



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 49 / NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 2019



WFI
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

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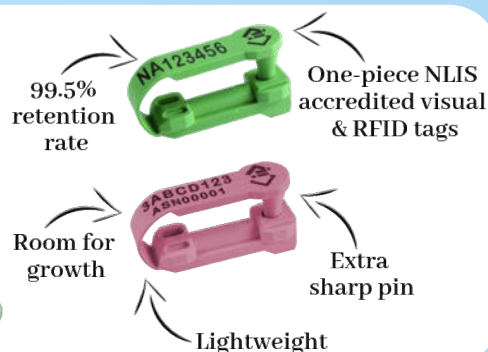
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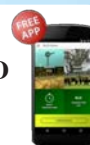
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Working to Help the Livestock Farmer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is with great pleasure that I write my first APDA President's report.

I can't help but reflect back to when I was a kid helping my Dad tagging lambs, classing ewes, heading off to local shows, swapping co-owned rams with John Yates on top of Mt Hotham; so much of my time with Dad was involved with Poll Dorset sheep (and I loved it). I am sure he would have been amazed and immensely proud that I have been voted in as President.

Like many of you I have spent the last few weeks classing and joining our stud ewes. When I think about the fact that lambs about to be conceived are the rams that will influence the prime lambs sold in 2022, there is a great weight of responsibility to get it right!

The on-going drought conditions through much of the eastern states is having a significant impact on the future capacity of the lamb industry. A big sell off breeding ewes, combined with a poor lambing season in 2019, is likely to see a shortage of prime lamb breeding ewes in the next 5 years. How this is going to influence Poll Dorset rams sales is unknown, but what is for sure is that lamb producers will be looking to use genetics that will increase their profitability.

In a study looking at key profit drivers of the lamb industry, three of the top four can be influenced by sire choice.

Lamb output rate (or Kg carcase/ewe joined) can be maximised through a higher dressing percentage, which in turn can be improved through selection of higher muscled sires. It is critical that our breed maintains good muscling and balanced fat cover – both in the eye muscle area (using measured data) and the hindquarter (in visual assessments).

Lamb growth rates (or g/day gain) are a massive influence on profitability as getting prime lambs to a saleable product quickly, can minimise expenses and wastage.

This is where the Poll Dorset breed is a clear winner; the capacity to produce early sucker lambs (24kg CWT at 12 weeks) provides a fast return on investment and solid, clear management options.

Cost of production (\$ spent/kg sold), is a large bucket to draw from, but genetics can determine much of the on-farm management requirements too. Lambs sold early don't require shearing, less drench and vaccine, less labour. Rams bred to minimise lambing difficulties equal higher lambing percentages.

What is clear is that our stud breeding programs must contain breeding objectives that strive to meet these key profit drivers. Breeding rams that are FIT FOR PURPOSE will keep us ahead of any competition.

From 2021 all APDA registered studs will be required to be part of an Ovine Brucellosis scheme. Most APDA members are already OB accredited free, and for those it is simply a matter of sending in your updated certificate with your flock return. For those members not currently in a scheme, each states Dept of Agriculture has an accreditation scheme that leads to a OB Free status. If you need any guidance in how to go about this, please contact the APDA secretary.

I would like to strongly encourage members to start to DNA sample their sires. The fundamental reason being that if all your sires are tested, any progeny can be parentage verified if necessary. This provides full confidence in the pedigree supplied when selling and transferring stud rams. Just collecting the blood card sample of your sire and having it available is a good safeguard for the future.

Congratulations to Laurie Thompson on his life membership. It is well and truly earned, as his contribution, in particular to the Royal Melbourne Show, has been immeasurable.

Ram sale results have been heavily influenced by seasonal conditions in the area, but it is very pleasing to see such strong demand for Poll Dorset rams in most areas and leading to record breaking averages in much of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

As I look out onto bare, dry paddocks, with sheep that are a bit too keen on the feed cart, I really hope 2020 brings all of us the rain we need and an easier season.

Isabele Roberts

PRESIDENT



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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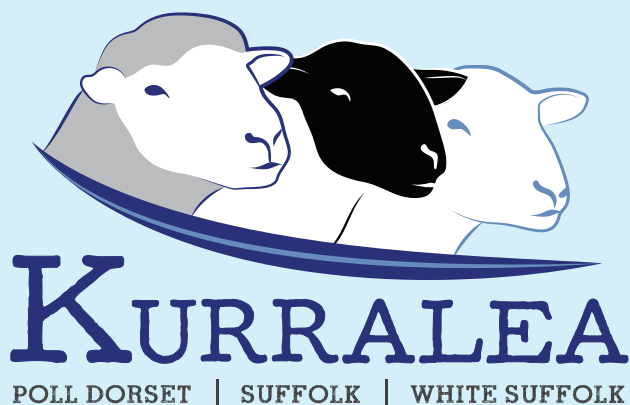
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Continuing to produce a unique & balanced blend of elite performance and structural excellence

A special thankyou to everyone who inspected our sheep in 2019 and invested in Kurralea genetics at our annual sale

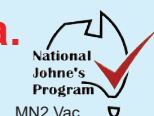
Overall sale result: 219 rams sold to a record \$32,000 & averaged \$1261



**Kurralea 180140 by Kurralea 'Syd' - Sold for Australian Poll Dorset record price of \$32,000 to the Squiers family's Shirlee Downs and Dongadilling studs, WA
Pwwt 16.1 Pfat -0.8 Pemd 3.0 C+ 218 TCP 149**



**Semen available from our top group of sires at Kurralea.
Enquiries also welcome for stud ewes.**



Stay tuned for information on our next exciting group of rams coming through

**Contact: Ben & Lucy Prentice, 'Kurralea', Arian Park, NSW
Ben: 0429 814 549 Lucy: 0409 544 080 Kim: 0427 262 100
Email: lucycprentice@gmail.com**

Check our website: www.kurralea.com

SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Board Appointment

The following motion was passed;

"That L Fairclough fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of C Garnett."

Carried

Brucellosis Affected Flocks

The topic of what safety nets would be in place for members with brucellosis affected flocks and the meeting concluded that if a member was found to be not brucellosis free, they would be guided in gaining that accreditation in the future. This was deemed a Rule, not a Regulation.

The following motion was carried;

"That flocks registered with the APDA must be part of the Ovine Brucellosis accreditation scheme within your relevant state. Effective for the 2021 Flock Return."

Election of Office Bearers 2019/20

President – I Roberts

Vice President – P Cain

Finance – P Cain (Chair), S Squiers, D Coats, I Roberts, A Scott, G Armstrong and G Davey

Administration and Planning – G Armstrong (Chair) A Rowett, R Davies, P Day, J Frost & S Squiers

Promotions – J Corcoran, I Roberts, P Cain, A Scott, D Coats, L Fairclough, A Sutherland and G Davey

Flock Registration Committee – J Frost (Chair) & P Day

Finance Report

It was noted that the APDA had a \$20,000 loss for the period July 1 – June 30, 2019. This included a \$12,000 loss in Journal operating costs. Meeting also discussed what excess funding is available in flock ram funds. The Secretariat expense showed an increase of \$14,000 in February but this was due to having two Secretariats running for that month. The employment expenses were \$12,000 but this was spent to ensure correct procedure was followed and to retain good governance and integrity in appointment of new Secretary.

The following motion was carried.

"That the Finance report be accepted"

Carried

Promotions Report

G Davey told the meeting that the Journal is now in good hands with a professional production team, good advertising, good editorial and more importantly out on time.

"That the Promotions report be accepted"

Carried

Flock Registration Report

The below motion was carried;

That flocks 4634 – 4638 be accepted.

Transfer of Penrise stud (Flock no. 53) from Kevin Moore to grandson Lochlan Moore

Transfer of Breffni stud (Flock no. 4457) from Anne Fragar to Lilly Fragar

Transfer of Wayandah stud (Flock no. 3778) from David Hicks to Graham Hicks

Transfer of Braemar stud (Flock no. 330) from GM & KA Fogarty transfer to GA & TA McIlveen

Prefix allocation

The Secretary advised the Board there were no prefix clashes and these studs could be allocated their first preference of prefix.

The below motions were carried:

4639 Bexta agreed to as prefix.

4640 Ambleside agreed to as prefix.

Springburn agreed to as prefix once an inspection has taken place at which point flock no. will be allocated.

Deregistered and Late Flock Returns

The meeting noted that there were approximately 40 flocks de-registering in the 2019 flock book.

The below flocks were all re-registered after the flock book deadline.

Flock Number	Prefix	Member
4150	Betsy's Place	John Betts
4641	Gunndemar	Brooke Cowan
4505	Janan	Jakob Duschka

The following motion was passed;

"Include some outstanding flock returns into the flock book due to the fact that several members had paid their funds to Adelaide and the funds had not been sent onto the new Secretariat."

Website Update

Technical issues remained for much of 2019 but the board is confident the website will be fully operational by the end of December 2019.

Life Membership

The meeting congratulated Laurie Thompson who was awarded Life Membership of the APDA at the AGM.

Next meeting March 11-12, 2020



Under 13 handlers competition at the ADC was won by Portia McDonnell, of St Paul's, Albury

Ulandi Park

POLL DORSETS

Flock No. 3125

- Breeding to Industry Needs - Founded 1980



Ulandi Park 327-18

**SOLD - \$7,000 to McInnes Family,
Achnaneilan Stud, Naracoorte SA**



Ulandi Park 231-18

**SOLD - \$6,500 to Simon & Melissa Male,
Aberdeen Stud, Henty NSW**



2019 Ulandi Park On Property Sale Summary

13 Stud Rams Sold - top \$7000 - Average \$4085

136 Flock Rams Sold - top \$2700 - Average \$1537

Thankyou to all purchasers and underbidders. We appreciate your support.

**Clayton and Andrea Rowett, RSD 33A, Kapunda SA 5373
(63 Murray's Road, Marrabel)
(08) 8848 6038 0408 852927**

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Accredited Brucellosis Free



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FRONT COVER:

James and Graham Gilmore of Tattykeel stud, Oberon, and their WFI Champion of Champions



ACROSS THE PENS

DECEMBER JOURNAL

We hope you enjoy our final issue of the Journal for 2019. We would like to thank the contributors to this issue, the sponsors, advertisers and those who have assisted us with editorial content. If you would like Sam in the office to assist with your Journal advertisements in 2020, he is a graphic designer and all rates are as shown on page 39. These will be maintained for all of 2020.



UPDATE ON WEBSITE

We are hopeful that the new improved APDA website will be operational by the year end. In the meantime, please call Sam or me in the office and we will provide you with any forms required or assistance that you may need.

UPDATE ON DATABASE

The Board has set up a sub committee to investigate and purchase a new and improved online database system to alleviate the manual process that took place this year. Further advice on this will be advised via E News.

BANK DETAILS

Please be aware that the NAB account for all APDA payments is:

BSB 085 005

Account number 0266 35370

JOURNALS AND FLOCK BOOKS

We have several boxes of 2017 and 2018 Journals and Flock Books. If anyone is interested in any of these, they are available for the cost of postage only. As a cost saving measure, we will be limiting the number of Journals and Flock Books printed in order that we do not have excessive numbers left over from now on.

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

The office will be closed from Christmas Eve, reopening Monday January 6.

All of us in the office wish you and your families a safe and joyous Christmas and look forward to working with you all again in 2020.

Margot, Sam and Patrick

APDA

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PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

As part of my first report as Promotions Officer, I would like to thank Geoff Davey for his tremendous work over the last two years.

It goes without saying that breed societies require active, passionate and approachable members, and that is certainly evident when reflecting on the services offered by Geoff during his time as promotions officer. On behalf of the Poll Dorset breed society, I would like to express our appreciation for all that he has accomplished in this role.

I would like to introduce myself to all members and encourage any you to get in touch over the coming months to discuss ideas, blue sky thinking and feedback on the continued development of Poll Dorset marketing. I am extremely excited to be part of the promotion for the leading terminal breed in Australia and I have some great ideas to further progress breed moving forward.

The Poll Dorset sire is synonymous with profitability and reliability. The breed continues to evolve to meet the requirements of the modern-day, prime lamb producer. Early results from the Bowan Park Trial have further demonstrated the superior traits of this breed. It is vital, as a breed, to continue to research the many hard-to-measure traits that will ultimately ensure we remain at ahead of the pack with genetics. With this knowledge and proof, Poll Dorsets can actively promote not just the exceptional on-farm productivity, but from the consumer end, the highest quality lamb in the industry.

Looking forward to a huge 2020!

James Corcoran

CHAIR OF PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 28 - MARCH 1 Royal Canberra Show

MAR 6-7 Wagin Woolorama

MAR 11-12 APDA Board Meeting (Bendigo)

APRIL 3-14 Sydney Royal Show

MAY 24 Dubbo Show Young Judges Comp

JUNE TBA NSW Dorset Championships

JULY 17-19 Australian Sheep and Wool Show

AUG 2-4 Hamilton Sheepvention

AUG 7-16 Ekka Royal Queensland Show

AUG 30 - SEP 13 Royal Adelaide Show

SEP 4-6 Australasian Dorset Championships


SEP 6 APDA Annual General Meeting

SEP 6 APDA Board Meeting

SEP 19-29 Royal Melbourne Show


OCT 8 Royal Launceston Show

OCT 22 Royal Hobart Show



Janmac
POLL DORSET STUD


Quietly achieving excellence



A sincere thank you to all who supported our annual ram sale, achieving our best ever result in our 40th year celebration
199 Poll Dorset & White Suffolk rams ave \$1903,
including significant stud sales

Also pleased to announce the purchase of Mallee Park 'Goose' 180036, the Melbourne Royal Poll Dorset Champion ram for \$17,000 (with Kurralea)
Continuing to invest in quality genetics

Check our website for updates & sale information: www.janmac.com.au Find us on Facebook
Enquiries welcome: Grant & Bryce Hausler, Goroke, Vic
Grant: 0427 861 013 Bryce: 0427 861 031 Email: grant.hausler@bigpond.com



SPA vote to finetune board selection

Sheep Producers Australia have amended the organisation's Constitution to improve the board selection process. Previously, board candidates were nominated by a SPA member – the state farming organisations of Australia – and the board selection committee was comprised of individuals from SPA's service provider network who made decisions based on the skills requirement for the board. Changes mean that SFO representatives will comprise the board selection committee, along with one independent member and a SPA board member observer. Another important change is that candidates nominating for the board no longer need SFO endorsement but can nominate directly to SPA. SPA Chair Chris Mirams said these changes were recommended by the Board Selection Review Project Team, which was formed by SPA, based on member feedback, following the 2018 AGM. The team was independently chaired and included representatives from SFOs, a SPA board member and the CEO.

Weather outlook for summer

According to the Bureau of Meteorology rainfall is likely to be below average into December for most of Australia, with parts of the far north very likely to be drier. The summer (December to February) outlook is more neutral, although parts of eastern Australia remain likely to be drier than average, and parts of the Kimberley region in WA are likely to be wetter than average. While outlooks for drier than average conditions may ease for some areas heading into 2020, several months of above average rainfall would be needed to see a recovery from current long-term rainfall deficiencies. Above average daytime temperatures very likely across Australia for summer, with December to February nights generally warmer than average as well.

Red Meat 2030

Australian red meat will double in value and deliver \$57 billion in growth to Australian agriculture by 2030, more than half the government's target, according to the Red Meat 2030 plan.

Independent Chair of Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC), Mr Don Mackay, said the plan will double the value of the industry sales by 2030. "We ask that governments come to the table with policy and investments that enable this ambitious nation building vision."

Red Meat 2030 is an industry-led 10-year plan to create profitable, environmentally sustainable and customer focussed red meat businesses. Mr Mackay said industry is leading the way to achieve sustainability and climate change mitigation goals and it was time all governments lifted their performance in this area. Mr Mackay said that through the 10-month national consultation process, industry had agreed to a progressive new way of delivering Red Meat 2030.

"With Red Meat 2030, we will invest in our people first to enable adoption of best practice through a compulsory percentage of project funding being allocated to a dedicated outreach program. This will ensure that our regional farming, export and processing businesses and levy payers get the first-mover advantage from our industry and government funded research."

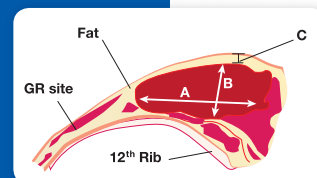
"We have also committed to further serious reforms including formation of a single integrity organisation and delivering the

six priority areas of the plan through a new collaborative model of industry-led Taskforces across the supply chain." "This is a substantial change up to how we operate because we know in order for us to achieve our 2030 vision, we must do things differently and collectively."

Reminder to use CVDs

With many regions across the country facing ongoing drought conditions, livestock producers purchasing fodder and grain are being urged to seek a Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD). A CVD is a key document within the red meat integrity system that guarantees introduced feed is safe from chemical contamination. It is a key component under the, 'Fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods' element of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program. Meat and Livestock Australia's Dr Jane Weatherley said the CVD was an important tool in safeguarding livestock feed supply and meeting requirements for product integrity. "Any producer obtaining fodder or grain from a third party should ensure the supplier completes a CVD, so they know exactly what is being fed to their livestock and can guarantee their livestock are residue free." The single-page form contains accurate details of the commodity's composition, identifying chemical treatments applied to the commodity before or during harvest or in storage. The CVD provides information on the feedstuff's origin, either from a single source or via multi-vendor storage, such as when it has passed through a grain depot, cotton gin or seed storage site.

The CVD can be downloaded as a single PDF from the MLA website.



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Young Breeder Charlotte Cain

Tell us about your Associate judging experience?

Being Associate Judge at the Dorset Championships was a privilege. I had an amazing time and learnt so much from Sascha about what you had to look for in the sheep. I also shared a with him a few things I look for.

How did the associate judging position come about?

Gordon Close asked me to be the associate judge as he was happy to see me preparing and handling sheep in the show ring.

What's your favourite part of being associate judge ?

The part I enjoyed the most was being able to learn more about the breed and getting to know the breeders'.

What was the main thing you learnt as associate?

I learnt so much from this opportunity, from how the sheep walk and stand, to the meat and balance.

What sheep do you run in the farm? And how many?

We have a Poll Dorset stud where we've begun showing again this year. We have 300 ewes.

Tell us about where you study.

I'm currently in year 9 at Maryborough Education Centre but hope to go to Longerenong College and study Wool classing or be a veterinarian.

What is your favourite holiday destination? & Why?

I love America because I get to see my brother and it's such a beautiful country. My favourite city would have to be New York and Nashville.

What's an interesting /quirky fact about your home town?

NBA and Australian basketballer, Matthew Dellavadova comes from my home town.

What is the top item on your bucket list?

I've always wanted to swim the Great Barrier Reef.

Who is your favourite Poll Dorset breeder?

My Dad!



Young Breeder Raiven Cole

How old are you?

7 years old

Where do you live

1205 Bengworden Road, in East Gippsland

What is your favourite Poll Dorset's sheep's name?

Ben

What was the best thing about the Royal Melbourne Show?

When I won sixth place with Ben

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A Ballerina or a Farmer so I can get paid



**Amanda Watkins is the coordinator
of the YOUTH YARNS SECTION.**

If you have any ideas or contributions
to make relating to youth involved
with Poll Dorsets please contact
her on 0417 581 059 or
email youth@polldorset.org.au

Gunnedah High School sheep stud established

Courtesy of Vanessa Hohnke, Namoi Valley Independent

Gunnedah High School's agriculture students will learn a whole lot of new skills thanks to a local family.

Gary and Karen Fogarty made the difficult decision to sell off their breeding ewes and stud rights because of the drought and five of the ewes have found a new home at the high school.

The ewes were in lamb when they were sold in June and between them, the ewes produced three sets of twins and two singles. The last lot of lambs were only born on Saturday.

From these sheep, the school has started its own Poll Dorset stud - Gunndemar - a combination of Gunnedah and the Fogartys' stud name, Braemar.

Braemar was established in March 1960 in Binnaway by Karen Fogarty's father, Ross Bull. The stud got its name from the property and was handed down to Karen and her husband in October 2005.

The Fogartys moved the operation to Innisvale in Gunnedah and all was well until the drought set in. They held off lambing in March as they weighed up what to do. In the end, they surrendered to the elements and 250 ewes have been sold this year. About 90 ewes and the stud rights were purchased by a Boggabri family.

"It's a 60-year-old stud so it was a bit hard to make the decision," Mrs Fogarty said. "I'm likely to go to tears at any moment." As difficult as it has been to sell off, Mrs Fogarty is happy to see five of their ewes find a new home at the high school. "I'll keep coming in and helping the girls. I'll keep my hand in," she said.

New agriculture teacher Brooke Cowan has experience with sheep breeding and has taken on the role of stud manager.

In a few weeks, she will be teaching Year 9 students how to tag, dock and vaccinate the lambs.

The students will also learn how to feed, prepare, lead and show the sheep at shows and competitions.

"These will be our show stud ewes and our intention is to use them as a breeding stock and we will take them to shows like the Sydney Royal," Ms Cowan said.

"A lot of what we've done has been hoof and hook, feeding and taking them to a show and not bringing them back.

"This will be a whole new experience to what we did at the 2019 School Merino Wether Challenge.

"It will be something Gunnedah High can own and have as their own little stud."

Head agriculture teacher Nicole Dwyer said the students can "get as attached to these guys as they like" and sheep were a good option for the school in the dry conditions.

"Sheep need less feed and water than cattle," she said.


"Per unit, you can do a lot more with sheep than cattle."


Year 9 student Leisel Torrens does 100 hours of agriculture classes a year and said it was "very exciting" to get hands-on with the lambs. She lives on a farm and wants to work in agriculture after she finishes school.

As for the Fogartys, they are waiting for the rain so they can take up lamb trading instead.



Former stud owner Karen Fogarty (centre) and year 9 agriculture students Jorja Kemp and Leisel Torrens with three of the new lambs at Gunnedah High School.





Semen Available!



3rd Highest 2018 Drop Poll Dorset,
TCP Index Lambplan 15th October 2019.

Stokes Bay Genetics - 180158

BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	PWEC	DRESS	LMY	IMF	SHEARFS	TCP	SIRE	SIRE OF DAM
0.50	11.1	16.8	3.5	-0.7	-28	3.0	4.94	-0.46	0.4	164.8	HF-13-156	HF-11-045

\$50 / Ewe Dose
Stored at Brecon Breeders, Keith, SA

Michael Stanton
Stokes Bay Genetics Flock # 4500
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Bowan Park Research Flock Results

The Bowan Park Research Flock has delivered its first season of results to ram contributors.

The trial, following lambs from conception to kill floor, has provided extensive data for the breed, and the rams for season two of the trial have now been selected.

Devised and managed by the team at Ridgehaven Poll Dorsets, the research flock is registered as Bowan Park and run as a separate flock. Data has been recorded since artificial insemination in January this year, through to late October when the lambs were slaughtered.

The performance values measured were key commercial traits relevant to the Poll Dorset's role as a terminal sire – growth, muscle and fat measured on live animals, and yield and eating quality at carcass assessment. This equates to birth weight, weaning weight, post-weaning weight, post weaning eye muscle depth and fat in the live animals, and yield (muscle, fat), intramuscular fat, shear force and pH on the carcasses.

A disappointing conception rate due to heatwave conditions during joining meant fewer lambs in the trial than planned, but significant data was still able to be collected.

The lambs, out of a flock of registered Poll Dorset ewes and by rams from 12 different studs, were weighed at four, 10 and 17 weeks, before being slaughtered at 19 or 20 weeks.

They were also muscle scanned at 17 weeks, and ram contributors had a chance to visually assess all the progeny on-farm.

Sires were nominated by breeders, and those recognised as having a previous influence or likely to have a future influence on the breed were prioritised.

Bowan Park co-principal Isabele Roberts said they also worked on selecting rams from a range of breeding principals - those with Australian Sheep Breeding Values, those with performance testing as a focus, and those in between. Within that, they also looked for rams with a variety of different standout traits. The ram cohort has just been selected for the next season, with ewes to be artificially inseminated in the first two weeks of December.

"Progeny trials are particularly important to back up the claims that we make and as a breed as a whole we make particular claims and the lambs that have come through this program have backed it up," Isabele said.

"Trials give you a leg to stand on, if you make a claim about something and can prove it, no one can contest that. For ram contributors it is really great for them to see their genetics

stacked up against others to see where their animals are currently sitting and where they can make changes in their breeding programs."

Isabele said all ram contributors were invited to come and look at the lambs and judge for themselves the visual assessment.

"We split them into their sire groups and looked at each group of lambs as a whole, looking at what was the most significant attribute was for the group. The visual assessment highlighted how heritable visual aspects are - head type was really highly heritable and hindquarter shape was really quite heritable, and frame score as well - and showed you can't underplay the influence of visual assessment in breeding. One thing to look at the data, but being able to compare groups of lambs gives you a really practical insight into how one ram compares to the other."

Ram contributor Chris Marr of Gererdan at Araluen, NSW, said this was the first sire progeny trial in the Poll Dorset breed, and it was exciting to bring a cross-section of rams from across the industry together.

"I think it has been the most beneficial thing that we have done within our stud and for our stud - the data we received back is something we have never seen before. We have all done testing through lambplan or whichever scanning system you prefer, but this is actually seeing what the sires we produce on farm are producing down the line. It shows us if we have made the right decisions in our breeding program to as what is on the ground now."

"Getting into finer details of the data provided, we can really target specific areas we need to work on, with data telling us what we need to look at more closely. It was also very worthwhile seeing them on the hoof and running with the other progeny as well. You could think of the target market we are trying to accommodate, and were able to judge if the lambs are going to make those target markets."



Bowan Park lamb at 10 days



Bowan Park carcasses

Sires used BP19

Faraday Park 170020
Gererdan 170023
Gooramma 170220
Hillcroft Farms 130497
Hillden 160730
Ilfracombe 160108
Rangeview 170107
Springwaters 160066
Tattykeel 160350
Valley Vista 170058
Wunnamurra 120455
Wunnamurra 150235

Sires for BP20

Lambpro 140859
Faraday Park 170020
Rangeview 170107
Springwaters 160066
Hillden 160780
Derrynock 170809
Yentrac 110169
Hillden 170860
Gooramma 180682
Shirlee Downs 170123
Kurralea 180140
Wunnamurra 160298
Wunnamurra 170303
Pepperton 180339



Bowan Park progeny at slaughter

SUMMARY RAW DATA BP19

AGE	AVERAGE	MAX
4 Weeks		
Live weight (kg)	17.77	26.3
Weight gain (g/day)	366	552
10 Weeks		
Live weight (kg)	32.29	48.0
Weight gain (g/day)	380	571
17 Weeks		
Live weight (kg)	50.63	71.50
Weight gain (g/day)	387	649
Eye Muscle Depth (mm)	29.52	41.00
Eye Muscle Fat (mm)	4.52	9
20 Weeks		
HCWT (kg)	26.88	37.4
Carcase dressing %	52	57
Carcase EMA (mm ²)	18.16	25.39
Carcase EM fat (mm)	5.65	12
Intra Muscular Fat %	4.71	9.75
Shear Force (N)	32.00	20.42 (min)

Number of lambs (70)

Rear Type = Single (23), Twin (44), Triplet (3)

For full results www.bowanpark.com.au

Coledale would like to thank all who have helped make our celebration of 50 years of breeding so memorable

Results of our ram sale

92 rams sold at auction average \$1466

Stud Rams were purchased by

- Ilfracombe Stud, Donald
- Hovel Stud, Burrumbuttock
- Ferndale Stud, Culcairn
- Glenwest Stud, Glenrowan
- Glenelm Stud, Tatura

With the top priced Ram at \$3000 purchased by Summerlea Stud, Benalla

Wishing all clients and fellow breeders a Happy, Safe and Blessed Christmas and an early seasonal break in 2020



Brucellosis accredited OJD vaccinated
Lambplan performance tested



Coledale 72/16 Sire of top priced ram sold Summerlea Stud

	BWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	CAR+	TCP	LEQ
72/16	0.58	13.0	19.1	-0.9	2.9	234	152.9	141.1

Contact Wallace and Sue Binnie 03 5765 2236 or 0427 944 035 wbinnie@bigpond.com

Kirsty Taylor : 0437 054 694 sutchtaylor@westnet.com.au



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Top priced ram at our annual sale Armdale Park 123-18(T)
Purchased by the Rowley Family - Springwaters Poll Dorset Stud, Boorowa for \$7500

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120 Mated 2014 & 2018 Ewes
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Garry and Catherine Armstrong
Mobile: 0427 275 134
email: gcarmstrong@activ8.net.au

Shirley Armstrong
Phone: (02) 6927 5126 or 0427 275 126
email: nsarmstrong@armdale-armdalepark.com.au

We would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and healthy 2020.

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Terminal Carcase Production (TCP) Index

Courtesy of Sheep Genetics Australia

The Australian sheep breeding value Lambplan index Carcase Plus has been an important index for the sheepmeat industry but it has been found to have a negative impact on eating quality. Because of this and the industry's focus on delivering high eating quality outcomes for consumers, the index will be retired in March 2020.

Carcase Plus will be replaced with the Terminal Carcase Production index. To assist in the transition between indexes both Carcase Plus and Terminal Carcase Production were available for the 2019 ram buying season. The Terminal Carcase Production (TCP) index will give similar improvements in growth and lean meat yield as Carcase Plus while also maintaining eating quality.

What is the new TCP index?

Indexes help producers select animals for use within a breeding program when there are a range of traits of economic or functional importance. This ensures that genetic gain in one trait is not made in isolation from other traits. Using indexes in ram purchasing decisions allow producers to make balanced genetic progress towards more profitable sheep. The TCP index has been created to assist producers to achieve both gains in their major production traits, such as post-weaning weight and muscling, as well as ensuring consumer satisfaction from lamb is maintained through focusing on key eating quality traits such as shear force (tenderness) and intramuscular fat (marbling).

The TCP index is designed to suit a production system where: all progeny are terminal improving growth and muscle is of commercial benefit increasing lean meat yield has a positive financial impact a small degree of emphasis is included to maintain or improve eating quality.

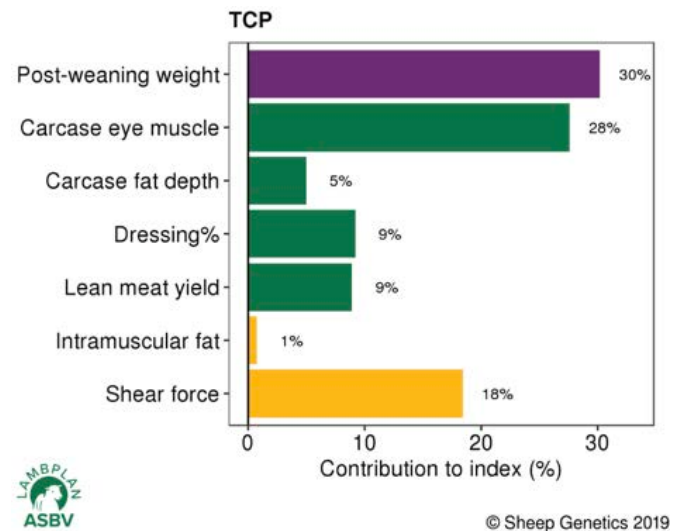
This production system is for a prime lamb operation where terminal sires are joined to ewes of a Merino/maternal breed or cross. The TCP index focuses on increasing weight and muscle while reducing carcass fat, which contribute to higher lean meat yield. TCP also has emphasis on modest improvements in eating quality. In the Terminal Carcase Production system, growth and improved carcase eye muscle contribute the most to the index, with smaller contributions from carcase fat depth, lean meat yield and dressing percentage. Improvements in intramuscular fat and shear force contribute to maintaining lamb eating quality.

Why use a selection index?

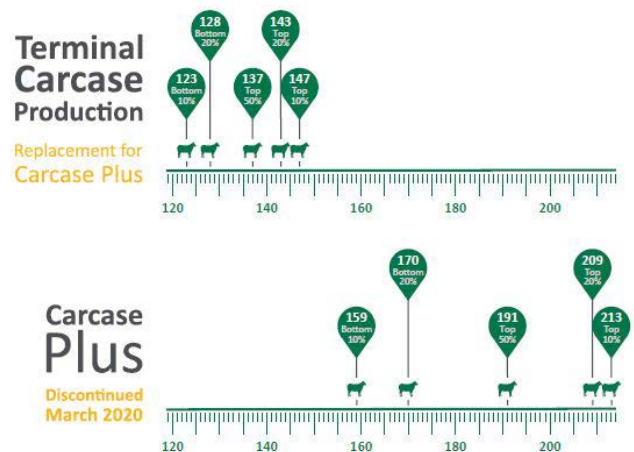
A selection index is an important tool to drive genetic improvement in ram breeding programs when there are a range of traits of economic or functional importance. Collectively, these traits make up the "breeding objective", which aims to improve profitability in commercial sheep enterprises. Indexes are useful for two main reasons: 1. They balance genetic improvement appropriately across a range of traits, with the emphasis placed on each individual trait determined by its relative importance. 2. Because indexes balance improvement across traits, they can be used to overcome economically antagonistic relationships between traits.

Using the TCP index

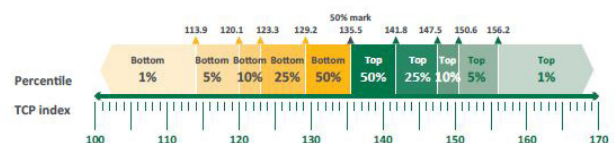
The TCP index, unlike Carcase Plus, is on a scale that is aligned with other Sheep Genetics' indexes and is represented in economic terms with a unit increase in the index reflecting an additional dollar per ewe joined per year. To assist in comparing rams, Sheep Genetics recommends using a percentile band table as reference. The figure below, which is based on the percentile band table, highlights the TCP index value for significant percentiles for the 2018 drop animals.



This illustrates which traits are in the index and how much they contribute to the overall balance of the index. The longer the bar, the greater the impact on the index, and the greater impact on the profitability of the production system.



Comparison of TCP and Carcase Plus index values for significant percentiles for 2018 drop animals



Percentile band range graphic for TCP index 2018 drop animals

Tight supply limits spring price fall

Despite the varying seasons across the country, national sheep and lamb indicators are all trading higher than year-ago levels as of late November.

Trade lambs and heavy lambs were sitting on 740c/kg and 736c/kg respectively, 47c/kg and 30c/kg higher than the same time last year.

But it is the restocker lambs that have been gaining the most traction, operating at above 800c/kg and nearly 100c/kg higher year-on-year.

Meat and Livestock Australia said a decrease in the supply of restocker weight lambs through saleyards had pushed the national restocker indicator above trade weights since the beginning of October.

"Throughout October, new season lambs have been entering the market in numbers not dissimilar to last year," MLA reported.

"However, a notable difference to 2018, and the 10 year average, has been the prevalence of heavy lambs entering saleyards and the comparable decrease of light lambs.

"In October 2018, 41 per cent of lambs sold were below 18kg carcass weight, or restocker weight, with the 10 year average 36 per cent. However, in 2019, only 31 per cent of lambs were classified restocker weight while the heavy lambs accounted for 35 per cent of all lambs sold in October."

"Although the restocker lamb indicator is notoriously volatile, with changes of 30c in a day not unusual, prices through winter tracked below the trade lamb indicator as prices for finished product reached unprecedented levels. With this decline in lighter lambs going to restockers and feeders, the price for restocker lambs has climbed above trade lambs over spring."

Senior Animal Protein Analyst with Rabobank Angus Gidley-Baird said prices were expected to ease over the coming months, however ongoing limited supplies and strong export markets would prevent any large drops.

"Lamb slaughter has been at or below 1.5m head for three consecutive months (June through August). Levels this low have not been experienced since early 2011 – a previous peak in the lamb price cycle," he said.

"September lamb exports (20,376 tonnes swt) saw a 15 per cent jump on August levels reflecting increased supplies. Mutton exports (15,213 tonnes swt) also increased on August levels but remain behind 2018 volumes, reflective of the lower sheep numbers and slaughter."

Both the national mutton indicator (575c/kg, 149c/kg higher) and replacement breeding females (first-cross ewes broke reached \$402 in mid November) have also been performing well.

These high prices are underpinned by strong international demand, as MLA's latest sheep industry projections forecast lamb exports higher for the year at 268,000 tonnes shipped weight.

MLA Senior Market Analyst, Adam Cheetham, said domestic sheep and lamb indicators have surged to new highs in 2019, as demand from overseas markets has outweighed domestic availability and more than offset the price pressure usually associated with a prolonged dry period.

"Once conditions improve, strong prices for both sheep and lambs are likely to see many producers begin to rebuild their flocks after a long period of destocking. Increased restocker activity will apply further competitive pressure to processors looking to fulfil export demand.

"Producers in many regions face an increasingly difficult and expensive burden in sourcing water for livestock, with many opting not to join their ewes on hand or further destock.

"Forecast lamb slaughter reflects reduced ewe numbers and generally poor marking rates. The extent of elevated breeding ewe turnoff at the beginning of the year eased during the winter months, as producers looked to spring and post weaning before assessing feed availability."

Mr Cheetham said despite tough conditions, average lamb carcass weights had risen in 2019 because of strong trade and export prices.

"Producers with lambs on hand but limited feed have increasingly refined their production systems to reflect the difficult conditions, with greater focus on supplementary feeding and lot feeding lambs.

"Expected lamb carcass weights for 2019 are now projected at 22.9kg, up 2 per cent year-on-year, while sheep carcass weights are forecast to remain stable on 2018 at 23.7kg."

Mr Cheetham said the southern wet season had so far been very mixed, with parts of South Australia and south west Victoria having an above average season, in stark contrast to the challenging conditions experienced in northern Victoria and the majority of New South Wales.

"The significant variability has presented challenges in ascertaining how national lambing rates have performed, however, the overwhelming consensus is for fewer lambs to enter the market for the remainder of 2019," Mr Cheetham said.

High sheep slaughter and poor joining and lambing rates has seen the national sheep flock now estimated to be 66 million head, representing a decline of 6.5 per cent year-on-year.



Ken Burkinshaw of "Amaroo", Collingullie sold 164 second-cross Poll Dorset lambs, estimated to weigh 30 kilograms dressed, for \$267.20 at Wagga Wagga in October. Pictured with Landmark's Peter Cabolt. PHOTO: The Rural.

Lamb growers look to lotfeeding

Courtesy of Auctions Plus

With the store lamb selling season underway, the AuctionsPlus Market Insights team (AMI) has looked at a review of the current trends compared to the past few years. Comparing new season lambs listed between July and Mid November, from 2015 through to 2019 there has been some interesting insights into growers decisions.

Unsurprisingly the Central West of NSW was the largest listing region across the platform in 2019. The drought has seen the region offload just under 100,000 lambs, while Southern NSW has dropped their listings and increased their purchasing.

No. of head listed by region



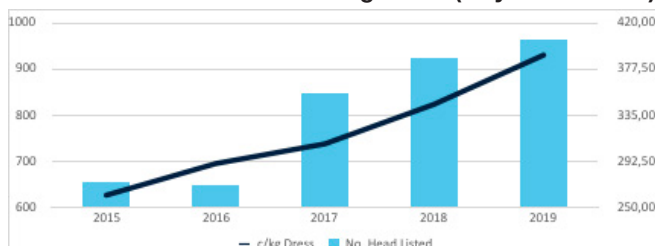
For the past four years the Central West of NSW has been the major buyer, but a strong season in Victoria and Southern NSW have seen these regions dominate buying as growers look to take advantage of high overseas demand for Australian lamb.

No. of head purchased by region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Riverina NSW	56,923	36,287	48,613	54,960	75,298
Victoria	44,262	76,726	103,484	62,150	103,917

Given the record prices, combined with tough season, it has been no surprise to see many growers move towards a feedlot, or containment feeding option for their operation. The record prices are seeing growers and agents diversifying their businesses. David Welsh from Landmark Benalla, Victoria, has seen the rise offer some pretty exciting opportunities in the industry. "There are people who are integrating finishing lambs into their cropping operations and putting lambs in paddocks with feeders and crops". "there is great online communities, between social media and other industry websites – as people are learning from the drought, and learning more about animal nutrition and finishing high quality lambs"

No. of head listed online vs c/kg Dress (July to Nov 2019)



It appears that growers inclinations to certain breeds have not change dramatically year on year. Poll Dorset sired lambs consistently top the Second Cross lambs.

No. of head listed by breed

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2ndX Poll Dorset	41,492	22,580	38,002	53,362	58,566

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POLL DORSETS



Pepperton 180339 (late August drop)
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New strategy aims to tackle sheep reproduction

*Courtesy of Will Oldfield
Policy Officer, Sheep Producers Australia*

A NEW collaboration of industry stakeholders is focusing on boosting on-farm reproductive rates through improved uptake of current extension tools and identification of any knowledge or research gaps.

While improving on-farm reproduction rates is a key priority for Australian sheep and wool producers, Sheep Producers Australia (SPA), WoolProducers Australia, Meat & Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and Animal Health Australia are partnering to develop the Sheep Reproduction Research Development & Extension (RD&E) Strategy.

The collaborative plan is the best way to identify ways that producers, peak industry councils (PICs) and research and development corporations (RDCs) can work together to improve all aspects of reproduction, including lamb survival.

The strategy will focus on targeted industry RD&E and adoption of relevant on-farm management practices. To facilitate this, the PICs and RDCs will continue to invest in extension of research outcomes and drive increased uptake by producers.

The main causes of lower reproductive rates include unseasonable cold, mismothering and dystocia, which are all largely attributable to environmental conditions or sub-optimal nutrition prior to joining or during gestation. Other causes include foetal losses, disease and predation.

The main consideration for producers looking to improve lamb and ewe survival outcomes on-farm is the uptake of best practice management interventions. These include increasing the uptake of pregnancy scanning, optimising nutrition, paddock selection and mob size.

The first development phase of the strategy will be an independent review of the benefits, costs and impacts of existing RD&E activities in sheep reproduction and lamb survival against key industry performance targets.

It will also be consistent with the research strategies for both the sheepmeat and wool industries, including the Wool Industry National RD&E Strategy 2018-2022, Meat Industry Strategic Plan 2020 and Sheepmeat Industry Strategic Plan 2015-2020. It is also important that research priorities build on previous outcomes and that activities are delivered effectively and efficiently to industry.

Consultation with industry stakeholders will be conducted as part of this review process and will begin shortly. The review, which is expected to be finalised in mid-2020, will also include an assessment of areas for future industry collaborations and any remaining research and adoption gaps. In the interim, producers can find a range of valuable resources to improve sheep reproduction and lamb survival on-farm through both Meat & Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation.

For more information, contact Sheep Producers Australia, 02 6269 5610.



**ABERDEEN 532-18 (tw)
Bought for \$26,000**

Top 1% for Carc Plus. Top 5% for Wwt and Muscle. Top 10% for Growth.
SIRE: Aberdeen 679-16 DAM: Aberdeen 677-16 SOD: NorthUlandi23-15

BWT	WWT	PWWT	PEMD	PFAT	CARCASE+	TCP
0.35	11.7	17.2	3.5	0.1	227	146



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New owners for Aberdeen stud

Aberdeen Poll Dorset stud has changed hands.

Simon and Melissa Male have handed the reins to Rod and Angela Frohling of Hovell stud at Burrumbuttock.

Aberdeen, established in 1940 by HC Yates and Sons, was purchased by the Males in 2006.

"Sheep had always been my interest and just up the road from us were the Yates' who we purchased our Poll Dorset rams from," Simon Male said.

"As soon as we heard they were for sale we jumped at it...the first few years were pretty tough, but the last eight to nine years have been amazing.

"We've had different goals and we achieved them but the biggest highlight for the stud was to have so many studs throughout Australia turn up at our sale to purchase our rams - that is the greatest achievement of all for us, knowing we were on the right track through other studs purchasing our rams."

Simon said they moved the stud to using Lambplan, while still focussing on their commercial attributes and clients. "The figures were very low at the start, so we just wanted to present good looking sheep to our clients," he said.

"Over the years our figures picked up really quickly, and then it only took one or two studs to come to our sale and purchase, and that opened the door. It showed that they weren't just high figured rams, they were breeding well and doing well on the show floor.

"We wanted our very first sheep in the sale to look as good as our last sheep - we didn't want to have 15 top looking stud rams and a big difference in flock rams, we wanted overall fantastic looking rams displayed in the shed on sale day."

While the Males are moving onto new business ventures and will continue to farm at Henty, Simon said their very successful sale this year despite the drought proved the future was strong for breeding Poll Dorset rams.

New Aberdeen principal Rod Frohling, who will take over the flock in March 2020, said they had been buying Aberdeen rams for many years.

"We weren't in a position to purchase it when Simon bought it, and opportunity doesn't usually knock twice but this time it did so we couldn't pass it up," he said.

"We love growing Poll Dorsets and this was a great opportunity to expand, our genetic base is well and truly over 50 per cent Aberdeen anyway in our own sheep, so they will fit in well - our clients love them as well.

"At this stage will continue to run the two prefixes, so don't lose identity at the start, and may fade into one or the other as we go forward, but at this stage they will stay separate."

Rod said the whole industry had huge potential to grow once the season turned around.

"The future for protein is huge - we aren't going to be able to breed enough sheep to feed the world, so it is a great industry to be in."

From the Males

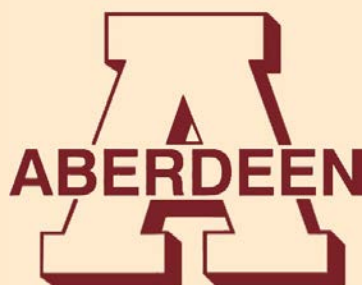
On behalf of Simon, Melissa Male and family, we would like to thank all Dorset Studs who over the years have supported us. We have met some wonderful people within the Dorset Association and thank you all for your kind well wishes. We would also like to wish the new owners of Aberdeen Poll Dorset Stud, Rod and Angela Frohling and family from Hovell Stud, Burrumbuttock NSW all the very best for the future. Rod has purchased a number of Stud Sires and Semen packages from Aberdeen over the years and therefore had the confidence in purchasing the Stud as a whole.

The Frohling family have taken on the Aberdeen name, clientele and have the backing from RLA agents in Wagga for their 2020 on property sale. Rod and Angela will take on full ownership of the mated ewes, young rams and all Stud Sires end of March 2020. Melissa and I understand the Frohling family have a passion and will certainly be industry leaders with the genetics they have now sourced.

We have been privileged to have run the Aberdeen Stud and have enjoyed the challenges, commitment and the wonderful rewards. We sincerely thank the Australian Poll Dorset Association, James Tierney, Tim Drum and team from Riverina Livestock Agents Wagga, Michael and Maz from GTSM as our Stud Auctioneer, Sheep Genetics Australia, Stefan Spiker and all the businesses that have contributed to the Aberdeen Stud's Success. However our biggest thanks goes out to our wonderful, loyal clients who appreciated Aberdeen's Rams year after year.

Kind regards, Simon and Melissa Male.





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Flock No. 788

Founded 1940

A special thank you to all our stud buyers, underbidders and new & existing clients for supporting our 2019 sale.

2019 SALE RESULTS - 100% TOTAL CLEARANCE

179 RAMS AVERAGING \$2158



Pictured Above: Auctioneers Michael Glasser and James Tierney, Jono Male and Simon Male with Aberdeen's new record priced Stud Ram Aberdeen 532-18.

Aberdeen's record price ram **Aberdeen 532-18** at \$26,000 was sold to Brett and Amanda Shepherd, Mullinger Park Stud, Kybybolite SA.

16 STUD RAMS SOLD TO \$26,000 - AV \$6656

163 FLOCK RAMS SOLD TO \$3250 - AV \$1716



Brucellosis Accredited
Y.498
OJD Vaccinated



Other Stud Buyers on Sale Day included:

- 588-18** \$12,500 Moora Hills Poll Dorsets, Broadwater VIC
598-18 \$10,000 Warrawindi Farms, Penola SA
538-18 \$9,500 Marocara Dorsets, Wongarbon NSW
401-18 \$8,000 Verge Pastoral, Euroa VIC
440-18 \$5,000 Verge Pastoral. Euroa VIC
615-18 \$6,000 Barwon Stud, Yerong Creek NSW
491-18 \$5,000 Deepdene Pastoral, Wagga NSW
839-18 \$4,000 Ulandi Park, Kapunda SA
529-18 \$3,000 Ulandi Park, Kapunda SA
666-18 \$3,250 Saber Poll Dorsets, Deniliquin NSW
388-18 \$3,000 Belvedere, Tallangatta Valley VIC
398-18 \$3,000 Livingstone Stud, Omeo VIC
655-18 \$3,000 Merrengreen Poll Dorsets, Finley NSW

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LAMBPLAN ASBV'S TERMINAL 1/11/2019

Proven Sire with well balanced ASBV's



ABERDEEN KEEPER 533-17 (tw)

DOB: 12th September 2017

SIRE: Aberdeen 5-15

DAM: Aberdeen 108-15

SOD: Hillcroft Farms 156-13

GENOMIC TESTED

**EXCEPTIONAL LOOKING SIRE WITH
OUTSTANDING PROGENY**

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	CP	EQ
0.53	12.1	17.1	0.4	2.9	219	140

ALL SEMEN PACKAGES AVAILABLE FOR \$50 PER DOSE

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www.aberdeenpolldorsets.com.au

More on weaning lambs early

Courtesy of Agriculture Victoria

In a difficult season with reduced feed supplies, it can be more economical to early-wean lambs from their mothers to lower feed costs and ensure that the ewes regain condition before joining.

Lambs will sample pasture from about two weeks after birth and by eight weeks of age, pasture overtakes milk as the major portion of their diet with milk contributing around 10 per cent of the nutrients lambs require therefore little nutritional benefit is gained by leaving them with their mothers after this time.

To wean lambs early

- Lambs should be 8-10 weeks of age, minimum of 10 kilograms (kg) liveweight.
- They should be marked and vaccinated.
- 'Train' them to eat grain while still with their mothers

Benefits of early weaning

- Feed cost savings – the requirements of a ewe with a lamb is higher, about three dry sheep equivalents (DSE), than the requirements of a ewe and lamb separately (1.8DSE).
- Flexibility for ewes – ewes can be fed maintenance rations, placed on poorer feed paddocks, sold or agisted.
- Ewes have a longer time to regain condition before next joining – ewes will take a month and a half to regain one condition score on pastures with a Food On Offer (FOO) of 1500 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha). Until the lambs are weaned, ewes will continue to lose weight on this level of feed. Ewes need to be in condition score 3 by joining to achieve optimum lambing percentages.
- Pastures have a better chance to re-establish and grow ahead of grazing stock.
- Worms – lambs have a lower worm burden, as worm control can be provided earlier and they won't be grazing the pasture being contaminated by their mothers for as long.

Management of early weaned lambs

To optimise future production from weaners, aim for crossbred lambs at 30kg liveweight and merino lambs at 20 kg liveweight before summer and attain a condition score of 2. During dry seasonal conditions, lambs under 20kg at weaning and those losing weight post weaning are at increased risk of mortality so its vital to optimise growing conditions for these stock to mitigate this risk.

Vaccinate at weaning for the main clostridial diseases, pulpy kidney, tetanus and cheesy gland; following label directions. It's essential to provide this booster vaccine at weaning as the dose given at lamb marking won't be effective without the booster. Pulpy kidney is probably the most threatening disease for a weaner, particularly when they are to be fed high grain supplements or grazed on unharvested crops. Cheesy gland and tetanus are also important.

Provide high energy and high protein feed to ensure lambs keep growing. Weaned lambs require about 11 megajoules (MJ) of energy and 16.5-20 per cent crude protein in the diet for maintenance and growth. This can be provided from high energy and high protein grain supplements or commercial lamb pellets. Lambs that are weaned early and appear weak may grow better on commercial milk replacer pellets until there is sufficient pasture available.

Provide small amounts of the feed (100 g/ewe) at least three times prior to weaning to 'imprint feed' the lambs while still on their mothers and train the lambs to consume the ration and allow the rumen to adapt to the new feed type. Closely observe all the lambs are eating the supplement prior to weaning, if not you will need to extend the imprint feeding period, which will depend on current pasture available, milk from the ewe and the type of grain being fed.

Weaners should be fed a minimum of two to three times per week. Initial feeding rates should start at 25 grams (g) per head/day and increased slowly to achieve a minimum growth rate of 1 to 2kg / month in the weaners. Weaners will benefit from grazing green feed for as long as possible during spring.

A paddock with a FOO of 800-1000kg/ha will be sufficient to provide growth (this equates to 80 per cent green cover at one centimetre or 50 per cent cover at 3-4 centimetres). Where insufficient pasture is available, continue to provide adequate supplement in the paddock.



ON-FARM

Weighing a group of 50 weaners from the mob every two weeks will give a good indication if the feeding rate is adequate. Weaners should be gaining at least 30g/head/day and up to a potential of 200g/head/day until the start of summer.

Feed types for weaners

After the pastures have dried, the quality is usually too low for weaner growth and they will need supplements to maintain growth. From wilting, start to feed weaners 25g/head/day of supplement to continue a gradual increase in liveweight. Weaners around 15kg liveweight require a diet of 16.5 - 20 per cent crude protein and a minimum of 6.5 metabolisable energy (ME)/day for growth. Their requirements vary depending on the weight and target growth rate. High protein sources such as lupins, faba beans, pellets and some cereals are recommended.

Cereal grains can be used as part of the supplement if high protein sources are in short supply. For example, wheat can be fed as two thirds of the ration along with a high protein source. Feed testing is recommended to determine nutritive value of feed on-hand or purchased in.

Remember to introduce cereal grains gradually to all sheep to reduce the risk of acidosis. This can be achieved by increasing grain supplements in small increments of about 50g every two days over 14-21 days. Gradual introduction to different types of grains is also recommended (for example oats to barley or wheat). Provide the highest quality roughage available (pasture or hay) to stock during the process of introducing grain into their diet.

There are also some very good quality commercial pellets now available for weaners. Choose pellets with more than 12MJ of energy per kilogram of dry matter and more than 15 per cent crude protein for weaners to ensure their requirements for growth can be met.

Parasites can seriously reduce weaner growth rates and survival during the spring and summer months. Weaners should be treated for worms at weaning time, using an effective drench, before turning the newly weaned lambs onto a 'low worm' pasture. Worm egg counts after pasture senescence will determine if you need to drench your weaners again in summer.

Weaners also require a cool, clean water supply, especially as the pastures dry out and the hot summer months arrive. Salt levels in water must be below 6,000 parts per million (ppm), or 1100 milli Siemens per metre (mS/m) for weaners to drink. Lot fed or confinement fed weaners require better quality water, up to 900mS/m. Poor quality water will reduce water intake resulting in reduced affecting feed intake and growth.



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average \$1235 top \$4500**



**Derrynock 33/18
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What's different or proposed for 2020?

Preparations are in full swing for LambEx 2020 with the Melbourne Showgrounds announced as the host venue for the July 1-3, 2020, event.

It will be hosted at the Melbourne Showgrounds' new, state-of-the-art, multi-million dollar conference facility – and will be one of the first livestock events held in the new space. The exhibition area offers a huge 10,000 square metres of display space.

LambEx 2020 Conference Chair Georgina Gubbins says she is looking forward to showcasing the best of Victoria's sheep and wool industry, alongside the latest technology and innovations.

She says the Melbourne location will bring the sheep production industry to one of Australia's largest metropolitan consumer bases.

"Victoria is one of the largest lamb producing states in Australia and we have many specialist, progressive lamb producers. In 2017-18 Victoria achieved 49.6 percent of lamb production in Australia, the highest of all the states," she said.

"LambEx is an exciting opportunity for everyone involved in the supply chain, from producers to researchers, processors, consultants, agribusiness professionals, food service providers and more, to network and be at the forefront of industry.

"LambEx encourages producers to operate best practice businesses that will grow supply while achieving consumer quality expectations, driving the future profitability and sustainability of the industry.

"While it's still early in the planning stages we are planning on building on the success of recent years, and will be targeting a new LambEx record of more than 1200 local, national and international delegates."

The event will grow to be a 2.5 day event. Instead of commencing at the Welcome Function at 6pm, an open invitation is extended for all delegates to register and access the exhibition earlier in the afternoon on Wednesday 1 July.

It will feature a series of 'TechTalks' – a concurrent program of short presentations by organisations to highlight innovation in research, services and products. TechTalks are designed for delegates to gain an understanding of what's new and on show in the exhibition and then follow up with conversations and further discussion with the organisation at their stand.



Poll Dorsets have won the Lambex 2020 photo competition, and will become the face of the event. "Sunset" by Annabel Lugsdin.



MAROCARA POLL DORSETS SEMEN PACKAGES AVAILABLE



Marocara-180317

SIRE	Sire of Dam	WWT	PWWT	PEMD	PFAT	CP	TCP
Marocara - 150049	Hillcroft Farms - 130756	11.8	17.3	3.6	-0.3	231	161

Son of Leading Industry Sire Marocara-150049. Top 1% for WWT and Carc Plus. Top 5% for PWWT and Top 1% TCP.



Aberdeen-180538

SIRE	Sire of Dam	WWT	PWWT	PEMD	PFAT	CP	TCP
Aberdeen - 160679	Aberdeen - 160012	12.3	17.7	2.9	-0.6	227	150

Top 1% for WWT and Carc Plus.

Top 5% for PWWT and Top 5% TCP.

Contact: Angus 0428 878 221 or Alistair Kelly 0427 878 221
or find us on **Facebook**. **Email:** angus.kelly@bigpond.com



Head-turning Allendale ewe wins Poll Dorset supreme

Courtesy of Catherine Miller, Stock Journal

Supreme and champion ewe: Allendale, Bordertown, SA

Reserve ewe: Ulandi Park, Marrabel, SA

Champion ram: Valma, Whitmore, Tasmania

Reserve ram: Glendevon, Two Wells, SA

A classy ewe from Allendale stud, Bordertown, South Australia, won over NSW judge Ian Gilmore with her femininity and structural correctness to claim both grand champion ewe and supreme exhibit in the Poll Dorset judging at Adelaide Show.

"I knew I had a grand champion ewe as soon as it walked into the ring in that first class," he said.

"It has a tremendous barrel, tremendous muscling through the loin and handles unbelievably well right down through the hindlegs."

The 15-month-old ewe ensured exhibitors Alastair and Jayne Day continued their reign over the ewe broad ribbon at Adelaide.

The female was sired by homebred ram Allendale 326/16 who also sired Allendale's reserve senior champion ram.

The ewe had a post weaning weight figure of 16.1, fat of -1.0 and eye muscle of 0.8.

Mr Gilmore chose the ewe ahead of a ram from Tas breeders Andrew and Caroline McLauchlan, Valma stud, Whitmore, which was also the junior champion ram.

"The ram is a beautiful fronted sheep but carrying that same muscling through the hindleg and through the spine and is very good on his feet but on the day I would like to see him better in one place- I would just like to see a more sirey head," Mr Gilmore said.

"Then it comes to the ewe and everything that I have said about the ram I can say about the ewe except she has a beautiful head."

Mr McLauchlan, whose grandfather was one of the first to breed Poll Dorsets was chuffed with the win.

"We have been coming to Adelaide for 10 years and have had a junior championship but never a grand championship," he said.

"This ram is a combination of years of breeding and putting the pieces of the puzzle together so it is great to get all the pieces to come together right like this one."

"Our focus is selling rams to the industry which will do a job for people with the carcase qualities so to do well at the show tops the cake."

The Valma ram tossed an April 2018 drop ram from the Hart family's Glendevon stud, Two Wells, which will be the lead ram in their on-property ram sale on September 16.

Mr Gilmore said the senior champion ram from Glen Devon had "more stand up and look at me" than its competition.

"I love the twist through his backleg and muscling through his spine and to me for a moderate sheep he ticks all the boxes," he said.

Allendale stud again got their name on the most successful exhibitor award with the success of their 10 rams and six ewes which also including a win in the sire's progeny.

"Our structure and early maturity really helped with what the judge was looking for," Mr Day said.



Then Australian Poll Dorset Association president Damon Coates, Vic, sashes the grand champion ram held by Andrew McLauchlan and four-year-old son Beau



Judge Ian Gilmore, Baringa stud, Oberon, NSW, sashes the grand champion ewe and supreme exhibit held by Alastair Day, Allendale stud, Bordertown.



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2019 SALES RESULTS

40/40 ewes – to \$900 av \$560

26 stud rams – to \$19,000 av \$4541

108/115 flock rams – to \$2800 av \$1640

2019 Top priced ram (Pictured)

Derrynock 33/18 purchased by Joe Scott,
Valley Vista N.S.W. \$19,000.

RECORD number of Stud ram purchases include:

* \$11,000 – Bundara Downs & Bruan studs

* \$9000 – Allendale stud

* \$9000 – Iona stud

* \$8500 – Ulandi Park stud

* \$6000 – Gooramma stud



A big thank you to all who attended and bid at our sale.
And congratulations to everyone who has had continued success with Derrynock genetics!



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Big journey to Bendigo reaps rewards for Abelene Park

Courtesy of Stock & Land

Supreme and champion ram: Abelene Park, Woolomin, NSW

Champion Ewe: Valley Vista, Coolac, NSW

The Douglas brothers travel from Woolomin in northern NSW each year to compete at the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo, racking up more than 2000 kilometres in the process.

And while they are often rewarded in the sale ring for their effort, this year they also received the top gong in the show ring.

Abelene Park 183-18 was awarded junior and grand champion ram as well as supreme exhibit of the show by judge Sascha Squires from Dongadilling stud at Quairading, WA.

Mr Squires said the wooly ram still had its lambs teeth, and was a “magnificent ram”.

“It’s got magnificent growth, very stylish ram, great topline and carries plenty of flesh over the loin and down the hindquarter,” he said.

The August-drop sire won its age group’s wooly class first, before going on to trump all the older exhibits to be sashed champion and then supreme exhibit of the show, before selling for \$10,000 on Sunday.

As of the end of August, the ram weighed 151 kilograms, had an eye muscle area of 45 square centimetres and scanned 8 millimetres of fat.

Marshall Douglas said they had good hopes for the ram, as he’d always been a standout lamb.

Abelene Park also exhibited the champion intermediate ram of the show, 15-18, a June-drop ram which went on to sell to Bygo stud, Tullibigeal, NSW, for the top price of \$11,000 in Sunday’s sale.

SALE REPORT

TOPPING the 2019 Australasian Dorset Championships sale at Bendigo was a thrill in what had been a tough year for NSW breeders the Douglas family, Woolomin.

The stud, Abelene Park, sold the top-priced ram at \$11,000 as well as another at \$10,000 and a third at \$3000.

Marshall Douglas from the stud said the property, near Tamworth, NSW, was drought-affected but the rams that went to the show and sale had been in excellent condition and had performed very well.

Mr Douglas said all three lots were by Yentrac 169-11.

It was bought by a new buyer to Abelene, the Ireland family, Bygo Poll Dorset stud, Tullibigeal, NSW.

Two reached the second top price of \$10,000, including one of Abelene Park’s.

The ram was Lot 2 and sold to the Oliver family, Englewood Park, Inverleigh, a repeat buyer.

The second ram to make \$10,000 was sold by the Mitchell family’s Rene stud, Culcairn, NSW, going to Deby Pyle’s Glendale stud, Takalarup, WA.

Next best price was \$8500 for a ram from the Glenore stud of Peter and Gil Cain, Carisbrook.

The ram went to the NSW-based Armdale stud of Garry Armstrong, Marrar.

Reserve champion intermediate ram was exhibited by Sunnybanks stud, Penguin, Tasmania, while reserve champion junior ram came from the Tattykeel stable.

The Frosts of Hillden stud at Bannister, NSW, took out both the broad ribbons in the champion Poll Dorset ram lamb judging.

In the senior rams, it was Mallee Park 36-18 which Mr Squires chose as his champion, saying it was a “very powerful ram, great topline, great outlook, stands extremely well and when you put your hands on him he’s full of meat”.

Reserve senior ram was exhibited by the Scott family of Valley Vista stud at Coolac, NSW, with 344-18, an exhibit which stood second in its class to the champion ram.

Valley Vista also exhibited champion ewe with 334-18, after it won the ewe under 1.5 years in wool class.

The ewe was previously supreme short wool interbreed exhibit at the Canberra Royal in February, and then reserve champion Poll Dorset ewe at the Sydney Royal in April.

Reserve champion ewe was Rene stud, Culcairn, NSW, with their ewe under 1.5-years-old closely and evenly shorn and Mr Squires said it was a “beautifully stylish ewe that still carries the muscling down the leg”.



Judge Sascha Squires with exhibitor Marshall Douglas, Abelene Park, and the supreme exhibit.



James Scott, Valley Vista, with the champion ewe.

Tattykeel ram WFI Champion

Courtesy of Stock & Land

Poll Dorset powerhouse stud Tattykeel has taken out the inaugural WFI Champion of Champions competition.

Created as the Australasian Dorset Championships' new drawcard event, the Champion of Champions saw winning Poll Dorset rams from the country's biggest shows go head to head.

With 14 rams eligible to compete, there were 12 who competed at Bendigo on Saturday, judged by event adjudicator Sascha Squires from Dongadilling stud at Quairading, WA, and Australian Poll Dorset Association president Damon Coats, Ilfracombe stud, Donald, and Isabele Roberts, Ridgehaven stud, Cudal, NSW.

And it was Tattykeel's Sydney Royal Show ram which came out on top with a total of eight points (with the lowest points accrued being the winning exhibit).

Tattykeel 180068, named Bonanza, was by Tattykeel Jackpot, and had Tattykeel Torque as a grandsire on both sides.

Stockscan figures taken on farm at the end of August measured the ram at 151 kilograms with an eye muscle area of 57.16 square centimetres and 12 millimetres of fat.

Tattykeel principal Graham Gilmore said the ram had broad appeal for different judges.

"He's balanced for the shoulder set he's got, he crosses over both ideas of longer, leaner and thicker muscular, he's probably

a bit of both and that's what got him over the line," he said.

Mr Gilmore said the new competition was a great concept, and it was why he returned to the event with a show team.

"We've won two other ram of the year championships, one was where the rams had to go to certain shows and got points for where they finished in their class at each show, that was won by Tattykeel Hercules," he said.

"The second time there was a champion all round it was Tattykeel Topgun - the ram sold to Valley Vista for \$24,000 - meaning we've won three so there is a bit of luck involved, but they were all in different formats and I think this is the fairest format.

Just one point behind was the Australasian Dorset Championship's supreme exhibit, Abelene Park 183-18, while one more point behind was Mallee Park 36-18, the champion ram from Hamilton's Sheepvention.



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Australasian Championships

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- 1st August Woolly, Junior & Grand Champion Ram & Supreme Exhibit
- 1st August pair
- 'Lindsbury' Trophy Group of 3 Rams
- Best Strike Rate
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CONSISTENT GENETICS

In the last 10 years at Bendigo, we have sold 30/30 rams at auction. Sold the top price ram & top average for 3 rams on 5 occasions.

Exhibited 5 Junior Champion Rams
We have also won the 'Lindsbury' trophy 3 times in the last 5 years



Abelene Park 15-18

Intermediate Champion & Top price of \$11,000, sold to the Bygo stud



Abelene Park 183-18

Supreme Exhibit Bendigo. 145kg at 13 Months old with lambs teeth. Sold to Englewood Park stud for \$10,000

Due to the ongoing dry conditions, we will not be holding a summer sale. However, we have some outstanding Stud rams & ewes for sale. Call Marshall on 02 67642275. MK & CM Douglas & Sons, Woolomin NSW

Mallee Park wins Poll Dorset gong

Courtesy of Stock & Land

Supreme & champion ram: Mallee Park, Hopetoun, VIC **Champion Ewe:** Allendale, Bordertown, SA

Reserve ram: Valley Vista, Coolac, NSW **Reserve ewe:** Valley Vista

A MALLEE Park ram claimed the Poll Dorset supreme championship at the Royal Melbourne Show.

It was the third accolade for the the Hopetoun ram, who took out the interbreed championship at Sheepvention, Hamilton in August as well as the senior ram title at the Australasian championships.

Mallee Park Poll Dorsets stud principal Tim Ferguson described the win as a dream come true.

"I've been here for many years and came here as a kid to see sheep with the supreme ribbons and that's always been a dream for me - to be able to take a ribbon home myself," he said.

"People looked at him prior to him receiving these accolades but it now reassures people that it's another judge's opinion that agrees with the other judges who have put him up so it gives him a bit of credit."

Mallee Park's ram, Goose, is set to up for auction at the stud's annual sale on Thursday with a reserve price of \$15,000.

"I bought his father for \$18,000 and we have sold semen out of him and we will retain 50 per cent semen rights ... but I think in the high teens is where his value is at," Mr Ferguson said.

Poll Dorset judge Rod Davies, Naracoorte, South Australia, said it was hard to fault the Mallee Park ram, crediting its length, muscle correctness, sirey outlook and clean points.

"He had tremendous length and bone, good carcass and was a free-moving ram that displayed all the attributes we were looking for in a Poll Dorset," he said.

"He was a stand out right from the start, we were really looking for something to beat him ... but we couldn't."

The Mallee Park mixed farming operation consists of a commercial flock at Hopetoun, as well as the self-replacing Merinos, Poll Dorsets and White Suffolks.

Mr Ferguson said he was pleased with the result after serving as an inspector at the Royal Melbourne Show previously for more than 10 years, responsible for checking sheep prior to them entering the judging ring.

"You never go into a show ring saying 'I'm going to win this' because it's only one man's opinion on the day but we've been happy with our sheep going around the show circuit," he said.

"There's studs here from Adelaide, New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria so we had a good line-up of Poll Dorsets, a very high quality I would have thought, and we're just happy to compete."

"Our breed type is defined by good points, length of the loin and good bone and muscle structure down the hindquarter and our clientele need good, clean points and that's a big push from us."

In the interbreed, Allendale stud, Bordertown, SA, to the top ewe title.

The ewe was 15-months-old, sired by Allendale 326-16 and had previously been supreme Poll Dorset at the Adelaide Royal Show.

Judge Brayden Gilmore of Baringa stud, Oberon, NSW, picked her as his champion interbreed ewe.

"I think she is an exceptional ewe, she's got beautiful topline, she's got beautiful breed type and is structurally very sound, she's just a very correct animal that is hard to fault," he said.

Mr Gilmore also picked the reserve champion in the right order, with that sash won by a Hampshire Down from Matthew Hill's Aurora Park at St Helens Plains.

"The balance in that ewe and the softness that is hard to come by," Mr Gilmore said of the Hampshire Down.

Another SA judge Peter Button, Minlaton, said he also selected the Poll Dorset in first place.

"The carcass on that ewe is magnificent...the meat in all those high end cuts, magnificent topline on that ewe, beautiful smooth through the shoulder, nice open, clean face and even with the carcass on that sheep still holds the femininity," he said.



Alistair Day of Allendale stud at Bordertown, SA, with his interbreed champion ewe of the Royal Melbourne Show



Mallee Park Poll Dorsets stud principal Tim Ferguson, Hopetoun, with his supreme champion Poll Dorset ram.

2019 Launceston Show

Supreme and champion ewe: Sunnybanks, Penguin, Tas

Reserve ewe: Sunnybanks

Champion ram: Fairbanks, Hagley

Reserve ram: Sunnybanks



Champion ram from Fairbanks with Frank Badcock, who celebrates 50 years of breeding.



Champion and reserve ewe

2019 Hobart Show

Supreme and champion ram: Sunnybanks, Penguin, Tas

Reserve ram: Faraday Park, Penguin, Tas

Champion ewe: Sunnybanks

Reserve ewe: Sunnybanks



Supreme Poll Dorset exhibit sashed by Judge Nick Lawrence and held by owner Paul Day, Sunnybanks



Supreme Poll Dorset and interbreed champion ram, Sunnybanks 38-18.



Faraday Park 27-19 was the reserve champion Poll Dorset ram at 4 months



Champion Poll Dorset ewe was Sunnybanks 45-18.



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N82-18 (left & above) sold for \$12,500 to Green Oaks Stud, SA

75th Annual Sale - Stud rams to \$12,500
Stud ewes to \$560, avg \$440
Overall ram average \$1585



N100-18 sold Kenlorne Stud, SA - \$4500



Poll Dorset Stud Ewes to \$560

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Classy Brimfield ram the best Poll Dorset

Courtesy of Jodie Rintoul, Farm Weekly

Grand champion Poll Dorset and champion ram:

Brimfield stud, Kendenup

Reserve champion ram: Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading

Champion ewe: Brimfield stud

Reserve: Shirlee Downs stud

Champion ram lamb: Dongadilling stud, Quairading

Champion ewe lamb: Stockdale stud, York

THE Brimfield stud, Kendenup, claimed its first grand champion Poll Dorset ribbon at the Perth Royal Show in eight years when an upstanding ram from the stud stood head and shoulders above the rest and went on to take home the breed's top award.

The classy ram didn't have it all its own way in the judging, as it had to overcome 156 other Poll Dorsets and get the tick of approval from judge Paul Day, Sunnybanks Poll Dorset and White Suffolk studs, Penguin, Tasmania and his associate judge Matt Wilson, Harvey, before it received the purple ribbon.

Mr Day, who was visiting and judging in Western Australia for the first time, wasn't only impressed by the winning exhibits on the day, he was also impressed by the overall quality of the Poll Dorsets presented in the judging ring.

When it came to the grand champion judging at the end of the day, there was no doubt which stud would take home the grand champion ribbon because Brimfield stud principals Max Whyte and Gail Cremasco had to bring out both the champion ram and champion ewe for the final judging from their pens. In the end Mr Day and Mr Wilson went for Brimfield's classy ram exhibit.

The ram was also sashed the British, Australasian and other breeds supreme champion ram, after it got the nod from three of the five interbreed judges.

Mr Day said the ram was a clear winner over the ewe due to its powerful outlook and sire potential. "He is a big, upstanding, long-bodied ram that is very correct and hard to fault," Mr Day said. "He is chock full of meat, with width and length in the loin and a really good hindquarter which has excellent muscle definition. "He is also a true Dorset type and has good clean points. "He really didn't put a foot wrong all day."

Competing against the Brimfield ram for the grand champion ribbon was a classy ewe from the Brimfield stable which was sashed the champion ewe.

Mr Day said it was a near faultless ewe that was also packed full of meat with a great hindquarter. "She was a standout in her class and also the championship," Mr Day said. "She is a big, deep-bodied ewe with plenty of volume and is also structurally very good. "She also displays great femininity and has a great presence in the ring. "She is certainly full of class."

The June 2018-drop ewe, which is by Brimfield 555-16, is no stranger to broad ribbons after it was sashed the champion interbreed ewe at this year's Make Smoking History Williams Gateway Expo. In both the champion ram and champion ewe judging the Squiers family's Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, had to settle for the reserve champion ribbons.

Mr Day said the reserve champion ram from Shirlee Downs was very unlucky to come up against such a powerful ram in the

judging. "The Shirlee Downs sire is still a top ram and a great example of the breed, but it just didn't have the volume and power of the Brimfield ram," Mr Day

Said. "He is a very correct ram with plenty of width in the loin and good muscling throughout."

The May 2018-drop ram was by Shirlee Downs 118-16.

When it came to the reserve champion ewe from the Shirlee Downs stud, Mr Day said it was also very unlucky to come up against such a top ewe. "This ewe has plenty of volume and capacity, but it didn't quite have the presence of the champion," he said. "Like the champion this ewe also has good femininity and a really good structure."

The twin-born, May 2018-drop ewe is by Shirlee Downs 156-16 and it stood in the champion line-up after it placed second to the Brimfield ewe in their initial class.



With the grand champion and champion Poll Dorset ram exhibited by the Brimfield stud, Kendenup, were Brimfield principals Max Whyte (left) and Gail Cremasco, judge Paul Day, Sunnybanks Poll Dorset and White Suffolk studs, Penguin, Tasmania and associate judge Matt Wilson, Harvey.



The champion Poll Dorset ewe was exhibited by the Brimfield stud, Kendenup. With the ewe were Brimfield co-principal Gail Cremasco (left), judge Paul Day, Sunnybanks Poll Dorset and White Suffolk studs, Penguin, Tasmania and associate judge Matt Wilson, Harvey.

Managing wind erosion

Courtesy of WA Agriculture

Wind erosion can affect any land that is exposed to strong wind and has detached soil. There are practical options for preventing or reducing wind erosion in cropping and pasture systems, and some options for treating already eroding surfaces. Maintaining a protective groundcover and a stable soil surface on susceptible soils works well in most areas. Minor wind erosion occurs every year in the agricultural areas, and extensive, serious wind erosion occurs in years when strong winds, poor groundcover and loose soil coincide over large areas. Serious wind erosion is more likely in the second or third year of a run of dry seasons.

We recommend keeping at least 50% of the soil covered by stable crop or pasture residues. Stable groundcover reduces wind speed at the soil surface, physically covers the soil surface and captures any soil particles picked up by the wind. At least 30% of the groundcover needs to be anchored to prevent the rest of the groundcover from being blown downwind. With this level of groundcover, even loose soil will not move in most strong winds.

One sheep can detach hard setting soil at a rate of 0.3 tonnes per week and sandier soil at a rate of up to 1 tonne per week. Over summer, this can loosen up to 60t/ha on the heavier soils and 140t/ha on sands. We recommend reducing or removing livestock on areas approaching the target groundcover. In this condition, livestock may have to be agisted, kept in feedlots or stable refuge areas or sold. Feeding trails on paddocks with low levels of groundcover will increase the risk of soil erosion. We recommend confined paddock feeding and feedlotting in this situation.

Reduce vehicle traffic wherever possible. Vehicle traffic reduces groundcover and detaches soil.

We recommend using controlled traffic (tramline) farming for minimum tillage cropping systems to reduce soil disturbance and the area affected by soil compaction. Any form of cultivation will increase the risk of wind erosion. Soil inversion (mouldboard ploughing is an example) can greatly increase the risk of wind erosion. Use weather forecasts to choose safe periods for soil inversion, and plant into wet, inverted soil as soon as possible after inversion to reduce the wind erosion risk.

Tree windbreaks are a durable and effective way to prevent erosion for highly erodible soils in areas exposed to highly erosive winds. This is good insurance for extreme years. Tree windbreaks reduce erosive winds for 10–15 times the height of the windbreak when winds are at right angles to the windbreak. For a 10m high, well-designed windbreak, the erosion risk is minimal up to 150m downwind. Wind speed gradually increases over the next 10–15 tree heights, at which point the wind speed returns to that upwind of the windbreak. Windbreaks also help to retain detached residues that may otherwise be blown away in strong winds.

Eroded paddocks usually recover slowly because erosion removes nutrients in the topsoil and the seed reserves of grasses. Paddocks in this condition are very susceptible to more erosion at the break of season. In this situation:

- defer grazing until there is about 800kg/ha of new pasture dry matter
- continue supplementary feeding of sheep in stable areas
- establish cover crops on the most eroded and susceptible areas (see cover crops section in Wind erosion control after fire) and graze to allow pasture species to develop.

Producers advised to test nitrate levels in stockfeed

Courtesy of NSW DPI

NSW Department of Primary Industries analytical chemist, Richard Meyer, said up to 25 per cent of failed crops tested in late October had nitrate levels which pose a health risk to stock.

“The NSW DPI Feed Quality Service in Wagga Wagga has been bombarded with four times as many samples as normal from farmers making hay and silage out of failed crops,” Mr Meyer said.

“Tests show these canola hay and silage products can be highly nutritious, in terms of energy and protein, but can also have high nitrate levels.

“Our message is that these products can represent good value for feeding, but nitrate testing is critical to identify problem lots and avoid stock losses.

“While the majority of samples tested have been canola, we have seen elevated nitrate levels in some samples from failed cereal crops.

“Individual animals and mobs vary in their susceptibility to nitrate but as a guide, levels above 5000 parts per million (ppm) can cause health issues and levels above 10,000 ppm are a risk of causing deaths when fed to stock.

“Producers should ask for feed test results when they buy hay or silage, including nitrate levels.

“Feed with higher nitrate levels must be managed, and stock should not eat it as their total ration when they are hungry.”

Of 360 canola samples tested between September and October this year, 25 per cent were above 5000 ppm and eight per cent of those above 10,000 ppm, a point where toxicity can cause deaths. Tests in October showed one crop with nitrate levels of 45,000 ppm and several above 20,000 ppm. Average energy and protein values were 9.7 MJ/kg and 15.5 per cent crude protein.

NSW DPI research officer, John Piltz, said there is no evidence high protein content is a predictor of nitrate content and data from this year’s canola shows no such relationship exists.

“While silage is normally considered safer because the fermentation process reduces nitrate levels, this applies to fine-chop silage.

“If crop nitrate levels are very high then ensiling may not be enough to make it safe. Baled silage is drier, with less fermentation, so the reduction in nitrate may not be as great.”

Data from last year’s feed tests of recovered canola showed only a low to modest reduction in nitrates in silages compared with hays. There is no change in nitrate levels in hay over time.

Producers should exercise caution when grazing failed crops. Canola nitrate levels in the stem can be 10 times higher than in the leaf, so stock should not be forced to graze canola stems, unless safe.

Steering Group for National Framework

Sheep sustainability framework aims for trust and transparency.

The design of the world's first national sustainability framework for sheep and wool is underway, with the appointment of a steering group to identify priority issues related to Australian sheep production.

"Our customers must be confident that the food and fibre they purchase has been produced responsibly," said Professor Bruce Allworth, Chair of the Sheep Sustainability Steering Group.

"This means being transparent about our performance in key areas of interest such as animal welfare, occupational health and safety, environmental impact and economic resilience.

"If we can measure our performance and provide solid data, we can demonstrate that our farming practices are in line with the expectations of our customers, and build their trust."

A vet by training, Prof Allworth runs a mixed sheep and cattle property near Holbrook, NSW, and leads the Fred Morley Centre at the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Charles Sturt University. He has a consulting background in sheep and beef production.

The focus of the framework is on-farm, covering both sheep meat and wool. The skill-based steering group has a strong

representation across regions, and the wool and meat value chain. The members are;

Prof Bruce Allworth (Chair), Director, Fred Morley Centre, Charles Sturt University, NSW, **Will Barton**, CEO, Gundagai Meat Processors, NSW, **Dr Will Bignell**, Producer, Thorpe Farm, TAS, **Andrew Blanch**, Managing Director, New England Wool, NSW, **Michael Field**, Producer, Jugiong, NSW, **Johnny Gardner**, Producer, Cavendish, VIC, **Deanna Lush**, Managing Director, Ag Communicators, SA, **Emily Stretch**, Producer, Kojonup, WA, **Mark Wootton**, Producer, Jigsaw Farms, VIC

The initiative is led by Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia, with Australian Wool Innovation and Meat & Livestock Australia providing funding together with strategic and secretariat support. The steering group has met to start discussions on priority issues to be included in the framework. This will be followed by consultation across the sheep meat and wool value chain, and with stakeholders, including customers, government, interest groups, technical experts and investors.

"It is critical that we consider the concerns of all our stakeholders in designing the framework. Close engagement will also support their understanding of what the industry is doing to become more sustainable," said Prof Allworth.

"Overall, I believe the framework will build trust in, and resilience of, the industry. It will help us identify areas for improvement and stay on the front foot with regards to emerging issues.

The framework is expected to be delivered by June 2020. It is the second sustainability framework for the red meat industry. The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework was launched in 2017.




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Laurie Thompson

Laurie Thompson has been inspecting Poll Dorsets at the Melbourne Royal for 49 years - "hopefully I wrack up 50 in 2020 and it might be time to retire". Laurie started breeding Dorset Horns in 1956 at Myrniong, and switched to Poll Dorsets just over a decade later.

And now 52 years after that, he has been awarded a Life Membership of the Australian Poll Dorset Association.

"I approached my father when I was 15 to ask if I could buy some stud sheep - as a dairy farmer he wasn't that impressed with the idea. I said I will earn the money to buy them, and if I can run them on the family farm until I get some dirt of my own, I will give you half. He said I don't expect to get much out of this deal, but away you go!"

And away he went, establishing the Gartlee stud.

"Gartlee is where my great grandfather came from in Scotland, he came out to the (Myrniong) area in 1856."

Gartlee was sold to a family at Yea two years ago but Laurie is still involved with it in an advisory role. Laurie said he has always loved the challenge of breeding sheep.

"Selecting rams and always trying to breed something better and you've got to change with the times with the type of sheep that are required and that has certainly changed a huge amount over the years - same purpose but much better sheep."

He started inspecting at the Melbourne Royal in the early days of his career alongside some of the leaders in the business, and describes it as a great learning tool. In 2013 he was awarded the RAS President's Medal for 43 years of service.

"I considered that an honour, but this is the greatest honour at all, it's the biggest thrill I've ever had."

Laurie's highlight of his years in Poll Dorsets has been the friendships however.

"You make lifelong friends that is the greatest achievement."



Life Membership was awarded to Laurie Thompson and Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Ian Bedison at this year's Royal Melbourne Show.

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SALES RESULTS

STUD	STATE	STUD RAMS			FLOCK RAMS			STUD EWE		
		SOLD	TOP	AV	SOLD	TOP	AV	SOLD	TOP	AV
Abelene Park	NSW	16/16	\$26,000	\$6,656	163/163	\$3,250	\$1,716			
Dursley	NSW				34/35	\$1,300	\$904			
Gooramma	NSW				110/110	\$10,000	\$1,805			
Kurralea	NSW	19	\$32,000	\$4,500	200		\$1,100			
Marocara	NSW				103/132	\$2,500	\$1,406			
Narranmore	NSW				50	\$2,600	\$1,350			
Ridgehaven	NSW				100/148	\$3,000	\$1,254			
Springwaters	NSW	12/12	\$11,000	\$5,876	167/167		\$2,021			
Valley Vista	NSW				140/140	\$4,500	\$1,235			
Wunnamurra	NSW				125/165	\$1,900	\$961			
Mulgundawa	SA				157/162	\$2,400	\$1,445			
Mullinger Park	SA				205/205	\$4,400	\$1,322			
Newbold	SA	13/13	\$12,500	\$3,300	74/85	\$2,400	\$1,284	19/19	\$400	\$300
Stokes Bay Genetics	SA				84/92	\$2,800	\$1,111			
Ulandi Park	SA	13	\$7,000	\$4,085	136	\$2,700	\$1,537			
Warrawindi	SA				190	\$5,100	\$1,794			
Maccelslie Park	TAS				14/16	\$1,800	\$1,092			
Melton Vale	TAS				130/132	\$2,200	\$1,574			
Valma	TAS	10/10	\$21,200	\$7,230	138/140	\$2,800	\$1,360			
Bruan	VIC	2	\$4,000	\$3,600	154/154		\$1,600			
Derrynock	VIC	26	\$19,000	\$4,541	108/115	\$2,800	\$1,640	40/40	\$900	\$560
Englewood Park	VIC				92	\$2,050	\$1,165			
Estjam	VIC				40/41	\$1,500	\$995			
Fairbank	VIC				56/57	\$2,000	\$1,477			
Feltrim	VIC				48/48	\$1,550	\$1,100			
Icon	VIC				66/71	\$1,800	\$959			
Jackson	VIC				40/40	\$2,500	\$1,345			
Janmac	VIC	20/20	\$5,500	\$2,940	146/146	\$2,800	\$1,785			
Konongwootong	VIC				198/200		\$1,434			
Pembroke	VIC				59/59	\$2,700	\$1,600			
Penrise	VIC				19/19	\$1,200	\$979			
Pepperton	VIC	4	\$4,600	\$2,900	40	\$1,400	\$895			
Shellal	VIC				122/124	\$2,000	\$1,220			
Sunnybanks & Faraday Park	VIC				23/32	\$1,600	\$1,260			
Wrattenbullie	VIC	6	\$3,800	\$2,866	120		\$1,775			

Are you thinking about succession?

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Mike Stephens, agricultural consultant and Director of Meridian Agriculture in Victoria, outlines what's needed to successfully hand over the farm.

Mike has been advising producers on succession planning for around 40 years and is currently completing his PhD on the subject. At a recent MLA Forum he shared a story he said is far too common.

"I was part of a family conversation about succession when the husband looked at his watch and said 'oh dear, I have to go and check that cow that's calving'," Mike said.

"The air was pretty thick so I opted to go and help him. We jumped in the ute and drove out to the top of hill where he got out calmly and just stood. I said 'where's that cow?' and he told me there'd been a lot of non-existent calving cows over the years."

Mike said this was a classic example of avoidance which, unfortunately, tends to go hand-in-hand with farm succession planning.

Be proactive, not reactive

Succession of a viable farm business is a financial reality for only a few – potentially only 30% of farm businesses achieve it, according to data from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

The first step is to start the conversation early and don't wait for

a catastrophe to force your hand. "It's never too early to start planning for succession by building the business," Mike said. "If you do that, you have choices. Succession is a very long process."

Road to success

Mike said a smooth succession requires families to:

- build and maintain relationships
- have open and honest communication between all family members
- manage expectations
- build a business capable of delivering
- understand the needs, wants and aspirations of each family member in each generation
- choose the appropriate business structure.

How to get started

"A succession plan is how you move the responsibility for management, for getting the work done and eventually ownership from one person or a group to another person or group," Mike said. The process could play out like this:

- Give some serious management responsibility to a certain family member.
- Next, make that person a genuine partner.
- Let them take ownership of the business separately from the land.
- Finally, identify how they can buy the land.

"By taking this stepped approach, you can allow them to start to buy out siblings early," Mike said. "No two plans are the same and there's a whole range of things you can do from an early stage."

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GOORAMMA POLL DORSET STUD Est. 1970

- LAMBPLAN - DNA TESTED - STOCKSCAN - 50 YEARS 2020 -



Photo courtesy of The Land.

Gooramma 404-2018

Sire: Gooramma 'Guru' 308-2016

Sire of Dam: Windermere (NZ) T-Bone

**SOLD - \$10,000 ANNUAL SALE
TO ICON POLL DORSET STUD**

BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	C+	TCP
0.51	10.3	15.7	3.2	+0.5	214	139

SEMEN AVAILABLE \$50/dose



Gooramma 682-2018

Sire: Gooramma 'Guru' 308-2016

SOLD - \$6,000 ANNUAL SALE TO BROOKLYN PARK POLL DORSET STUD

BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	C+	TCP
0.56	10.9	16.2	3.5	+0.6	219	143

SEMEN
AVAILABLE



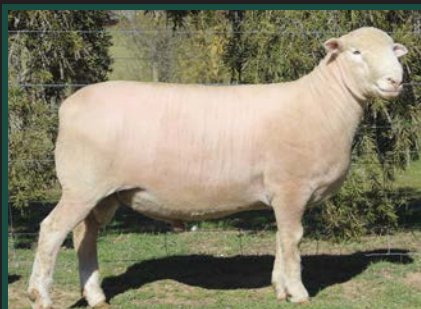
Gooramma 'Guru' 308-2016

Sire: Gooramma "Headway" 270-2014

Sons at Gooramma Sale averaged \$6200 across 7 sons

BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	C+	TCP
0.56	10.6	15.8	2.1	-0.5	205	140

SEMEN
AVAILABLE



Gooramma 'Ribeye' 220-2017

Sire: Gooramma "Headway" 270-2014

Extremely exciting breeding prospect- exceptional progeny

BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	C+	TCP
0.60	10.1	15.3	2.8	+0.3	208	143

SEMEN
AVAILABLE



Gooramma 80-2018

Sire: Gooramma 'Guru' 308-2016

One of the biggest hindquarters you will see. EMA of 55.8cm²

BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	C+	TCP
0.63	9.7	13.4	1.8	-0.4	192	135

SEMEN
AVAILABLE

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Half page	\$341	\$426.25
Quarter page	\$209	\$261.25
1/8th page	\$154	\$192.50

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Sired by Aberdeen 369-16

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pemd	Pfat	Tcp	Leq
0.66	10.8	15.4	1.3	0.8	142.1	133.7



For any further enquiries contact Kim or James (02) 4832 1823

Kim: 0417 789 017 **James:** 0423 700 315 **Email:** pinewalla@bigpond.com





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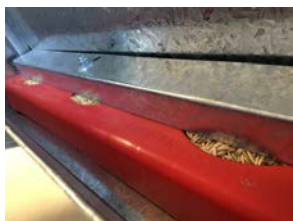
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