



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

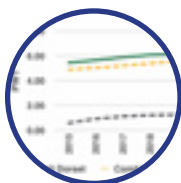
VOLUME 55 / NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 2025

TASSIE DEVIL *Sunnybank's big win*

2025 Australasian
Dorset Championships
Champion of Champions
Ram
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THIS ISSUE...



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is an honour to take up the role of president of the Australian Poll Dorset Association, to represent a breed that has so much to offer the prime lamb industry and to be a second generation board member.

I take up the baton after the exceptional leadership of Tana King, who after just three months as vice-president, stepped up to be president after the death of our valued member Rod Davies.

Tania's ability to provide leadership to the board, a listening ear to members and a positive attitude were extremely valuable to our breed, and even more so given her personal challenges through her tenure. We value Tania's work as the past president enormously and will draw on her experience and wisdom as she continues to hold her role as a committee member.

Part of this has to be a willingness to adopt change. Poll Dorsets have moved with the times in the past, and we can do it again. It is potentially arrogant to consider that the breed has such a reputation that we can "breed them and they will come". We need to listen: to what our commercial producers want, who in turn are listening to what their processors want, in turn who are listening to what consumers want.

Poll Dorsets have always been known for their quick, early growth but also their ability to grow out to big weights. And while we are not paid, yet, on intramuscular fat levels from most processors, we need to make sure that the eating quality of our Poll Dorset lambs are such that consumers keep wanting to make a purchasing decision to buy lamb. A bad eating experience is not good for anyone, and most especially for the lamb producer.

It is important that the Poll Dorset breed has a common goal to breed towards and to address some of the challenges that are emerging. A case in point is birthweight,

with rams being sold with high Australian Sheep Breeding Values for this trait. Guidance must be provided when selling these rams, for buyers to know what they are signing up for, but a willingness for the breed as a whole to accept a rising average birthweight could be considered a concern. If buyers, and we are talking everyone from Jo Average breeder with 1000 ewes to the large corporates, note that our birthweights are on the rise, this can create noise when it comes to selecting a terminal sire. We want nothing to stand in the way of Poll Dorsets being their first choice.

These kinds of discussions, whether formal or informal, will be part of the national conference in Wagga Wagga next February, and I encourage all members to attend. The key note speaker and MC for the event is Mark Ferguson, from NextGen Agri, while for those AFL fans, Tom Hawkins has been secured as the dinner speaker. Tom is the son of a farmer, and so is a great fit for the conference, and his success as a footballer is undisputed. We hope he will be able to not only entertain, but to give some tips for the breed to kick some goals.

While it is appropriate to keep challenging ourselves as a breed, it is also wonderful to celebrate what we have achieved. It was an honour to be one of the judges for the Champion of Champions at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale in September. The exhibitors are to be congratulated on the standard of their exhibits and the wide variety of sheep. The challenge I found was deciding which lamb market should Poll Dorsets be targeting? This could also be a topic of conversation at the Wagga Wagga conference.

There is absolutely no reason why Poll Dorsets should not remain the premier terminal sire in Australia. That does not mean that we don't need to be willing to embrace change and stay with the times. Working together as a breed is the only way this can be achieved and I hope that my time as president can continue to keep us focused on what is important. It's not just about selling more rams, it's about selling rams that are a strong fit for the industry.

Tania epitomised what I truly believe is an attitude we should all adopt and made famous by the late US president JF Kennedy - ask not what Poll Dorsets can do for you, but what you can do for Poll Dorsets.

George Carter

PRESIDENT



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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

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GLENORE

POLL DORSET STUD

'Breeding Top Quality Rams since 1962'

SALE RESULTS

Glenore's 15th Annual Ram Sale

66/77 Rams sold to \$8000 to average \$1709.

10/10 Stud Ewes sold to \$1100 to average \$620



Glenore 132-24 sold to Luke Kent, Mt Gambier



Glenore 170-24 sold to Pinevite Poll Dorset Stud

**We at Glenore
would like to
thank all our
clients for their
support
throughout 2025
and wish you
the best of luck
for the season
ahead. We hope
you have a safe
and joyful
Christmas and
New Year!**

**The Cain
Family**



Peter, Gillian & Charlotte Cain 'Glenore'

582 Carisbrook-Eddington Road, Carisbrook, Victoria, 3464

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Our cover: Champion of champion rams at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale was exhibited by Paul and Shannon Day, Sunnybanks, Penguin, Tasmania, with ram Sunnybanks 240126

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ACROSS THE PENS

It's a privilege to write my first *Across the Pens* as the new chief executive officer and secretary of the Australian Poll Dorset Association. I officially took over from Margot Falconer in late August and would like to begin by acknowledging the outstanding work Margot has done over many years. Her dedication and her professionalism have made a significant contribution to the association, and I thank her sincerely for her support and the smooth transition.



Since stepping into the role, I've had the pleasure of meeting most members of the board and several breeders at the recent Australasian Poll Dorset Show in Bendigo. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the quality of the stock on display and to experience the enthusiasm and pride that drive both our board and members. The sense of community and commitment to continual improvement were clearly evident, and it reinforced for me how passionate and forward-thinking our breeders are. I'm very much looking forward to meeting more members at the upcoming conference in Wagga Wagga — a wonderful opportunity to share ideas, discuss industry priorities, and celebrate the success of the breed together.

Congratulations to Brittany Bolt, our Promotions Chair, who has been busy over the past couple of months getting married — congratulations, Brittany!

I would also like to warmly welcome Stephenie Rigney to the team. Stephenie has joined us as marketing and administration Officer, replacing Tegan Tingley, and has already done a fantastic job coordinating all the advertising for this journal.

Keryn has fully embraced her role as Manager – Breed Secretariats, supporting both Stephenie and me by sharing her valuable knowledge of the database and day-to-day operations. In just the past month, Keryn has registered four new studs into the system — a great sign of continued growth and engagement within the breed.

A friendly reminder to send in DNA samples early for rams sold to other breeders, as this will help streamline the flock book process for 2026.

Finally, please note that to improve communication and efficiency, my new email address is secretary@polldorset.org.au.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to wish all Poll Dorset members a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe, and prosperous New Year. I look forward to working with you all in 2026 as we continue to promote and strengthen our great breed.

Sue Opie

CEO & SECRETARY

SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

The annual general meeting was held at the Prince of Wales Showground during the Australasian Dorset Championships and the September board meeting was held at Sheep House, both on September 14.

Please find below an edited summary of the meetings.

Election of office bearers for 2025/2026

President - George Carter

Vice President - James Frost

Treasurer - Liz Mann

Promotions Chair - Brittany Bolt

Admin & Planning Chair - Dan Roe

Flock Book Chair - Tania King

Flock Book Committee Members - James Frost, Damon Coats

Finance report

George Carter spoke on the balance sheet and profit and loss but noted it is only a 10- month report due to the changing of the financial year. This will be better for us to keep income and costs in the one year. On the investment side, the share portfolio is starting to go well, up 14 per cent this year. Sponsorship also enables us to maintain costs.

The following motions were carried; That we appoint the AFS and Associates for the annual accountant review only as our turnover is not at a level that requires full audit.

"That the Treasurer's report be accepted."

Journal Advertising Revenue

Advertising revenue decline noted since 2022. The September issue remains the focus. Strategies to lift revenue include: package deals, online advertising, proactive sponsor engagement. Website redesign to support advertising and video content.

Industry Events Support 2026

LambEx 2026 - APDA Exhibition Booth

ICMJ Sponsorship - Live Sheep Workshops

General Business

Isabele Roberts moved a vote of thanks to outgoing Secretary Margot Falconer and this was seconded by Geoff Davey and she was duly presented with flowers. The president then introduced new Secretary Sue Opie. The outgoing Secretary was humbled by the motion and spoke of how much she has enjoyed working with the board and the Poll Dorset breeders over the past six and a half years.

Flock Registration Report

The following new studs were approved at the meeting:

- Steven & Mardi James, Bungeet. VIC, "Majella"
- Anthony & Teagan Large, Gulgong. NSW, "Tucklan Valley"
- Michael & Natalie Baillie, Cedar Grove. QLD, "Mapleton"

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Having been appointed to the role of APDA treasurer at the last board meeting, this is my first opportunity to write a treasurer report in the journal.

For those who do not know me, I own and operate the Glenelm Poll Dorset Stud that was commenced in 1959 by my father, Bruce Mann. Following the death of my father in 2015, I moved the stud from White Hills in Tasmania, to the Goulburn Valley in northern Victoria.

Since that time I have been actively involved in the region and am also secretary of the Victorian State committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to also welcome Sue Opie to the APDA office and look forward to working with her to manage the APDA financials.

During the past weeks, we have received invoices relating to regional advertising that is occurring during the ram selling



season. These invoices are all approved in line with what had been approved for the regions at the February board meeting.

We are also currently reviewing our suppliers, seeking new quotes, and assessing the most cost-effective options to ensure value and efficiency for the journal and association moving forward.

Regional and State Secretaries

Please remember that applications for major event and regional advertising will need to be submitted prior to the February board meeting. The APDA secretariat will send out the application forms early next year.

National Poll Dorset Conference, 22-24 February 2026, "Unite, Breed, Succeed"

Please remember to register for the national conference that will be held at Wagga, Wagga in NSW in February 2026. It should be a fantastic event to bring the members together for an informative and social event. So far we have received 10 registrations, with many more expected over the coming months.

Liz Mann

TREASURER



Flock 2616

Est. 1977



AP 111-24. Sire: TAT155-21.
Junior Champ Cowra, 1st
Bendigo and top price of
\$20,000 to the Sunnybanks &
Rangeview Studs.



AP 211-24 Sire: AP69-22 Hornet.
Junior Champ Bendigo and sold
to the Windradyne Stud for
\$15,000.



AP 105-24 Sire: TAT155-21.
2nd Bendigo and sold to the
Derby Downs Stud for \$14,000.
Scanned a massive 63cm² EMA
at 14 months old at the show.



AP 122-24. Sire: Valley Vista 79.
1st Junior performance class
Bendigo and sold to the
Jenstan Stud for \$14,000.



AP 82-24. Sire: AP 228-18 Aldi.
1st Intermediate Performance
class and sold to the Kismet Stud
for \$13,000.

Our 5 sale rams at the Aust. Sale
sold to the top price of \$20,000
and average \$15,000.

All our 10 rams that went to
Bendigo placed in the top 3 in
their class with some of the
biggest scans at the show that
we have ever recorded.

Thank you to the buyers and
underbidders of our sheep at
Bendigo and our spring sale.

Summer Ram and Ewe Sale

to be held at 'Belaylee' 1171
Nundle Rd, Piallamore via
Tamworth NSW

Thursday, Feb 5 - 1.30PM

50 Poll Dorset Stud & Flock Rams
15 Poll Dorset Stud Ewes, Unjoined



Flock 1143

Est. 1966



2025 Sale Results

* 15 stud rams sold to \$18,000 – av \$6500 *

* 123/128 flock rams – av \$1650 *

Stud ram purchases include:

* \$10,000 & \$9000 – Camborn Stud, vic.

* \$5500 – Bruan stud, vic.

* \$5000 – Ridgehaven stud, NSW.

* \$4200 – Newbold stud S.A.

* \$4200 – Glen Devon stud S.A.



Derrynock 30/24 - \$18,000
Sold to Ulandi Park stud



Derrynock 849/24 - \$10,000
Sold to Konongwootong stud

A big thankyou

To all who attended and bid at our 2025 sale.

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

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National conference back on the agenda

Poll Dorset breeders will be encouraged to “unite, breed and succeed” when they make their way to Wagga Wagga, NSW, next February.

The National Poll Dorset Conference 2026 will draw breeders together where they will hear from a range of guest speakers and make the most of the gathering of minds.

Australian Poll Dorset Association Albury-Wagga Wagga region president Joe Scott said preparation for the event was forging ahead.

“The conference will be a great opportunity for breeders and like minded people working to achieve similar goals in the industry to get together and listen to some leading speakers specialising in their fields,” Mr Scott said.

“As well as the learning opportunities, the dinner is not to be missed, featuring Poll Dorset lamb breeder and AFL great Tom Hawkins of Nutrien.

“But the most important part of it is getting everyone back together after a six-year gap since our last conference, to celebrate the success and importance of the Poll Dorset brand in the industry. ”

The national conference’s theme of Unite, Breed, Succeed, sets the tone for the two-day event which features highly regarded industry speakers.

These include:

- NextGen Agri principal Mark Ferguson

- Rabobank senior animal proteins analyst Angus Gidley
- Sheep Genetics operations manager Peta Bradley
- Sprout Ag, with a representative to speak on finance and succession planning
- Neogen, with a representative to speak on DNA and genomics
- Wright Social and Branded Ag, with representatives to speak on marketing using social media and photography.

The conference kicks off on Sunday, February 22, with a meet and greet session at the Wagga Wagga, RSL, where delegates can take part in barefoot bowls.

The formal proceedings kick off at 8am on Monday, February 23, with presentations, displays and trade stalls running throughout the day.

The formal dinner on Monday night will be a great way to cap off the day, with a three-course meal, along with the dinner speaker, Tom Hawkins, a former Geelong Cats AFL great who now works with Nutrien.

The following day will be another packed program of presentations, displays and trade stalls, culminating in an after party at 3pm at the Thirsty Cow Brewery.

The national conference will be held at The Range Function Centre, East Wagga Wagga NSW, and Poll Dorset enthusiasts are encouraged to book their tickets through <https://events.humanitix.com/national-poll-dorset-conference-2026> as soon as possible.



Scan here to buy tickets

Save The Date

40th NSW Dorset Championships

Show - Friday 19th & Saturday 20th June 2026

40th Celebration Dinner Friday 19th June 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| FEB 20–22 | Royal Canberra Show |
| FEB 22–24 | National Poll Dorset Conference |
| MAR 6–7 | Wagin Woolorama |
| APR 2–13 | Sydney Royal Show |
| MAY 32–24 | NSW State Sheep Show Dubbo |
| JUNE | NSW Dorset Championships Cowra |
| JULY 8–10 | LambEX |
| JULY 17–19 | Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AUG 2–3 | Hamilton Sheepvention |
| AUG 8–16 | Ekka Royal Queensland Show |
| SEP 5–SEP 13 | Royal Adelaide Show |
| SEP 11–13 | Australasian Dorset Championships |
| SEP 24–OCT 4 | Royal Melbourne Show |
| SEP 26–OCT 3 | Royal Perth Show |
| OCT 8–10 | Royal Launceston Show |
| OCT 21–24 | Royal Hobart Show |

Accuracies in ASBVs

When I hear the word accuracy, I immediately think of sport. Netball, AFL, cricket - they're all games where hitting your target matters. Whether it's Ash Barty landing a precision backhand or Buddy Franklin slotting a goal from the boundary, the greats aren't just talented, they're consistent. They deliver under pressure, time and time again.

Livestock breeding is no different. Accuracy in breeding values tells us how confident we can be that an animal will pass on the traits we are selecting for. Just like in sport, success doesn't come from one-off brilliance. It comes from repeatable, reliable performance and in breeding, that's built on good data.

What is accuracy, and why does it matter?

In livestock genetics, accuracy is a number between 0 and 99 expressed as a percentage that reflects how close a breeding value is likely to be to the animal's true genetic merit. The higher the accuracy, the more reliable that number is. It gives producers confidence that what they see on paper will hold up in the paddock.

High accuracy means the breeding value has been calculated using strong data and is unlikely to change much. A low accuracy value is more likely to shift as more information becomes available. It's the difference between putting your faith in a young batsman without the runs on the board versus selecting a veteran with a proven record.

For commercial producers, this matters. Breeding decisions are long-term investments, and accuracy helps manage risk. It allows producers to identify which animals are worth backing now and which ones still need to prove themselves.

| # | Dir (%) | Dtrs (%) | GL (days) | Bwt (kg) | 200 (kg) | 400 (kg) | 600 (kg) |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| EBV | -5.1 | -3.8 | -3.2 | +2.6 | +27 | +49 | +68 |
| ACC | 53% | 46% | 71% | 78% | 72% | 71% | 72% |
| Calving Ease | | | | Growth | | | |
| | Calving Ease Dir | Calving Ease Dtrs | Gestation Length | Birth Weight | 200 Day Growth | 400 Day Weight | 600 Day Weight |
| EBV | -0.2 | +7.0 | -0.8 | +3.7 | +61 | +110 | +140 |
| Acc | 69% | 60% | 83% | 83% | 84% | 82% | 82% |
| Perc | 74 | 14 | 94 | 45 | 14 | 12 | 15 |

Acc also accuracies displayed with EBVs

Figure 1. Examples of estimated breeding values (EBVs) with accuracy scores (%) to show how reliable each trait prediction is. Source: BREEDPLAN.

When is a breeding value's accuracy high enough?

Like watching a young gun get more game time, breeding values become more reliable over time as more information is added to the evaluation.

Here's a guide to understanding breeding value accuracy:

- **Less than 50%** – Low accuracy. Likely based on limited pedigree or performance data. These values can change significantly.
- **50–74%** – Medium accuracy. Usually includes own performance and some pedigree depth. Still some risk of change.
- **75–90%** – Medium-high accuracy. Often includes own performance and early progeny data. Becoming more stable.

- **Over 90%** – High accuracy. Supported by significant progeny information. These values are unlikely to shift much.

Here's an example. Let's think about a bull's fertility breeding value. When purchased as a yearling, he will have no daughters calving yet. His 'Days to Calving' EBV is likely to be based purely on pedigree and perhaps some DNA data. It is not until those daughters mature and start calving that his true fertility performance becomes clear. Over time, as more records come in, the accuracy improves and the value becomes more reliable.

What influences accuracy?

There are several factors that affect the accuracy of the breeding values presented to us at any given time:

1. **More data:** Just as an athlete trains to sharpen their accuracy, breeding value accuracy improves as more data is collected. Pedigree provides a starting point, but on its own, it offers limited confidence. Adding the animal's own performance, such as weaning weights, scan results, or structural scores, helps build a clearer picture. The biggest lift comes when progeny data enters the equation. If a bull consistently sires heavy calves or fertile daughters, it gives us far greater confidence that the associated breeding values reflect his true genetic potential.
2. **DNA:** Genomic testing also plays a key role, especially for young animals. By using DNA information, we can make earlier and more reliable predictions, even before progeny hit the ground. This is especially useful for traits that are hard to measure or appear later in life, like intramuscular fat (IMF) or female fertility.
3. **Linkage:** Another factor in accuracy is linkage: animals that are genetically connected to others in the evaluation. For example, using semen from popular artificial insemination sires helps to improve comparisons, strengthens the genetic evaluation and lifts accuracy.
4. **Heritability:** Traits like growth tend to have higher heritability, so genetic differences are easier to detect, and breeding values tend to be more accurate. Traits like fertility are lower in heritability, which means environmental factors have more influence, and accuracy builds more slowly. (See figure 2.)

Accuracies displayed alongside breeding values on Sheep Genetics database.

| Body Weight | | | Litter Size | | |
|-------------|-------|------|-------------|---------------------|----------|
| | ASBV | ACC. | PCTL | ASBV | ACC. |
| WWT | 7.72 | 71 | TOP 5% | YLS | -0.03 50 |
| MWWT | -2.14 | 67 | | LN | 0.03 50 |
| PWT | 10.36 | 71 | TOP 10% | Ewe Rearing Ability | |
| YWT | 12.47 | 73 | TOP 10% | | |
| HWWT | 12.64 | 71 | TOP 10% | | |
| | | | | ERA | 0.04 43 |

This ram has performance data and well linked pedigree however, yet to have progeny recorded.

Fertility traits for the same ram as body wt. & see how the accuracy is lower.

Figure 2. Examples of breeding values for the same ram, showing the difference in accuracy across different traits. Source: Sheep Genetics.

Breeding values with low accuracy still have value

Some producers avoid low-accuracy breeding values altogether, but this might mean missing good opportunities. In a recent podcast interview, Dr Kirsty Moore referred to research where she explored this through a 'knock-out' study. The team temporarily removed 10 years of data and grouped animals based on early, low-accuracy fertility EBVs. They then reinstated the full 10 years of data to see whether those early groupings held up. On average, they did. While some animals shifted categories, the broad patterns remained the same.

This showed that, while low-accuracy breeding values may change, they still provide useful guidance. In many cases, animals identified as high or low performers early on maintained that trend when more data became available. A low-accuracy EBV is better than having no EBV at all. You just need to be aware that it carries more uncertainty.

So, how much emphasis should a breeder place on accuracy? Moore mentioned it depends on your goals and your personal appetite for risk. Breeding values with lower accuracy are more likely to change, which means there's more uncertainty. For some operations, particularly those making long-term female selection decisions, that extra risk may not be acceptable. For others chasing fast terminal gain, it might be worth taking the punt on potential.

It's also important to remember that the complex math behind breeding value calculations already accounts for uncertainty. When limited information is available, the system naturally regresses the breeding value towards the breed average. This built-in safeguard ensures that extreme values without strong data support are moderated. So while low-accuracy EBVs may still carry more risk, the system is designed to help producers avoid overconfidence in incomplete predictions.

Strategies to improve breeding value accuracy

Building accuracy is about collecting quality data over time. Recording birth dates, weights, calving ease scores, ultrasound scan results, and structural scores consistently is key. The more information you feed into the evaluation, the more reliable your breeding values become.

Using genomic testing can fast-track accuracy, especially for young animals. This is particularly valuable for traits that don't show up until later in life. Another way to improve accuracy is to use well-proven sires with good linkage into national evaluations. This connects your animals into the broader genetic picture and improves comparisons.

Being involved in across-herd/across-flock evaluations like BREEDPLAN or Sheep Genetics also helps, as does participating in benchmarking initiatives such as the Angus Sire Benchmarking Program or a central progeny test (CPT). These programs bring more data into the system and improve accuracy for the breed as a whole.

Common misunderstandings

There are a few common myths around accuracy. One is assuming that a high breeding value is always the best pick, even if the accuracy is low. In reality, a flashy number without reliable backing could change. It is smarter to balance the value itself with how confident we are in it.

Another is thinking that looks or phenotype can replace breeding values. A big, well-fed bull might look impressive in the paddock, but that doesn't mean he has the genetics to match. Appearance is shaped by feeding and environment, and doesn't always tell the full story.

There is also a belief that genomics alone guarantees high accuracy. Genomics is powerful, but it works best when combined with other data such as performance records, progeny results and linkage. No single source of information is enough on its own.

Wrapping up

Accuracy is more than just a number on a report. It is the confidence behind your decisions. Like a star player who consistently performs when it counts, high-accuracy animals give you peace of mind. They reduce risk and help ensure that the traits you are selecting for actually show up in the next generation.

By understanding what accuracy means, what affects it and how to improve it, producers can take the guesswork out of breeding. It's not about chasing the biggest numbers; it's about backing animals with the data to prove they'll deliver. In sport, the scoreboard never lies, and with accuracy on your side, you can hit the mark more often than not.

More information on breeding value accuracy

Understanding EBV Accuracy - BREEDPLAN

Maximising Livestock Potential using Breeding Values with Dr Kirsty Moore - Genetics in the Paddock with Emily, Season 1, Episode 5 (published December 3, 2023).

Article courtesy of Phoebe Eckermann, NextGen Agri.



Phoebe Eckermann.

Combined LAMBPLAN analysis results for growth and carcass traits

In August, Sheep Genetics launched the new Combined LAMBPLAN research analysis to the Australian sheep industry, to enable direct comparisons of the genetic merit of Maternal and Terminal animals within a single unified evaluation.

The Combined LAMBPLAN analysis will be a research analysis run in parallel with the current Terminal and Maternal analyses until the release of the final phase in early 2027. Phase one of the analysis has now been released, with growth, development and eating quality traits currently available. You can access ASBVs for phase one via the Sheep Genetics search site. Keep an eye out for phase two (incorporating lambing ease and WEC ASBVs), expected to be released in the coming months.

The following graphs show the average genetic trends for the Poll Dorset breed, Combined LAMBPLAN Terminal sire breeds, and Maternal sire breeds for postweaning weight (PWT), post weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD), intramuscular fat (IMF), and shear force (SHEARF5).

Post weaning weight shows a consistent upward trend, with Poll Dorsets performing higher than both the Combined Terminal and Combined Maternal sire breed averages, as shown in figure 1. Figure 2 illustrates that Poll Dorset post weaning eye muscle depth average performs similar to the Combined LAMBPLAN Terminal sire breeds average.

For eating quality traits, intramuscular fat and shear force (figures 3 and 4 respectively) share some potential opportunities

for improvement. While Poll Dorsets traditionally prioritise growth and muscling traits, the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis highlights the potential for improving genetic performance in IMF and reducing SHEARF5.

There were significant enhancements made to the evaluation underpinning the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis, therefore its results cannot be compared with the current Maternal and Terminal analyses. For this reason, we strongly recommend that breeders follow these steps to understand the changes within their flock.

- **Re-benchmark your flock:** It is important for breeders to re-benchmark their flocks. While an animal's ranking within the Percentile Bands (for example, top 5 per cent) should largely remain unchanged, the actual value of the ASBV may differ. To adjust, breeders should use the new Percentile Bands provided for Combined LAMBPLAN, which are available on the Sheep Genetics search site.
- **Use the Compare Tool and play around with your data:** Sheep Genetics has developed a comparison tool specifically to assist breeders in quantifying the changes and re-ranking occurring in their flock by comparing ASBVs from the current Terminal and Combined LAMBPLAN analyses.
- **Data Quality:** Review your flock reports, update any exclusions or genomic pedigree inconsistencies in your on-farm software and resubmit to SG.
- **Resources and support:** Sheep Genetics have developed a series of webinars, Analysis Enhancement booklets, and podcast episodes to provide insight into the Combined LAMBPLAN research analysis and what it means for your flock.

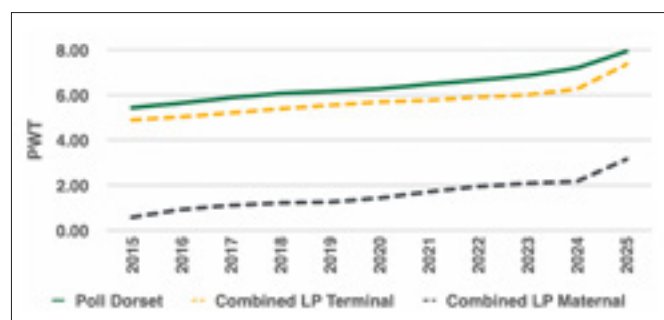


Figure 1. Combined LAMBPLAN genetic trends for post weaning weight (PWT) for Poll Dorset sheep breed in comparison to the Combined LAMBPLAN Maternal and Terminal sire breed averages.

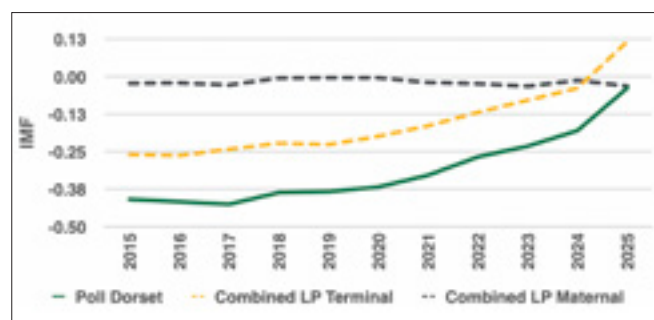


Figure 3. Combined LAMBPLAN genetic trends for intramuscular fat (IMF) for Poll Dorset sheep breed in comparison to the Combined LAMBPLAN Maternal and Terminal sire breed averages.

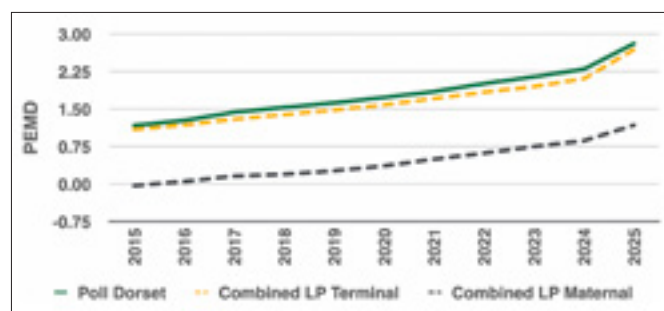


Figure 2. Combined LAMBPLAN genetic trends for post weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD) for Poll Dorset sheep breed in comparison to the Combined LAMBPLAN Maternal and Terminal sire breed averages.

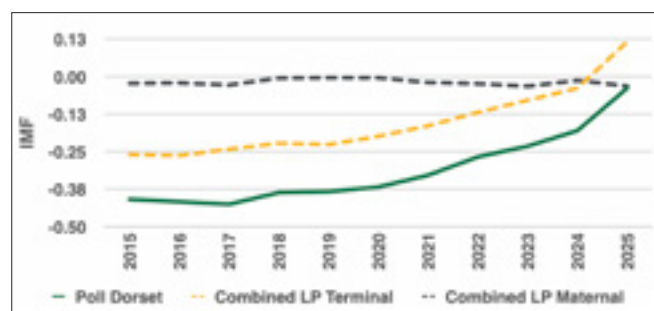


Figure 4. Combined LAMBPLAN genetic trends for shear force (SHEARF5) for Poll Dorset sheep breed in comparison to the Combined LAMBPLAN Maternal and Terminal sire breed averages.

TECHNICAL UPDATE

Set your flock up for success before joining

To set your flock up for success prior to joining, here are a few things you should consider!

Record pre-joining and condition score: We recommend recording a pre-joining weight and condition score (CS) measurement for all ewes within 30 days prior to joining and submit these measurements. Managing adult weight (AWT) and CS is important because they influence ewe fertility, lamb survival, and overall flock productivity, ensuring animals are in optimal condition for joining.

Validating your data quality: Accurate and high-quality data is important for making selection decisions – flocks that have high data quality make greater rates of genetic gain compared to flocks with low data quality. As stud breeders, you invest a lot of time and resources into recording traits, so it's important that you're getting the most out of your data.

Before each data submission, make sure to validate your data, this will increase the quality of information used in the genetic evaluation. After submission, it's important to check for any data exclusions or genomic pedigree inconsistencies and update them in your on-farm software and resubmit that data file to Sheep Genetics.

You can also check the quality/effectiveness of your data by logging onto the Sheep Genetics website and accessing your Data Quality Score (DQS) report.

Remember, the evaluation can only work with the data you provide. Take the time now to measure, check, and submit with confidence, and set your flock up for success!

Make your data count – Submit pregnancy scan data to SG

To support the development of the upcoming component reproduction module in the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis, we are asking producers to submit their pregnancy scan data to Sheep Genetics for R&D purposes. If you have pregnancy

scan data and haven't previously supplied it to Sheep Genetics, please submit your scan results by Christmas.

The component reproduction analysis to be released in Combined LAMBPLAN is a more accurate measure of reproductive performance. As a Poll Dorset stud breeder, submitting your pregnancy scan data will help improve the accuracy of component reproduction ASBVs and introduce the variation in data needed to assess reproductive performance.

The component reproduction traits include conception (CON), litter size (LS), and ewe rearing ability (ERA). The breakdown of reproduction into these components has allowed breeders to make more targeted genetic gain in the different drivers of reproduction. Figure 5 illustrates the change in the relative economic value (REV) for each component trait at different average flock litter size for the overall weaning rate (WR) ASBV. As litter size increases (x-axis), the economic importance of improving rearing ability continues to increase, maximising lamb survival and productivity.

Please contact Sheep Genetics if you have any questions.

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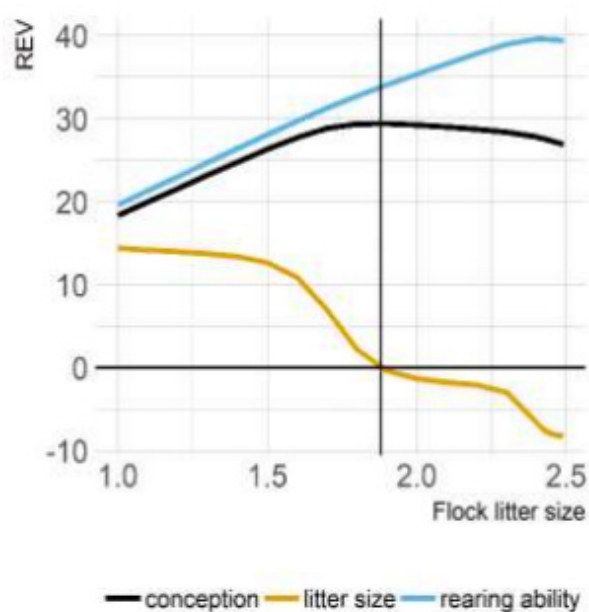


Figure 5. The change in relative economic value (REV) for each component trait at different flock litter sizes.

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A Sheep GENETICS podcast

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2025 Bowan Park Research Results

Bowan Park Poll Dorset stud research flock is open to all members of the Australian Poll Dorset Association and provides them with the opportunity to assess their flock genetics and benchmark them within the Poll Dorset breed.

The purpose of the progeny trial is to compare the performance of one sire to another in the same cohort of lambs. The lambs are all bred and grown together on the same farm, giving a unique situation where progeny of rams can be compared from birth through to slaughter.

The 2025 cohort was made up of 343 AI lambs, plus 96 naturally mated backup lambs, all born within a 32-day period (April 30-June 1, 2025).

There were 16 sires included in the trial. Sire selections were made with criteria that ranged from high performers, show champions and pedigrees of untested genetics. Two sires are included as year on year link rams (Ridgehaven 190083, Tattykeel 150172 as both have been in previous cohorts), which enables comparison across cohort years.

On Farm Performance

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

Results included the heaviest lamb at:

- 4 weeks – 27.0kg
- 10 weeks – 48.5kg
- 14 weeks – 63.4kg
- 17 weeks – 72.6kg

Open Day

The drop of lambs was made available to view on August 29 on property at Cudal NSW. This provided an opportunity for the sire contributors and the general public to visually appraise the lambs in their sire groups.

Rob McCartney from Yentrac at Tatura, Victoria, said it was valuable to look at the cohort of lambs, including those by a Yentrac sire.

“The best part was that we had progeny from rams from all sorts of genetic selection systems, and the end result was a draft of lambs which looked really good,” Mr McCartney said.

“They were all good Poll Dorset lambs that would have sold really well in the saleyards, and that says a lot about the breed that there is a depth of quality in the breed.”

Mr McCartney said there was great value in attending, and would imagine it would be just as valuable to go to the carcass viewing, which he was not able to attend due to the date being so close to his ram sale.

Carcass Testing

A selection of lambs was sent to Gundagai Meat Processors on September 23 where carcass data was collected by UNE Meat Science. The age of lambs at kill date ranged from 129 to 144 days (average 19 weeks).

- Heaviest carcase – 41.05kg (HSCW)
- Biggest EMA – 26.66 cm2 (EMD 49mm, EMW 68mm)
- Highest IMF – 8.61%

The sire contributors were also invited to inspect the lambs on the hook.

Tania King, Shellal, Koroit, Victoria, made the journey up to Gundagai, NSW, and said it was an invaluable experience.

| Sire ID | Row Labels | # lambs | Rear Multiple | Birth Weight (KG) | 4week Weight (kg) | 10week Weight (kg) | 14week Weight (kg) | 17week Weight (kg) | 17week EMD (mm) | 17week EM Fat (mm) | 19week Weight (kg) | Total Daily Weight Gain (g/day) |
|----------|----------------------|---------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | VALLEY VISTA-240106 | 16 | 1.3 | 6 | 18.2 | 32.3 | 41.3 | 51 | 32.3 | 4.6 | 55.2 | 358 |
| 2 | DERRYNOCK-190156 | 20 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 16.2 | 34.1 | 44.4 | 55.2 | 33.2 | 4.6 | 59.4 | 403 |
| 3 | RIDGEHAVEN-231181 | 25 | 1.7 | 5.1 | 16.5 | 30.1 | 39.9 | 49.4 | 30.2 | 4.1 | 53.3 | 347 |
| 4 | RIDGEHAVEN-230491 | 23 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 14.6 | 29.6 | 39.4 | 49.1 | 31.2 | 4 | 53 | 360 |
| 5 | ILFRACOMBE-230088 | 23 | 1.6 | 5.7 | 16.7 | 31.6 | 41.8 | 51.3 | 32.6 | 4 | 55.6 | 368 |
| 6 | SPRINGWATERS-230171 | 25 | 1.6 | 5.6 | 14.5 | 29.5 | 39.2 | 48.7 | 30.8 | 4 | 52.8 | 350 |
| 7 | LINTON-210105 | 21 | 1.5 | 5.1 | 16.3 | 31.6 | 41.8 | 51.3 | 31.2 | 4.6 | 54.9 | 361 |
| 8 | SHELLAL-230036 | 20 | 1.7 | 5.6 | 16.3 | 31.8 | 41.5 | 50.5 | 32 | 4.3 | 54.7 | 363 |
| 9 | DERRYNOCK-230210 | 26 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 16.6 | 33.3 | 43.3 | 52.8 | 33.7 | 4.5 | 56.6 | 375 |
| 10 | KENTISH DOWNS-230196 | 20 | 1.5 | 5.9 | 17.7 | 33.8 | 44.7 | 54.7 | 33.2 | 5.7 | 59.2 | 391 |
| 11 | JEWSHARP-150014 | 14 | 1.6 | 5.5 | 16 | 29.8 | 39.4 | 47.9 | 31.6 | 4.1 | 51.6 | 341 |
| 12 | YENTRAC-230004 | 19 | 1.7 | 5.3 | 15.6 | 29.9 | 39 | 48.9 | 30.7 | 4.3 | 53.2 | 353 |
| 13 | IVADENE-230025 | 21 | 1.7 | 5.5 | 16.6 | 33 | 42.8 | 53.2 | 31.7 | 4.4 | 57.1 | 377 |
| 14 | IVADENE-230217 | 18 | 1.4 | 5.7 | 15.6 | 31.4 | 41.3 | 50.4 | 32.5 | 4.1 | 54.6 | 362 |
| LINK 15A | TATTYKEEL-150172 | 8 | 1.4 | 5.7 | 16.7 | 34.1 | 42.8 | 52.8 | 30.1 | 5.4 | 56.1 | 370 |
| LINK 15B | RIDGEHAVEN-190083 | 13 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 15.8 | 31.2 | 41.2 | 50.2 | 31.5 | 4.4 | 54.7 | 367 |
| | Average | 312 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 16.2 | 31.6 | 41.5 | 51.1 | 31.8 | 4.4 | 55.1 | 365 |

TABLE 1 – Summary of On-Farm Performance, reported as averages per sire.

BOWAN PARK UPDATE

Ms King said the trial had allowed her to view the progeny of the sire she entered and how its carcasses stood up against those from other rams.

“What was reassuring for the breed was that there was not a huge difference between sires and that the quality was through all of them,” Ms King said.

“But some of the things I did notice were that some of the lambs that had the highest weights did not yield the most, and that intramuscular fat was not necessarily correlated with the heaviest lambs either.”

Ms King said another factor she noticed was the variation in fat cover when the lamb carcasses were cut up.

“I was pretty happy with how the lambs from my ram stacked up, especially since a lot of them were twins,” she said.

“Going to something like this, you learn a lot, and one of the things I noticed was that shape under the hindquarter can actually be fat rather than muscle.

“There were a lot of lambs that had really good shape and that was great to see.”



Part of the draft of Bowan Park lambs.



The loin from one of the Bowan Park lambs which had marbling of 8.61 per cent and a carcass weight of 31.75kg.



Tania King from Shellal at Warrnambool, Victoria, looks over some of the carcasses in the Bowan Park trial.

| Sire ID | Row Labels | # Lambs | Empty Pre-Slaughter Weight (kg) | Carcass Weight (kg) | Carcass Dressing (%) | Carcass EM Fat (MM) | Carcass EM Area (cm2) | Intra-Muscular Fat (%) | Shear Force (N) | Lean Meat Yield (%) |
|----------|----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | VALLEY VISTA-240106 | 12 | 56.1 | 29.9 | 53.2 | 4.8 | 19.9 | 5 | 31.3 | 57.4 |
| 2 | DERRYNOCK-190156 | 16 | 59.1 | 31.3 | 52.9 | 5.4 | 20.6 | 4.4 | 33.4 | 58.9 |
| 3 | RIDGEHAVEN-231181 | 13 | 56.7 | 28.8 | 50.8 | 5.2 | 18 | 4.9 | 34.5 | 57.4 |
| 4 | RIDGEHAVEN-230491 | 14 | 56.6 | 29.5 | 52 | 4.9 | 19 | 4.2 | 31.5 | 57.8 |
| 5 | ILFRACOMBE-230088 | 15 | 57.1 | 30.6 | 53.5 | 4.7 | 20.4 | 4.6 | 33.1 | 58.5 |
| 6 | SPRINGWATERS-230171 | 15 | 54.6 | 27.8 | 50.8 | 5.1 | 18.5 | 4.3 | 33.6 | 59.6 |
| 7 | LINTON-210105 | 15 | 55.1 | 28.7 | 52.1 | 5.1 | 17.5 | 6 | 32.8 | 57.1 |
| 8 | SHELLAL-230036 | 15 | 55.4 | 29.4 | 53.1 | 4.3 | 20.1 | 4.8 | 30.7 | 58.8 |
| 9 | DERRYNOCK-230210 | 17 | 58.2 | 31.1 | 53.3 | 5.8 | 21.1 | 5 | 33.4 | 56.9 |
| 10 | KENTISH DOWNS-230196 | 15 | 61.2 | 32.9 | 53.7 | 8.2 | 20.3 | 4.3 | 32.1 | 55.5 |
| 11 | JEWSHARP-150014 | 10 | 53.5 | 28.7 | 53.4 | 4.4 | 20.3 | 3.9 | 32.9 | 58.8 |
| 12 | YENTRAC-230004 | 14 | 53.4 | 27.5 | 51.4 | 5 | 17.8 | 4.2 | 32.3 | 59.4 |
| 13 | IVADENE-230025 | 14 | 58.3 | 30.3 | 52 | 4.7 | 20.3 | 3.8 | 32.5 | 59.1 |
| 14 | IVADENE-230217 | 14 | 55.5 | 29.1 | 52.5 | 5 | 19.3 | 4.5 | 33.5 | 58.1 |
| LINK 15A | TATTYKEEL-150172 | 6 | 57.2 | 30.4 | 53 | 6.7 | 18.4 | 4.4 | 31.3 | 56.7 |
| LINK 15B | RIDGEHAVEN-190083 | 10 | 54.4 | 28 | 51.5 | 5.2 | 17.7 | 4.3 | 34.7 | 58.2 |
| Average | | 215 | 56.5 | 29.7 | 52.4 | 5.3 | 19.4 | 4.6 | 32.7 | 58 |

TABLE 2 – Summary of Carcass Performance, reported as averages per sire.

Malaysia - Australia's sixth biggest lamb market

Valeska is the regional manager for south-east Australia for Meat and Livestock Australia and has a strong knowledge of the red meat market. And with Malaysia now Australia's sixth biggest lamb market, she gives an insight into Australia's emerging trade to that country.

What is the history of lamb exports to Malaysia? When did exports start to lift and how is Australian lamb regarded?

- Australian lamb exports to Malaysia have grown steadily over the past two decades, with significant uplift occurring in the last 10 years.
- Malaysia is now one of the largest sheepmeat destinations in southeast Asia, importing over 39,000 tonnes of Australian lamb and mutton in 2024 alone.
- The growth has been driven by rising consumer incomes and increased demand for premium halal protein.
- Australian lamb is highly regarded in Malaysia for its consistent quality, tenderness, and halal integrity. It's seen as a premium protein, versatile and suitable for all eating occasions.

Where does Australian lamb get used in food service and by consumers, what cuts are preferred?

- Foodservice is a key driver of trial and awareness, with 28 per cent of lamb consumers in Malaysia preferring to eat lamb when dining out rather than cooking it at home. In foodservice, Australian lamb is widely used in:
- High-end hotels and restaurants, particularly in Kuala Lumpur where lamb features in both local and international cuisines.
- Festive and celebratory occasions, such as Ramadan, Hari Raya Aidilfitri, and Diwali, when demand for lamb spikes.
- Asian buffet dining and pub restaurants, where grilled and BBQ lamb chops are gaining popularity.
- Chinese restaurants, which increasingly use lamb in stir-fries, braised dishes, clay pot meals, and hot pots.
- Middle Eastern style restaurants, where lamb is used in shabu-shabu, kebabs, and fusion dishes.

Can you describe some of the meals it would be used in?

Australian lamb is used in a variety of Malaysian dishes, such as:

- Lamb rendang – a rich, slow-cooked curry with coconut milk and spices.
- Lamb kerutuk – a festive stew with toasted coconut and aromatic herbs.
- Lamb curry – often made with shoulder cuts and served with roti or rice.
- Lamb kebabs – marinated and grilled.
- Lamb soups and bone broths – especially popular in traditional markets.

- Lamb chops – marinated and grilled – suitable for everyday meal, one of the most popular items in the supermarkets

How much does Australian lamb sell for? Is it at a premium to beef, chicken or pork?

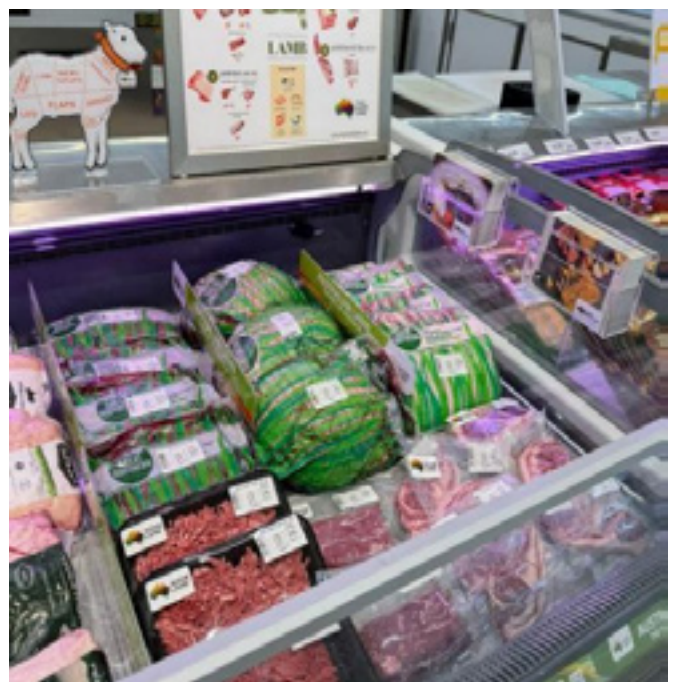
- It is positioned as a premium to chicken and pork, although there are value cuts
- Cuts such as lamb leg, shank and shoulder cuts are popular for everyday meals
- Lamb and beef are considered more superior proteins and command a premium. For example, it is estimated that in the modern retail, lamb shoulder/leg chops (one of the most popular items) would cost around MYR 50-65/kg.

What does the average Malaysian consumer know about lamb?

- Malaysian consumers are aware of lamb, though it remains a niche protein compared to chicken and beef.
- Younger consumers are much more open to consuming lamb at home and out-of-home. Australia supplies around 85 per cent of sheepmeat in Malaysia and Australian lamb is highly accessible and available in modern retail and food service, and this consistent availability has made it easier for consumers to pick lamb for their everyday meal choice, in addition to just having lamb during special occasions.

What is the potential for Australian lamb into Malaysia and why?

- Malaysia presents strong growth potential for Australian lamb. Rising incomes and a growing appetite for premium, halal-certified proteins are driving demand.
- Lamb is gaining traction in foodservice, especially in hotels, restaurants, and festive dining. Consumers are exploring more diverse diets, and Australian lamb's reputation for quality and food safety makes it a trusted choice.
- With expanding retail access and evolving tastes, Australian lamb is well-positioned to become a more regular part of Malaysian meals.



Lamb in retail – a supermarket in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Plenty of incentive, but no drive to rebuild NZ flock numbers

Written by: Mel Croad, Senior Analyst – AgriHQ

New Zealand's sheep industry remains in a state of decline, and our once iconic sheep-to-person ratio doesn't have the same ring to it as it did through the 1980s.

Where once a drought could have a devastating impact on ewe numbers, it's now changing land use patterns. This trend has intensified in recent years and unfortunately this has seen many traditional sheep breeding and finishing farms sold to forestry or carbon farming. Since 2017 there has been close to 300,000 hectares of good farmland lost to trees across New Zealand. As a result, over one million sheep have been lost from the industry. Recent Government changes to restrict wholesale conversions of farmland to exotic forestry have been welcomed but it is expected it will simply slow, not stop further farmland from being lost.

In addition, some farmers are also opting to increase the ratio of cattle on farm, further displacing sheep numbers. Consistently strong beef returns have provided the incentive needed to implement these changes.

Beef+Lamb New Zealand estimates the New Zealand breeding ewe flock as of 30 June 2025 to sit at 14.28 million head. Ten years ago, the breeding ewe flock numbered 18.89 million head. There are simply too many external barriers now to expect that New Zealand will see any sustained growth in their sheep flock.

With a declining ewe flock comes a smaller lamb crop. Industry forecasts point to a lamb crop of 19.3 million head this spring. Accounting for a small percentage of breeding replacements, it is estimated 16.7 million prime lambs will make their way to processing plants over the 2025/26 export lamb slaughter season which got underway on the October 1. This signals a further drop in production and therefore export supply.

The recently completed 2024/25 season saw the export lamb slaughter tally fall by over 1 million head compared to the previous season to just over 17 million lambs. The ramifications of this were a reduction in lamb exports by over 15,000 tonnes to just fewer than 290,000 tonnes.

China remains New Zealand's largest export market for lamb, but volumes have been declining due to weaker market conditions prevailing within China. Since peaking five seasons' ago, volumes to China are now 40% lower. While New Zealand's reliance on China has dampened it has been replaced with a return of strong demand from traditional markets such as the European Union and the UK.

These markets once had a stronghold over New Zealand lamb exports and the surge in demand, coupled with soaring prices has been welcomed. Exports to these two markets grew by nearly 7000 tonnes last season, despite the decline in export availability. New Zealand enjoys relatively competitor-free market access to these northern hemisphere powerhouses, through favourable Free Trade Agreements.

Strong demand for New Zealand lamb has also been evident within the US market over the last twelve months. This is despite lamb imports from New Zealand facing a 15% tariff as a

result of President Trump's new trade policies. While this places New Zealand lamb at a slight tariff disadvantage to Australia, exporters note it has yet to translate to a softening in demand or pricing.

Export demand has been a defining factor driving farmgate prices of New Zealand lamb over the last twelve months. Little over a year-ago, lamb prices were averaging below \$8/kgCW, which at the time was still 25-30c/kg below the five-year average. Fast forward to now and they have just pushed over \$11/kgCW. Much of this is connected to record high average export values with a smattering of procurement tension from processors across the country, competing to secure the lamb they need to fill orders.

The strength of export demand is also filtering down into store market returns. The first of the new season store lambs have hit the market on the North Island's east coast. They found favour with buyers looking to take advantage of these early lambs. 30kgLW store lambs started the season at \$5.80-\$6/kg versus \$4/kgLW last October. As the weeks have progressed and more lambs have been traded, prices for 30kgLW lambs have edged down to \$5.50/kgLW. These lambs will usually be taken through to carcass weights of 20kg, with these traders then returning to the store market for another go.

Overall, the prospects for lamb remain strong. There will be some seasonal easing in farmgate returns as new season supplies start to lift from mid-November through to their standard peak in March. But AgriHQ forecasts still point to prices remaining well above average in 2026.

Despite these signals, there remains very little evidence of sheep farmers looking to increase their breeding base. This continued decline in breeding numbers is causing New Zealand to lose export scale and limiting its ability to fully capitalise on these global market opportunities.

AgriHQ is NZ's leading source of trusted, independent sheep and beef market insights, offering in-depth data and analysis from the farmgate through to global markets. The timely reports inform decisions across the entire agricultural sector. Find out more at www.agrihq.co.nz.



NZ New season lambs.

\$400 suckers at Bendigo

A farming program to sell lambs as suckers means Poll Dorsets fit perfectly into the mix for producers Andrew and Cathy Branson.

The Bransons run a mixed farming operation near Colbinabbin, Victoria, where Poll Dorset rams are used across Border Leicester-Merino ewes.

Pastures are irrigated in early autumn for ewes to lamb down onto, so feed is assured, Andrew said.

But lambs need to come off those pastures so the paddocks can be locked up to cut for hay, so early growth is vital to make sure those hay paddocks are empty by late winter.

The pasture paddocks are a mix of sub clover, balansa clover and ryegrass, and the lambs are purely grassfed.

And the mild winter, which did not become too wet, was good for turning off lambs, Andrew said.

This year, their suckers sold to a top of \$400, and the draft of 680 which hit the market during late winter averaged a whopping \$371.

"The \$400 price was the most we have ever got," Andrew said.

"We did get \$306 a few years ago and that was a record at the time and held for quite a few years, but this was well above that and so was the average."

Rams come from the Mitchell family's Ronobri stud at Lockington, Victoria, and Andrew said he looked for sires with good hind legs and clean heads.

"I want those rams to be long - we need good rams but we also need to feed the lambs well too."

This year, the best of the April-drop lambs averaged about 30kg carcass weight at about 16 weeks, with some up to 32-33kg carcass weight.

All lambs from the operation are sold as suckers. There's no need for shearing and Andrew said it's a combination of management and genetics that ensures it happens.



A line of sucker lambs sired by Poll Dorset rams which made \$400 during late winter at the Bendigo saleyards.

"Pepperton" Poll Dorsets



Pepperton Farms would like to say a huge thank you to all our clients over the past 35 years as we head into semi- retirement.

Thank you for the spirited bidding for our Bowel Cancer Donation ram which realised the amazing sum of \$13000 which will be donated in honour of our stud stock auctioneer Michael Glasser.

We enjoyed the years Michael was part of the Pepperton family and his advice and experience was greatly valued.

We still have rams and semen available in our elite rams over the past few years. Contact us for further details.



**Selling Agents: Ray White Livestock and Elders:
Roger & Dianne Trewick
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Website: pepperton.com.au**

Don McKinnon's 70 years of 'passion' celebrated by Poll Dorset community

One of the most influential and loved Poll Dorset breeders in Australia has been acknowledged with lifetime membership of the Australian Poll Dorset Association.

Derby Downs Poll Dorset co-founder Don McKinnon, Marong, received the award at the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo.

The industry stalwart was congratulated by sheep breeders the length and breadth of the state, and further afield.

Mr McKinnon first set up Derby Downs in 1956 alongside brother Rowland and the stud will celebrate 70 years of operation next year.

The brothers started breeding Poll Dorsets in 1960 and eventually focused on the hornless sheep, in line with demand.

Now, nephew Lachie Bailey runs the stud, ensuring its continued success for 70 years to come.

However, Don, 88, and Rowland, 90, are still very much part of the operation, working hard despite their age.

Don had a cold in the week before the championships and nearly missed his life membership award introductions on the Sunday of the event.

"It took me by surprise," he laughed.

Former Australian Poll Dorset Association president and Shellal Poll Dorset stud principal Tania King, Hawkesdale, said while this was typical of Don, he totally deserved the award.

"He's never looking for that pat on the back," she said.

Ms King described Don as an "excellent ambassador" for the breed, who was "very well-respected" by all.

She said he was a kind and good-hearted person who offered a helping hand at every opportunity despite his many years.

"You can't slow him down," she said.

"He's getting up in age, but he's still always there to lend a hand."

Ms King said she had known Don since she was in nappies herself, and his lifetime membership was "probably well overdue".

She said he was excellent at supporting and guiding up-and-coming and young Poll Dorset breeders, and sheep people from all breeds, bringing on the next generation.

"He loves the Poll Dorset breed and he's passionate about what he does," she said.

Don was a founding member of the Central Victorian region of the Australian Poll Dorset Association.

In 2000, he was one of the key people who helped drive the commencement of the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo.

In 2007, he was also involved in the breed's movement away from the Melbourne Royal Show to the premier event, the Australasian

Dorset Championships, held in Bendigo this past weekend.

However, he still also exhibits his own sheep at the Melbourne Royal Show, following tradition.

Don was also one of the early supporters of Sheepvention in Hamilton and the Victorian Sheep Show in Ballarat.

He said he had made many long-term friends through the sheep over the years.

"It's not just the sheep breeding, it's also the wider industry, the camaraderie and judging at the shows," he said.

"It's all mixed together to make a community.

"You get the friendships and fellowships between breeders."

Don said he was "very fortunate" to still be able to do things he loves, working with his sheep, and staying in touch with the industry.

He said this industry had changed so much in his 70 years in the game.

"There's been massive changes," he said.

"I think the main thing is the size of the animals these days.

"I think that's applicable for most breeds."

Don said in the 1960s, when a sheep won a ribbon, he'd have to get down on his knees to hold them properly for the photographs.

"Now you stand up and the sheep's head is up at your waist," he said.

He said there'd been many ups and downs for sheep farmers through the decades, and one of his lifetime frustrations was the prices they were paid.

"Most times, whether you're ordinary farmers or stud breeders, the most frustrating thing is not being able to control your own markets," he said.

"That's always been one of my disappointments."

Don said there were too many people to thank amongst all those who had influenced and supported him and his family.

He said the South Australian Poll Dorset studs were very influential in the early days and provided great genetics for Victorian breeders.

Ms King said Don's contribution could not be summed up in words and hoped he'd be around for many more sheep shows and years to come.

Article courtesy of Barry Murphy, Stock and Land.



Don McKinnon, Carisbrook, was awarded life membership at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale.

Life membership for the late Max Douglas

Max was born in 1939 in Bendigo, Victoria, as one of eight children born to parents, Kenneth and Irene Douglas. As a young boy, Max grew up on the original family property at Woodstock West, known as "View Hill", farming sheep and growing crops, including wheat and oats.

From a young age, Max had always helped his father and grandfather Thomas Douglas with the sheep and farm work.

Thomas established a Dorset Horn stud in 1935, which was called "View Hill" at Woodstock West.

His son Kenneth continued to work the "View Hill" property at Woodstock West, with Max's keen interest in Dorset Horns, leading them to develop the stud further. In 1958, Kenneth and Max decided to expand the stud to include the Poll Dorset breed with a purchase of the Ram Timberlea 31/1957 and 33 Dorset Horn Ewes from their View Hill stud.

In 1961, the Woodstock West property was sold to a Douglas cousin and Kenneth and Max purchased a smaller property with irrigation at Eddington, situated on the Loddon river, about 24 km away. This property was then called View Hills.

The View Hills stud was very successful throughout the 1960s with the 1960 Dorset Horn show team, winning 18 out of a possible 20 championships at shows from Albury to Melbourne. It was an incredible first year of showing for Max and Kenneth, culminating at the Melbourne Royal show where they won the novice ram and ewe class, then winning the open classes, before taking out both ram and ewe champions. This is a feat not achieved before or since by a first time exhibitor.

Max met Coral Mooney in Melbourne, and they were married in 1962. During the years at Eddington, Max judged many small country shows, and was well known and respected for his knowledge of the Dorset breed.

On the retirement of Max's father, Kenneth, the View Hills stud was dispersed in 1973. Max and his family moved to Oberon, NSW, to manage the Karawina Poll Dorset stud, owned by the Dickson family.



Toby, Marshall, Zeb and Brett Douglas from Abelene Park, Tamworth, NSW at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale.

In 1977, Max and his family moved to Tamworth and established the Abelene Park Poll Dorset stud.

Max judged at every Royal show in Australia including Melbourne Royal Show three times, while it was the largest Poll Dorset sheep show of the time in 1974, 1981, and 2000. The shorn ram class in 1981 holds the record number of entries in one class at 81 rams.

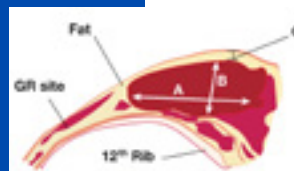
Max was proud to be on the inaugural committee of the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo since it was formed in 2008, until retiring in 2016. Max always liked to support this major Poll Dorset exhibition in Bendigo with the best of their show team every year.

Although Max was unable to attend the last few championships, he loved watching the live stream of judging, and was extremely proud when the stud took out the supreme exhibit in 2019. He also took a keen interest in the auction as well and was excited when Abelene Park gained top price and top average six times in the last 10 years of exhibiting.

Max had a long involvement with assisting young people with skills at schools and junior sheep judging, as well as helping new studs starting out.

Max said it was difficult in the early days to get breeders to share their secrets about preparing and showing sheep. He always talked of when Joe Turnbull, manager of the renowned Deepfields Dorset Horn stud took a liking to him, and at Albury show, taught him so much in just a couple of days. This made him realise how important it was to be able to help out others looking to get a start.

Max always commented how he loved breeding Dorset sheep and the enjoyment he got from it. He was always striving to breed the perfect sheep.



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Encouraging new blood

Encouraging breeders to continue to show was part of the reasoning for one stud operator donating a sheep as an award at the Australasian Dorset Championships at Bendigo, Victoria.

Patrick Flanagan, who runs the Blauvelt Poll Dorset stud at Coimada, Victoria, donated a maiden ewe as the prize for the champion novice sheep.

Mr Flanagan said the move was to encourage young, up and coming Poll Dorset breeders.

"It can be hard and intimidating for a young breeder to come and show their sheep against the bigger and season exhibitors, so we need to make it worthwhile for them," Mr Flanagan said.

"We all need to encourage the grass root breeders to strive forward."

Mr Flanagan said every year, one or two big studs stopped showing as it was getting harder to find time to show.

"We need to show the lamb industry that the Poll Dorset Breed is the leading prime lamb breed."

Mr Flanagan sponsored two events at the show, and has given away a sheep for the past two years.

"The only thing I get out of this is seeing someone grateful and a smile on their face and in a small way, it's promoting the breed at the grass roots," he said.

"I have over the years had great people in my life to mentor and encourage me to strive for the best outcome possible.

Winner Liz Mann from the Glenelm Poll Dorset stud at Nagambee, Victoria, said it was an honour to win and was grateful to receive the ewe to add to her flock.

"It gives me the opportunity to bring new genetics into my stud from a different line which I have not purchased sires from," Ms Mann said.



The champion novice sheep at the Australasian Dorset Championships, exhibited by Liz Mann, Glenelm Poll Dorsets, Nagambee, Victoria, and donor of the award, a maiden ewe, Pat Flanagan, Blauvelt Poll Dorsets, Coimada, Victoria.

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Pepperton final dispersal

One of the nation's leading indexing Poll Dorset rams set a new record top price of \$16,000 at the October dispersal of the Pepperton Poll Dorset stud, selling to Meat Elite Australia.

The ram was one of four elite sires offered in the stud's online ewe dispersal on October 10 on AuctionsPlus and was recommended to be purchased by Rodney Watt, Felix Rams, Greenethorpe, NSW, on behalf of the Meat Elite Australia breeding group.

Sired by Pepperton 200113, the 14-month-old ram had a lamb eating quality index of 182.99 and terminal carcass production index of 184.01.

The Pepperton online dispersal by principals Roger and Dianne Trewick resulted in two rams sold to average \$12,500 and a 100 per cent clearance of 106 Poll Dorset and White Suffolk ewes to a top price of \$1950 and average of \$740 for the Poll Dorsets and \$614 for the White Suffolks. Ewes were sold to seedstock and commercial buyers from Victoria, NSW, Western Australia, Kangaroo Island and Tasmania.

The second top price ram sold for \$9000 to Ewan Price, Elsted Poll Dorsets, Heywood.

Rodney Watt said Meat Elite Australia comprised 14 Poll Dorset member studs across the eastern states.

"This ram has been on the radar for a few months after my son identified him and we had the opportunity to see him last week. He has low to moderate birthweight, good muscle and eating quality so a good overall balance of figures that suits our breeding objective," Mr Watt said.

"We have used Pepperton rams through Meat Elite in the past and they have performed quite well. Roger and Dianne Trewick have been great contributors to Meat Elite and regular nominators of rams for the young sire team, organised our conferences, and contributed robustly to discussions at meetings."

Pepperton co-principal Roger Trewick said it was the end of an era after 30 years of stud breeding, the achievement of gold data recording status with Sheep Genetics and it was "time to take a break".



Kurtis, Dianne and Roger Trewick, Pepperton, with buyer Rodney Watt, Felix Rams, Greenethorpe, and the \$16,000 Poll Dorset ram bought on behalf of Meat Elite Australia.

The online ewe sale was followed by the final on-property ram sale at the Elmore stud on October 16 with 40 Poll Dorset rams topping at \$13,000 and averaging \$2437.

The top price Poll Dorset ram at \$13,000 was bought in partnership by Lachie Kelly, Ivadene and LSK studs, Hexham, and Matthew and Tania Tonissen, Chrome Sheep Stud, Hamilton.

The proceeds from the sale of the ram will be donated by the Trewick family to Bowel Cancer Australia in memory of their late stud stock auctioneer Michael Glasser, of Elders.

"The combination of the ram's ASBV performance traits was about as good as I've ever seen, with exceptional birth to growth spread, outstanding muscle and positive fat. On the new combined LAMPLAN his data looks to be even better with excellent eating quality," Lachie Kelly said.

"We have used Pepperton genetics through AI but this is the first ram purchase. I bought ewes at all three Pepperton dispersals with the oldest lambs weaned yesterday.

"The sale went well today and congratulations to the Trewick family on their contribution to the breed and thanks for the opportunity."

Craig and Karen Wilson, Kentish Downs Poll Dorset stud, Collingullie, bought two Poll Dorset rams to a top of \$4000. This followed their purchase of 39 stud ewes at the staged dispersal sales.

"It was a unique opportunity to buy sheep with extremely good breeding values. We have bought several sires from here over the years with really good results. We have a lot of muscle in our sheep but there is a little room for us to move in growth," Mr Wilson said.

Pepperton co-principal Dianne Trewick was pleased with the sale result with seedstock and commercial demand under challenging seasonal conditions.

Mrs Trewick said buyers were chasing the stud's consistent strong points of muscle, growth, positive fat and eating quality.

"We had new clients who bought ewes at the online dispersal and at the other end of the scale, clients who have been buying here for 30 years or more. Overall, it is a good result but a day of mixed emotions in the end."

Elders auctioneer Ryan Bajada said the sale was underpinned by the predictability of the pedigree backed by good data.

"There was a lot of stud competition in the first quarter of the catalogue while commercial producers were chasing high growth and eye muscle," Mr Bajada said.

"To auction Lot 1 where the proceeds went in memory of Michael Glasser was pretty special and it highlights what the Trewicks are as a family to do something like that.

"It was definitely an honour to offer the ram on behalf of the vendors and Michael Glasser who was a friend, mentor and someone I hold close to my heart."

Among the volume buyers were Calthorpe Agri, Brocklesby, which took home six Poll Dorset rams to a top of \$3000; David and Donna Moyle and family, of Hamilton, with three Poll Dorset rams to a top of \$2500; Chris and Fraser Ramsay, Riversdale Farming, Newbridge, bought four Poll Dorset rams to \$1500; and T W McCormick & Sons, Elmore, bought two Poll Dorset rams to \$1750 and Elm Valley, 30 year clients from Tarwin Lower, purchased four Poll Dorsets to a top of \$2000.

George Carter Linton Poll Dorset stud Walcha, NSW

How long have you been on the board and why did you join?

I've only been on the board for three years. It's a short time hence I depend on the other board members to give me the background to the issues. I started working with a subcommittee to manage the share portfolio while it was returning just over 3 per cent in dividends and the asset value had reduced by 23 per cent on what was invested. From when I started on the subcommittee, the portfolio is up 50 per cent in value.

Where do you see the future of the Poll Dorset breed and how does it fit in with the modern lamb industry?

The breed needs to decide if we want to be in the lamb commodity sector of the lamb industry or create a superior lamb product. If we wish to target the superior lamb sector, we need to embrace intramuscular fat (IMF) to enhance the already good "sucker lamb" market under six months of age which is what we are renowned for. Shear force measurements need to be watched as traits as the Carwell muscling gene which is within the Poll Dorset flock that can lead to toughness.

What are some of the changes you have seen which have benefited the breed in the past decade?

The breed has been very progressive in adopting DNA testing of rams sold for stud purposes. It was a bold move, and now other breeds are wishing they could get it accepted. It is wonderful our members have embraced the concept. The benefits of this will really start to flow in the near future as we look to further enhance our knowledge of the breed's capabilities.



George Carter, the newly elected president of the Australian Poll Dorset Association.

How does the breed make sure it stays relevant within the industry and ensure it is the first choice for prime lamb breeders?

One of the feedback points to come out Lambex in Adelaide in 2024 was the need to ensure lambing ease by getting birthweight right. Dystocia and dead ewes are a poor advertisement for the breed and something we need to be very aware of.

What excites you about the future for Poll Dorsets?

I am inspired by the number of second or third generation Poll Dorset breeders who have university degrees and experience outside the farm who are coming back to Poll Dorset businesses. They will bring new ideas, balance and will add a new dimension to the breed.

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Australasian Dorset Show

Top honors went to Tasmania and NSW in the show section of the Australasian Dorset Championships at Bendigo in October.

The supreme exhibit award headed south after the Day family from Faraday Park at Penguin, Tasmania, won with their ram, Faraday Park, 240106, which had earlier won the intermediate ram sash and then the supreme champion ram broad ribbon and the Noel Armstrong Memorial Trophy.

It was a host of awards that went to the Days, with the group of three rams, the sires progeny (for three sheep sired by Warburn 470/22), the best pair of shorn rams born after April 1, 2024, among their haul.

Stud principal Paul Day said it had been “an unbelievable showing”.

The supreme exhibit first won its class for rams born after June 1, 2024, closely and evenly shorn and still had its lamb's teeth. It was the ram's first show.

The dam of the supreme exhibit was also the mother of the 2022 intermediate champion at the same fixture, while the sire was Warburn 470-22.

Days will retain a 50 per cent semen share.

“This is the best Australasian show we've ever had,” Mr Day said.

“I liked the ram which was the supreme exhibit but you never know what will happen in the show ring and how far they are going to go.”

The grand champion ewe title went to the Frost family from Hillden, Bannister, NSW with a ewe that had earlier won its class for ewes born after June 1, 2024, closely and evenly shorn with not more than 2cm of wool.

Principal James Frost said the ewe, Hillden 530-24, had been shown before and was reserve champion at the NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra, NSW, as a woolly ewe, before being taken home and shorn in preparation for the Australasian Dorset Championships.

Mr Frost said 530-24 would be put into a breeding program, and potentially that could involve embryo transfer.

“This ewe was sired by an Armadale Park ram, that goes back to one of our own rams, and the dam was supreme exhibit at the NSW Dorset championships in 2019,” Mr Frost said..

“She is really well bred and will be joined in November either by AI or to one of our top rams.”

Mr Frost said the ewe had always been a standout.

“In the paddock, she always stands out and she just has the presence and stands perfectly all the time,” he said.

“She's just a really good sheep.”

Mr Frost said taking a broad ribbon at the Australasian Dorset Championships was a huge honour.

“This is the pinnacle of the shows, so it's really good to win down here and that's why we bring a team down to try to do our best and it's a great honour to come away with a champion,” he said.

Judge Tim Ferguson from Mallee Park at Hopetoun, Victoria, said he was looking for correctness in the exhibits.

“The sheep needed correctness, and true to type might not be as much in mind - I need clean points for my breeding at home so today I was trying to keep that in mind,” he said.

“I was also looking for fleshing and yield potential through the carcasses.”

Mr Ferguson said there were certain lines of sheep that he had a lot of time for, because they had huge yield potential and were going to go on well for the commercial side of the industry as well as the stud side.

“In this game, we were pretty keen on seeing sheep that have style and sire appeal and obviously femininity in the ewes but there also had to be the right carcass on the sheep,” he said.

Mr Ferguson said it was important that all sheep had the ability to go out and do the job they were bred for.

“Commercial is our game but we are at a show and we are trying to produce correct sheep and sheep that are going to breed on in our studs to sire not only our next lot of rams but hopefully other clients' rams,” he said.

Mr Ferguson said the grand champion ram was a “very clean, very correct, well fleshed ram”.

“It was not the biggest ram in the shed and it wasn't huge on my agenda to be a set of scales,” he said.

“I wanted a sheep that was going to yield and I think that ram is not the biggest but has a lot of weight in him and he scanned up really well.”

The grand champion ewe was his choice because “to put your hands on her, she's solid and the carcass is really good”.

“She is true to a true Dorset type but had a really wide loin, a good length of loin and carried herself really well,” he said.

It was the first time Mr Ferguson had judged at the Australasian Dorset Championships.

“Because we have shown here before, I expected the quality to be where it is but it is always good to get your hands on the sheep and being on this side (judging) was enjoyable,” he said.



Grand champion ewe at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale was exhibited by the Frost family, Hillden, Bannister, NSW.

AROUND THE SHOWS

"I had my daughter Jacey as associate judge and we enjoyed our time out in the ring talking as we went."

Other results included:

- Champion Poll Dorset ewe lamb: Glenore; reserve: Ridgehaven
- Champion Poll Dorset ram lamb: Glenore; reserve: Rene
- Champion Poll Dorset ewe: Hillden; reserve: Yentrac
- Senior champion Poll Dorset ram: Yentrac; reserve Rangeview
- Intermediate champion Poll Dorset ram: Faraday Park; reserve Sunnybanks
- Junior champion Poll Dorset ram: Abilene Park; reserve Glenore
- Group of one ram and two ewes: Hillden
- Group of three rams: Sunnybanks
- Sires Progeny Group: Sunnybanks (by Warburn 470-22).

The Australasian event also included the culmination of the champion of champions, with exhibits needing to win at another major show to be able to compete.

The champion of champions ewe was exhibited by Hillden, while the champion of champions ram was won by Sunnybanks 240126, for a ram which qualified by earlier winning the supreme exhibit at the Campbelltown Show, Tasmania.



Joe and Jim Scott from Valley Vista at Coolac, NSW, with Paul Day, Faraday Park, Penguin, Tasmania and the supreme exhibit 240106

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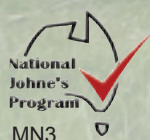
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Australasian Dorset Sale

Poll Dorset rams sold to \$20,000 at the Australasian Dorset Championships at Bendigo in October.

The top price ram, Abelene Park 111-24 was sold by the Douglas family from near Tamworth, NSW, one of five they sold for an average of \$15,200 to be the most successful stud in the multi-vendor sale.

Of the 37 rams offered, 21 sold for an average of \$8302.

The sale's top price ram weighed 133kg, had a birthweight ASBV of 0.25, and a TCP index of 128.4.

After a \$6000 opening bid, the ram eventually sold to a Tasmanian syndicate of the Rangeview Poll Dorset stud at Pipers River and Sunnybanks at Penguin.

Sunnybanks principal Paul Day said he liked the rams overall correctness.

"He has great width of loin and structurally correct," Mr Day said.

"We bought a ram from Abelene Park three years ago and he has done really well for us.

"We will share the ram with Rangeveiw - we both had kept an eye on the ram and thought we would try to buy him together.

"We were very lucky to get him."

Mr Day said the ram would be used over a select group of ewes and "see how he clicks with them".

"Hopefully we will be bringing progeny back to this event in the future," he said.

Mr Day, who himself sold rams from \$4000-\$13,000 from his Faraday Park stud and \$3000-\$10,000 for his Sunnybanks stud, said the show and sale had been humbling for their operation.

"Tasmania is a very small community and the shows over there don't get a lot of support so it's good to get over here and against the best," he said.

"We've been able to not only sell genetics but buy genetics.

"It's hard for us to get over here but we don't normally get mainland people coming over to Tasmania to secure our rams because it's a hassle getting them back over the water.

"We just load our ute and trailer up and come over and it's another expense for us but it is a good way for us to sell rams."

Eight rams made \$10,000 or more in the offering which drew strong support from fellow stud breeders and commercial operators.



Marshall Douglas, Abelene Park, Tamworth, NSW, with the top price ram at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale which made \$20,000 and sold to Tasmania.



Selling action at the Australasian Dorset Show and Sale.

Melbourne Royal Show

A young stud breeder has motivated her family to return to the showring after a multi-year hiatus.

And it's paid off, with the Poll Dorset operation winning supreme of the breed at the Melbourne Royal Show.

Charlotte Hiscock, Brurob Poll Dorset stud, Pyalong, brought a team of 10 Poll Dorsets to Melbourne with the help of her dad Andrew.

"Dad had shown here for three or four years and then stopped for a bit, and then last year I wanted to do it again, so last year was our first year back, and this was our second year," Ms Hiscock said.

"I get a lot of enjoyment out of it."

And she's had a busy show season, starting at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo in July, then Sheepvention in Hamilton and most recently the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo.

She said she was proud to win supreme Poll Dorset with her champion ram - her highest level of success so far.

But she said the winning ram wasn't necessarily her top pick.

"He's not really been a standout, but he was in our top three or four," she said.

"He's long and muscly and big."

She said there was a lot involved in getting her sheep ready for the show.

"You've got to feed them and tie them up and get them friendly, then shear them and take them here," she said.

"It's been a pretty good year for us given it's only our second year back."

The ram won supreme against the champion ewe of the show, which was a six-month-old ewe exhibited by Finley High School, Finley, NSW.

Finley High School agriculture teacher Gary Webb said it was an "unexpected" win.

"She's a beautiful ewe lamb but I didn't expect that she was going to win champion ewe," Mr Webb said.

"She's certainly an outstanding ewe lamb at school and I think she's got potential."

He said the Melbourne Royal Show was the main event on the school's agriculture program each year.

"It's something that our whole year builds up towards," he said.

"We've got nearly 40 students here, and the kids are showing sheep and steers, we've got about 20 steers here, too."

"I realise it's not the show that it used to be, but we'll take the opportunity for the kids to practice their skills and contribute to the show and hopefully win a ribbon."

"I think it's important that we're here."

"It's been a very hectic show this year with that many kids, cattle and sheep."

Judge Geoff Davey, Kerang, said the ram stood out from the get go.

"I had my eye on him from when he came out in his own individual class," he said.

When I paraded him, and I always draw a fair bit of conclusion on how they stand naturally, and he did everything right.

"He's got his feet in the right corners and muscle all the way through."

"He holds his head up and is a very sirey sire."

Mr Davey said the champion ewe was "very growthy".

"You'd go a long way to find another ewe lamb like her at her age," he said.

He said the quality of the Poll Dorsets was very high.

"There weren't a lot of numbers here but the quality has been outstanding," he said.

Article courtesy of Joely Mitchell, Stock and Land.



Finley High School year 9 student Ava Schlink with the school's champion ewe at the Royal Melbourne Show.



Charlotte Hiscock, Brurob Poll Dorset stud, Pyalong, with her supreme exhibit at the Melbourne Royal Show and judge Geoff Davey, Kerang.

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Perth Royal Show

The interbreed competition in the British and Australasian sheep breed judging at this year's Perth Royal Show was hotly contested - and in the end it was two breeds and four studs that shone through to share the eight ribbons up for grabs.

However, only one breed and one stud could claim the honour of having the best exhibit in the shed, and that went to longtime exhibitors Max Whyte and Gail Cremasco, Brimfield Poll Dorset stud, Kendenup, when a Poll Dorset ram from their stud was sashed the interbreed supreme meat breeds champion.

With more than 470 sheep in the shed from 49 studs, representing 15 breeds, it was never going to be an easy job for the judges to settle on their interbreed supreme meat breeds champion exhibit.

But they did when they came across the Poll Dorset ram from the Brimfield stud which caught their eye with its presence and power.

Along with taking home the supreme ribbon, Mr Whyte and Ms Cremasco also went home with an \$800 cash prize sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Judge Anna Darke, Lincoln Downs Suffolk stud, Boyup Brook, said the Brimfield ram was an exceptional ram and a credit to the breeders.

"He is extremely long and has great depth of muscle," Ms Darke said.

"He also stands up well for such a big ram and is structurally very sound."

Equally full of praise for the ram was fellow judge Peter Angus, Maroola White Suffolk stud, Mallala, South Australia.

Mr Angus said the ram had a real presence as a sire and great sirey outlook.

"He is very correct on his feet, has a well filled in hindquarter and handles very well," Mr Angus said.

"Overall he is a very well-balanced ram."

Along with taking home the coveted supreme champion of the shed title, the ram was also sashed the interbreed grand champion meat breeds ram of the show, when it finished on nine points, one point clear of the reserve champion.

The Brimfield ram stood in the interbreed competition after winning the champion ram title in the Poll Dorset judging, where it was also sashed the grand champion Poll Dorset exhibit.

In the Poll Dorset judging, judge Will Milroy, Rangeview Poll Dorset stud, Pipers River, Tasmania, said it was a powerful and strong ram.

"He is a very long ram with a beautiful topline, a great twist and a great width of loin," Mr Milroy said.

"He is structurally very correct and a fantastic example of the breed."

The June 2024-drop ram is by Brimfield 942/18, which was sashed the interbreed champion at the 2019 Perth Royal Show and it came from the class for rams born after June 1, 2024 in the Poll Dorset judging where it beat nine other rams in the class. When it came to the interbreed reserve grand champion meat breeds ewe, it was exhibited by the Squiers family's Shirlee Downs Poll Dorset stud, Quairading.

Prior to standing in the interbreed judging, the Shirlee Downs ewe initially won the pair class for ewes, under 1.5 years born after April 1, 2024.

From there it went on to be sashed the champion Poll Dorset ewe.

Mr Milroy said the ewe was a stylish, upstanding ewe with beautiful neck extension.

"She is very well put together and carries herself very well," Mr Milroy said.

"She is well-structured, has length of body and a really good loin.

"She is a great example of the breed."

The May 2024-drop ewe is by Felix 64/21.

The breeder's group class for one ram and two ewes, was the first of the group classes judged and it was a Poll Dorset team from the Brimfield stud which finished on top with eight points.

Judge Guy Bowen, Mount Ronan stud, York, said the Brimfield team was a very good, even group with a nice powerful ram that complements the two ewes.

"They match really well and all three are good representations of the Poll Dorset breed," Mr Bowen said.

All three sheep in the Brimfield team were by Brimfield 942/18.

Article courtesy of Jodie Rintoul, Farm Weekly



Perth Show grand champion Poll Dorset ram exhibited by Max Whyte, Brimfield, Kendenup, WA, with judge Will Milroy, Rangeview, Pipers River, Tasmania.

Hobart Royal Show summary

Date: October 11 2025

Judge: Lachie Kelly, LSK and Ivadene, Hexam,Victoria.

Four exhibitors.

- Ram under 1-1/2 years: Killara 1.
- Ram under 1-1/2 years shorn Killara 1, Maccelslie Park 2.
- Rams under 1-1/2 years shorn pen of Two Killara 1.
- Ram under 1-1/2 years machine shorn within 28 days Sunnybanks 1 and Reserve Champion, Killara 2, Maccelslie Park 3.
- Ram shorn born on or after August 1 previous year Sunnybanks 1 and Champion.
- Ram Lamb Maccelslie Park 1, Killara 2, Lyndowns 3.
- Ewe shorn under 1-1/2 years Sunnybanks 1 and Champion.
- R.A.Hughes Supreme Poll Dorset exhibit Ram Sunnybanks
- Mervyn Weston Trophy Sunnybanks
- Interbreed Champion Ram Sunnybanks



Paul and Shannon Day with the interbreed ram at the Hobart Royal Show, Sunnybanks tag number 240126.

AROUND THE SHOWS

That's five in a row – Qld Champion of Champions ram

For the past five years, Sovereign Poll Dorsets at Warwick, Queensland has entered sheep in the Queensland EKKA, with the sheep penned Tuesday afternoon and judging concluding on Saturday morning.

The stud said it was great to be rewarded with some good results. With a total of just over 270 sheep in the shed it has become the largest showing in Queensland. The drawcard over this time has been the introduction of the Champion of Champions which is judged across all breeds. This year Sovereign 88/24, the supreme all breeds champion ram from the Toowoomba royal show was eligible, along with the all-breeds champion breeders' group from Warwick Show.

Judge Leslie Brewer from Radstock Romneys, South Australia, said the ram Sovereign 88/24 was a clear winner and stood out as soon as he entered the ring.

Following the passing last year of long-time sheep breeder Morris Byrnes, a perpetual memorial trophy was presented by his widow Mrs Noeleen Byrnes.

Sovereign Poll Dorsets also won the Champion of Champions Breeders group which included 88/24.



Champion of Champions ram Sovereign 88/24 with judge Leslie Brewer, Chris Rubie, Sovereign and Mrs Noeleen Byrnes.

Adelaide Show report

An outstanding Poll Dorset ram from the Ivadene stud at Hexham in Victoria, which had the perfect combination of visual appeal with elite performance, claimed the breed's top honours at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Judge and White Suffolk breeder David Pipkorn, Detpa Grove stud, Jeparit, Victoria, said the "extra power and grunt of Ivadene 240253" was the deciding factor over the ewe from Alastair, Jayne and Angus Day's Allendale stud, Bordertown, South Australia, which was a month older.

"He is a ram that should tick the boxes for most people as a really good sire," he said.

"He has the smoothness and balance and correctness across the structure and figures."

The June 2024-drop weighed 120 kilograms and had an exceptional eye muscle depth scan of 56 millimetres and fat scan of 9.5mm.

The Felix 22804 son had a post weaning weight of 16.3 and Terminal Carcase Production Index of 154.9.

The supreme ram was out of one of the stud's top ewes, which has been used as an ET donor.

Ivadene stud principal Lachie Kelly said it had been a "long-term goal" since first starting showing at the Royal Adelaide Show about five years ago to win their first grand champion ram.

He was emotional to achieve this and also take supreme.

"The win is tremendous because we hold the Adelaide Show in the highest regard as a sheep competition in Australia," he said.

"It has been a tough run for us seasonally this year like a lot of people so this is nice to have something like this to hold onto."

He dedicated the win to industry stalwart Graham Day, Allendale stud, Bordertown, South Australia, - who was watching on in the stands - for his contribution to the industry and particularly his support of young breeders.

"I have had a friendship with Alastair Day and his family for quite a while and Graham has been a primary inspiration to me in breeding sheep," he said.

Mr Kelly and his wife Sophie, who also run the LSK studs, bought the Ivadene stud during 2021 from Lee Hartwig at Glenrowan, Victoria

They have continued to run the two flocks separately on their western Vic property and take rams back to north east Victoria for Ivadene's client base.

"We made a commitment to the breeders and all of their clients that we would take on the responsibility of continuing it and doing it to the best of our ability," he said.

The grand champion ewe from the Allendale stud was described by Mr Pipkorn as a "classy outfit" with terrific balance.

"She has that little bit of x factor when she is parading, enough femininity, but also enough power to produce some outstanding rams," he said.

The winner of the April-drop class weighed 92.5kg with a 47mm EMD and 15.5mm fat scan and was sired by

Allendale 255 who sired a large percentage of the Day family's show team.

"It is his first progeny and he has left his mark with good Dorset type and fleshing," Alastair said.

The reserve champion ewe, exhibited by Dan Roe, Danroe stud, Kangaroo Flat, South Australia, was the winner of the July class.

"She is one of the progeny out of a few mated ewes that I bought last year from the Newbold stud with the aim of getting something a bit different," he said.

"I was trying to snag a good ram lamb but instead I got six ewes."

Mr Roe said it had been a "surreal day", also winning his first broad ribbon in Adelaide for the junior champion ram.

Mr Pipkorn said he was impressed with the length and balance of the August drop ram which was 123kg with an EMD of 50mm and fat of 9mm.

"He has a great spine on him and the width of loin and length of loin, he just has so much potential there," he said.

Mr Roe said the ram, which he admitted was a "surprise" from leaving ram lambs in for too long in a paddock, would be for sale.

The ram epitomised what he was trying to breed.

"I have done a bit of a pivot - length and height were important for a little while but as per my shearers' advice I have tried to breed more moderate rams," he said.

Reserve junior champion ram was won by Brett and Amanda Shepherd, Mullinger Park, Kybybolite, South Australia. The ram which was the result of their first AI program with ewe lambs was sired by a Rangeview ram.

"He is not extreme anywhere but very sound everywhere - he is a ram that people can use with confidence," Mr Pipkorn said.

Article courtesy of Catherine Miller, Stock Journal.



Royal Adelaide Show supreme champion Poll Dorset, won by Ivadene, Hexham, Victoria, with judge David Pipkorn, Bill Close, from Newbold, Gawler, SA, and Lachie Kelly from Ivadene.

SALES RESULTS

| STUD | STUD RAMS Sold | STUD RAMS Top | STUD RAMS Average | FLOCK RAMS Sold | FLOCK RAMS Top | FLOCK RAMS Average |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Abelene Park | 4/4 | \$3,600 | \$1,600 | 44/44 | \$3,600 | \$1,600 |
| Allendale | 13/13 | \$10,000 | \$4,577 | 91/91 | \$2,200 | \$1,714 |
| Andbo | | | | 60/60 | \$6,000 | \$2,254 |
| Armdale | 10/10 | \$20,000 | \$6,120 | 87/90 | \$3,800 | \$2,236 |
| Armdale Park | 15/15 | \$10,000 | \$4,556 | 134/149 | \$4,500 | \$2,454 |
| Ashbank | | | | 86/100 | \$4,800 | \$2,602 |
| Ashcharmoo | | | | 24/36 | \$2,000 | \$1,220 |
| Australasian Dorset Championships | 21/37 | \$20,000 | \$8,302 | | | |
| Brimfield | | | | | \$3,800 | \$1,359 |
| Bundara Downs | | | | 48/95 | \$3,200 | \$1,383 |
| Bruan | 8/8 | \$11,600 | \$5,050 | 145/147 | | \$1,606 |
| Brurob | 5 | \$7,700 | \$5,420 | 80 | \$3,000 | \$2,040 |
| Cobana | | | | 28/48 | \$2,000 | \$1,250 |
| Coledale | | | | 76/100 | \$3,000 | \$1,421 |
| Cranbrook | | \$15,500 | | | | \$3,078 |
| Derynock | 15 | \$18,000 | \$6,533 | 123/128 | | \$1,679 |
| Dursley | | | | 52/52 | \$3,000 | \$1,512 |
| Estjam | | | | 35/60 | \$2,600 | \$1,037 |
| Fairbank | | | | 43/66 | \$2,000 | \$1,335 |
| Glen Devon | | | | 49/89 | \$3,000 | \$1,139 |
| Glenore | | | | 66/77 | \$8,000 | \$1,709 |
| Gooramma | | \$22,000 | | 161/161 | | \$2,776 |
| Icon (Chrome) | | | | 63 | \$2,100 | \$970 |
| Ivadene | 22/22 | \$8,500 | \$4,257 | 80/80 | | \$2,340 |
| Janmac | | | | 44/144 | \$7,000 | \$1,269 |
| Jackson | | | | 50 | \$2,000 | \$1,645 |
| Jewsharp | | | | 121/150 | \$2,500 | \$1,366 |
| Kenlorne | | | | 84/84 | \$2,200 | \$1,388 |
| Kentish Downs | | | | 34/34 | \$3,600 | \$2,835 |
| Kismet | | | | 40/40 | \$3,000 | \$1,656 |
| Konongwootong | | | | 187/200 | | \$1,626 |
| Kurralea | 15/15 | \$10,000 | \$3,633 | 136/136 | \$2,750 | \$1,612 |
| LSK | | | | 120/120 | | \$2,248 |
| Maccelslie Park | | | | 13/17 | | \$1,307 |
| Mallee Park | | | | 35/64 | \$2,400 | \$1,340 |
| Majella | | | | 92/98 | \$5,600 | \$1,916 |
| Marocara | | | | 180/180 | \$6,000 | \$3,151 |
| Merengreen | | | | 48/50 | \$2,500 | \$1,618 |
| Mulgundawa | | | | 119/119 | \$3,600 | \$1,489 |
| Mullinger Park | | | | 188/190 | \$3,000 | \$1,497 |
| Narranmore | | | | 80/109 | \$4,800 | \$2,049 |
| Newbold | | | | 46/82 | \$3,000 | \$1,284 |
| Paxton | | | | 90/94 | \$2,200 | \$1,477 |
| Pepperton | | | | | | \$2,437 |
| Pinora | | | | 68/70 | \$1,282 | \$1,850 |
| Rene | | | | 39/48 | \$8,000 | \$2,227 |
| Ridgehaven | | | | 149/149 | | \$2,465 |
| Rowallan | | | | 151/157 | \$5,000 | \$2,042 |
| Sammon Brothers | | | | 92/98 | \$5,600 | \$1,916 |
| Shellal | | | | 119/130 | \$2,700 | \$1,232 |
| Shirlee Downs | | | | 140/140 | \$3,400 | \$1,673 |
| Springwaters | | | | 201/204 | \$13,000 | \$2,344 |
| Stone Lea | | | | 39/42 | \$2,700 | \$1,455 |
| Sunnybanks/Faraday Park | 21/26 | | \$1,438 | | | |
| Tattykeel | 20/20 | \$34,000 | \$10,506 | 57/93 | \$2,100 | \$1,562 |
| Ulandi Park | | \$7,000 | | 134/134 | | \$1,430 |
| Valley Vista | | | | 143/143 | \$5,400 | \$1,871 |
| Valma | 20 | \$18,500 | \$6,750 | 140/140 | \$3000 | \$1417 |
| Warburn | | | | 46/59 | \$5,000 | \$2,086 |
| Woolumbool | | | | 82/89 | \$3,200 | \$1,617 |
| Wrattenbullie | 7/7 | \$11,000 | \$3,485 | 124/124 | \$2,200 | \$1,908 |
| Wunnamurra | | | | 182/183 | \$3,800 | \$2,042 |
| Yentrac (Ballarat) | | | | 41/59 | \$3,000 | \$1,151 |
| Yentrac (Tatura) | | | | 88/101 | \$3,000 | \$1,522 |

Genotyping Early, Focus, and Invest Wisely

Smarter Selection for Poll Dorset Breeders in Tough Seasons

In challenging seasons, every kilogram of feed and every hour of labour counts. Making informed decisions early about which animals are worth investing in can help stud and commercial operations stay efficient and profitable. That's where genomic testing steps in, providing accurate information on an animal's genetic potential before you've invested valuable resources.

Rather than spreading feed and management effort across the entire drop, genotyping allows breeders to identify the top animals early and make selection and management decisions with confidence. It's not about cutting corners, it's about focusing on the sheep that will truly drive progress in your breeding program and deliver value to your clients.

Why Early Genotyping Matters

When feed, labour, or measurement capacity are limited, many studs reduce the number of animals they physically record. However, preselecting animals for measurement based on their appearance or early growth can introduce selection bias, reducing the accuracy of Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) and potentially slowing long-term genetic gain.

Genomic information helps overcome this issue. By genotyping animals early, breeders can maintain selection accuracy and minimise bias, even if only a portion of the flock is later phenotyped.

Key Research Findings

A recent study by Clarke, Brown, Bradley, and Swan (2025) explored how different preselection strategies affect the accuracy of ASBVs. The team analysed more than 270,000 animals from 13 Merino flocks, including 77,780 genotyped sheep, comparing several levels of recording:

| Level of Recording | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| None | No animals phenotyped |
| Random | 50 per cent of animals randomly phenotyped |
| Selected | Heaviest 50 per cent at weaning phenotyped |
| GenoSelect | Top 50 per cent phenotyped based on MerinoSelect MP+ index |

Each scenario was tested with and without genotyping.

The results clearly showed that:

Genotyping all animals increased correlations between ASBVs and true breeding values (TBVs) from as low as 0.70 → 0.98 for individuals across traits.

For sires, correlations remained very high (0.93–0.99) even when data were reduced, but accuracy declined most sharply when no phenotypes were collected.

Genotyping all animals and phenotyping the top 50 per cent based on selection index provided the highest ASBV accuracy and the least bias of all reduced-recording strategies.

This “genotype all, phenotype top half” approach maintained

over 90 per cent of the selection advantage achieved by fully measured flocks

Bias in mean ASBVs was substantially reduced when genotypes were included, particularly for key yearling traits such as weight (YWT), eye-muscle depth (YEMD), greasy fleece weight (YGFW), and fibre diameter (YFD).

What It Means for Poll Dorset Breeders

For Poll Dorset studs, where selection focuses on growth, muscle, and fat traits linked to prime lamb production, this research offers a clear message. Preselecting animals for recording based on visual assessment or early weights can distort ASBVs, even in terminal breeds. Genomic testing provides an objective baseline that removes much of that bias.

By genotyping all lambs early, studs can:

Identify top sires and replacement ewes before significant feed and labour are invested.

Maintain ASBV accuracy across core terminal traits like Post-Weaning Weight (PWT), Eye-Muscle Depth (EMD), and Fat Depth (FAT) even when only part of the drop is measured.

Continue genetic progress in years when seasonal or economic pressure limits measurement capacity.

This also benefits commercial clients, who depend on accurate ASBVs when purchasing rams. Reliable data ensures that stud breeding decisions remain transparent and performance driven.

Putting It Into Practice

- Genotype early – Test all lambs at marking or weaning to identify high-genetic-merit animals before major feed costs begin.
- Use genomic rankings to target phenotyping – If measuring all isn't possible, focus on the top 50 per cent by genomic index.
- Maintain genetic reference quality – Keep some phenotyping across a range of animals to ensure you remain well related to the genomic reference population.
- Tailor strategies – Prioritise traits most relevant to Poll Dorset breeding (growth rate, muscle depth, fat cover).
- Think long-term – Efficiency now shouldn't compromise future genetic gain.

The Takeaway

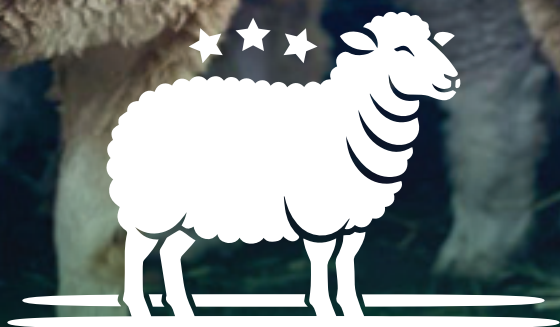
When feed and labour are limited, genotyping all animals and phenotyping the top 50 per cent offers the best balance of cost, accuracy, and genetic progress. This approach minimises bias, preserves ASBV reliability, and keeps Poll Dorset studs focused on producing high-performance rams that deliver consistency and value, even in tough years. However, selectively phenotyping for ASBVs should not become an annual practice, reserve it for exceptional circumstances to avoid long-term impacts on data quality and genetic progress.

Learn More

Neogen's Smart Flock Elite genomic test helps breeders make early, confident selection decisions across economically important traits.

For more information, visit www.sheepdna.com.au or contact Neogen Australasia on (07) 3736 2134 or naa-sheep@neogen.com.

Reference: B.E. Clarke , D.J. Brown , P. Bradley and A.A. Swan. GENOTYPING REDUCES PRESELECTION BIAS ON MERINOSELECT ASBVS IN MERINO FLOCKS (2025) Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet. 26: 463-466



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Using EID to Drive On-Farm Profit

Evidence-Based Management for the Modern Sheep Enterprise

Dan Roe – Shearwell Business Development Manager SA

As the Australian sheep industry evolves, the integration of technology into livestock production is no longer a novelty—it is a necessity. One of the most impactful innovations is Electronic Identification (EID). By enabling individual animal recording, EID transforms a traditionally mob-based management system into a precise, evidence-based operation. Research, case studies, and real-world outcomes are increasingly demonstrating how EID technology can lead to measurable economic and genetic gains across sheep enterprises.

The Science Behind the Tag

At its core, EID is about individual animal data. With each sheep assigned a unique electronic tag, producers can collect and analyse data on:

- Growth rate (liveweight over time)
- Reproductive performance
- Health interventions and treatments
- Carcass traits (linked via abattoir feedback)
- Genetic merit (linked to ASBVs)

Studies have shown that producers who use EID to inform decisions can experience up to a 5–15 per cent increase in production efficiency, depending on the depth of implementation (MLA, 2020).

Real-World Application: Case Study

James Taylor, a commercial and stud Merino producer near Burra, South Australia, has integrated EID across his 2200-ewe operation since 2022. Initially starting with EID tags and a Shearwell stick reader to monitor weaning weights, James soon expanded to full reproductive tracking and liveweight-based drafting.

By using EID-informed selection, James reduced the replacement ewe age from 19 months to 16 months, with no loss in reproductive performance—a result aligned with findings from national reproduction benchmarks.

Additionally, the business saw a reduction in saleyard penalties by \$3.80 per lamb through improved liveweight drafting precision, leading to an annual return of over \$4,500 from drafting alone.

For a comprehensive overview, please refer to the full case study: makingmorefromsheep.com.au

Five Ways EID Directly Increases Profitability

1. Genetic Gain through objective selection

EID supports performance-based selection of rams and ewes by linking physical traits to Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs). When used with genomic tools, EID enhances accuracy and shortens the generation interval.

Impact: Faster genetic improvement and a more productive flock.

2. Optimised reproductive performance

By recording mothering ability, birth type, and lamb survival, producers can identify and retain high-performing maternal lines while eliminating chronic non-performers.

Impact: Improved lamb survival and kilograms of lamb weaned per hectare.

3. Improved animal health management

Recording health treatments via EID enables targeted intervention, resistance monitoring, and more efficient use of labour.

Impact: Reduced input costs, lower mortality, and better welfare outcomes.

4. Precision feeding and marketing

Liveweight tracking supports data-driven nutritional decisions and allows precision drafting for market specifications. Producers consistently report higher compliance and better sale prices.

Impact: Increased carcass value and reduced feed wastage.

5. Compliance and risk reduction

EID streamlines NLIS requirements, vendor declarations, and biosecurity records, ensuring traceability and reducing audit risk.

Impact: Less time on paperwork, more time in the paddock.

Getting Started: Practical Pathways

EID adoption doesn't require full-system integration from day one. Most successful users begin with:

- EID tagging at lamb marking
- Weighing and recording at weaning
- Basic software or spreadsheet tracking
- Gradual inclusion of reproduction, treatment and drafting data

While EID systems were initially driven by compliance, the real value lies in their role as a strategic management tool. By turning individual animal data into action, producers are making decisions that reduce cost, improve yield, and increase profit.

ADVERTISING RATES

ADVERTISING RATES

(INCLUDES FULL COLOUR) ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

| | Members | Commercial |
|----------------------------|---------|------------|
| Back cover | \$826 | \$1023 |
| Inside front or back cover | \$661 | \$826 |
| Double page spread | \$978 | \$1223 |
| Centre spread | \$1042 | \$1302 |
| Full page | \$543 | \$679 |
| Half page | \$394 | \$493 |
| Quarter page | \$241 | \$301 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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All advertising and service rates are subject to change.

| Issue | Advertising material | Date posted |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------|
| May | Closes April 7 | April 28 |
| September | Closes July 31 | August 16 |
| December | Closes November 6 | November 27 |

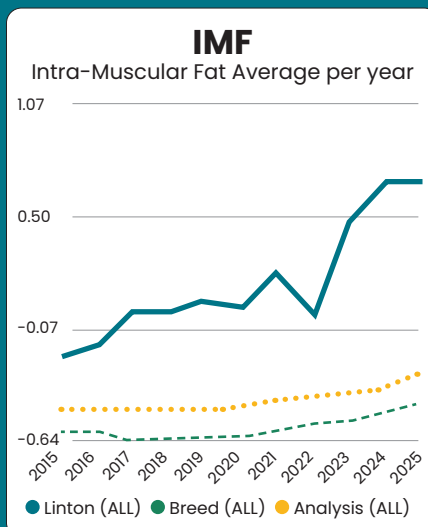
Advertising bookings required a full week before advertising material closing dates.

Linton Dorsets

FLOCK 2288



After judging Branded Meat at Sydney Royal Fine Food Show for many years, it opens your eyes to the role that IMF plays in families wanting more lamb meals.

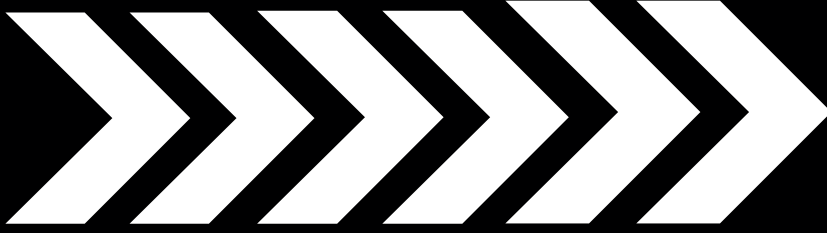


They said grass fed, suckler lambs with 5% IMF could not be achieved. The Bowan Park 2025 trial has proved it can be done. Linton 210105 had 11 of the 15 lambs killed having over 5% IMF. The lambs were grass fed and just 20 weeks old.

Semen available in:

| Linton | Sire | LEQ | Pwt | Pemd | imf |
|--------|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| 210105 | L152 | 176 | 13.9 | 1.6 | 1.98 |
| 210167 | W455 | 168 | 17.2 | 3.4 | 0.6 |
| 230634 | SW627 | 165 | 16.0 | 2.4 | 0.8 |
| 210245 | L128 | 160 | 14.2 | 2.1 | 1.4 |

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