



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 49 / NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2019



Poll Dorsets INTERBREED SUCCESS

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THIS ISSUE...



RECORD
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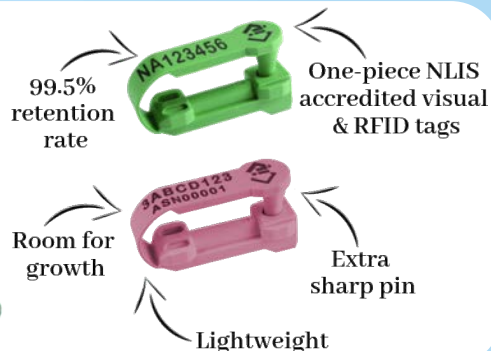
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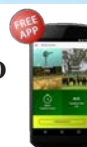
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Working to Help the Livestock Farmer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I know this sounds like a broken record but how good is it to be a lamb producer at the moment?

\$10/kg, \$350 lambs (though 2 x 24kg lambs eat the same as one 40kg lamb and make \$100 more in total), wool great and mutton at records. If you haven't been completely gassed by diesel fumes and still have sheep; it's a great time to have them. All anyone needs now is rain. While where I am is as good as it has been for 20 years and everyone is smiling, I realise that others haven't been as lucky. All I ask is if you are having a good year perhaps spare a thought or even a bit of hay or grain to a fellow breeder that isn't so lucky.

Since my May report our secretariat has been working flat out straightening out the records and getting the flock book and journals organised. There have been many hiccups along the way with missing and or wrong information; I thank them and all the breeders for their patience and willingness to help each other out. This has been a massive undertaking by everyone and the way it has all been handled shows me we have made the right choices with Margot, Jamie-Lee, Patrick and Sam. This current Journal is the biggest one that's been put out in a long time, more articles, more advertisers, prompt delivery and everyone seems to be happier all round. Well done to all.



I have many phone calls and personal chats with members who have encouraged me to keep shaking the tree a bit so to speak, so I can't help myself but to have a final pot stir. Tail lengths... MUST be longer. In these days of animal activism, we should no longer cut tails off so short. There is no valid reason for it, cosmetic value will not cut it as an excuse when someone does come down hard on it, and they will. We all know what the downside of short tails is so why do we keep doing it? Personally, I mark them at the second or even third joint as day old lambs. None of my ram clients care about it, my shearers got used to it and the ewe lambs said thank you very much. Anyway, please have a good think about it before next years lamb marking.

As this is my last report, I would like to thank everyone for the privilege to lead this great breed. It has been an honour. I'm not going to say it was an easy ride or anything like I expected, but it has enabled me to get out and meet people and make a lot of friends that I otherwise wouldn't have, and see places I would never otherwise go to. I even got the chance to have a dabble at judging a few sheep.

As my term is about to finish, I step back confidently knowing the breed is heading in the right direction. Sheep prices will be good for many years to come, ram prices will hold or improve, droughts will break, opportunities will arise and I'm confident Poll Dorsets will be there to take advantage of it all. Now the administrative process is back on track, I look forward to seeing the direction that the next leadership group will take

Thankyou to the board members for all their help along the way. Thank you to my family especially my wife who has taken up the slack when I've been gallivanting around the countryside. Thank you to all the members who have been as understanding as possible and have offered encouragement and ideas along the way.

Damon Coats

PRESIDENT



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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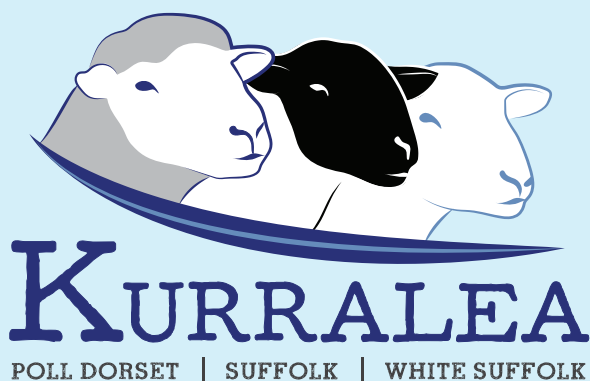
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★ Our next annual sale ★

Tuesday 24th Sept

12:30pm EST

On-property Arian Park, NSW

**Producing a unique blend of
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**The usual large selection of
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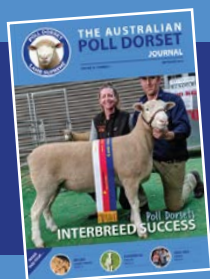


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FRONT COVER:

Marianne and Tim Ferguson of Mallee Park stud with their Supreme Interbreed Exhibit of the Australian Sheep & Wool Show



ACROSS THE PENS

ANNUAL RETURNS

We have almost completed six months as your new Secretariat in Bendigo and the time has certainly flown. We are on a tremendous learning curve and thank you for your patience as we have worked through the flock returns for this year and all the other enquiries that have come to the office. We have so enjoyed meeting you via the phone and hearing your stories, and we hope to meet up with you all at the Australasian Championships in Bendigo in September.



FLOCK BOOK REMINDERS

This year the Flock Book has been prepared from scratch as we have not had a database since leaving Adelaide. If by chance, we have left anything out from the Flock Book, please let us know in order that we can update the December Journal and next year's flock book.

SHOWS

For those members who attended Cowra, Bendigo and Hamilton and took home champion ribbons, congratulations on your performance, we have tried to catch up with as many members as we can at Bendigo and Hamilton and look forward to seeing those of you at Bendigo in September.

AGM REMINDER

The APDA 2019 AGM will be held Sunday 8th September at 10am at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds, Bendigo, Victoria.

All the very best of luck to you for the Ram selling season, if we do not see you at Bendigo in September, the team here wish you all the very best in the months ahead.

Margot Falconer

AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

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SPRINGWATERS

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PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

Well since I last wrote, the rains have come for a lot of us, but not for everyone - there are still patches out there desperately looking for the rain, hopefully your luck will change soon.



I have been saying for some time that it is a great time to be in the Prime Lamb industry, with lambs selling for up to \$354.20 and the supermarkets offering \$10/kg for sucker lambs, times have never been better as far as selling is concerned.

With the Ram selling season coming at us fast you will see some changes in the way the ads look in the newspapers which I have been pushing for some time. I would like to thank our media team for their input into these changes and for making this happen. I would also like to thank the breeders who have shown sheep or put sheep on display at shows, field days etc - this always helps to promote our great breed to the Prime Lamb Industry.

A comment on the Advertising if anyone out there is an aspiring creative or just has some ideas, please give me a ring with them, it would be nice to revamp the Ads at least annually to keep them from going stale. Yes, the Ads we have now are good and have served us well. But in order to catch the readers eye we need to refresh and change the look so as not to become boring.

I read with great interest that sheep numbers are the lowest they have been for a long time, there is no doubt that the drought has taken an enormous toll on the sheep industry, and will leave us with some interesting challenges in the years to come.

Also quoted in the Media - a comment on Poll Dorset sired lambs, didn't matter whether they were Prime lamb or stores and that they were making a \$2 - \$5 premium over all other breeds, we as breeders have always known this, but it is great to have someone else quoting it.

In closing I wish everyone a great ram selling season and may we all start thinking of strategies to assist us in planning for the challenging years ahead.

Geoff Davey

CHAIR OF PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| SEPTEMBER 1 | Royal Adelaide Show |
| SEPTEMBER 6-8 | Australasian Dorset Championships - Bendigo |
| SEPTEMBER 21 | Royal Melbourne Show |
| OCTOBER 3 | Royal Perth Show |
| OCTOBER 10 | Royal Launceston Show |
| OCTOBER 24 | Royal Hobart Show |



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50
Years of breeding



Brucellosis accredited OJD vaccinated
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2019 Sale Rams



Offering Progeny from Coledale 72/16 Coledale 44/15 Aberdeen 527/16 Bruan 81/14

| TAG | BWT | WWT | PWWT | PFAT | PEMD | CAR+ | TCP | EQ | LEQ |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 169/18 | 0.80 | 14.8 | 21.4 | -1.3 | 1.9 | 236 | 156.1 | 145.6 | 146.2 |
| 82/18 | 0.69 | 12.6 | 20.6 | -1.1 | 2.6 | 235 | 158.2 | 144.0 | 147.0 |
| 372/18 | 0.65 | 12.3 | 17.8 | -1.8 | 2.2 | 223 | 151.0 | 135.4 | 135.4 |
| 140/18 | 0.63 | 11.4 | 18.2 | -0.5 | 2.7 | 223 | 150.4 | 140.1 | 142.5 |
| 497/18 | 0.60 | 12.1 | 18.8 | -0.7 | 2.5 | 225 | 148.8 | 136.1 | 136.0 |
| 41/18 | 0.35 | 11.6 | 17.4 | -0.5 | 2.2 | 215 | 145.8 | 137.6 | 138.5 |
| 136/18 | 0.22 | 10.8 | 16.3 | -0.2 | 2.6 | 212 | 144.6 | 135.4 | 136.3 |
| 126/18 | 0.51 | 11.4 | 17.6 | -0.7 | 2.0 | 214 | 144.5 | 133.6 | 133.8 |

Introducing New TCP & LEQ Indexes in the top 10% of Sheep Genetics

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wbinnie@bigpond.com

Kirsty Taylor
0437054694
sutchtaylor@westnet.com.au

Rabobank: Prices setting records

Lamb prices have been trading in rarefied air, having broken through all previous records.

The Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator broke through the 900c/kg carcass weight mark in late June, to reach its highest price ever of 950c/jg in July.

While traditionally June and July are the peak months for prices, 2018 saw the peak delayed until late August.

With reports of low scanning and low lambing in areas that continue to be affected by dry seasons, reduced 'new season' lamb numbers will be inevitable. With these lower lamb numbers and strong export markets we expect prices to remain strong for the coming month, potentially pushing higher before the new season lambs arrive.

Meat and Livestock weekly slaughter numbers show lamb slaughter for the first three weeks of June fell well below (16 per cent) the same period last year to the lowest level in over five years. Sheep slaughter, although dropping, is still in line with the five year average (down 3 per cent). Slaughter numbers are expected to drop further with some abattoirs announcing slowdowns at plants as part of regular maintenance but it also reflects lower supply volumes.

This will take some demand out of the market, reducing some of the chance of a further uplift in prices.

However, when plants come back online through August, if there is not the volume of new season lambs coming on to the market, the increase in available slaughter capacity may drive prices higher.

MLA: A quick flush pays

Lamb producer Andrew Hunter found that a short flush on green feed was enough to increase reproductive rates in his ewes.

"The two-week flush was just as effective as the six-week flush," Andrew said.

"That's a good way of conserving the lucerne for other stock.

"Using these principles, we're gradually picking up our fertility through tighter management. It means we don't throw money around willy-nilly. We know the things that are going to deliver benefits to us. If we can drive fertility by management, that's a good thing."

Andrew's property in the south-east Riverina was one of 32 Producer Demonstration Sites in a project run by MLA and Agriculture Victoria that investigated the practicalities of short and long-term flushing.

"It was surprising how little green feed needed to be in the paddock to make a difference to the ewes," Andrew said.

"We ran the ewes through a lucerne paddock that had already been eaten over by the lambs. A bit of leaf and stalk was all that was left but the flushing effect seemed to work even on that."

The broad results from the project showed that available feed of 350kg/DM/ha minimum for seven days before joining and seven days into joining was enough to provide a reproductive benefit.

Andrew said knowing the benefits of a short-term flush provides him with greater options in his enterprise, given that he generally runs a fairly high stocking rate..

"We manage the ewes as individuals rather than on mob averages," he said.

"Then I'll use a short flush to increase performance of the tail end of the ewes," Andrew said.

"That'll enable me to prioritise the good green feed for finishing lambs, giving better overall returns across the farm. If green feed was really scarce, I'd use lupins to flush the lighter ewes."

Sheep CRC: Neogen take on DNA testing

The Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC) has led the development of DNA testing within the Australian sheep industry and has worked in collaboration with Neogen since the start of the Information Nucleus program in 2007.

Sheep CRC has now closed its doors, transitioning DNA services for the Australian sheep industry to Neogen.

Sheep breeders will continue to order tests online through www.sheepdna.com.au, with their samples processed and analysed at Neogen's Australian laboratories, and results incorporated into the Sheep Genetics databases for assignment of parentage and enhancement of breeding value accuracies.

"Genomic technologies are the key to accelerating the rate of genetic improvement of our flocks, with a recent economic analysis estimating they will increase the value of the industry by more than \$121 million dollars by 2029 as a direct result of the CRC's 12-year research program," Sheep CRC Chief Executive James Rowe said.

Neogen will continue to employ staff currently based at the Sheep CRC's Armidale base at the University of New England, and Vice President Jason Lilly said Neogen recognised the importance of ensuring consistency for sheep producers.

"Integrating Neogen's expertise with this established operation will strengthen our genomic capabilities and our ability to deliver valuable information to the Australian industry," Dr Lilly said.

Neogen supplies genetic testing to all 27 of Australia's major beef cattle associations, as well as dairy cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and other species.



APDA Youth head to SA Sheep Expo

The SA Sheep Expo is an event offering young people a platform to develop a better understanding of the sheep industry, the opportunities it offers and to encourage the next generation to engage at a grassroots level within the industry. It provides an education forum for young sheep enthusiasts aged 12 to 23 years and enable them to build their knowledge and identify pathways to further careers in areas of the sheep industry. The following Poll Dorset youth attended this year's event.



Rebekah Stutley

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

I applied for the scholarship to expand on the little knowledge that I had about the sheep industry.

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

I was hoping to learn more about some of the jobs and experiences available for people willing to work with sheep.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

I learnt that all kinds of people are part of the sheep industry, that academics are relevant when it comes to finding a job in farming, and that I do not want to be a butcher.

Tom Megson

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

I applied for a Scholarship because I have worked with the School Sheep for the Royal Show but wanted to get some more experience.

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

I was hoping to learn more about how to handle the sheep for Judging.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

I learnt at the Expo how the sheep are Judged, Butchering and how the sheep are bred to get the many different breeds.

Cooper Pfitzner

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

Before I got there I was hoping to meet new people and to get a better understanding of the sheep industry.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

From the expo I learnt about butchering sheep, virtual fencing, how they get the wool to be clothing and I also learnt about how they are using 360 degree cameras to help farming.

What topics would you like to see at the next expo?

At the next expo I would like to see a topic on shearing and learning how to shear, apart from that I thought it was a great experience and also a great way to meet new people with similar interests.

Angel Kean

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

I applied for the 2019 sheep expo because I wanted to have more experience with sheep and also open up my career options.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

I learnt that the expectations for sheep showing than dairy cattle are different. Another thing I learnt is that there are poll Merinos, and knowing at what percentage each sheep is for meat or wool was very interesting. The last thing I learnt that was very interesting is judging a sheep, length, how the sheep tracks when walking.

What topics would you like to see at the next expo?

I would love to be involved with shearing a sheep because I have a few sheep at home and I plan to get more involved with the sheep industry therefore I could help save money as we are calling in a sheep shearer.



Tyler Nilsen

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

I thought it would be a really cool and interesting thing to do and would be really interesting and would have shown me a lot of new things

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

One thing I was hoping to gain would be showing how to lead a sheep and what the difference between leading a sheep to a steer.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

The new tagging system that can instantly put the weight to the sheep and then draft it off into its groups. Another was how to handle and lead a sheep and get it to stand square. And walking through Michell wool factory looking at how they treat the wool and how much wool they have there.

What topics would you like to see at the next expo?

A topic that I would like to see next year would be more on shearing sheep and how to use the shears and wool classing for the seniors.

Caleb Schwartz

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

I was interested in attending the sheep expo and under the recommendation of Ms Nelson thought it would be a good idea to go through the scholarship.

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

I was hoping to learn about the handling and judging aspect of the industry in preparation for hopefully going to the show with the school sheep. I was also keen to meet people who hold important places in the industry and to make contacts with influential people in the industry.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

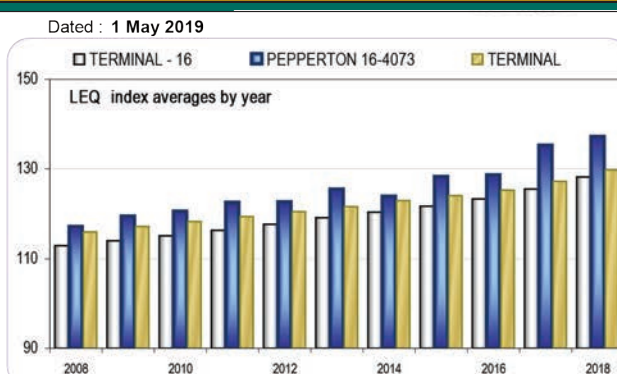
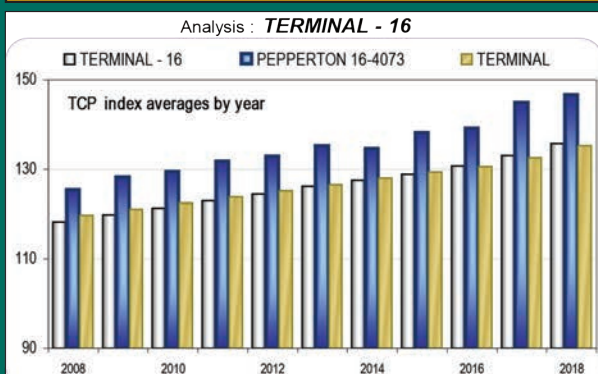
Three of the big things I learnt from the expo would be about the judging aspects with the walking of the sheep and what you look for in a good sheep. I also enjoyed learning about the virtual fencing where animals can be confined in a certain area without having any fences. I also enjoyed learning about the self marketing where we were taught about writing a cover letter and told about how we should present ourselves in a job interview and in our resume.

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Mob: 0428 326 190 **Email:** pepperton@bigpond.net.au
Website: pepperton.com.au

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YOUTH YARNS

Chloe Jenkin

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

To receive extra knowledge about sheep.

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

The one thing that I was hoping to gain from attending, was learning about the different breeds of sheep, and how each and everyone become that type of sheep.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

1, how electronic identification works, 2, how to handle a sheep, 3, how to judge the sheep.

William Smith

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

I applied for this scholarship due to wanting to enhance my knowledge on sheep production and to learn some new techniques for moving and showing sheep.

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

Knowledge in the wool industry and wool processing ect. I was also wanting to learn about planned grazing methods.

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

The butchering process of lamb and the different parts of the process, servicing and maintenance of Heiniger shearing products, electronic identification ear tags were interesting and was good to learn about.

What topics would you like to see at the next expo?

I would like to see a representative come and talk about the holistic planned grazing technique and its importance for soil regeneration and reversing desertification and the effects it has made.

Jack Braunack

Why did you apply for the APDA Adelaide region Sheep Expo scholarship?

Because I enjoy sheep club and I believed it would be a great opportunity

Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending?

Some more information on the future on sheep farming

What are three things you learnt from the expo?

Virtual Fencing, Handling is harder then it looks, Bio security

What topics would you like to see at the next expo?

Biosecurity, Electronic Tagging, Handlers, Virtual Fencing



AUSTRALASIAN DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS

FRIDAY 6th - SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2019

REGIONAL EVENTS COMPLEX

Prince of Wales Showgrounds - Holmes Road Bendigo

Judging from 4pm - Friday

Ram sale 1.30pm - Sunday



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Schools on the Show Mat

Finley High School

Holbrook Sheep & Wool Fair: Finley High School were the most successful school, as well as taking out Interbreed Grand Champion Ewe and Supreme Sheep of the Show with their team of Poll Dorsets.

Australian Sheep & Wool Show: Finley also took out champion ewe in the School's Interbreed Competition at the ASWS in Bendigo in July, as well as the CEVA Novice Aggregate trophy and first in the Open Ewe Lamb class on the Poll Dorset Mat.



TRAC

NSW Dorset Championships: The Riverina Anglican College stud College Park won Champion School Exhibit at NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra in June.

Holbrook Sheep & Wool Fair: TRAC exhibited the Grand Champion Poll Dorset Ram at the Holbrook Sheep & Wool Fair, a three day event attended by many high-school agriculture students.



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First Progeny from Ulandi Park 137-17 (Sold, \$25,000 to Tipperary Farming),
Ulandi Park 271-17 (First Interbreed Export Pair Rams, 2018 Royal Melbourne)
Ulandi Park 310-17 (First Lambplan Ram, 2018 Royal Melbourne)
Ulandi Park 257-16 (Champion Interbreed Lamb Production 2017 Royal Adelaide)
and Kurralea 234-16 (Purchased \$15,000 in partnership with Janmac Stud)



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Sheep industry looks to sustainable future

The sheep industry is developing a whole of supply chain sustainability framework to measure and communicate its credentials.

The Sheep Sustainability Framework aims to improve transparency and build trust with consumers by defining sustainable production and tracking performance using indicators.

It is being led by Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia, with financial and secretariat support from Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation.

SPA Chair Chris Mirams said the industry was becoming “de-commoditised”, and with premium prices came higher expectations from the marketplace.

“We need to be able to understand what the consumer’s expectation, and what our own expectations are throughout the supply chain, and be able to clearly describe them,” he said.

“If we can describe them and work out how to measure those things then we can identify areas we are doing well at and identify some areas that need improvement.

“We are moving into an era where we are selling a premium product, where our markets are becoming more connected to the industry through social media, and in that environment we can talk the talk, but we also have to walk the walk and prove it.”

While Mr Mirams will wait for the consultation period to see what elements will be focussed on, however he said it would be logical to consider animal welfare as a primary interest of the connected consumer, as well as management of both the environment and people in the industry.

The Framework will be led by a joint boards committee of SPA and WPA, and developed by an independent panel of industry members throughout the supply chain working under the terms of reference.

WoolProducers President Ed Storey says the framework will provide the proof behind Australia’s reputation as one of the global leaders in sustainable production.

“Our colleagues in the beef, dairy and cotton sectors have developed sustainability frameworks and the new National Farmers Federation 2030 Roadmap for Industry Growth calls for a national framework across agriculture to be implemented by 2025,” Mr Storey said.

“We have observed multiple benefits in other sectors, such as protecting market access and enhancing communication with stakeholders, so with the peak industry councils for the sheep and wool industries collaborating in this work, it is exciting to consider what we will achieve together.”

Sheep industry consultant, producer and researcher Professor Bruce Allworth will lead the panel in its consultation of internal and external stakeholders.

Professor Allworth will drive implementation of the framework and work with a committee who will oversee consultation with external stakeholders to provide wider perspectives from outside the industry.

“The framework takes an industry-wide perspective and works to highlight best practice on-farm while ensuring we deliver what consumers are wanting from us,” he said.

“This is not about individual producers and is not about compliance, it is about the whole industry demonstrating our sustainability credentials.

“Many businesses throughout the supply chain are operating in ways that are sustainable and best practice, and these activities will be highlighted in the framework.

“Through the consultation, we will identify priority areas, select indicators to measure performance, and provide evidence of a commitment to continuous improvement to customers and consumers.”

Rebuilding the Flock

SPA Chair Chris Mirams says the seemingly insatiable demand for lamb was providing fantastic opportunities within the industry, and underpinning consistently good returns.

The major challenge however would be rebuilding the flock.

“With ewe numbers being very low for a range of reasons, and recent seasonal conditions have further impacted on our flock, we are concerned about the flock size,” Mr Mirams said.

“We are looking forward to clearly understanding what other issues there are beyond the season that have lead the flock to become so small...the flock has been falling through good seasons and bad and through high prices and low prices.

“We are looking at strategies that can increase the flock, improve reproductive outcomes and help farmers increase the flock at a faster rate than in the past.”

The opportunity this presented was “rebuilding a better flock than we might have had,” Mr Mirams said.

“Why wouldn’t you consider a more fit for purpose sheep for a variable climate, while being aware of animal welfare issues and focussing on robust genetics.

“Farmers should focus on successful reproduction and consider expanding the flock with genetics suited to a more variable climate and target a more consumer focussed animal.”



The Sheep Sustainability Framework project team includes SPA chair Chris Mirams, MLA manager - sustainability strategy and stakeholders Pip Band, MLA chef Sam Burke, MLA lamb brand manager Anna Sharp, framework chair Professor Bruce Allworth and MLA sustainability communications manager Sarah Hyland.

Strong prices after slow start to rain season

Record lamb prices have been helping alleviate some of the pain felt by a lack of rain in areas in recent months, as both trade and heavy indicators hit new highs.

Sheep slaughter was well above normal levels for the first half of the year, however after we ate into our already decreased flock, numbers of available stock plummeted towards the end of July.

Meat and Livestock Australia's most recent industry outlook predicts annual sheep slaughter to fall 11 per cent year-on-year, to 8.5 million head.

"A reduced breeding flock and generally poor lambing rates, combined with a poor weather outlook for winter, is expected to disrupt lamb supply in the coming months," MLA's report said.

"For the first quarter of 2019, lamb slaughter remained close to year-ago levels. However, supply is expected to tighten for the remainder of the year and, without a turnaround in conditions, producers will face similar challenges to last year in getting lambs to finished weights.

"Forecast national lamb slaughter has remained unchanged and is expected to decline 7 per cent on 2018, to 21.2 million head.

"The aforementioned seasonal challenges will drive a contraction in the national sheep flock, which is expected to fall to 65.8 million head by June 2019, down 6.8 per cent year-on-year and an 8.7 per cent fall since 2017."

But demand is headed in the other direction, with record prices this year being supported by strong export markets, helped along by the falling Aussie dollar.

Australian sheepmeat exports were the highest financial year on record in 2018-19, with lamb and mutton growing 2 per cent and 17 per cent respectively.

"Australian sheepmeat exports had their strongest financial year on record, with lamb shipments (275,000 tonnes swt) hitting an unprecedented volume and mutton (188,000 tonnes swt) rising to levels not seen since the wool crash three decades ago," MLA reports.

"The growth in demand from China and the US in particular, has translated into strong domestic farm gate prices, with the national mutton indicator breaking through 600¢/kg carcass weight in May for the first time and lamb prices now on par with the record highs of August 2018."

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics Ag Commodities update for June shows lamb prices rising from an estimated 735¢/kg in 2018-19, to 770¢/kg in 2019-20 - a 5 per cent lift.

Sheep prices will also be on the rise, they predict, climbing from 430¢/kg in 2018-19 to 455¢/kg in 2019-20, up 6 per cent.

This comes alongside a forecast 14 per cent dip in production, with slaughter and exports down for both sheep and lamb because of limited supply.

"The national sheep flock is expected to increase as producers respond to the expectation of sustained high sheep meat and wool prices," ABARES reported.

"However, flock rebuilding requires favourable seasonal conditions that will allow lambs to be promoted into the breeding flock.

"The costs of flock rebuilding are likely to be elevated by high prices for restocker sheep and lambs and supplementary feed.

"According to 2017-18 ABARES farm survey data, feed purchases accounted for 9 per cent of the total costs for sheep specialists in south-eastern Australia. This is almost double the five-year average to 2016-17."

Looking at the export markets, ABARES expects the outbreak of African swine fever in China to impact the global protein trade, but have little impact on Australian sheepmeat, as the price point was out of reach of many average Chinese consumers.

According to MLA International Markets General Manager Michael Finucan, a relaxing of tensions between the US and China have stabilised the global trading environment.

"As Australian red meat exports mark their second highest financial year on record, the industry is evaluating how supply will track over the next twelve months," he said.

"With an eventual turn in the season and expected contraction of available livestock, product available for export will eventually come under pressure."

MLA Managing Director Jason Strong spoke at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show's Lambition dinner in Bendigo, Victoria, and said while price was a large driver for consumers, the bigger picture was making sure the right consumers got a consistent product.

He said elevated lamb prices would be getting pushback from domestic consumers, but industry needed to look at the big picture.

"Measuring success solely on domestic consumption is crazy – a far broader perspective is required," he said.

"We'd love to see more Australians eat beef and lamb but if we have to trade off half the price to get that, we can get used to the lower consumption rates."

Mr Strong said many indicators were pointing to ongoing support for lamb and sheep prices.



New genetics hub for your clients

Commercial sheep producers now have new tools to help them start using breeding values in their ram buying decisions, following the launch of new genetics resources by Meat and Livestock Australia.

This includes a new genetics hub – genetics.mla.com.au – which provides a one-stop-shop of tools and resources, aimed at demystifying genetics and breeding values.

MLA General Manager – Producer Consultation and Adoption, Michael Crowley, said the hub is part of a broader approach being taken by MLA over coming months to inform producers about the role of genetics in achieving business productivity targets.

The hub itself is designed for tropical and temperate cattle producers and Merino and prime lamb producers, who either under-utilise or haven't adopted breeding values, but are open to learning about them in order to understand the role genetics can play in improving their business performance.

On the hub, producers have access to:

- 'Pick the performer' ads demonstrating the value of investing in quality breeding values
- Videos of commercial producers demonstrating how breeding values have helped increase profit in their herds and flocks
- How-to animated tutorials outlining the basics of breeding values, setting a breeding objective and picking a high-performing sire.

Mr Crowley said the hub provides a clear, jargon-free look at how better breeding values can help producers boost productivity and profitability.

"There's a clear link between genetics and the commercial profitability of the Australian livestock industry," Mr Crowley said.

"While it's not a 'silver bullet', genetic improvement is among the tools available to commercial producers to help address the key drivers of industry profit including improved market compliance and eating quality, and improved fertility and livestock productivity."

Despite the link between genetic gain and profit, the uptake of the use of breeding values by commercial livestock producers is low in some sectors.

"Key reasons for this include the lack of 'proof of profit' and the genetics language and resources being too complex to understand," Mr Crowley said.

"MLA has established the new genetics hub and other resources to help producers overcome these barriers and either get started with using breeding values or use them more effectively."

MLA Sheep Genetics Senior Development Officer Peta Bradley says a breeding objective will help producers identify traits, expressed as Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), to improve profitability and/or reduce costs of production.

"Before you turn up to a ram sale, it's really important to know your breeding objective and which traits will drive profit (e.g. weaning weight and eye muscle depth) and which traits are costs in your production system (e.g. worm egg count)," she said.

"Other important ASBVs that prime lamb producers may wish to select on or monitor when purchasing a sire, may include birth weight and eating quality traits such as intramuscular fat and shear force.

"These traits give producers the ability to make more informed decisions when investing in improving genetics."

Peta said while genetic merit should be criteria on which rams are selected, physical appearance and structural soundness are also important elements for breeding success.

"Rams need to be structurally sound and suit your environment," she said.

If you are a ram breeder who uses breeding values, you can now list your sale catalogue on RamSelect free of charge for the coming sale season.

First released in 2015 by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation, RamSelect is a web-based tool which allows ram buyers to find and rank rams based on ASBVs that match their breeding objective.

In recent years, studs were charged to advertise their catalogues on www.ramselect.com.au, but Sheep CRC Industry Engagement Coordinator Lu Hogan said this resulted in fewer rams being listed, prompting a rethink to the business strategy in order to maximise the number of rams listed and the value of RamSelect to ram buyers and the industry.

"For the next ram selling season there will be no charge for ram breeders to list their catalogues," Mrs Hogan said.

"Ram breeders can easily list their rams on RamSelect by checking the box when creating a catalogue in the Sheep Genetics database.

"For ram buyers, the \$27.50 per year charge to hold a user account and store breeding objectives will remain, providing ram buyers with a cheap and effective place to store and analyse ram data and benchmark their genetics against the wider industry."



The tagline for MLA's new genetic resource

Poll Dorsets driving profits

Lamb prices have been headed north all year, as supply tightens and demand remains strong. The National Heavy Lamb Indicator peaked at 998c/kg in July, while the Trade Lamb indicator reached 950c/kg. Poll Dorset sired lambs have been breaking records across the saleyards.

Wagga Wagga 20 June

Goulburn prime lamb producers the Mooney family sold a pen of heavy lambs through Landmark Wagga Wagga's Peter Cabot in June for the then national saleyard record lamb price of \$354.20. The second-cross lambs, with their breeding including Poll Dorset rams, weighed 95-100kg, an estimated 48kg dressed. They were purchased by Fletcher International, Dubbo. Fletchers also purchased another pen of the Mooney's lambs at Wagga Wagga in July for \$354, this time for 108kg lots.

- photo Landmark Wagga Wagga



Ballarat 9 July

Two producers set a new Victorian saleyard record high lamb price of \$354 at the Central Victorian Livestock Exchange, Ballarat, on 9 July. The first was KP Maher and sons of Springbank, Victoria, selling 54 lambs, 44kg dressed with a \$6 skin purchased by Australian Lamb Company. David and Matthew Baird of Larose at Blowhard had a pen of 69 lambs of the same type and weight purchased for the same price by JBS. Prior to that, lamb finisher Andy Maher, Dean, took out the record price for the selling centre with his second-cross Poll Dorsets, first at \$300 in May, then at \$344 in June. Mr Maher (pictured) told the Stock & Land he focussed on buying quality lambs to finish - while they cost more, they also demanded a premium at the other end. "Buy the right lambs for the right job, I stick with the Poll Dorset second-cross lambs. I find the other breeds don't yield as well and aren't as heavy."

- photo Stock & Land



Griffith May 31

The Hoskinson family from Kikoira set what was then a national saleyard record for lambs at Griffith, NSW, at the end of May. Their pen of 10 month old 82 second-cross Poll Dorset lambs sold at \$345 for lots averaging 92kg, or 43kg dressed. Pictured is Noel, Jodie and Shaun Hoskinson with the lambs, which were sold through Mark Flagg of Mark Flagg Livestock & Property at Barellan, NSW.

- photo Mark Flagg Livestock



AuctionsPlus

Poll Dorset sired lambs accounted for 23 per cent of the AuctionsPlus listing in 2018-19, with Poll Dorset/Merino listings notably more heavily concentrated towards southern NSW. In terms of year-on-year growth, this equates to a 49 per cent growth between the 16-17 and 17-18 season, with 20 per cent growth between 17-18 and 18-19. Interestingly, buyer demand for Poll Dorset sired lambs was indicatively stronger than other breeds, despite the large growth in listings, receiving a national clearance of 83% in 18-19. Poll Dorset sired lambs weighing under 25kgs averaged \$85/head, while both White Suffolks and Border Leicesters averaged \$81/head. In the 30-35kg and 35-40kg weight ranges, Poll Dorsets lambs sold \$5 and \$2 above the next breed respectively. As yardings contract and buyers look online to fill orders, prices peaked on the box in July Lines such as March-April 2019 drop, 29kg Poll Dorset-Merino mixed sex suckers from Peak Hill, NSW, sold for \$165 or 567c/kg live.

- courtesy of AuctionsPlus



Spring lambs hit market

This line of 650 Poll Dorset-sired new season lambs were sold for an average of \$215 and a top of \$250 at the Wagga Wagga Saleyards in July, offered by the Muller family at Henty and sold through John Stanley Livestock - photo John Stanley

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ANNUAL RAM SALE

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, 11AM AUCTION/ 170 RAMS



Semen available from top sires \$35/dose

| ID | BWT | WWT | PWT | PEMD | PFAT | DRES | LMY | IMF | SF | CP + | TCP | EQ |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|
| <u>120455</u> | 0.33 | 10.5 | 17.2 | 2.2 | -0.1 | 2.9 | 3.00 | -0.09 | 0.5 | 210 | 151.6 | 149.7 |
| <u>170102</u> | 0.49 | 13.6 | 20.5 | 0.7 | -0.9 | 2.0 | 4.60 | -0.94 | 10.2 | 215 | 134.5 | 122.8 |
| <u>170303</u> | 0.48 | 10.3 | 16.2 | 3.0 | -0.2 | 2.5 | 3.50 | -0.37 | 1.1 | 215 | 151 | 145.8 |



Our young rams available at sale

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|------|-----|-------|-------|
| 180038 | 0.48 | 12.9 | 19.1 | 2.4 | -0.7 | 2.7 | 5.46 | -0.78 | 10.6 | 228 | 145.1 | 135.2 |
| 180043 | 0.39 | 12.0 | 18.4 | 1.8 | -0.8 | 2.6 | 4.45 | -0.53 | 5.2 | 216 | 149.4 | 142.5 |
| 180044 | 0.48 | 12.7 | 18.8 | 1.5 | -0.8 | 2.6 | 4.51 | -0.67 | 7.2 | 216 | 145.7 | 137.2 |
| 180054 | 0.56 | 11.6 | 17.6 | 2.6 | -0.6 | 2.6 | 4.14 | -0.26 | 2.4 | 220 | 154.6 | 150.7 |
| 180080 | 0.48 | 11.8 | 18.0 | 1.8 | -0.1 | 2.6 | 3.38 | -0.49 | 4.4 | 211 | 144.9 | 138.1 |
| 180105 | 0.42 | 12.2 | 17.9 | 2.2 | -0.4 | 2.8 | 4.40 | -0.72 | 5.9 | 218 | 147.2 | 138.1 |
| 180150 | 0.39 | 11.7 | 17.7 | 1.7 | -1.1 | 2.2 | 4.74 | -0.72 | 6.2 | 213 | 144.4 | 135.5 |
| 180528 | 0.58 | 11.1 | 17.3 | 2.7 | -1.2 | 2.5 | 5.63 | -1.35 | 7.6 | 223 | 147.9 | 131.7 |

Andrew Gillett

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Feed efficiency

Stephanie Muir, Research Scientist – Lamb Production, Agriculture Victoria, Hamilton

Do you know which of your sheep are more efficient at converting feed to weight gain?

What if you could select for these traits using an Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) or genomic test before buying your rams?

Agriculture Victoria researchers have been measuring feed efficiency in maternal composite ewes and rams of various breeds to determine the range in feed efficiency within the population.

Feed efficiency is a measure of how efficiently an individual sheep converts feed to product (e.g. kg gain)

Why are we interested in feed efficiency?

Feed is a significant cost in sheep production systems. Agriculture Victoria researchers have determined that prime lambs can vary substantially in feed conversion efficiency (FCE) ratio or feed consumed/kg gain.

The best lambs tested converted every 2.5kg of feed into 1kg of body weight gain, while others consumed up to 14kg of feed for the same gain.

Farm modelling has estimated that improving FCE can increase farm productivity and profitability by increasing lamb output with lower feed costs.

The same modelling also suggests that improving the FCE of the ewe flock could increase on farm profitability by up to 33 per cent, or up to 38 per cent if lamb feed conversion efficiency was also improved.

Improving feed efficiency (FCE) can increase farm productivity and profitability.

How do we measure feed efficiency?

Estimating feed efficiency requires a measure of feed intake and the amount of product being produced. In our case we measure liveweight gain.

To measure intake, we use purpose built automated feeders linked with EID technology to record daily meals and feed intake for individual sheep. Sheep spend approximately 42 days in our feed intake facility, with daily recording of feed intake and liveweight measured three times weekly.



We then calculate Residual Feed Intake (RFI), a method for expressing feed efficiency, as the difference between actual and expected feed intake. Expected feed intake is how much feed we would expect the animal to eat given its live weight and weight gain over the measurement period.

Sheep that eat more than expected have a high RFI and are therefore less efficient, while sheep who eat less than expected have low RFI and are more efficient (Figure 5).

How much variation in feed efficiency is there?

To date we have measured RFI in 500 maternal composite ewes at post weaning, hogget and as adults.

For adult ewes, the most efficient ewe consumed 1.09 kg of dry matter (DM) per day less than expected, while the least efficient ewe consumed 1.04 kg DM per day more than expected.

This means there is more than a 2 kg DM difference in feed intake per day between the most and least feed efficient ewes for a given level of production (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Range in Residual Feed Intake in nearly 50% of maternal composite ewes from two years weaning and hogget ages, and as adults.

Binge eating sheep are more efficient than nibblers

During this research we observed that some ewes tended to have a high number (up to 30) of small meals each day, while others had fewer (less than five) but larger meals (Figure 7). As hoggets, the average number of meals consumed each day by maternal composite ewes was 10 (range 2–28).

As the daily number of meals increased and meal size decreased, RFI increased (Figure 8). So, sheep who 'binge eat' and have a small number of meals each day are more efficient than sheep who 'nibble'.

The future?

With further measurements of feed efficiency in sheep and appropriate sampling a genomic test for feed efficiency in sheep could be developed. So, while we can't visually pick the more efficient animals, this technology would make it possible to select rams which will produce more efficient lambs and ewes.

The Australian dairy industry has already introduced an Australian Breeding Value (ABV) for feed efficiency called 'Feed Saved'. This ABV allows farmers to breed dairy cows which produce the same amount of milk from less feed by selecting bulls that will save at least 100 kg DM of feed per cow per year. This ABV makes use of genomic tests to predict 'feed efficiency'.



Early weaning lambs

**Dr Jillian Kelly, District Veterinarian,
Coonamble - NSW Local Land Services**

Many sheep producers have made it through lambing and are now looking at options for managing lambs.

We know that feeding a ewe with a lamb at foot is the equivalent of 3DSE (Dry Sheep Equivalent). If you pull the lambs off and rear them separately, the ewe and the weaned lamb is the equivalent of 1.8DSE. This means that significant feed savings can definitely be made by weaning lambs.

Early weaning is an option to consider, however caution is urged and planning is essential.

Firstly, weigh some lambs to work out body weights. Weaning lambs less than 10kg is not advised, and even weaning between 10-20kg will take some Tender Loving Care (TLC). TLC in a weaning situation means suitable pen sizes, plenty of trough space, and small groups of lambs of similar weights.

The diet must be palatable and easy to chew. A weaner mix or weaner pellets is the easiest way to feed weaner lambs, although more expensive and there is a 4-6 week wait on many of the pellets at the moment. Good quality hay is also essential. Straw is not ideal for weaners. You may choose to mix your own ration – they will need a cereal grain, plus a protein source (e.g. pulse grain or protein meal) as well as hay. The diet for small lambs will need to be 16-18% protein and for bigger lambs 12-14% protein, with suitable energy values to match the protein.

Ensure lambs have all their husbandry procedures done well prior to weaning – mark, mulse, eartag and earmark them all while on the ewe so they have plenty of time to heal. Ensure they are vaccinated for pulpy kidney (two shots, 4-6 weeks apart) prior to weaning. While not many sheep are wormy at the moment, this is worth considering also for your situation.

No matter how much care you take, you will still get a percentage of “shy” feeders that just won’t do well at weaning time. These lambs need to be identified and put back out into a paddock.

If early weaning sounds too daunting, you’re not set up for it or cannot commit the time and effort, then “Creep Feeding” might be for you. This involves putting feeders near watering points, with a fence around the feeder so that the lambs can get through and eat from the feeder, but the ewe cannot. This selectively gives the feed supplement to the lamb, while remaining on the ewe. There are some really good ways of setting up creep feeders, and this might make better use of your feed and buy some time until the lambs can grow into bigger weaners.

Either way, we need to consider our ewes – relieve the burden of lambs as soon as practical and let the ewes get back into better body condition.



Shellal Poll Dorset Stud



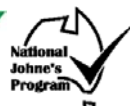
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KENTISH DOWNS FINAL STUD DISPERSAL



AUCTION - Monday 30th Sept 1pm

ON-PROPERTY - HOLBROOK NSW



- 200 - Full Pedigree Registered Poll Dorset Stud 2018 Ewe Hoggets F.336
- 200 - Full Pedigree Registered Poll Dorset Stud Ewes with lambs at foot
- Proven Stud Sires - Aberdeen, Kentish Downs, Gloroy
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- Elite Livestock Auctions - Online Bidding Available ☎ 1300 153 135
- Lambplan, OJD MN2V & Brucellosis Accredited

FINAL RAM SALE



AUCTION - Wednesday 25th Sept 1pm

ON-PROPERTY - HOLBROOK NSW



- 180 - Full Pedigree Registered Poll Dorset Stud Rams F.336
- Lambplan, OJD MN2V & Brucellosis Accredited
- Auctioneer GTSM - Michael Glasser
- Full Catalogue available at www.kentishdowns.com.au

Poll Dorset weight gains win approval at Locmaria

LOCMARIA Farms via Hynam sits on the South Australian and Victorian divide, with property on both sides of the border.

It doesn't however sit on the fence when it comes to selecting the best performing terminal sires, picking Poll Dorsets every time.

Manager Scott Wheadon looks after a flock of 8000 First-Cross and 2500 Merino ewes running on 1400ha.

He joins all but all his mature first-cross ewes to Poll Dorset rams (this year the rams will also be trialled over the ewe lambs), and last season turned off about 9000 lambs 20-22kg, direct to the processor.

This coming year, pending lambing results, that will climb to more than 11,000 lambs.

"It is a known fact that they (Poll Dorsets) weigh well at weaning and they are saleable...you get paid per kilogram and they weigh better than any other breed," Mr Wheadon said.

The right nutrition, a tight joining, and selecting superior genetics resulted in close to 8000 of the 10,000 ewes were scanned in lamb after the first 24 day joining period.

This included 6500 ewes joint to Poll Dorsets.

"If the ewes are in good condition at joining that is the main factor, as well as the rams being fit - it is just good quality feed leading up to January," he said.

"We are joining huge mobs of sheep, 1200 to 1700, so the rams go out with that number of ewes on 6.5ha."

The rams go in at 2.5 per cent for the first time on 15 January, and 24 days later they come out.

Three weeks later (21 days) they return to the ewes for another two cycles, or 34 days.

"Locmaria is set up as a cell grazing enterprise, so you've got small paddocks and electric fencing and sheep are rotated," Mr Wheadon said.

"Most cells are 80ha, and fenced into 12 paddocks, equating to 6.5ha.

"A tighter joining means lambs are only 24 days apart from the first lamb to last lamb...at the moment we are on a seven day rotation, which means only moving them three times during lambing."

A tight joining not only suits the pasture program at Locmaria, but results in a more even and consistent line of lambs come weaning and sale, Mr Wheadon said.

"The reason we take the rams out for that period is to have two distinct lots, and then you haven't got those lambs droppin in between the cycles," he added.

"It gets back to management and the cell grazing - got to be clear cut and everything has got to run to the rotation."

Locmaria is working towards being a mainly closed flock.

They have been buying in up to 500 first-cross ewe lambs each year from a local grower to increase numbers, but are hoping to become self-replacing on this front, only continuing to buy in Merino ewes from the state's mid-north.

Pastures on Locmaria farm are made up predominantly of mixes of phalaris, ryegrass, chicory, cocksfoot and subclover, with the phalaris and chicory planted in an attempt to fill the late summer/early autumn feed-gap if summer rain comes.

At the property which hosts five 26ha centre pivots for irrigation, lucerne is added to that pasture mix.

With the main lambing completed, Mr Wheadon is looking toward an August 1 start to the second run of lambs, before lamb marking begins on the earliest lots.

At weaning time, lambs are weighed and drafted in three categories, allowing smaller mobs to be drafted for sale, with about 90 per cent sold to Safeway through PPH&S in Naracoorte.

"We try to aim for a 20-22kg lamb, and that all comes back to feed on offer after weaning to what weight they put on," Mr Wheadon said.

"We sell a third of our lambs before Christmas, and the remainder are shorn and carried through on irrigation, before being sold from January through to April."

When it comes to picking the best Poll Dorset sires for the operation, Mr Wheadon relies on two local breeders.

"I look for a clean head, length and depth, and narrower shoulder set, as well as being structurally sound," he said.

"And now ASBVs - I've never been a figures man but the last ram season was the first time we considered them, we went through the catalogues and pinpointed what we wanted to breed."

Record lamb prices have been good for business, Mr Wheadon said, but he thinks they have reached unsustainable heights.

"People won't keep buying lamb at that price they can't afford to," he said.

"It is a shortage issue, the drought that has led to this, when we get rain again we all know it won't last long at that price.

"It has to come back to a happy medium where farmers are happy with what they are getting and consumer happy with what they are paying."



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31/18 tw – A big, clean & extreme muscled son of A 679

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COMMERCIAL FOCUS - COMMERCIAL RESULTS

Big lambing results despite big dry

BEN Shanks has been feeding his 4000 First-Cross ewes for the best part of three years, but is defying the dry with strong results - on-farm and in the saleyard.

The Dubbo mixed farmer operates 11,000 acres across two properties with father Robert, joining his flock twice a year to Poll Dorset rams.

This enables a percentage of the ewes to lamb three times every two years.

"We join in both spring and autumn, so for those ewes that lamb early in autumn, will we put rams straight back in when we mark them (the lambs), so those ewes that join up also have a lamb later in the spring that year," Ben said.

"And if they don't then they get joined again in the spring for a lamb the next year - it works out as two lambs one year, one the next.

Scanning all their ewes and achieving rates well into the 90s (per cent), Ben said they use fertility aid Regulin during spring joinings for the past four years, mainly with maiden ewes.

This, teamed with good nutrition, has created results with the six week ram joining.

"We are up into the 90 per cent with our maiden ewe joining and it is giving us more twins," he said.

"We scanned the ewes that are about to lamb at 97 per cent right across the board and 65 per cent of those were twins.

"We shear twice a year for ease of management and also we found our lambing percentage has been improved when (the ewes) are not lambing with a lot of wool on them."

Ewes are scanned for multiples and fed separately, with dry ewes sold. Those ewes who don't present with a lamb at marking time are also turned off.

First-cross ewes are purchased in predominantly from a producer near Quambone, and Ben said they had been buying them direct from there for the past decade.

"And we've only joined to Poll Dorsets for the past 10 to 12 years," he said.

"We have stuck with the Poll Dorsets just because of the end product, it is always just that bit better.

"And by just having all Poll Dorsets makes it easier, you get a good line when you are selling your lambs and we've found the Poll Dorsets do a better job."

Ben doesn't focus on the figures when picking out his rams, which he buys from two local studs, Ashbank and Marocara.

"Because we are aiming to produce heavy export lambs, I try to get the rams that are on the heavier end of the sale," he said.

"I figure if the rams are heavier than what they produce is going to be the same...we always try to buy the top end rams, happy to pay good money for good rams.

"We like to join the ewes at 3 per cent."

The Shanks turn off their Poll Dorset sired lambs both to the Dubbo Saleyards and direct to processors generally from June to September each year, both new season suckers and shorn lambs from the previous year.

They have been selling 200 lambs into Dubbo each week for the past couple of months, after lotfeeding them to 70kg.

"We always try to finish our lambs whether it is on lucerne in a good year or supplement with grain in a dry year - we've pretty much fed most of them for the last couple of years from birth until sold.

"We've got autumn born lambs that we weaned three weeks ago and they will be sold in the next couple of weeks - they were weaned straight off of mum onto self feeders.

"We try to get suckers to 50kg, but it depends on the market, because market so good at the moment, we are aiming for \$250 for 50kg suckers.

"We do sell lambs direct to Fletchers or to TFI in Tamworth.

"The lambs we've been selling the last couple of months TFI has purchased 95 per cent out of Dubbo - which tells us they are happy with how they are hanging up as they keep buying them."

And they aren't the only ones, with the Shanks lambs having gained accolades for their lambs for the past two Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof and Hook Competitions, including the winning pen on the hoof this year.

"It is a good competition as it lets you know you are doing a reasonable job with what you are doing," Ben said.

The shanks have been using barley, lupins and pellets to feed their stock through the extended drought, and while there is a green tinge on some of their land, they haven't been able to plant a crop on one of their properties for the past three years.

"We are just trying to keep most of our breeders because when it does rain I just don't see where you are going to buy back in," Ben said.

"It has been testing for everyone, but I think you just try to stay a bit positive and keep yourself busy enough it is the best way to try to get through it."



Tim Wiggins of Christie and Hood, Dubbo (right) with Jack Shanks and Ben Shanks of Shanks Farms, Dubbo and the record-breaking pen of lambs which sold for \$344 a head at Monday's Dubbo sheep and lamb sale.

Photo: Rebecca Sharpe



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Bowan Park research flock has been created to provide APDA members the opportunity to assess their flock genetics and benchmark them within the Poll Dorset breed.



Bowan Park is a registered stud, however all progeny is for research purposes only; no progeny will be available for registration or transfer.

The measured performance values are key commercial traits relevant to the Poll Dorset's role as a terminal sire – growth, muscle and fat measured on *live animals*, and yield and eating quality traits at *carcase assessment* in the abattoir.

The 2019 cohort are on the ground, with results available December.

A nomination call for the 2020 cohort will be made in late September.

For more information visit www.bowanpark.com.au

Increasing lamb survival to boost production

Courtesy of Charles Sturt University

Lamb prices are currently soaring – just imagine if you had 20 percent more of them in the paddock at marking time.

One-in-five lambs born in Australia die within days of birth, costing the industry over \$1 billion each year, so improving the marking rate can make a big difference to the productivity and profitability of a sheep and wool enterprise.

It's a key area of research at the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, an alliance between Charles Sturt University and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Calcium and magnesium supplements – a low-cost risk management strategy

Graham Centre research, funded by Australian Wool Innovation, has shown the value of supplementing calcium and magnesium to pregnant ewes, even when they appear healthy.

Clinical calcium deficiency (hypocalcaemia or milk fever) and clinical magnesium deficiency (hypomagnesaemia or grass tetany) can result in ewe death and may increase lambing difficulty and complications from birth.

This new research, led by Charles Sturt University Professor Michael Friend examined whether ewes with sub-clinical deficiencies in calcium and magnesium – those that are not visible – are also more likely to lose lambs.

Testing on commercial farms found that even if the pastures showed no deficiencies in calcium and magnesium, the ewes grazing those pastures often had subclinical deficiencies.

Part of the project involved PhD research by Forough Ataollahi, who carried out a small-scale trial comparing pregnant ewes whose diets were supplemented with calcium and magnesium, to pregnant ewes with no supplementation.

Her research found calcium and magnesium supplementation put pregnant ewes into a better metabolic state, improved the immune response in twin newborn lambs and increased their weights at four weeks of age.

Small increases in lamb weaning weight can make a profound difference to weaner survival. Early weaning can be an effective strategy to increase productivity and also to ensure that ewes have more time to recover body condition.

Key points

- Many late pregnant ewes appear to be sub-clinically deficient in calcium and magnesium, despite grazing pastures which should provide sufficient amounts of these minerals
- Calcium and magnesium supplementation from birth to lamb marking resulted in increased lamb marking weights, and supplementation to weaning increased lamb liveweight gain.
- While supplementation may not improve lamb survival in all flocks, a loose lick supplying calcium, magnesium and sodium can be a cost effective method to increase growth rates of young lambs and reduce mortality risk



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2019 ANNUAL GOORAMMA RAM SALE

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GOORAMMA ON PROPERTY SALE

Gooramma 682-2018

Sire: Gooramma 'Guru' 308-2016

Sire of Dam: Windermere (NZ) T-Bone

Used in Stud: Standout progeny on the ground

✓ Type AA Cold Tolerance - 3,3 Foot Score

| BWT | WWT | PWT | PEMD | PFAT |
|------|-----|------|------|------|
| 0.43 | 9.1 | 13.1 | 3.1 | 0.1 |

Gooramma 404-2018

Sire: Gooramma 'Guru' 308-2016

Sire of Dam: Windermere (NZ) T-Bone

Balanced EBV's and outstanding phenotype

✓ Type AA Cold Tolerance - 3,3 Foot Score

| BWT | WWT | PWT | PEMD | PFAT |
|------|-----|------|------|------|
| 0.46 | 9.4 | 14.4 | 3.2 | 0.2 |



GOORAMMA ON PROPERTY SALE

SALE DETAILS

1:30pm on FRIDAY 20th September 2019. Inspections from 11:00am.

Performance Recorded - Lambplan, Stockscan & DNA Tested

James Corcoran - 0438 647 333 James Snr - 0428 853 006

Catalogue Mailing List - Email: james@gooramma.com.au

Catalogue available late August

For Further information

gooramma.com.au

Inspections always welcome

Offshore demand remains robust

Sheepmeat demand and price are both on the rise, while supply is constrained and predicted to tighten further. The price of the Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator (ESTLI) in recent times has been one of almost disbelief among long-term lamb producers. July saw the ESTLI reach a new record at 951 cents/kg cwt. This is a far cry from the 300 to 400 cent range considered normal pre 2008.

Mutton prices have also fared extremely well, with the National Mutton Indicator (NMI) finishing July at 578 cents. This is the "cream-on-the-cake" for sheep producers, with the surplus and cast for age stock selling at exceptional values. Providing further optimism is that there has been an ongoing de-stocking phase in place, especially on the east coast of Australia where the second year of low rainfall has resulted in strong supply of mutton to market.

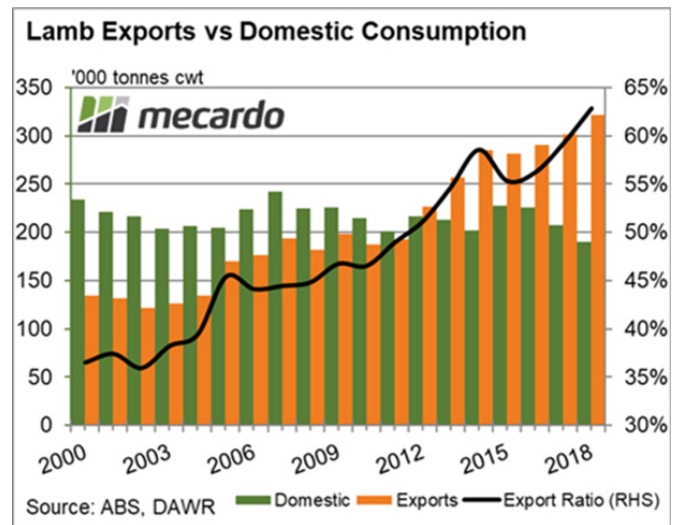
Up until May, lamb slaughter was running hot and now it has taken a dive to well below average levels for this time of year. In their most recent industry projections, MLA maintained their lamb slaughter forecast for 2019 at 21.2 million head. Official lamb slaughter totals for the first four months of the year were nearly exactly on 2018 levels. However, tacking on the May figures, the difference was 212,400 head, with 2019 coming in 2.1% lower.

For sheep, MLA has increased their slaughter forecast for 2019 to 8.5 million head on the back of strong levels for the year to date, up 18%. There should be more sheep and lambs supplied in the spring than we are seeing at the moment, but if we are to hit MLA's forecasts slaughter will have to be a lot lower than last year. Both lamb and sheep supply are likely to see a significant deficit at some point in the second half of the year. Prices are likely to ease from current levels towards the end of the year but tighter supply should see them at higher levels than 2018.

A positive for sheep markets has been the growth in exports. Lamb exports from Australia have risen 139% over the last two decades at the expense of domestic consumption. The growth in lamb export markets is such that Australia's lamb export ratio (exports as a percentage of production in cwt terms) has increased from 37% of lamb product exported in 2000 to 63% in 2018. The situation for mutton exports is even more stark considering that in 2018 we saw 96% of mutton production exported offshore, while back in 2000 it was 62%. While export success is a fantastic result for Australian producers and has supported increased saleyard prices, it has also made lamb less affordable at the retail level. Higher retail prices have put pressure on Australian per capita consumption of lamb and mutton over the last two decades, driving consumption to record low levels.

What does this mean?

The growth outlook in offshore demand for lamb and mutton remains robust. While the flock remains in liquidation it is going to be some time before we can expand production, so prices are likely to remain firm and could extend higher in the coming seasons, pushing the traditional lamb roast further into luxury meal territory for local consumers.



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SALES

| STUD | STATE | DATE | TIME | STUD RAMS | FLOCK RAMS | EWES |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------|-----------|------------|------|
| Felix | NSW | September 3 | 1pm | | 140 | |
| Marocara | NSW | September 3 | 2pm | | 130 | |
| Dursley | NSW | September 5 | 9:30am | | 36 | |
| Deepdene | NSW | September 6 | 11am | | 150 | |
| Australasian Dorset Sale | VIC | September 8 | 1:30pm | | | |
| Curlew Creek | WA | September 12 | 11am | | 120 | |
| Wunnamurra | NSW | September 12 | 11am | | 154 | |
| Ridgehaven | NSW | September 12 | | | | |
| Narranmore | NSW | September 13 | 2pm | | 130 | |
| Glen Devon | SA | September 16 | 1pm | 10 | 90 | |
| Windy Hill | NSW | September 19 | 1pm | | 60 | |
| Newbold | SA | September 20 | 1pm | 12 | 88 | 15 |
| Gooramma | NSW | September 20 | 1:30pm | | 110 | |
| Kurralea | NSW | September 24 | 12:30pm | | | |
| Geejay | VIC | September 24 | 1pm | 3 | 48 | |
| Kentish Downs | NSW | September 25 | 1pm | | 180 | |
| Yentrac | VIC | Sep 25 & Oct 16 | | | | |
| Mallee Park | VIC | September 26 | 11am | 5 | 100 | |
| Coledale | VIC | September 26 | 1:30pm | | 100 | |
| Abelene Park | NSW | September 26 | 1:30pm | | 50 | 15 |
| Rene | NSW | September 27 | 12pm | | | |
| Armdale | NSW | September 27 | 1pm | | | |
| Ulandi Park | SA | September 27 | 1pm | 20 | 130 | |
| Ilfracombe | VIC | September 30 | 1pm | | 100 | |
| Feltrim | VIC | October 1 | 12pm | | 50 | |
| Janmac | VIC | October 2 | 1pm | | 200 | |
| Valley Vista | NSW | October 4 | 1:30pm | 10 | 140 | |
| Springwaters | NSW | October 4 | | 12 | 180 | |
| Ivadene | VIC | October 7 | 12:30pm | | 100 | |
| Aberdeen | NSW | October 8 | 1:30pm | | | |
| Englewood Park | VIC | October 9 | 1pm | 10 | 102 | |
| Icon | VIC | October 10 | 11:30am | | 80 | |
| Pembroke | VIC | October 10 | 1pm | | | |
| Derrynock | VIC | October 10 | 1pm | | | |
| Shellal | VIC | October 10 | 1pm | | | |
| Warrawindi | SA | October 11 | 11am | 4 | 220 | |
| Brurob | VIC | October 11 | 1pm | | 80 | |
| Deloraine Downs | VIC | October 11 | 1pm | 6 | 200 | |
| Barwon | NSW | October 11 | | | 140 | |
| Mulgundawa | SA | October 14 | 1pm | 2-3 | 160 | |
| Wrattenbullie | VIC | October 14 | | 6 | 125 | |
| Konongwootong | VIC | October 17 | 1:30pm | 10 | 190 | |
| Jackson | VIC | October 17 | 1:30pm | | 40 | |
| Athlone | VIC | October 18 | 1pm | | 250 | |
| Stokes Bay Genetics | SA | October 18 | 2pm | | 100 | |
| Bruan | VIC | October 21 | 1pm | 5 | 150 | |
| Pepperton | VIC | October 30 | | 5 | 50 | |
| Hillden | NSW | November 1 | 2pm | | | |
| Sunnybanks & Faraday Park | VIC | November 11 | | 6 | | |



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82-18



317-18



150-18

ON-PROPERTY SALE

| Tag | PWWT | PEMD | PFAT | C+ | LEQ | TCP |
|-----------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 82 (pic) | 17.8 | 1.7 | -0.5 | 211 | 139 | 145 |
| 150 (pic) | 18.8 | 1.6 | -0.15 | 220 | 135 | 147 |
| 308 | 15.5 | 3.3 | -0.2 | 217 | 136 | 146 |
| 444 | 19.0 | 1.8 | -0.7 | 218 | 144 | 150 |

See website for full Stud Ram listing.

ADELAIDE SHOW RAM SALE

Sunday 1st September - Auction starts 2pm

| Tag | PWWT | PEMD | PFAT | C+ | LEQ | TCP |
|-----------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 317 (pic) | 16.8 | 2.0 | -0.95 | 210 | 138 | 147 |

Please note: Carcase Plus will be retired in March 2020 and replaced with the Terminal Carcase Production index (TCP). This index has the same breeding objective as Carcase Plus while also maintaining eating quality.

75th Annual On-Property Sale

Friday 20th September, 1pm

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Poll Dorset success in Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof and Hook competition

Courtesy of Olivia Calver, The Land

Despite the tough season there were 119 pens of trade, export and heavy export lambs entered in the Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof and Hook competition, up from 112 last year.

Local Dubbo family, the Shanks won the hoof section of the competition, with a pen of their Poll Dorsets given the top score of 93.5 points.

Ben Shanks said they had been selling their lambs to the Dubbo saleyards for the last couple of months.

"We're just happy to know that what we've been doing seems to be the right thing," Mr Shanks said.

Prior to the competition, Shanks Farms topped the Dubbo saleyards. Their lambs sold for \$270 a head, while this week they made \$298.

The champion sucker entry went to Kinellar Stud with their Poll Dorsets earning 169.5 points.

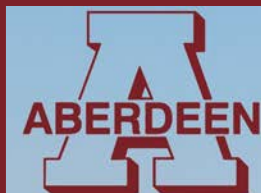
Kevin and Ross McMahon, Tullamore won both the heaviest live weight lamb in show and the heaviest carcass in show.

A pen of their Poll Dorsets weighed an average of 98.5kg live and 54.2kg dressed.

Tracey Lamb and Edwina Toohey from the NSW DPI Extensive Livestock Team and Brett Stockings, Fletcher International Exports judged the hook section, while Tom Smith, Tallangatta Meats and Austin Finlayson, Fletcher International Exports judged the hoof.



2019 Dubbo Showgirl runner up, Brandi Maguire with Kevin McMahon, Pine Park, Tullamore, accepting the heaviest live weight lamb and heaviest carcass weight awards.



Dispersal Sale ABERDEEN Poll Dorset Stud



**On property 'Marabou', Henty NSW
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Tattykeel wins NSW State Sheep Show

Courtesy of Hannah Powe, The Land

Tattykeel had a clean sweep in the interbreed competition of the NSW State Sheep Show at Dubbo, coming away with all three top-titles with their Poll Dorset exhibits.

Claiming supreme champion interbreed ram and supreme champion interbreed ewe, the Gilmore family from Tattykeel stud at Oberon, went one further and topped off the perfect showing with being awarded the Sandra Wilson-Tink Memorial Trophy for supreme sheep exhibit of the show that went to the interbreed ram.

Tattykeel 180232 was the best exhibit who's endeavour to win began in the Poll Dorset ring where judge Esther Glasgow, Estjam Poll Dorsets, Victoria, awarded him grand champion Poll Dorset ram.

Sired by Tattykeel Casino and from the Tattykeel 150048 ewe, he then entered the interbreed ring where he was awarded champion short wool interbreed ram and then supreme champion interbreed ram.

The supreme title of best exhibit of show was awarded when he overcame stiff competition from the Gilmore's Poll Dorset ewe that was judged champion short wool ewe and supreme champion interbreed ewe, Tattykeel 180016, who he was chipped at the post by during the supreme Poll Dorset exhibit selection earlier in the day.

By Jackpot and from the Tattykeel 150009 ewe, the embryo transfer (ET) female defeated the champion long wool interbreed ewe Badgully 1518 from the St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, and the champion shedding breed interbreed ewe, an Aussie White exhibited by the Gilmore family of Tattykeel, for the perpetual trophy for supreme interbreed ewe of show from the Rotary Club of Dubbo.

It was no surprise that the supreme interbreed ewe and supreme interbreed ram were found among the Tattykeel stud's supreme champion interbreed group.

The Poll Dorset duo were joined by the Poll Dorset supreme ewe's full ET sister, Tattykeel 180009, who was reserve champion ewe in the Poll Dorset ring to make up their unstoppable team of three. They were the champion short wool interbreed group.



Ross and James Gilmore, Tattykeel stud, Oberon, hold the reserve champion and champion rams alongside judge Esther Glasgow, Estjam stud, Victoria, and Georgie Rankin, Warrnambool, Victoria.



Graham and James Gilmore from Tattykeel stud hold their reserve champion and champion ewes, two full siblings that won the pair of ewes under 1.5 years class, alongside judge Ester Glasgow, Estjam stud, Victoria.



The supreme champion interbreed group was the Poll Dorset team from Tattykeel that was sashed by Roger Fletcher from Fletcher International Exports.

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Grand & Intermediate

Ram: Armdale Park

Reserve: Abelene Park, Woolomin

Senior Champion Ram:

Springwaters, Boorowa

Reserve: Armdale Park

Junior Champion Ram:

Valley Vista, Coolac

Reserve: Valley Vista Park, Coolac

Most Successful

Exhibitor: Hildden

Bannister based Hildden stud exhibited Supreme Exhibit at the NSW Dorset Championships again this year, with another stand-out ewe.

Judge Daryl Dixon, Ashbank stud, Dubbo, said while it was a close race between the Hildden ewe and Grand Champion Ram, exhibited by Armdale Park, Marrar, he couldn't fault the ewe.

"I can't fault that ewe on anything, she is an absolutely brilliant ewe and if you had a paddock full of them you'd be very happy - a great Dorset ewe, parades well, handjes terrific, has the hindquarters," he said.

The April drop ewe, Hildden 181.18, was sired by Hildden 295.14, a ram that was reserve senior champion at the Australasian Dorset Championship in its day, having been since sold to WA stud Wilgarna.

Strike Rate winners, the Armstrongs of Armdale Park, won 9 of the 16 classes they were in, and their sashes included Reserve Champion Ewe and Grand Champion Ram.



Joe and James Scott of Valley Vista at Coolac with the Junior and Reserve Junior Champion Rams, sashed by judge Daryl Dixon



Sam Armstrong of Armdale Park, Marrar, with the Reserve Senior Champion Ram, and Dane Rowley, Springwaters stud, Boorowa, with the Senior Champion ram, sashed by Daryl Dixon.

Grand Champion Ram, Armdale Park 401.18, came from the intermediate championships, and judge Mr Dixon said it "ticks all the boxes".

"He is tremendous in the hindquarters, with a good depth of hindquarter, beautiful on his feet, good topline, a very sirey ram - he's full of muscle, stood out and paraded well," he said.

Reserve Intermediate Champion Ram was Abelene Park 15.18, exhibited by the Douglas family from Woolomin.

Springwaters 22.18, exhibited by the Rowley family at Boorowa, was Senior Champion Ram, with another Armdale Park ram, this time 28-18t, as reserve.

The Scott family from Coolac took out both the Junior Champion Ram, with Valley Vista 493.18, and Reserve Junior Champion Ram with Valley Vista Park 116.18.

Mr Dixon was particularly impressed with the good structure of the sheep exhibited at Cowra this year.

"The structure on the sheep has come a long way, I am pretty hard on structure and there were virtually no sheep here that had poor structure - they were good on their feet, well balanced, and I think (of) Dorset type," he said.

"The lamb industry is going ahead in leaps and bounds through export and trade sheep and lambs are doing terrific, and the Poll Dorset is playing a big part in that, you are looking at 70-80 per cent of lambs sold sired by Poll Dorset rams and there is a reason for that."



Armdale Park's Sam Armstrong, Marrar, holds the Reserve Champion Ewe, while judge Daryl Dixon sashes the Supreme Exhibit and Champion Ewe, exhibited by James Frost, Hildden, Bannister.



Judge Daryl Dixon sashes the Intermediate and Grand Champion Ram, exhibited by Sam Armstrong, Armdale Park, Marrar, and Reserve Intermediate Champion Ram, from Marshall Douglas' Abelene Park stud, Woolomin.



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TYPE AA COLD TOLERANCE

WEIGHT

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BIRTH

5.6kg

EMD

63

EMW

110

100 DAY

62.5kg

AREA

53.4

FAT

12

200 DAY

94kg

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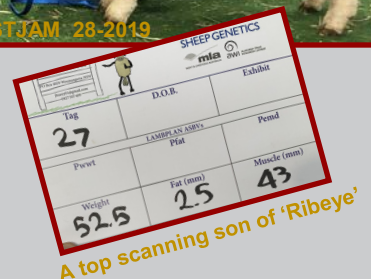
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Springwaters sashed supreme at national sheep show

Interbreed

Supreme Exhibit: Mallee Park, Hopetoun, Vic

Poll Dorset

Supreme Exhibit; Grand and Senior Champion Ram: Springwaters

Reserve Senior Champion Ram: Hillden

Junior Champion Ram: Glenore, Carisbrook, Vic

POLL Dorsets maintained their dominance at Australia's largest sheep and wool show in Bendigo in July, taking out all the interbreed top gongs.

And it was a repeat of the previous year, with the Supreme Poll Dorset ram from the breed judging being trumped for Supreme Short Wool Exhibit of the show in interbreed judging by the Champion Poll Dorset ewe.

Poll Dorset judge Wallace Binnie, Coledale stud, Bungeet, described the Rowley family's Senior, Grand and Supreme Champion Poll Dorset ram as "hard to fault".

"He's got a lovely carcass, great hindquarter and a really good Dorset head on an extended neck and lovely shoulder, a beautiful ram," he said.

"He is the whole package, he's got a carcass we are all trying to produce, with a lovely outlook and a good dorset type."

Springwaters 22.18, by Abelene Park 232.15 purchased for \$24,000, was Reserve Champion Ram at the Sydney Royal Show and Senior Champion Ram at Cowra's NSW Dorset Championships this year.

The ram was drawn from the largest class of the Poll Dorset judging, the Ian Bucknall Trophy, which had 27 entries.

Junior champion ram exhibited by the Kain family from Glenore stud at Carisbrook, NSW, was described by judge Wallace Binnie as "chock full of style and class".

"A wonderful example of a Poll Dorset ram and I'm sure in the spring time we are going to see someone else judging him at an even higher level."

The ram, Glenore 222.18, weighed 132kg with a fat depth of 16.5mm and muscle scan of 52mm.

Champion and Reserve Champion Ewe were drawn from the same class, and Mr Binnie said "if they were in the human form they would be up on the catwalk for sure".

Mallee Park 32.18 was the champion ewe from the Ferguson family's Mallee Park stud at Hopetoun, Vic.

Reserve Supreme Exhibit: Springwaters, Boorowa, NSW

Supreme Group: Hillden, Bannister, NSW

Reserve Junior Champion Ram: Hillden

Champion Ewe: Mallee Park

Reserve Champion Ewe: Rene, Culcairn, NSW

Most Successful Exhibitor: Hillden

The ewe was reserve champion ewe at the Victorian Sheep Show a month prior and was sired by Kurralea 165.16, purchased by Mallee Park in 2017 for \$18,000.

Judge Mr Binnie, who was assisted in the ring by Martin O'Sullivan, Jews Harp Poll Dorsets, Darlington, Vic, was impressed by the exceptional growth rates he saw while judging.

"Poll Dorsets have the ability to be 100kg at only a few months of age," he said.

"It has been said that we don't want rams that are that big - but my argument to that is if they can grow to be 70kg in five months, then that is what we need, we can turn the lambs off earlier if we can get them up to those weights."



Associate judge Martin O'Sullivan sashes the Reserve Champion Ewe, exhibited by Scott Mitchell, Rene stud, Culcairn; judge Wallace Binnie; Champion Ewe and Interbreed Supreme Short Wool Exhibit exhibited by Tim Ferguson, Mallee Park stud, Hopetoun, sashed by Sue Binnie.



Judges Wallace Binnie and Martin O'Sullivan with exhibitors of Supreme Poll Dorset Dennis and Dane Rowley, Springwaters stud, Boorowa

AROUND THE SHOWS



Australian Sheep and Wool Show Poll Dorset Junior Champion Ram exhibited by Charlotte Kain of Glenore stud at Carisbrook.



Hillden stud's Brian, Anthony and James Frost, Bannister, with their Australian Sheep and Wool Show Interbreed Supreme Group.



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Reserve Intermediate champion
Cowra. For sale at Bendigo



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7/7/2019

Sire AP 107-17 – Son of
AP 117-16.

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Poll Dorset Stud

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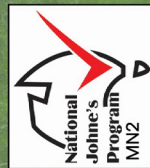
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Poll Dorsets feature in revitalised Victorian Sheep Show

Contributed by Tania King

Victorian Sheep Show (formerly known as Ballarat Sheep Show) was held on Sunday 23rd June and the Poll Dorset's were the Feature Breed. The Judge was Peter Cain, Glenore stud, Carisbrook, Victoria. There were a total of eight exhibitors.

Ram under 1.5yrs in Wool

1st Shellal, Hawkesdale
2nd Derby Downs, Marong
3rd Salesian College, Sunbury

Ram under 1.5yrs Bare Shorn 21 days

1st Blauvelt, Coimadai
2nd Salesian College
3rd Mallee Park

Pair Rams under 1.5yrs Bare Shorn 21 days

1st Mallee Park, Hopetoun
2nd Blauvelt
3rd Derby Downs

Ram under 1.5yrs shorn born on or after 1st April to 30th June previous year

1st Shellal
2nd Mallee Park
3rd Mallee Park

Ram under 1.5yrs shorn born after 1st July previous year

1st Derby Downs
2nd Shellal
3rd Mallee Park

Ram Lamb born after 1st April

1st Brightside, Purnim
2nd Brightside
3rd Salesian College

Champion Ram: Shellal

Reserve Champion Ram:
Mallee Park

Ewe under 1.5yrs shorn

1st Mallee Park
2nd Derby Downs
3rd Blauvelt

Pair ewes under 1.5yrs bare shorn 21 days

1st Mallee Park
2nd Derby Downs

Ewe Lamb born after 1st April

1st Brightside
2nd Blauvelt
3rd Hillend, Clarkes Hill

Champion Ewe: Mallee Park

Reserve Champion Ewe:
Mallee Park

Group of 3 One Ram 2 Ewes

1st Mallee Park
2nd Derby Downs
3rd Blauvelt

Supreme Poll Dorset

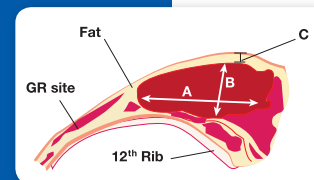
Exhibit: Mallee Park, Ewe from Class 470.



Grand champion Poll Dorset ram was awarded to Shellal stud, Hawkesdale



Mallee Park Stud, Hopetoun, won supreme Poll Dorset exhibit with their ewe.



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Keeping it in the family

Courtesy of Jessica Sutherland.

There were 19 Poll Dorset studs with 190 exhibits at Sheepvention this year.

Studs travelled from NSW, SA and all parts of Victoria to present their sheep before Judge Ben Prentice from Kurralea Stud, Ariah Park, NSW.

Judging started with the Novice Classes and Shepherd's Pastoral were awarded the Novice Aggregate. Shepherd's Pastoral is the school team attached to Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

In the ewe classes, Ben found his Champion Ewe in the April Shorn ewe class from the Mallee Park Stud. Reserve Champion Ewe was awarded to Armdale Park from the trimmed April ewe Class.

The ram classes started with the Lambplan Performance Trade class which was won by Bundara Downs. The Bundara Downs Stud then went on to win the Interbreed Performance Trade Class.

The Champion Senior Ram went on to be grand champion ram, exhibited by the Mallee Park Stud and came from the April Ram Class.

Mallee Park 18—036 went on to win the Supreme Poll Dorset exhibit and then the Interbreed Supreme Exhibit.

Reserve Senior Champion Ram was from the Glenore Stud. The Glenore Ram was part of the stud's pair of rams entry.

Junior Champion Ram was awarded to the Ashley Park Stud from the June Shorn Ram Class.

The Ashley Park ram defeated the Deloraine Downs entry from the Pair of Junior Ram Class.

Both entries contesting the Supreme Poll Dorset Exhibit came from the Mallee Park Stud.

Not only were husband and wife duo, Tim and Marianne Ferguson vying against each other for the Championship but in a rare phenomenon their champions were twin brother and sister.

The Judge Ben Prentice awarded the Supreme Exhibit to the Ram.

His decision proved sound as the ram went on to win the Interbreed Championship and was awarded the Supreme Short Wool Exhibit

Most Successful Lamb Exhibitor was the Brightside Stud. This year was the first time that Brightside have entered the competition, although the Brightside stud principles Elizabeth Wilkinson and daughter Chelsea are not strangers to Sheepvention.

The Fox and Lillie Trophy and the J.M. Ellis and Co Trophy were won by Deloraine Downs.

Mallee Park were the Most Successful Poll Dorset Exhibitor.

Mallee Park also won the Ceva Group of 3 rams and then went on to win the Interbreed Group of 3 rams.

There are many people who work very hard behind the scenes to make sure that the show runs smoothly. Without their commitment it would not be possible to stage such a successful event. The Naracoorte Hamilton Region appreciate and would like to thank their many sponsors for their support. Sponsorship tallied this year to just over \$6000

Poll Dorsets will be the Feature Breed at Sheepvention 2020. So start planning to be Hamilton on the first weekend in August 2020.



Tim Ferguson with Mallee Park Champion Ewe v Marianne Ferguson with Mallee Park Grand Champion Ram. Judge Ben Prentice awarded Supreme Poll Dorset Exhibit to the Grand Champion Ram



Junior Champion Rame exhibited by Reagan Kyle, Ashley Park



Champion Senior Ram exhibited by Tim Ferguson Mallee Park, judge Ben Prentice, and Peter Cain, Glenore stud, with his reserve senior ram

Who will be sashed Champion of Champions?

The inaugural WFI Champion of Champions competition will be hosted at the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo this month.

The Grand Champion Ram from the major shows from the 2018-19 season will be eligible to travel to the national event, held at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre on September 5-7 this year, and will be judged by Sascha Squires, Shirlee Downs Poll Dorsets from Quairading in Western Australia,

Joining event judge Sascha for the Champion of Champions adjudication will be two members of the Australian Poll Dorset Association board.

With rams still to be selected at the Adelaide Royal and the Australasian Dorset Championships themselves, the following rams are eligible to compete so far.

- **Melbourne Royal Show (2018): Valley Vista 64-18**
- **Deloraine Show (2018): Sunnybanks 8-18**
- **Perth Royal Show (2018): Shirlee Downs**
- **Canberra Royal Show: Valley Vista Park 60-18**
- **Wagin Woolorama: Sandown**
- **Sydney Royal Show: Tattykeel 68-18**
- **NSW State Sheep Show: Tattykeel 232-18**
- **NSW Dorset Championships: Armdale Park 401-18**
- **Campbell Town Show: Killara 7-18**
- **Victorian Sheep Show: Shellal 91-18**
- **Australian Sheep & Wool Show: Springwaters 22-18**
- **Sheepvention: Mallee Park 36-18**

Executive Officer at Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Ian Furze said the set up of the event effectively meant whichever exhibit won could lay claim to being the best Poll Dorset ram in Australia.

"The concept was from one of our committee members Julian Iles, and with our show being almost the last one on the calendar for the year it was a good opportunity to present it.

"And then add in the backing of WFI, they have stumped up \$3000 in sponsorship to be awarded to the winner which makes it fairly appealing as well."

Mr Furze said the ram sale at the event will also be live streamed and allow live bidding through Auctionsplus for the first time this year.

Tasmanian breeder Julian Iles said the benefit will be not just for whoever wins it, but he was also hoping to bring in other exhibitors to the event that have won championships at other shows.

Poll Dorset judging commences with the ewes at 4pm Friday 6 September at the Bendigo Showgrounds, with rams and group classes from 9am Saturday 7 September. The APDA Annual General Meeting will be held at 10am on Sunday 8 September, followed by the ram sale at 1.30pm.



Sheep live-ex ban extended until mid-September

Courtesy of Mike Foley, Australian Community Media

The moratorium on sheep live exports to the Middle East has been extended until September 22 by the federal Agriculture Department on grounds of heat stress risk.

Australian Livestock Exporters' Council is disappointed with the extension. It argues the heat risks are manageable and that conditions on Middle East voyages in September are comparable to those in May, when the trade is unrestricted.

In December last year the industry voluntarily imposed its own export moratorium, covering the hottest northern Summer months of June, July and August. The Department subsequently issued a formal ban on the trade during this period.

The Department said today that evidence shows the risk of heat stress for voyages departing Australia in the first three weeks of September is at least the equal of June, and sheep coming out of winter are not ready to depart.

ALEC said it achieved high standards on shipments during May under climactic conditions similar to those of September.

"The sheep exports to the Middle East undertaken in May of this year achieved excellent animal welfare outcomes and record low mortalities using the new reduced stocking densities," said ALEC chief executive Mark Harvey-Sutton.

"Similar animal welfare outcomes were expected for September shipments."

ALEC's proposed recommencement of sheep exports to the Red Sea from September 1 and to Persian Gulf from September 15.

Mr Harvey-Sutton said exporters were optimistic data from voyages under the regime would prove September voyages were viable.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie introduced legislation to parliament which will establish a permanent role for an independent Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports.

ALEC said the Inspector-General would support the industry's commitment to improved animal welfare.

"We have called for the introduction of an Inspector General to oversee independence and cultural change in our industry, for both exporters and the industry regulator," Mr Harvey-Sutton said.

Former Agriculture Minister David Littleproud had established an interim Inspector-General late last year, which reinstated the regulator to the role after it was abolished in 2013 by then Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce.

The Inspector-General is tasked with auditing and reviewing the Department's regulation of livestock exports.

Senator McKenzie said the Inspector-General provides promotes improvement to regulatory practice and enhances the industry's social licence.

"The Inspector-General will oversee the Department of Agriculture's regulation of live exports and will increase transparency of Australia's livestock export management system.

"This is about building an effective regulatory culture that stands the test of time."



RAM SALE: 3rd September 2019

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50 years of Coledale

WALLACE Binnie has been breeding Poll Dorset for 50 years, but he's far from old-school when it comes to his stud.

Starting with 40 ewes to breed rams for his family's farm, Wallace soon "caught the bug for the stud job" as he puts it.

And it was the "addiction to sheep", plus the friends he has made along the way, that kept him involved in the Poll Dorset breed for so long.

"There was a lot of camaraderie in Goulburn Valley area back in the beginning, we went into showing locally and they were wonderful days because we had fairly major line ups of rams in our region," he said.

"We've had a wonderful journey with people from all over Australia purely because we were in the breed.

"And also because they were a sought-after commodity, it would be very disappointing breeding good stock if no one else wanted to use them."

Wallace, wife Sue and one of their three daughters Kirsty now run the Coledale stud at Devenish, joining about 450 ewes and selling about 150-160 rams a year.

After half a century in the game Wallace knows what to look for in a good sheep, but he's also keenly adopted new technology.

"All forms of agriculture are now based on scientific research, and if you say you aren't going to be part of it you get left behind," he said.

"We've adopted performance recording, because that is the new marketing tool for the commercial breeder, a lot of them now look at the indexes. .

"We have pursued that without going to extremes and still tried to maintain a structurally sound sheep with high growth rates and clean points.

"It must be structurally sound, it doesn't matter what the indexes tell you about things if the animal isn't structurally sound."

"It is only a part of the selection of the rams we will use, firstly we select on basic traits of confirmation and type, and then if they appeal we will look into the index and see if the index measures up to the visual appraisal."

Wallace believes eating quality is also crucial, and says the Terminal Carcass Production Index, which will replace the Carcass Plus and Lamb 2020 Australian Breeding Value Indexes, is a step in the right direction.

"TPC is taken as a collective of all the indexes - taking into consideration the eating quality which is based upon the intramuscular fat composition of the sheep.

"Now to do that they have been able to through genomic testing identify which animals have the best intramuscular fat dispersion, which then gives the meat flavour and tenderness.

"In the future with our science and technology, advancements are being made for very high and quick growth, and we need to have quality. - artificial meat is so readily made and available and we have to keep looking over our shoulder for substitutes."

Wallace judged the Poll Dorset breed at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo recently, and said it was a great experience.

"I've always liked the showing of animals, even though it's been put down for being artificial, because it does give a benchmark for excellence," he said.

"Everyone has champions at home in the paddock but it is only when you take them out and compare them side by side you see what the structure is like."

Despite this, Wallace said the breed's success in the show ring hadn't been all positive, with breeders able to cover up wool coverage on animals' legs and faces.

"And the commercial farmer didn't like that because of grass seed issues and it was why the White Suffolk was developed, because Poll Dorset breeders didn't see that fall down.

"They (White Suffolk) still need to maintain 60 per cent of the genetics, so Poll Dorsets have a big influence in that breed.

"Poll Dorset is a wonderful breed, but unless the Poll Dorset doesn't look to all avenues of progression they will become complacent and out of date."

With costs rising more rapidly than income throughout the years, Wallace says it's the passion rather than the profit that keeps him working towards improvements on farm.

His passion, and that of his daughter Kirsty's.

"I probably wouldn't still be farming without the help and enthusiasm of our daughter Kirsty," he said.

"With her input and enthusiasm I got all fired up again and have taken it to another level with her assistance."



Vaccination key to fighting Campy

EWES that were scanned in lamb and didn't deliver a live one could have the campylobacter bacteria.

Coopers Animal Health's Jane Morrison says it is one of the three big causes of sheep abortion in Australia.

It is hard to diagnose in your flock as most aborted fetuses are not found and therefore can't be subject to a post-mortem.

"The risk factor is if they get infected when pregnant...if first infection is when pregnant they (the ewe) will either abort or they will have a weak non viable lamb or stillbirth," Jane said.

"It doesn't cause losses between conception and scanning, it is losses between scanning and marking that are the result of it.

"So we usually see it more prominently in maidens or second lambers, because if you have it on your property by the time they are on their third or fourth lamb they have probably got immunity."

Jane said any gap between the number of lambs being marked out of your maiden or second lambing flock, and your adult ewe flock, could be an indicator of campylobacter.

"The gap should be about 10 per cent. If it is about 15 there could be a problem - they should be closer.

"I know producers in WA who were diagnosed with Campy, they started vaccinating and their maidens are now doing exactly what their adults are, so it really does have an impact on those maidens."

It continues to impact at lambing time, resulting in weak non-viable lambs that don't get up and going.

It is moved by carrier sheep or carrion birds, if they eat infected an infected fetus they can carry it around for several weeks, while ewes will excrete the bacteria for up to six weeks.

It can also cause abortion storms.

"We have found a lot more of them in the past year as a lot more producers are containment feeding", Jane said.

Jane recommended looking out for blood stained breeches.

"If you are seeing those you have abortions going on even if you haven't found any fetuses."

Jane described one case study in Victoria where the producer scanned 5902 foetuses, and he picked 2021 out of the paddock, as well as losing 167 ewes.

A post mortem on foetuses and blood tests determined it was campylobacter.

"But that is not what most people see, what most people see is this insidious low rate in their maiden ewes."

Vaccination should be done at joining, with Jane reporting they find flocks that vaccinate achieve 9 per cent more lambs in younger ewes.

The most obvious application of the two shots of 2mls at joining is at rams in and rams out, as long as the first dose is pre-joining and the second dose is at least three weeks later.

Seedstock producers are recommended to vaccinate annually with a booster, while commercial flocks should administer at least one booster shot after their maidens receive the first two shots.

"It only takes 2-3 per cent more lambs to cover the cost of vaccine," Jane said.

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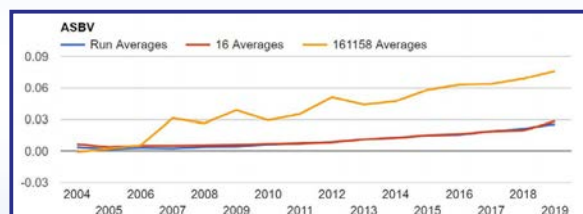


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SUNNYBANKS & FARADAY PARK

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"Dedicated to consistently improving stud stock, producing quality high performance rams, siring quality lambs"

18th ANNUAL RAM SALE

On property at 78 Deviation Rd, Penguin
Monday November 11 at 3pm

Offering 6 rams at The Australasian
Dorset Championships in Bendigo



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Supreme Poll Dorset Exhibit at the Royal Melbourne Show

Paul Day

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Brucellosis
Accredited



Pre-lamb program protects flock

Courtesy of Zoetis

During late pregnancy and throughout lambing, ewes and lambs are at the greatest risk of a range of diseases and internal parasites.

Recent research indicates many of these health impacts can be prevented with an effective pre-lambing drench and vaccination program.

Vaccinating pregnant ewes with Glanvac® 6S B12 prior to lambing will protect ewes and their unborn lambs against the major clostridial diseases and cheesy gland (CLA).

CLA is found in 95 per cent of the Australian sheep flock and reduces wool production by up to 7 per cent in the first year of the disease.

It also includes Vitamin B12 and Selenium.

Selenium supplementation will reduce the incidence of white muscle disease and reduce the impact selenium deficiency may have on reproductive performance and productivity.

Cobalt is required for vitamin B12 production and a deficiency can be affecting productivity through a loss of appetite, weight loss, anaemia and poor growth rates.

Ewes are at risk of reduced lambing percentage, greater risk of metabolic disease, reduced wool growth, infertility and an increased tail in the mob when there are inadequate levels of Cobalt available to produce vitamin B12.

Erysipelas arthritis causes crippled lambs through lameness, hot and swollen joints and reluctance to stand or walk. This leads to poor growth rates in affected lambs making them unsalable and /or unable to be transported.

At the abattoir carcasses with evidence of arthritis are experiencing an average of 3kg in trimming of infected joints which equates to over \$17 of lost income to the farmer for each animal.

An Erysipelas arthritis infection as a lamb can also result in early structural breakdowns when the lambs become adult sheep.

You can protect your lambs against erysipelas arthritis with Eryvac vaccination prior to lambing.

For best practice vaccination you should use the shortest needle possible in the subcutaneous space under the skin.

Zoetis recommends ¼ inch or 6mm needles.

Poor vaccination practices cause damage to the muscle leading to inflammation, bleeding and vaccination site reactions. Vaccination should be given at 45o (or 90o in wool lengths over 45 mm).

The best place for vaccination is on the side of the neck, 3 fingers width down from the ear.

Vaccination of Glanvac and Eryvac occur at the same time during pre-lamb vaccination and in lambs at marking and weaning times, and Zoetis now has an applicator for co-administration.



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***BZ, LEV, ML and CLOS resistant worms & MONEPANTEL resistant Barber's Pole worm and Black Scour worm**
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- **Unique Mode of Action**



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1. Overall efficacy - GM, species efficacy - AM, Data on file, Zoetis. * Refer to the Startect Label for further information.
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1st Place Woolly Ram under
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W: 105 D: 52 CFAT 9 LW 118.5 EMA 42.04 EMA/LW .355
Index 1689 on 30/04/2019

YENTRAC 281/18



W: 112 D: 58 CFAT 10 LW 129.5 EMA 50.02 EMA/LW .386
Index 2020 on 30/04/2019

ANNUAL SALES 2019

SALE ONE

@ 110 Craven Rd,
Tatura.

Undercover on
Wednesday
September 25th

SALE TWO

@ 876 Ercildoune Rd,
Burrumbeet.

Undercover on
Wednesday
October 16th

Brucellosis Acc. Footrot Free
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R.W. & L.L. McCartney

Ph: Rob 0412 808 082

Email: rmccartney4@bigpond.com



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Industry looks to new red meat structure

A Red Meat Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) White Paper was released in July, outlining a number of recommendations for the future structure of the of the red meat and livestock industry.

It marked the end of the review of the Red Meat MoU which has been undertaken over the past 12 months.

Industry and government will now consider the recommendations, with all nine bodies that make up industry needed to support any reform before it can progress.

The White Paper recommendations include the establishment of three new streamlined and unified industry bodies within the MoU.

Red Meat Australia, with an independent chair and a board drawn from the peak industry councils and up to three new independent skills-based representatives, would be the single voice of the industry and the conduit for levies collected, as well as be responsible for industry public policy and marketing.

Red meat Research and Development Corporations and Service Providers – MLA, LiveCorp and Australian Meat Processing Corporation (AMPC) – would be merged into one single research body.

Existing integrity and quality systems would also be merged into a new Industry Standards body.

Sheep Producers Australia Chair Chris Mirams said the white paper outlined a bold and visionary option for the industry's future, which was exactly what SPA had called for in response to the initial consultation phase.

"The white paper highlights the need to create a new fit-for-purpose structure to provide effective national industry leadership. This is a once in 20-year opportunity," Mr Mirams said.

"We are particularly encouraged by the unity that could be achieved through a single voice at the strategic level for leadership and governance and a single research and development corporation at the service provider level which will be whole of supply chain.

"We acknowledge that the white paper provides both challenges and opportunities for the peak industry councils, which we will need to consider in redefining our future purpose and value proposition. There will need to be new funding streams sought as a result of this restructure.

"As a sector, we will continue to face unprecedented challenges and opportunities in the next decade and while we have achieved a tremendous amount through our current national representation model, industry recognised it is now not fit-for-purpose going forward. We cannot continue to fight today's and tomorrow's problems with yesterday's structure and expect the best outcome."

Meat and Livestock Australia Managing Director Jason Strong said MLA welcomed reform that is in the best interests of red meat producers and the wider red meat and livestock industry, and as a signatory to the MOU, would be carefully considering the changes put forward.

ADVERTISING RATES

(INCLUDES FULL COLOUR) ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

| | Members | Commercial |
|----------------------------|---------|------------|
| Back cover | \$715 | \$893.75 |
| Inside front or back cover | \$572 | \$715 |
| Double page spread | \$847 | \$1058.75 |
| Centre spread | \$902 | \$1127.50 |
| Full page | \$517 | \$646.25 |
| Half page | \$341 | \$426.25 |
| Quarter page | \$209 | \$261.25 |
| 1/8th page | \$154 | \$192.50 |

SERVICE FEES

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

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

ADVERT SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Full page (full bleed) | 303mm deep x 216mm wide |
| Full page bordered | 270mm deep x 182 mm wide |
| Double page spread | 303mm deep x 426mm wide |
| Half page (H) | 130mm deep x 182mm wide |
| Half page (V) | 270mm deep x 88mm wide |
| Quarter page (V) | 130mm deep x 88mm wide |
| Quarter page (H) | 62mm high x 182mm wide |
| One Eighth page | 62mm high x 88mm wide |

ADVERTISING BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

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Tel: (03) 5443 9902 Email: marketing@polldorset.org.au

ADVERTISING COPY & MATERIAL

All advertising and service rates are subject to change.

| Issue | Advertising material | Date posted |
|----------|----------------------|-------------|
| December | Closes November 1 | November 30 |
| May | Closes March 29 | May 1 |
| August | Closes July 15 | August 15 |

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



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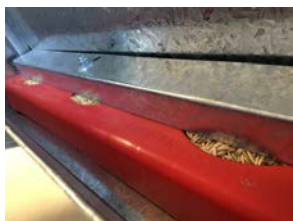
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