receive optimal early nutrition.

Fertility

Fertility is the greatest single parameter for profitability in a commercial sheep flock.

Poll Dorset sheep have no restrictive breeding period, meaning they have the ability to breed all year round. In a purebred flock normal lamb weaning percentages would be 120% to 150%. Multiple births of twins and triplets are common.

While the majority of Poll Dorset rams are used as terminal sires, their long recognised high fertility, virility and functionality has enhanced their commercial acceptance.

Hybrid vigour

When used in a crossbreeding enterprise Poll Dorsets produce lambs with excellent hybrid vigour; ensuring strong, fast growth, resulting in lambs that reach marketable weights sooner.

Skins and wool

Poll Dorset sheep have a 'downs' type of wool. Downs wool is known for its density and springiness, making it ideal for doona and quilt production. In commercial lamb production system, the density of the downs wool contributes to a higher quality skin. These are more valuable in the trade and are used for high wear items such as ugg boots and car seat covers.

Adaptability

The lamb production area of Australia covers a huge range of environment conditions. The Poll Dorset breed has stood the test of time for its outstanding consistent and high levels of performance in all climates, over all maternal breeds, across all market weight ranges. The large gene pool within the Poll Dorset breed has enabled it to fulfil all market and management needs.



What commercial producers say ...

"One of the main reasons we use Poll Dorsets is because we sell second-cross lambs out of composite ewes and it gives them more definition. We get good weight gains and good carcase yield in our lambs and, most of all, the buyers like them. They tick all the boxes."

Stephen Creese – Bridport, Tasmania

"We try to get all our lambs off by mid-December and the growth rate of the Poll Dorsets help us achieve that. Last year, we put about 600 Poll Dorset-cross lambs in a carcase competition and they averaged over 24kg each."

Ron Watterson – Tenterden, WA

"As lamb finishers, we prefer Poll Dorset-sired lambs, we get more weight into them and they have better skins, which means better margins."

Paul Pridham – Cadgee, SA

"Buyers I know – whether chasing trade or export lambs – all prefer the Poll Dorset first-cross, which I think comes down to the lamb's shape, fat content, yield and clean, white skin."

Tom Pattison – Wagga Wagga, NSW

"We put Poll Dorset lambs over our 1000 Border Leicester/Merino crossbred ewes and 500 Merinos aiming to market finished lambs at 21-23kg carcase weight by 5-6 months of age. Locally sourced Poll Dorset rams with Lambplan figures give us the fast growing lambs we are looking for, while their ASBVs allow us to select specific rams for different ewe matings."

Bruce Landrigan – Hopetoun, Victoria

"Almost 100 per cent of the lambs we buy at Breakout River Meats are sired by Poll Dorsets. Breakout River Meats have been working with farmers for the past 10 years to produce a Poll Dorset that suits our enterprise. We process about 6000 lambs a week and look to target on average a 22 to 23 kilogram carcaseweight lamb. We find Poll Dorset sired lambs are the most consistent when it comes to yields and fat cover – the genetics just work for us."

Matt Pollard – Breakout River Meats, Cowra, NSW

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