

THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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SEPTEMBER 2020

Producers Power Through COVID CRISIS



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COMMERCIAL FOCUS PAGE 27



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In a year where nothing is quite normal and it seems impossible to plan too far into the future, we can be still be very thankful, most especially for the break in the drought, and wide open spaces we have to work in.

The COVID-19 situation has begun to impact significantly on the sheep and lamb industry, firstly with a dramatic crash in the wool price and decline in worldwide demand for wool, and now we are seeing a significant reduction in demand for export lamb, and diminished capacity of meat processors for domestic lamb.

Hopefully with the assistance of government restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus, the processor capacity and the imbalance between available lambs to slaughter and kill space will correct itself, and we might see a stabilising in pricing, and a return to normality for lamb sales direct-to-processor and forward contracts on offer.

The good news is new season sucker lamb prices are holding firm at around \$7 - \$8/kg CWT. The early maturing Poll Dorset sired lambs have been able to take advantage of the early seasonal peak of over \$200/ head. This is a clear example of the opportunity gain in using the right genetics – lower risk, higher value. Seems like a no brainer from my end! The ram selling season is gearing up to be a cracker. I have been very impressed with how my social media feeds are full of pictures and videos of potential sires. I am enjoying seeing sheep from around the country, many of which would be difficult for me to visit even in a normal year. Online sales are also being embraced, and I am sure there will be a few hours spent "going to a sale" from the comfort of my home.

Our admin team of Margot, Sam and Patrick have done a fabulous job of getting the Flock Returns completed and ready for the 2020 Flock Book. They have appreciated everyone jumping on and using the new database, and loved the feedback of how easy it is to use. Over the next 12 months we will add new features to enhance your stud business.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our retiring board members Peter Cain and Paul Day for their service to the APDA. Peter has been an APDA councillor since 2009 and his contribution has been invaluable, and his knowledge, passion and experience will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his expanding farming endeavours and other aspects of life. Paul has stepped down to "give someone else a go", which is very generous of him! Thank you both for the commitment you have shown to the APDA.

Don't forgot to let Margot and Sam know about your ram sale dates. The Poll Dorset website calendar should be filled with all the sale dates so lamb producers can "Find a Poll Dorset breeder near you" and buy a few rams!

Good luck with the ram selling season

Isabele Roberts

PRESIDENT



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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ACROSS THE PENS

2020 – A YEAR OF MASSIVE CHANGE

We would normally be discussing the success of the Spring shows but this year can only hope that these shows will return for 2021. Ram Sales have continued in great abundance and congratulations to all those who were able to have their sale on site or online, certainly a year of change.



FLOCK BOOK

This year only 7 studs were yet to complete their flock return in time for inclusion and these will be listed in the Flock Book as deregistered. Should they be renewed between now and December, we will list you in the December Journal as a late renewal.

BOARD ELECTIONS (VIC)

Only Victoria required an election this year as all other states received sufficient nominations. Election results will be emailed out as soon as they are known.

AGM REMINDER

Due to Covid-19, the Australasian Championships were cancelled in Bendigo and the AGM is to be held at Cowra on Saturday 5th September. This year the meeting will also be available to members via Zoom.

Stay safe and well and we look forward to a successful selling season for all.





ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE Interfaced with Auctionsplus Friday October 2nd

Open-Day Friday September 18

Valley Vista, Coolac, NSW Andrew: 0419208272 | Joe: 0429220492 www.valleyvista.com.au | f /valleyvistapd Breeding sheep with high growth rate, length and muscle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

SEP 4 - 5	NSW Dorset Championships (Cowra)
SEP 5	Australasian Dorset Championships (Online Auction)
SEP 5	APDA Annual General Meeting
SEP 5	APDA Board Meeting



While a lot of attention has been on the softer export lamb market, once again, the trade market has been the quiet contributor to the industry, and we are certainly fortunate to have a strong domestic market. Like most media these days, we often hear the worst-case scenario and often these statements are made to sell newspapers or coverage rather than selling a positive side to the story. There are 3 major positives to a softer market which should be considered coming into the ram selling season.

- THE EXPORT DEMAND IS THERE, however logistics, processing and border control has disrupted the trade, but this is temporary, so look big picture, this market will recover! Processors need producers and producers need processors, we need to find equilibrium in the market.
- LOCK DOWN AND HOME COOKING, what a time for the lamb industry to be softer, consider this market dip as the best taste-testing campaign in 50 years. More people at home, cooking, experimenting in the kitchen, the return of the lamb roast- at a price that sells!
- POLL DORSET RAMS ARE THE MOST PROFITABLE. The final positive is the most important and relevant for this article. In years like 2020, there is no room for error or 'trialling' new breeds, or using inferior genetics, the supply chain needs consistency and POLL DORSET SIRES are exactly what the processor demands, and the producer wants!

Best of luck to all members with their upcoming sales, regardless of years like 2020, the Prime Lamb Industry has a very exciting future!

James (orcoran



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76TH ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE

lag	RAAI	PWW	PFAI	PEMD	LEQ	ICP	
27 (pic)	0.3	16.6	-0.2	3.8	149.5	154.7	
38 (pic)	0.5	16.6	-0.5	2.7	146.7	152.0	
454 (pic)	0.5	16.1	-0.8	1.9	129.7	138.7	
464	0.6	18.7	-0.8	2.2	137.1	146.5	

See website for full Stud Ram listing.

Bid online for on-property sale Stud Rams and Ewes



AUSTRALASIAN DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS SALE

Sat 5th Septemeber via Auctions Plus

Tag	BWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	LEQ	ТСР
17	0.3	14.5	-0.3	3.3	148.7	151.0
116	0.4	14.6	-0.5	2.9	147.6	150.7

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1PM 12 STUD RAMS 15 STUD EWES 88 ELITE FLOCK RAMS

Bill & Angela Close Gawler River SA | M 0414 813 873 | P (08) 8524 3062 bill@newboldstuds.com Craig & Kate McLachlan | Craig 0418 838 751 | Kate 0424 173 276 craig@newboldstuds.com



newboldstuds.com

SPA's New CEO

Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) has appointed Stephen Crisp as the Chief Executive Officer. Mr Crisp brings over 30 years of experience working across the agricultural supply chain and will provide the leadership the sheep industry needs to ensure a productive, profitable and sustainable future.

"Stephen's knowledge of the industry and extensive background in the broader red meat sector is an asset to SPA. Stephen and his team are well placed to continue to advocate for the reduction of red tape and regulatory burden, whilst ensuring that we have the correct measures in place to continue producing a safe, sustainable, reliable and high quality product that enables access to as many markets as possible for our members." says Chris Mirams SPA Chair.

"I have worked for many years with processors, both in plant and export logistics. As long as there is competition throughout the supply chain, it will always be better for our producers and the rest of the supply chain to work closely together. That way you get exactly the right information on what the best sheep is for the markets needs." says Stephen Crisp SPA CEO.

"Australia is the country of the each-way bet, and dual purpose is what makes sheep the best livestock to run in many regions, it does not really matter if a sheep is raised primarily for meat or wool. We must continue to work closely with the wool industry for the benefit of animal welfare and bio-security."

"Having come from a family that has always run sheep I am looking forward to making a difference in an industry I am already invested in. The SPA Board has a great deal of knowledge and expertise, and I look forward to working with them as we navigate the many challenges and opportunities the sheep industry faces." says Mr Crisp.

BOM: A wetter August to November

The September to November period is likely to be wetter than average across the eastern half of the mainland (greater than 65% chance in most areas), wetter than average in northeastern Tasmania and drier than average in parts of southwest Tasmania, and also drier than average (greater than 65% chance) over much of northern to central WA.

The northern Australian dry season spans May through September. Tropical northern Australia typically has very low rainfall totals during the dry season, and only a small amount of rainfall is needed to exceed the median.

Days during September to November are likely to be warmer than average for most of northern Australia (greater than 80% chance) and also for Tasmania and southern Victoria (65 to 80% chance). Across the remainder of the southern half of the mainland, chances of warmer or cooler than average days are close to average.

Night-time temperatures for September to November are very likely to be warmer than average for most of Australia (greater than 80% chance in most areas), although chances are close to equal for much of south-west WA.

UK Free Trade Agreement

Trade Minister Mr Simon Birmingham has announced negotiations have commenced to further the United Kingdom (UK) Free Trade Agreement. The commitment to support and assist the process of increasing engagement with our longest standing trading partner is welcomed and supported by Sheep Producers Australia..

"Whist we have historically low sheep numbers, these negotiations are all about opening up options for the Australian producers as well as the UK consumer and will be of mutual benefit." says Mr Stephen Crisp SPA CEO. The UK will be having the same negotiations with New Zealand (NZ) who are currently the largest exporter of lamb. NZ also have a tight supply situation but have previously had much more favorable access than Australia in both the UK and EU markets.

Sheep and lamb products are currently sent to a diverse range of countries, however exports to the UK and Europe have been very limited, and BREXIT has thrown even more difficulties into the mix.

"SPA appreciates the efforts of the Federal Government in order to move forward whilst both countries are still dealing with pandemic issues. The current situation with COVID-19 only reinforces the importance of these talks to both countries." says Mr Crisp

Drought recovery dominates COVID-19

While the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to present challenges for Australia's agricultural sector, the recovery from drought dominates the outlook for 2020–21. Farm production is forecast to rebound in 2020–21, after one of the worst droughts in over 100 years (in terms of rainfall). This follows 3 consecutive years of contraction in output. Despite a resurgence in production, the gross value of farm production is forecast to increase by only 1% to \$61 billion in 2020–21 as a result of falling prices.

In 2019–20 the gross value of farm production is estimated to be \$60 billion. This is an upward revision of almost \$1.3 billion since the March edition of Agricultural commodities and is driven by a \$1.5 billion increase in the estimated value of livestock production. An improvement in seasonal conditions across much of eastern Australia in early 2020 saw restocker competition return to saleyards, and meat prices rise. This coincided with continued strong export demand, driven by the effects of African swine fever across Asia, particularly in China.

A global recession in the wake of COVID-19 is expected to result in reduced demand and lower world prices for many agricultural commodities in 2020–21, but there are modest forecast price rises for red meat, due primarily to African swine fever-induced demand. Improved seasonal conditions and pasture growth to June 2020 have already reduced feed costs. A continuation of improved seasonal conditions into 2020–21 is expected to support herd and flock rebuilding and reduce livestock slaughter. Cattle and sheep slaughter are both forecast to fall significantly in 2020–21. In contrast, continued strong demand for lamb is expected to result in slaughter increasing by 4% in 2020–21.

YOUTH YARNS

Insights from the farm

By Charlotte Cain

Although this year has had many ups and downs with the majority of the show season being cancelled it hasn't stopped me from getting involved in our breed. I have still been training the rams every moment I get, whether it be early in the morning before I leave for school or when I get home in the afternoon. I am continuously working with and preparing the rams in hope that the NSW Dorset championships may go ahead as well as preparing for our annual ram sale in October. With help from dad I've been expanding my knowledge and skills on working with the breed in hope that I get more judging opportunities in the near future. Whilst putting my skills and knowledge into practice on my stud rams I cannot wait for the time to come when I can share and use my knowledge and opinions on some of the top breeders' sheep in Australia. Over the past few weeks dad and I have been marking the Dorset lambs and picking out some real winners for next year's show team to come back bigger and better, so watch out!







Abelene Park 57-19. One of 3 August drop rams to be offered in the ADC Online Sale Sept 5. See our rams at Cowra and follow our FB page for more information.



Abelene Park 98-19. He will be offered in the Abel-Rene Show & Sale along with 5 other top young rams Sept 11&12.

Follow our FB for updates and information.

Spring Ram & Ewe Sale September 24 - 1.30pm Offering Approx 50 rams & 10 ewes

Lambplan figures available on all rams. Gudair vacc.

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SA Sheep Expo Continues Online

The South Australian Sheep Expo will be hosted online this year, but will still offer the great variety of learning it has become renowned for. Organisers of the 2020 Expo have reproduced the annual event, now in its fifth year, in a virtual format, giving even more young sheep enthusiasts access to the great resource.

Secretary Kira Bains said the event was currently up and running through the SA Sheep Expo website, and further resources would be added as the year went on.

"Unfortunately, due to the current impact of COVID-19 the 2020 SA Sheep Expo was cancelled, however the Committee were enthusiastic to present educational content to inspire young sheep enthusiasts and promote opportunities to engage with big industry names around Australia," she said.

"We have a range of video content from interviews with Elders on Career opportunities; educational content from Sheep Genetics, Soil & Land Company Pty Ltd and AWEX, and an opportunity for people to apply for the 2020 Heiniger Learners Scholarship."

Head along to https://www.sasheepexpo.com.au/sa-sheepexpo-2020-online/ to view all the great content.







YOUTH YARNS

Elizabeth Macarthur High School at the Canberra Royal Show 2020

The Team

Students	Animals
Rebecca Halcomb	Levi
Xanthia-Grace Thomas-Carlson	Meki
Mary Waack	Mango
Tenielle Lindley	Minnie
Kate Halcomb	

Results

• Meki

- Minnie
 Schools ewe (2nd)
- Mango
- d) Pair of ewes w/ Meki (3rd)
 - Schools ewe (4th)
- Pair of ewes w/ Mango (3rd) Levi - Schools ewe (1st) - Op
 - Levi
 Open ram (1st)



Xanthia-Grace Thomas-Carlsen, Mary Waack and Rebeeca Halcomb.

Amanda Watkins is the coordinator of the YOUTH YARNS SECTION.

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

Experiences at the Show

Attending the Canberra Royal Show in 2020 was a great experience for all of us. We were able to develop our skills in preparing, handling and judging meat sheep which we could then put to practice in the ring. These skills meant that we were able to show our animals at their best up against professional studs. We were very proud of every ribbon that we earned in the ring, both in schools and open competitions.

Over the course of the show we had the opportunity to talk with a few people who could help us to better our show skills. Before we did our judging competition, Natalie helped us to build our oral judging skills and prepare us for the chance that we were chosen for an oral presentation. After judging, we spoke to the judge of our junior judging competition, who gave us tips about techniques used by accredited judges across Australia. We also spoke to the sheep fleece judge who showed us how to judge a fleece, allowing us to prepare for fleece judging competitions at other shows. Attending and competing at Canberra Royal Show in 2020 was an amazing opportunity that we will remember for the rest of our lives.We look forward to going back next year and be even better.

Benefits of Attending

Attending Canberra Show allowed students to develop skills to help them compete in shows across their time in the show team. Being at these big shows also allows students to create connections which help them to move into the industry.

For example, at these shows, students often have the opportunity to assist professional studs with loading and handling their animals. This helps them to create connections with studs who may offer them a place in their own show teams for other shows. When we were at Canberra in 2020, we were able to talk to Mick from Coolawarra Alpacas who supplies our alpacas for Sydney Royal. By talking to him, we were able to organise alpacas that would be good for our team at Sydney Royal.

Royal shows, like Canberra, are therefore crucial for students to develop practical skills and make professional connections that will be highly beneficial to them as they move into the agricultural industry.



CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT.

10th Annual On Property & Online Ram Sale Wednesday 7th October, 2020 at 1:00pm 10 Specially Selected 80 Flock Rams

Sale rams available for inspection

GLENORE 310-19

LW	DEPTH	WIDTH	EMA	FAT
121.5	50	101	38.89	10

Peter and Gillian Cain 'Glenore' 582 Carisbrook-Eddington Road, Carisbrook Victoria Mobile - 0407 843 711



Lamb prices expected to stay historically high

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

A recovery in the national flock is underway, with sheep producers in key regions now in a position to consider increasing flock numbers. However, estimates for June 2020 pin the national flock at 63.5 million head, its lowest level in more than a century. The recent improvement in conditions has instilled an element of confidence in producers looking to rebuild depleted flocks, particularly in New South Wales. A lift in weaning rates and weights should help support lamb supply towards the end of the year. However, the impact and severity of consecutive drought years will hinder overall sheep and lamb supply in 2020, especially during the winter.

Following back-to-back years of excessive turnoff, sheep slaughter is forecast to decline by 30 per cent to 6.5 million head in 2020. Driven by a reduced breeding ewe flock and subsequent decline in the national lamb crop, lamb slaughter is anticipated to decline to 20.6 million head, back 5pc on yearago levels. Lamb carcase weights are forecast to increase in 2020, assisted by improved feed availability, a greater number of lambs in lot feeding programs and strong price incentives to finish lambs to heavier weights.

Increasing weights will not be sufficient to offset the fall in slaughter. As a result, lamb production in 2020 is forecast to decline 2pc year-on-year, to 492,000 tonnes carcase weight. Underpinned by a substantial decline in sheep slaughter, mutton production is forecast to fall sharply to 161,000 tonnes cwt, back 29pc year-on-year. Global market conditions have been particularly volatile in the past few months, as the spread of COVID-19 has fostered instability, created logistical hurdles for trade and slowed foodservice industries around the world. This year, exports of lamb are forecast to fall slightly on 2019 volumes, to 282,000 tonnes swt, while mutton exports are expected to reach 129,000 tonnes swt, back 31pc on 2019.

Encouragingly, growing retail demand, a soft A\$ and the African Swine Fever induced protein deficit continue to drive export prices for sheepmeat, particularly as key markets such as China and the US compete for shorter supplies. However, many key export markets now face economic recession as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, which could lead to tighter disposable incomes and switching of consumption to lower-priced



alternatives. Overall, sheep and lamb prices are expected to remain at historically high levels for the remainder of the year, given the expectation for fewer lambs and sheep available for slaughter, strong restocker demand for ewe lambs, limited competition from New Zealand, generally strong demand (despite some disruptions) and a low A\$.

International Markets

Lamb exports for the year-to-April were down 6pc on 2019 volumes, however they remained ahead of the five-year average (2014-2018). The flow of exports has been encouraging, given the expectations of tightening livestock supply and supply chain disruptions resulting from COVID-19. Lamb exports in 2020 are forecast to reach 282,000 tonnes swt, down 1pc on 2019 volumes, while mutton exports are forecast to decline 31pc to 129,000 tonnes swt.

In April, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised their forecast for global GDP growth in 2020 to a 3.0pc contraction - a stark contrast to the 3.3pc growth forecast back in January or

the 2.9pc estimated for 2019. China is the only top-10 Australian sheepmeat export market not expected to enter into an economic contraction this year. Australia, still the industry's single largest market, is also expected to enter recession after three decades of uninterrupted growth.

After showing some signs of recovery late last year, the A\$ has softened with the global spread of COVID-19 causing the A\$ to fall as low as 58 US¢ in March. The A\$ is forecast to remain subdued through the rest of the year, which will continue to provide price support for exports.

While first-quarter export volumes of sheepmeat were back on 2019, they were up 17pc in terms of value, totalling A\$1.13 billion. Lamb experienced an 11pc lift in first-quarter export prices and mutton prices grew by an impressive 31pc year-on-year. The growth in value was supported by surging restocker demand inflating livestock prices, the aforementioned favourable shifts in exchange rates and strong international demand at the start of the year.

While demand has held up relatively well so far, looking ahead, the outlook continues to be clouded by the volatility and uncertainty surrounding the impact of COVID-19. A global recession looms, and with over two thirds of Australian exports destined for heavily impacted foodservice channels, how this sector recovers as markets ease COVID-19 restrictions will be critical for Australian sheepmeat demand prospects.

When it comes to the global sheepmeat market, Australia and New Zealand drive supply and account for 70pc of global product traded. When focusing on exports, particularly into high-value markets, historically Australian and New Zealand lamb prices track each other closely. However, a clear disconnect has emerged at present due to domestic influences in Australia. The Australian trade lamb OTH indicator in April averaged a 22pc premium over its New Zealand counterpart. This largely reflects the improvement in domestic conditions and strong restocker competition, as producers look to rebuild depleted flocks. In contrast, New Zealand has experienced a particularly dry season so far and a backlog of lambs for processing hasn't been complementary to prices. As New Zealand enters its typical seasonal decline in production, this could offer further support for Australian prices.

MARKETS

Price forecast

Sheep and lamb prices have remained robust despite a turbulent start to 2020, having achieved record levels in March. An improvement in seasonal conditions renewed restocker confidence and intensified competition between restockers and processors for an ever-tightening supply pool. In the first week of March, the national trade lamb indicator equalled the record set in July 2019 at 950c/kg cwt, before returning below the 900c mark in subsequent weeks. The

national mutton indicator surpassed the record set in 2019, peaking at 729c/kg cwt on 12 March, 115c higher than the previous ceiling. Interim CV-19 price indicators have since

stabilised but remain well above year-ago levels. Looking ahead, the uncertainty surrounding the impact of COVID-19 will continue to be a key factor in processor buying decisions in the short-term, especially as foodservice demand remains largely at a standstill.

Historically, lamb and sheep prices have traded at elevated levels from the end of May through to October. However, prices are currently reported well above yearago levels and given the export uncertainty, domestic prices for store lambs are performing remarkably well. Lamb prices are expected to remain at historically high levels for the remainder of 2020. However, if export demand wanes, processor appetite to pay current or higher prices could dwindle. Another consideration weighing on prices through winter could be the consistency of lamb supply. On the back of improved conditions, producers will be in a better position to finish lambs, unlike the previous two years, when heavy supplementary feeding has been required. While uncertainty remains a constant, over the next two years global demand for quality sheepmeat, limited

international competition and domestic supply constraints should tip the balance in favour of support for Australian sheep and lamb prices.



Eastern states restocker lamb indicator



FY20 A Tale of Two Seasons

Courtesy of Tom Rookyard & Holly Baker, AuctionsPlus

The 2019-2020 financial year has taken the cattle and sheep market on a rollercoaster ride from extreme lows to exciting highs. Last year, no one could have imagined where the market would be in just 12 months. Rain seemed a distant dream as the drought tightened its grip over much of the eastern seaboard, contributing to a catastrophic fire season.

However, the turn of the calendar saw many regions receive long-overdue rain. The downpours were extensive enough to cause what many have called "grass fever" and steered the store market into uncharted territories. The diminished national herd and flock, combined with demand at an all-time high, drove livestock prices through the roof. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the momentum and resilience of the store market as supply and demand factors prevailed when the country went into lockdown.

As the FY20 financial diaries have now been closed, the AuctionsPlus Market Insights team has delved into our data to track the cattle and sheep markets whilst these unprecedented events unfolded. AuctionsPlus finished the financial year with 632,887 head of cattle and 3,820,434 head of sheep listed online, an astonishing 62% and 24% increase on FY19, respectively.

The major players listing sheep for FY20 were the Central West and Riverina regions of NSW, and the South West of Victoria, offering 673,000, 371,000 and 421,000 head, respectively. Another significant contributing region was Western Australia, with the southern areas of the state offering 222,000 sheep online on AuctionsPlus. Again, these regions experienced chronic drought conditions for most of 2019 and some even into 2020, such as southern Western Australia.

Purchasing has been driven by restocking demand from regions that received above average rainfall at the beginning of 2020. On the sheep front, as well as being a major seller, the Central West NSW was also a major buyer, purchasing 18% of sheep sold on the system, followed by the Riverina NSW (16%), South West VIC (9%) and Northern VIC (7%). As supply tightened and growers struggled to find large lines of breeding ewes to restock paddocks, they looked westward. This saw 76% (108,000) of sheep sold online from WA travel east to buyers in NSW, VIC and SA.

Cattle and sheep prices spiked soon after rain hit the gauges which drove the FY average upwards for all stock categories. Furthermore, there was not only a significant jump from FY19 to FY20, there was also a leap in prices from the last six months of 2019 to the first six months of 2020.

Sheep buyers fell into two categories of purchasing. The first being crossbred wether and mixed sex lambs or Merino wether lambs to put into paddocks full of feed for a quick return; or purchasing joined or unjoined ewes for longer term endeavours. The graph highlights the immediate growth the market saw at the turn of the new calendar. The average price paid for crossbred store lambs rose \$11 (from \$122 to \$133) and Scanned in Lamb (SIL) Merino ewes rose \$43 (from \$180 to \$223).

YOY growth of various stock categories presents an insight into sheep grower's longer-term plans. SIL first cross Border Leicester/Merino ewes and SIL Merino ewes have increased 48% and 51%; while unjoined Border Leicester/Merino and Merino ewes have only grown 27% and 36% respectively; illustrating the importance of having lambs on the ground come Spring. Even more affordable categories such as Merino wether lambs have seen strong interest, seeing a YOY growth of 43%, highlighting the general demand for sheep.

The 2020 financial year has seen the cattle and sheep market rise from its knees in the grip of drought to the record highs following replenishing rain. A unique combination of the lowest national herd numbers in history, a wet start to 2020 fuelling restocking demand and a world-wide pandemic has seen prices skyrocket to new levels. Since the spike in prices, there has not been a major market retraction; store prices have held firm across the last few months of FY20, as grower confidence remains high. Heading into FY21, there is no clear signal that the market will take much of a backwards step while the country continues to restock and rebuild numbers.



Figure 4. Sheep price averages across FY20 (\$/head)

Impact of Victorian processing restrictions

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Processor workforce capacity in Victoria was scaled back for six weeks from August 7, as new restrictions were introduced in the state as part of stage 4 lockdown requirements. The changes will create logistical pressures across the supply chain, in particular for sheepmeat, given Victoria is the largest lamb processing state.

It is not anticipated that restrictions will create a shortage of product for domestic consumers, with 'panic buying' the main contributor to the sparse product on retail shelves in recent days.

Production constraints

The restrictions will see processing plants in Victoria required to cut workforce capacity. To adhere to the changes, processors may look to increase the number of processing days or extend working hours, as many plants are currently not operating at full capacity due to limited livestock availability on the back of two years of elevated drought-driven turn-off.

Another factor limiting turn-off in Victoria is that sheep and lamb slaughter are seasonally lower during the winter months and processors typically take the opportunity to run maintenance during this period. In fact, before the announcement, Victorian cattle, sheep and lamb turnoff for the week ending 31 July were back 40%, 68% and 46%, respectively, compared to the highest weekly throughput over the last five years.

Current slaughter levels

Eastern states lamb slaughter was reported at 285,700 head for the week ending 31 July, up 15% on the same week last year. This was driven by New South Wales, which lifted 25% on year-ago levels to 114,000 head, as early new season lambs started to enter the market. Demand for lighter lambs is exceeding heavier categories currently, as export processors look to avoid being left with surplus product.

While sheep slaughter moved to the highest level since April, at 66,000 head, it was reported 30% below year-ago levels. Declines across both New South Wales and Victoria as producers look to rebuild flock numbers reflect the limited availability of sheep, back 36% and 31%, respectively, compared to year-ago levels.

Interstate opportunities

The improvement in conditions across the east coast earlier this year unsurprisingly renewed producer confidence, prompting a greater proportion of livestock to be retained on-farm for breeding purposes. Two consecutive years of heightened livestock turn-off has also contributed to lower throughput in 2020. Hence, processing capacity across all states is running below peak levels.

Despite the logistical challenges faced with interstate travel, opportunities exist for neighbouring states to support production levels and utilise surplus capacity. This is the case in Queensland, with ample capacity available to process cattle and processing plants in New South Wales and South Australia able to ramp up production levels for sheep and lambs if required. Australia's largest processing operators have a presence in multiple states and the movement of livestock interstate is common.

Exports redirected

The domestic market for Australian red meat remains its largest single market. However, export markets combined account for approximately 70% of total beef production and 75% of total sheepmeat production. The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in wide-scale shutdowns or restrictions in foodservice outlets in domestic and overseas markets, and the typical balance of demand for Australian product has shifted significantly, with processors increasingly working to redirect product to alternate channels. The domestic market has been a beneficiary of this shift, with a broader range of high-end products becoming available in butcher shops and on retail shelves, helping to supplement the increased prevalence of home dining in Australia.

Challenges

The restrictions are designed to contain instances of COVID-19 in the workforce and will serve for the greater good if entire plant shutdowns can be avoided, as comparable to production declines witnessed in the US in April. Australian processing facilities already comply with the most stringent health and safety measures, evidenced by globally renowned supply chain integrity systems.

As the sheep industry emerges from its seasonal low and the flush of new season lambs enter the market, available processing capacity will come into greater focus. Any extension of the stage 4 restrictions could create unwanted market pressures across the entire supply chain.

Critically, despite the logistical challenges and cost burden associated with the restrictions for Victorian processors, any reduction in throughput in the next six weeks will still be sufficient in meeting the demands of domestic consumers.







SPRINGWATERS POLL DORSET STUD EST. 1979

Stud Ram Preview Day Friday 28th August 2020

An opportunity to inspect our top 20 elite stud rams. Also on display will be our 2020 retained sires and mature stud sires. This year all rams offered will be available at our on-property sale, featuring sons of **POCOCK** and **GUINNESS**.

Sale Date Friday 2nd October 2020

Guinness SW22-18 and Pocock SW 66-16 semen available

Corcorans Plains, Boorowa, NSW Dane Rowley | 0422 560 361 | springwaters.com.au

BUNDARA DOWNS WHITE SUFFOLKS, POLL DORSETS & SUFFOLKS







24th Annual Production Sale

Friday 18th September 12.30pm SA time

On property, Western Flat, Via Bordertown

On offer: 388 rams (3 breeds): 38 stud & specially selected rams & 350 flock rams including 120 Poll Dorsets: 6 stud (pictured), 10 selected & 104 flock rams

	BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	Pfat		BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	Pfat		BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	Pfat
BD193638	0.43	12.0	19.4	3.9	0.0	BD193173	0.47	11.8	18.4	3.2	0.0	BD195155	0.44	11.3	18.5	3.5	0.1
Sire	LMY	IMF	SF	TCP	LEQ	Sire	LMY	IMF	SF	TCP	LEQ	Sire	LMY	IMF	SF	TCP	LEQ
BD170180	4.73	-0.84	7.0	155.6	145.2	BD170180	4.51	-0.79	7.9	146.2	136.5	BD181548	4.32	-0.46	3.6	155.0	148.9
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	BWT	WWT	PWT 47.8	PEMD	Pfat		BWT	WWT	PWT 10.2	PEMD	Pfat		BWT	wwT	PWT 4E 9	PEMD	Pfat
BD194336 Size	0.54	11.5	17.8	2.5	-0.7	BD193569 Sire	0.46	12.7	19.3	4.5	0.1	BD194260 Sire	0.52	10.5	15.8	2.8	-0.2
BD194336 Sire L160625						BD193569 Sire BD170180						BD194260 Sire A170686					

Summer Ram Lamb Sale - 29th Jan 2021

Enquiries always welcome: Steve, Ros & Greg Funke, PO Box 614, Bordertown, SA 5268 Ph/Fax 08 8758 2032 Mob: Steve 0418 853 980 Ros 0448 002 758 Greg 0400 262 492

www.bundaradowns.com.au

Lamb size crucial to survive and thrive

Producers often correlate lambing ease directly with ram genetics, and while selecting the right sire is always important, there are a other key factors at play.

And ease of lambing doesn't have to mean smaller lambs - in fact a strong larger lamb from the right ewe will increase both survival and growth rates.

That's according to Lincoln University's Professor in Animal Breeding and Genetics Jon Hickford.

"If a lamb comes out under 2.5kg (single or multiple) that is a good rule of thumb to suggest it will die. As it gets up to 3.5kg its chances of survival goes up dramatically, and survival goes up further as weight does," Professor Hickford said.

"For those people who have lamb survival issues, if they weigh dead lambs and they are under 2.5kg, those lambs aren't big enough at birth and they need to improve pregnancy nutrition. A small lamb is on the back-foot growth wise and does not grow rapidly...you are left with a situation where you started out bad and it just gets worse. Growthy lambs are big to start with, if lambs are small at birth you are playing catch up through to weaning and beyond."

And the size of the lamb is primarily feed related, according to Professor Hickford.

The good autumn and early winter seasonal conditions in much of the sheep growing area of Australia has led to better late pregnancy growth in lambs this year and Professor Hickford said that should lead to two things - slightly bigger lambs and lambs metabolically better off.

"This means a lamb typically has better reserves of brown fat stored energy on its carcass - and that brown fat is incredibly important for that lamb when it comes out, because it is associated with having increased vigour," he said.

That vigour equates to lambs that are up on their feet and mobile soon after birth, getting them off the cold ground and allowing them a better chance to escape predators.

"Also, if the lamb doesn't get up the ewe can lose interest in it, that is a mothering ability issue, so it may not get a drink, it misses out on colostrum and misses out on that first good stomach full of milk that gets it going," Professor Hickford added. "You will often find dead lambs still have clean feet and if you split them open their stomachs will be empty, they never actually drank."

Professor Hickford said producers using Poll Dorset ram should focus first on nutrition, and also consider ewe size.

"Starving ewes in late pregnancy is not a smart thing to do whether you are using a terminal Poll Dorset ram to produce lambs for the meat trade, or you are using a Merino ram to produce replacement ewes for wool production, lambs that are starved in utero and late pregnancy ewes that are underfed is really bad thing...the key time for feeding sheep is coming up to birth," he said. "You'll hear from Merino producers that 'the lamb was too big because it was a Poll Dorset and it got caught on the way out - dystocia'. That is a real problem, and it is associated with bigger lambs, but it is also associated with smaller ewes. Especially smaller ewes that have never been selected on ease of birthing.

"The argument then is that overly large lambs cause problems at lambing -but that is probably not true, it is more a reflection of the ewe - it is easy to blame the lamb, but it is actually the ewe.

"The policy here in NZ is if the lamb doesn't come out the ewe dies and the lamb dies. And that isn't a problem, as it takes out a poor mother. Sit on ewes that don't perform at lambing - studs do this the most effectively culling out poor mothering lines but we also need to do that on commercial properties."

Professor Hickford said we don't want ewes too big, because the maintenance cost of feeding, but too small and they will produce smaller lambs, as well as less wool if it is a Merino flock.

"Larger ewes have better survival rates - the size of the uterus is bigger, and a bigger lamb has a small surface area to volume ratio and it is through the surface you lose heat. Small animals have a small surface to volume ratio, so they lose a lot of heat. Larger lambs produce more heat and have a large surface to volume ratio."

Mothering ability is a key selection tool for the more successful producers across the ditch, Professor Hickford said, as it is a heritable trait.

"Based on observation we are culling out the poor mothers, and their lambs too...we are not using those as breeding stock as you are perpetuating a problem. A bad ewe is a bad ewe is a bad ewe."

"The national average weaning rate in NZ is 126-7 per cent, but plenty are achieving up to 180 percent. Lifting lambing from 120 to 150 per cent, in terms of farm finances, that is a huge lift. Often you can do it with no investment at all, just better feed and management."

Bad weather is another element to lamb survival which is overstated, Professor Hickford said, referring to it as a "bit of a copout".

"For a lamb that is light and frail and has no energy, bad weather may be the killer blow to them - but for a lamb that has come out with good body reserves and is on its feet they are remarkably resilient, they can tolerate immense cold and heavy frosting. As long as they are on their feet and aren't lying as they can freeze to the ground, they can tolerate temps -10 and below."

"A focus on ewe nutrition will improve lamb survival. Any ewe that is a bad mother is a cost to your operation - regardless of the size of the lamb. There are other genes that impact the ability of the lamb to mobilise fat and keep warm and we have been selecting for that in NZ for a number of years - a simple gene test we run, and find those rams that are better at breeding lambs that mobilise brown fat reserves and keep warm.

"But it is the icing on the cake - but basic feeding systems and mothering ability are right, and we can then deliver genetics that improve your survival."

Dam smart device for pedigree matching

The SmartShepherd system has been used by one Poll Dorset breeder this year to increase accuracy and decrease workload of collecting dam pedigree.

SmartShepherd is a mothering up process, with producers fitting a collar (with a small device attached) to both the ewes and lambs in any one flock or lambing group. Each collar device is paired to the electronic or visual eartag of the animal, and back to the paddock they go. The devices then determine (via bluetooth connection) which lamb belongs to which ewe. Two or so days later, the animals return to the yards and the collars are removed. Data from the devices is read by the SmartShepherd technology and pedigree results are returned to the breeder.

This year Mark Yates at Barwon Poll Dorsets, Yerong Creek, NSW, used the collars for his autumn lambing, after trialling the system last year, and was impressed with the results.

"It has been marvelous for me without staff, and not wanting to be running around the paddock everyday myself. The simple fact of the matter is if I want to stay in the industry, I've got to use this technology - but it is not for everyone, the management (during the process) is intense," Mark said.

After pregnancy scanning, Mark drafted the ewes into early and late lambing mobs, and at the commencement of lambing drifted lambed ewes to new paddocks every seven to 10 days, enabling him to assign a date of birth to within 3-5 days to lambs. When each drifted mob's lambs reached about two weeks of age, they were yarded and marked, with electronic identification tags. Collars holding the SmartShepherd devices were then applied to each lamb and ewe in the mob, with the devices paired to the eID tag of each animal.

They were then sent back to the paddock for 48 hours before returning to the yards and the collars being removed and returned to the SmartShepherd office. The system successfully mothered up all but 16 of Mark's 760 autumn lambs.

"It is highly intense when you put the collars on, but pretty easy other than that. You need three to four people when collaring, but it allowed me to mother up 760 lambs in three days. It works for me - I want my ewes to have recorded lambs and this is a way I can do it. Plus, the technology will get better all the time," Mark said.

The cost of the system is \$4.50 per animal with a successful pedigree match, equating to \$9 for a single litter and \$13.50 for twins, plus facilitation fees of the SmartShepherd representative.

Elise Bowen, Sheep Data Management, helped facilitate the process at Barwon.

"It is exciting to see how quickly technology is developing in the sheep industry and how technology can be applied to address some of the challenges with data collection. While I still advocate for tagging at birth as the gold standard for data collection, I understand that this is not achievable for everyone," she said. The advent of SmartShepherd gives breeders another option - it is cheaper than DNA testing, and much less labour intensive than mothering up in the yards. It is important to have pregnancy scanning data so you can correct the birth type of the lambs, and also have a strategy in place to be able to record the date of birth as close to actual as possible."





SHEEP GENETICS

New Website, more providers and free membership

Get to know the new search site

A brand new search site was installed on the 5th of August.

The new site is more user friendly. Its features are:

- Faster loading
- More percentile highlights
- Customisable traits
- Better display including graph view
- Ability to link flocks to one account
- Commercial producers can make an account.
- New pen cards including QR codes
- Easier to make catalogues

You will need to make a new account to log into the new site. Sheep Genetics members were sent an email to create an account linked to their flocks. Anyone can register and create a new account. Feel free to call the team if you have account troubles.

There has been a lot of feedback from users of the website in the first week. We have taken on board a lot of suggestions. Thank you to those who have helped to identify teething issues.

We are pleased to release this new site. It will make searching for rams using ASBVs easier for everyone.

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More genotype providers available.

Genomics are taking off in the sheep industry. It works by analysing the fingerprints on your sheep's DNA and using that information to enhance ASBVs.

Previously, the genotyping service was administrated by SheepDNA part of the Sheep CRC. Since the closure of the Sheep CRC, MLA has taken over this role. We have opened up genotyping services to more laboratories. So you will benefit from more options and competition in the market. These are the current genotype providers that are ready to go:

	Parentage only	Sheep Genetics and parentage	Flock profile	Marker tests
Concierge Genetics		50K	~	1
NEOGEN	~	50K	*	1
Weatherbys		50K	~	~
XYTOVET	~	50K	~	~

A central database has been set up. This is managed on by MLA on behalf of you – sheep breeders. All of the genotype providers that have signed up to licences will give and take results from this central database. This gives you the flexibility to change genotype providers and still use previous results. It also helps to keep a minimum standard so that quality is consistent.

If you have any more questions about genotyping contact Sheep Genetics or the genotype providers.



How do help my clients understand ASBVs?

The MLA genetics hub houses a range of easy to understand videos and factsheets for commercial producers. Take ownership of these resources and use them for marketing.

More videos were made this July to help explain some of the more common traits.

You can view the genetics hub at genetics.mla.com.au

There is also a range of resources for both print and web media so contact Sheep Genetics for that.

Free membership continues

You will not have to pay to get involved in Sheep Genetics.

MLA is operating the Accelerated Adoption Initiative which waives many of its fees. This will operate until November 2021. Sheep Genetics membership, database charges and events are currently free - you will receive an invoice but the amount owing will be \$0. To make the most of the free database charges Sheep Genetics recommends you enter your entire cohort of animals and submit your data early - get the benefit of the AAI for your current and future cohorts.

For more information contact Sheep Genetics: T: 02 8055 1818 E: info@sheepgenetics.org.au W: sheepgenetics.org.au

Why use genomics?

Courtesy of Neogen

The goal of every Poll Dorset breeder is to turn off progeny that are more profitable and productive than the previous generation.

Using traditional genetic selection methods, such as visual assessment of conformation and type, transforming a flock from 'average' to 'elite' could take decades.

These traditional methods of selection remain as important as ever, but new objective genetic evaluation tools like DNA testing, allow breeders to press 'fast forward' on the pace of transformation by enabling them to identify with greater certainty and at a younger age the stock they need to keep and those they should cull.

Neogen Australasia's Territory Manager for South Australia and Western Australia, Dan Roe, said genomic technology may have once been daunting for breeders and complicated to adopt, but for those new to genomics the current range of sheep DNA tests were simple to use and the results easy to interpret.

Neogen operates Australia's only local livestock genomic testing laboratory in Gatton, Queensland, and is commercially delivering the range of tests developed by the former Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC), in which the Australian Poll Dorsert Association was an active participant.

"DNA testing is a fast, accurate and cost-effective method for Poll Dorset breeders to accelerate the rate of genetic gain in their flock," Mr Roe said.

"Visual assessment for conformation remains very important; DNA testing is simply another tool in the box to allow you access to the information you can't see."

"DNA testing helps breeders to identify exactly which rams and ewes to join by providing information on which animals contain the genes needed to achieve a specific breeding objective.

"For Terminal breeders, that means early access to information on hard-to-measure traits, like intramuscular fat and tenderness, which they would otherwise have to wait until slaughter to obtain."

Genomic selection works by DNA testing an animal and comparing its DNA profile with thousands of other animals that have been DNA tested and measured for important traits. Based on this DNA comparison the genomic breeding value of an animal can be predicted.

Many ram breeders and ram buyers already use Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) to select animals using objective genetic records; these are further enhanced by the inclusion of genomic data from DNA tests.

Having visually identified the pick of a drop, the next step was to DNA test to identify which animals to use in a breeding program, Mr Roe said.

Testing can happen very early in life to enable the use of ram lambs in a stud breeding program and further shorten the timeframe for new genetics to have an impact on the overall flock performance.

Mr Roe recommended defining a clear breeding objective before embarking on a DNA testing program to ensure that test results were used to maximum effect in pursuing a genetic profile that aligned with the business's profit drivers. Mr Roe said two types of test were available to Poll Dorset breeders – the Parentage Test and the Sheep Genomic Test.

The Parentage test can link a lamb to its dam and/or sire and is ideal for use in multi-sire mating programs.

The Sheep Genomic Test includes parentage information, but also provides evaluations for the full scope of important genetic traits, including birth weight, weaning weight, fat depth, eye muscle depth, worm egg count, intramuscular fat, lean meat yield and shear force.

Combining the results from these tests with tools like the web-based app RamSelect, producers can then compare how animals compare to industry averages for these traits, and then select replacement rams to bolster any genetic weaknesses.

Mr Roe said Neogen staff were available to support the implementation of DNA testing in a breeding business, but recommended breeders also work with their farm adviser or Sheep Genetics prior on questions such as which animals to test, how to interpret the results, and how to incorporate genomic information into your breeding program to achieve your breeding objectives sooner.

Adoption of genomic technologies is also being supported by Meat & Livestock Australia's Accelerated Adoption Initiative, which is providing free membership to Sheep Genetics to encourage more studs to take part in objective genetic selection technologies like ASBVs and genomics.

Getting started is easy with Tissue Sampling Units

The genomic testing process starts with collecting a DNA sample from your animals and Tissue Sampling Units (TSUs) are quickest, easiest and cheapest option available for livestock breeders.

Neogen can also analyse DNA samples provided on blood cards, but TSUs are Neogen's recommended method for submitting DNA samples as they result in consistent sample type and quality.

When connected with Neogen's automated sample processing equipment, the benefit to breeders is reduced turnaround times and fewer sample rejections and fails.

On farm there's also less chance of a mix up when collecting samples as the TSU places each sample into a bar-coded vial, which can be scanned into a producer's data management system.

"TSUs enable Neogen to deliver test results back to producers more quickly," Neogen Territory Manager for SA and WA Dan Roe said. "This is because the tissue samples are stored cleanly in the sealed vials, resulting in fewer re-runs, and they can be processed automatically using our laboratory's robotic processing equipment."

TSU Applicators and TSU Collection Kits are available via the SheepDNA website and include:

- TSUs (minimum order 10);
- Barcode list of TSU's;
- DNA submission form to be completed and returned with the samples.

Users must ensure that their RFID equipment is correctly configured for collecting TSU sample codes.

Although not compulsory for blood cards or TSU samples of less than 50, breeders are encouraged to supply an Animal Sample Data file with all returned DNA samples if possible, which assists Neogen in streamlining data samples and reducing turnaround times.



23rd Annual On Property Sale Friday 25th September - 1.00pm Approx 20 Stud Rams & 130 Flock Rams

Sale interfaced with Auctions Plus

(Covid-19 restrictions & guidelines applicable at the time will be followed)

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

First Progeny from Aberdeen 566-17 (Purchased \$13,000).

Progeny from proven sires Ulandi Park 137-17 (Sold, \$25,000 to Tipperary Farming), Ulandi Park 271-17 (First Interbreed Export Pair Rams, 2018 Royal Melbourne) and Ulandi Park 257-16 (Champion Interbreed Lamb Production, 2017 Royal Adelaide)

Check our website for further information and updates on all sale rams



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

www.ulandiparkpolldorsets.com.au Accredited Brucellosis Free



The Basics of Muscle Scanning

Lambplan

Carcase muscling is reflected by eye muscle depth (EMD) and it is generally quoted at one of four ages: Weaning (WEMD); Postweaning (PEMD); Yearling (YEMD); Hogget (HEMD). The depth of the eye muscle or backstrap is measured between the 12th and 13th long ribs. The measurement is on live animals using an ultrasound. Accredited scanners undertake the work at one of the ages listed above.

Muscling Australian Sheep Breeding Values are measured and quoted in millimetres. As with all ASBVs, they are deviations from the average of animals in the database in 1990. So an animal with a PEMD of +1.2 will genetically have an eye muscle 1.2mm deeper than the average in 1990. A ram with an ASBV of +1.2mm for EMD will pass half of this benefit onto his lamb, that is +0.6mm.

Importantly, both management and nutrition change EMD but EMD ASBVs tell you the genetic propensity of an animal for muscling. The main reason to select for improved muscling is to improve the value of the carcase through more lean meat across entire carcase; more weight in the high value loin area; less weight in the low value forequarter. Higher muscling is also favourably related to reproductive rate, however the response is variable between flocks and seasons.

Carcase fatness is reflected by the depth of fat between the eye muscle and the skin. Fat depth is measured at the same time as eye muscle, between the 12th and 13th long ribs. The same deviation applies, so an animal with a PFAT of +0.6 will genetically have 0.6mm more subcutaneous fat than the average in 1990. A ram with an ASBV of +0.6 for PFAT will pass half of this benefit onto his lambs, that is +0.3mm. Fatness is one of the few traits that has an intermediate optimum. It is possible for carcases to be either too lean and too fat for efficient processing, and different markets have different requirements. Fat increases the ability of breeding ewes to maintain weight and condition in "tough" times. It is also favourably related to reproductive rate but the response is variable between flocks and seasons.



Stockscan

Scanning for performance traits in animals has become a significant on-farm measuring tool for over 10 years within the stud industry. Scanners assess (Ultrasonic rib muscle scan) sheep at around 8 to 12 months of age for weight, Eye Muscle Width (A), Eye Muscle Depth (B) and Fat measurement (C), which allows us to calculate the Eye Muscle Area (EMA). Eye Muscle Area (EMA) to weight (LW) ratio is also calculated.

The meat index formula is based on the Eye Muscle Width, Depth and Fat measurements. A higher weighting is given to width (A) because it is more heritable while eye muscle depth (B) is influenced by environment factors. Fat (C) is penalized slightly. The resulting number is then adjusted for the age of the sheep, so the index is what the sheep's index would have been at eight months of age. The index is a way that a group of young sheep with different live weights, eye muscle dimensions and fat depth can be compared from within a breeders own flock. The index is not a figure that should be used to compare with other breeders flocks.

Stockscan's technology can assist you to accurately identify flock performance animals in many different ways. By identification through scanning on–farm for conformation of superior flock ewes and better performing flock rams you will:

Correctly identify replacement ewes based on known conformation data

Obtain economic gains through higher meat productivity per hectare of pasture

Selectively combine known productive traits of both ram and ewe, by measuring their progeny through scanning





Poll Dorset

White Suffolk

The Judge will be mic'd up & live streamed over Facebook, giving viewers a birds eye view of what the judge sees & thinks about the sheep & also allowing the audience a more interactive experience.

> nline Auction to be held through **Elite Livestock Auctions.**

Jump online to have a look at how their sales work. www.elitelivestockauctions.com.au

Inspections by request

Poll Dorset Rams & Ewes

Lamb Plan figures & Pedigrees available online mid August





studstocksales.com #YouCantSellASecret

Aus wide Brucellosis Acc **MN2V Rams eligible**



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COMMERCIAL FOCUS

Poll Dorsets best in any year

Poll Dorsets play an important role in ensuring sustainable farming practices, as well as increasing cash flow, at Conargo property Willurah.

The 43,300 hectare property joins 13,000 Merino and Dohne ewes a year, 60 per cent of which are run in a self-replacing flock, with the remaining 40pc joined to Poll Dorsets.

Merino ewes classed out of the self-replacing flock are joined to Dohnes, with the ewe progeny then joined to Poll Dorset rams.

Manager James Maslen has been using Poll Dorsets at Willurah since taking on the job 13 years ago, and says the reasoning is "pretty simple".

He says Poll Dorsets perform better across all the seasonal variations - "in a 10 year cycle, where you might only get three really good years (of rainfall), Poll Dorsets give you a good lamb in all the years".

As for the dams, it comes back to increasing carcass and ease of management.

"As a rule our Merinos are meaty anyway, which we focus on, but the Dohne infusion gives a bit more carcass again, and they don't grow as much wool as our Merino flock, meaning less wool on the Poll Dorset sired lambs - if the season starts to cut out then they remain shorter and fresher in the wool then the straight Merino-cross," James said.

"And the Dohnes clean points also keep the faces and legs clean on the terminal lambs. The Poll Dorset sire selection criteria is structurally sound, clean points, and then the right ASBVs to get plenty of growth early to ensure they can be turned off as suckers."

Ewes are joined at Christmas time for a June lamb, and James says they put plenty of fertility pressure on the ewes, only joining for 30 days.

"This is to keep the lambs as much the same size and weight as we can, when we run them in at four to five months old they are all in a tight weight bracket. Our goal is to turn off 60-70 per cent as suckers, and then generate stores or we can feedlot a small number over the summer if we have contracts for autumn and the grain price adds up."

James targets two different markets with the Poll Dorset lambs, to both spread the price risk and for better animal management.

"I am a believer that as soon as you go into the mob to draft off the the first run, you start to impact the remainder of the lambs. So we take off a run of export weight and of domestic weight in one draft. Because of the good season we will be drafting earlier this year, and aim to get 80 per cent at domestic weights because of the current price discount for heavy export lambs."

Usually about 80pc of the lambs go direct to the abattoir, with the remaining 20pc selling through the saleyards.

"The tops are 26kg (carcase weight) ready for export, and we will have lambs like that off mum, we can wean lambs weighing 60-70kg at five months. We will target domestic marketing this year, turning off at 20kg carcase weight - by the time I sell lambs in September/October hopefully Covid has settled down and abattoirs are full steam again."

Impressive growth and good returns are the only reason Poll Dorset sires are used at Willurah - they also ensure best practice grazing management.

"One of the biggest reasons we have a big percentage of terminals is so we don't have to carry lambs over the summer, meaning we are maintaining ground cover and feed over our worst period. It means we only have 3500 Merino ewe lambs to hold over instead of 7000, which is more than enough for replacements in the Merino enterprise," James said.

"The other reason we do the terminals is the fast cash-flow, from the time the lamb is born it is only four to five months and they are gone, where the Merino wether lamb, while you can get wool of it - and there isn't much value there at the moment - you have to keep feeding it well after terminals are gone in October."

The 20-21 micron Merino flock is shorn twice a year, cutting 7kg/head per year, and is based on multi-purpose bloodlines such as Ridgevale Advance and Kelvale. Selection pressure is on carcase and structure, followed by wool length, with a long staple needed to ensure the minimum 60mm length for every shearing.

"You've got to eat but you don't have to wear a woolen jumper. It is amazing how quickly trends change - when wool was doing well 18 months ago, people changed the type of ram they bought. I was of the opinion wool is good but is it going to stay there - having the protein to sell is just as important as the wool."



(File Photo)

ARMDALE POLL DORSET STUDS

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'QUALITY BREEDS QUALITY'



ANNUAL STUD & FLOCK RAM SALE Friday 25th September 2020

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Prior Inspections Welcome



This year's sale featuring Sons of:

- Armdale 520-16
- Armdale Park 100-17(T)
- Valley Vista 58-17

Our Keeper Ram for 2019 (photo) Armdale Park 401-18 (T)

Sire: Armdale 520-16 Sire of Dam: Tattykeel 1034-12 Grand Champion Ram NSW Dorset Championships 2019

Semen available as listed in Semen Sire Directory.

Shirley Armstrong

Mobile: 0427 275 126 Email: nsarmstrong@armdale-armdalepark.com.au

Garry and Catherine Armstrong Mobile: 0427 275 134 Email: gcarmstrong@activ8.net.au



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ANNUAL RAN SALE

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 11AM AUCTION/ 170 RAMS

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AuctionsPlus

Featuring sons of

Eating Quality

Trait Leader

Wunnamurra 120455

(Top Ranked

Poll Dorset on IMF)

Selection of rams available at sale

ID	BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	DRES	LMY	IMF	SF	TCP	EQ
190039	0.33	10.1	15.7	2.26	-0.58	2.16	3.37	0.25	0.78	149.4	151.4
190042	0.48	11.8	17.7	1.96	-0.73	2.33	4.34	-0.45	4.73	148.2	141.1
190057	0.31	11.7	17.9	2.39	-0.23	2.56	3.39	0.23	1.82	151.8	153.4
190087	0.26	11.0	15.9	1.91	0.14	2.10	2.92	0.02	3.95	138.2	137.6
190096	0.36	11.5	18.1	1.09	-1.01	2.12	3.73	-0.61	4.85	143.1	135.2
190114	0.47	12.0	18.5	1.91	-0.71	2.18	4.40	-0.25	4.58	148.1	144.3
190137	0.65	12.6	18.8	1.23	-0.70	1.67	3.87	-0.06	2.92	145.8	143.9
190145	0.37	10.3	16.2	2.29	-0.29	2.27	2.9	-0.24	1.58	146.9	143.2

Home of the HERO



Not all sheepmeat fat is equal

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Where fat is laid down in the live animal, either within the muscle (intramuscular fat) or around it (subcutaneous fat), plays vastly different roles when it comes to eating quality and carcase yield. To strike the right balance, Meat Standards Australia (MSA) Producer Engagement Officer, Laura Garland has compiled some helpful tips to help guide on-farm genetic and nutrition decisions.

What's the difference?

Intramuscular fat (IMF%) is the measure of the chemical fat percentage in the loin muscle of lamb, where the visible component is known as marbling. MSA consumer research shows that IMF% positively impacts eating quality.

FAT (fat depth) is the measure of subcutaneous fat and has implications for lean meat yield (LMY%). FAT is an important production factor for finishing lambs and ewe maintenance. Adequate fat coverage is critical for even carcase chilling and avoiding cold shortening. MSA requires a minimum fat score of 2, which is equivalent to a GR site measurement of 6mm or greater.

Long-term genetic gains

Genetic selection pressure for high yielding carcases and carcase weight has led to an increase in LMY% and shear force (SF5), which are closely correlated traits. "These traits have a negative relationship with intramuscular fat, so balancing both for an optimum outcome is critical," Laura said.

By selecting ASBVs for eating quality and yield, it's possible to produce lamb carcases that are higher yielding, without compromising on eating quality, over time."

Although both IMF% and FAT measure fat deposits in the carcase, they are genetically different traits, which means only selecting for FAT will have little influence on actual IMF%.

"Not all fat is deposited in the same amounts or rates, so we need to utilise targeted genetic selection to get more fat to lay down within the muscle," Laura said. "The most effective way to select for IMF is to avoid relying on correlated traits like FAT but rather selecting on IMF itself. "IMF has high to moderate heritability and a negative correlation with shear force, so not only does IMF increase juiciness and flavour, it also improves tenderness."

There are three terminal sire eating quality indexes available to assist balanced selection for LMY% and eating quality. These are 'EQ – Eating Quality' and 'LEQ – Lamb Eating Quality', which work to improve eating quality with modest gains in LMY, while Terminal Carcase Production (TCP) maintains eating quality with greater gains in LMY.

"Terminal selection indexes allow breeders and producers to increase yield while either maintaining or improving eating quality," "Align your breeding objectives with your production system and target market, and know what your limiting factor is, for example, knowing if your lamb carcases are adequately meeting fat specs for coverage."

Visit sheepgenetics.org.au and genetics.mla.com.au for more information on using ASBVs.

Finding the right nutrition

Good nutrition and finishing are critical in defining sheepmeat eating quality in the period leading up to slaughter. The long period of care and genetic gains can be undone in the two weeks prior to slaughter with poor nutrition and handling. MSA recommends producers aim for post-weaning growth rates of 100-150g/head/day to optimise meat eating quality.

"Animals that are losing weight will draw down on fat reserves and muscle condition for maintenance requirements, however the muscle's connective tissue fibres will remain unchanged, leading to a potential increase in meat toughness." Laura said.

"It is important that sheep are kept on a rising plane of nutrition and are gaining weight before slaughter. "Finishing to at least a fat score of 2 will ensure adequate fat coverage of the carcase and minimise the risk of cold-shortening and poor eating quality."

Key definitions

IMF% (intramuscular fat) is the measure of the chemical fat percentage in the loin muscle of a lamb with the visible component often referred to as marbling.

FAT depth is a measure of the depth of subcutaneous fat measured at the C site at either the post-weaning age stage (PFAT) or the yearling age stage (YFAT). The ASBV is reported at different age stages.

LMY% (Lean Meat Yield) is the weight of lean meat tissue (excluding bone and fat) in a carcase, divided by the total weight of the carcase and it is generally expressed as a percentage (LMY%).

SF5 (Shear Force) is the measure of the force required to slice a cooked sample of loin.

GR site is located 110mm from the midline of the carcase along the lateral surface of the 12th rib, where fat is measured.

Cold shortening occurs when the carcase's temperature declines at a faster rate than its pH leading to tougher meat.



Photo: courtesy of Peter McGilchrist, UNE

In the picture above, the top loin is an example of balance between IMF% and LMY%. In the bottom loin, although IMF is present, there is an undesirable amount (too much) of subcutaneous fat, impacting yield.

ANIMAL HEALTH

New Sheeptrax Website

Courtesy of APDA Sponsor Zoetis

Dr Matthew Playford from Dawbuts, Australia's leading veterinary parasitology laboratory in Camden NSW, has been involved in developing the ground-breaking website, SheepTRAX (sheeptrax.com.au) in conjunction with Zoetis.

As well as conducting research for industry bodies and pharmaceutical companies, the Dawbuts laboratory conducts monitoring and drench resistance studies for over 2,000 livestock farmers across Australia.

Dr. Playford said "Being able to present the results of hundreds of drench tests in a publicly-accessible database gives us a great sense of achievement. We have received strong signals from groups such as livestock veterinarians, WormBoss users and rural retail stores that this resource is badly needed. Now it is finally being delivered."

Using an effective sheep drench to control your worms is key to a productive sheep flock. However, research shows that most sheep properties in Australia have resistant worms to one or more sheep drenches- 96% to white (BZ) drenches, 96% to clear (LEV) drenches and 87% to Ivermectin (ML) drenches1.

This means that resistance to many of the active ingredients in sheep drenches in Australia is very common. Resistance is classified as efficacy less than 95% (% reduction in worms). Drench resistance is a genetic trait of the worms themselves and is either created on your own farm or introduced when purchasing sheep (ewes, weaner lambs or rams). Even stray sheep may be the source of drench resistant worms.

When choosing a drench to use on your farm, WormBoss recommends 3 principles:

- Use the most effective drench for your property
- Use an effective combination of two or more drench groups
- Use short-acting treatments and restrict the use of persistent products for specific purposes and high worm-risk times of year

What is SheepTRAX?

SheepTRAX is designed to assist Australian sheep producers by showing the prevalence and geographical distribution of drench resistance. The data within SheepTRAX has been gathered from hundreds of on-farm drench resistance tests, also known as faecal egg count resistance tests (FECRT), across all sheep producing areas in Australia. Sheep producers can use this data and website to:

- Improve knowledge of drench resistance
- Assist in making an informed decision of what drenches to use
- Assist in understanding the likelihood of resistance worms in purchased sheep.

SheepTRAX aims to help put evidence behind your drench selection, and therefore help maximise your return from your drench investment.

SheepTRAX shows the efficacy (from FECRTs) of over 25 drenches in easy to view comparative graphs, with up to 5 drenches selected at any one time. The graphs show the 'overall' efficacy for the drenches selected as well as the results for the key gastrointestinal worm species;

- Barber's pole worm (Haemonchus contortus)
- Black scour worm (Trichostrongylus spp.)
- Brown stomach worm (Teladorsagia circumcincta)
- All other species

The farmer or rural store is able to view the FECRT data at a national, state or regional level. FECRT data sets with a higher number of samples e.g. 100, have a higher reliability than smaller numbers e.g. 5.

Resistance status of farms varies, even between neighbouring properties. SheepTRAX does not predict the drench resistance found on your property or within a specific mob of sheep. It is designed to provide awareness of the severity of sheep drench resistance in every sheep region across Australia.

It is recommended that every farm undertakes their own FECRT every 2-5 years to monitor the drench resistance status, or at least perform regular Drench Checks. This can be achieved easily by taking samples (direct from the sheep, or fresh samples off the ground) 14 days after a drench has been given. When this is then compared with the worm egg count on the day of drenching, vital information about how well the drench has worked can be calculated. Dung samples should be submitted to a ParaBoss FEC QA- accredited parasitology lab, or analysed by a FECPAKG2 machine, which is in use in many stores and veterinary clinics across Australia.

Just a reminder as producers are stocking their farms after the drought, that all new sheep should be given a Quarantine drench to avoid bringing in resistant worms. A Quarantine drench contains 4 actives, with one of the actives being from a new drench class, which is given before or upon arrival on-farm e.g. Startect followed immediately by a Levamisole and BZ combination3. After drenching, keep all animals in a confined area with good access to feed (hay) and water for 24 hours prior to entering the paddock. It is recommended that the confinement area be fully tilled or spelled for at least 6 months before reuse.

To check out the new SheepTRAX website and review the local drench resistance in your area, visit sheeptrax.com.au on the Livestock Solutions website.

- 1. Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. http://www. wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/news/articles/drenchresistance/national-drench-resistance-should-you-beconcerned.php
- 2. Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. http://www. wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/tests-tools/managementtools/drenches/drench-rotation-versus-combinations-tocombat-drench-resistance.php
- 3. Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. http://www. wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/news/articles/drenches/ quarantine-drenching-getting-it-right.php



HEATHAR -Poll Dorset Stud-FLOCK 10 EST. 1955

REDUCTION SALE



WEDNESDAY 21ST, OCTOBER 2020 150 EWES 1.5 - 3.5 YEARS

For the first time in history, Heathmar Poll Dorset Stud offers 150 ewes in a reduction sale. It's a fantastic opportunity to purchase some of the best Poll Dorset genetics from the oldest stud in Victoria and the 4th oldest stud in Australia (Flock 10).

All ewes aged between 1.5-3.5 years old will be offered on Auctions Plus, Wednesday 21st October. Catalogue and pedigree will be available early October. For further enquiries please don't hesitate to contact Heathmar directly.



Nutrien Ag Solutions Euroa 03 5795 2535 Col Broughton 0428 570 780

Heathmar Poll Dorsets Phil Smith 0414 418 069 Dean Smith 0438 126 578

The total conformation and performance package





Annual Production Sale - Thursday 8th October, 1pm

* Exciting young sires include *



COMMERCIAL FOCUS - COMMERCIAL RESULTS

SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	TOWN	DATE	ТІМЕ	STUD RAMS	FLOCK RAMS	EWES
Dursley	NSW	Grenfel	September 3				
Deepdene	NSW	Narrandera	September 4				
Rowallan	NSW	Crowther	September 4				
Australasian Dorset Championship Online Sale	VIC	Bendigo	September 5	1pm			
Marocara	NSW	Wongarbon	September 8				
Hermes	NSW	Woodstock	September 9				
Ashbank	NSW	Dubbo	September 9				
Rene	NSW	(Online)	September 10	(Online)			
Ridgehaven	NSW	Cudal	September 10	1pm			
Wunnamurra	NSW	Jerilderie	September 11				
Badgery	NSW	Cowra	September 16				
Shirlee Downs / Dongadilling	WA	Quairading	September 18				
Paxton	SA	Western Flat	September 23				
Newbold	SA	Gawler River	September 24				
Coledale	VIC	Bungeet	September 24	1pm (Online)		100	
Ulandi Park	SA	Marrabel	September 25				
Armdale Park	NSW	Marrar	September 25				
llfracombe	VIC	Donald	September 28	1pm		100	
Southern Cross	NSW	Harden	September 29				
Geejay	VIC	Kerang	September 29		3	50	
Rene	NSW	Calcairn	October 2				
Springwaters	NSW	Boorowa	October 2				
Valley Vista	NSW	Coolac	October 2	1:30pm	10	150	
Allendale	SA	Bordertown	October 2	11am			
Ivadene	VIC	Greta	October 6				
Aberdeen/Hovell	NSW	Burrumbuttoc	October 6	1:30pm			
Kismet	NSW	Howlong	October 7				
lcon	VIC	Hamilton	October 8				
Shellal	VIC	Warrong	October 8				
Brurob	VIC	Pyalong	October 9				
Deloraine Downs	VIC	Coleraine	October 9				
Estjam	VIC	Woolsthorpe	October 9				
Wrattenbullie	SA	Naracoorte	October 12				
Mulgundawa	SA	Robe	October 12	1pm			150
Englewood Park	VIC	Inverleigh	October 14				
Konongwootong	VIC	Konongwootong	October 15				
Bruan	VIC	Condah	October 19				
Pepperton	VIC	Elmore	October 21	1pm (Online)			
Fairbank	TAS	Hagley	November 12	1pm		70	

ADC Sale's Online Only Format

The Australasian Dorset Championships have embraced a new format this year, with lots to be offered solely online via AuctionsPlus.

The annual event usually coincides with a show at the Bendigo Showgrounds, which has been cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions, but the sale will go ahead on Saturday September 5. The Sale is anticipated to be one of the premier, multiple breeder Dorset ram sales of 2020 and represents an ideal opportunity for vendors to reach buyers of quality rams from all corners of Australia.

The auction has been scheduled to commence shortly after the completion of the 2020 NSW Dorset Championships which is being held at the Cowra Showgrounds on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th September 2020.

AuctionPlus are hosting the auction and the format will be simultaneous (Helmsman) to provide all lots with an equal opportunity to achieve a result. Rams will be listed in A-Z Stud order. Please note all new registered AuctionPlus buyers are required to complete Buyer Induction Training prior to bidding and is recommended that all intending bidders have completed their registration and training 24 hours prior to the auction.

There are currently 54 entries - 52 rams and 2 ewes from 26 different stud prefixes across four states as follows; 16 from Victoria, 15 from Tasmania; 19 from NSW; and 4 from South Australia. 50 per cent of entries have not previously entered the Australasian.

All vendors are registered Dorset breeders, with three rams to be offered per stud, and vendors can supply the following information for potential bidders.

- Four photos of the ram front, back and both side views;
- A high quality video up to 2 minutes in length (recommended to be between 30-60 seconds long)
- Ip to fifty words description/comments of the ram for example characteristics, pedigree, breed growth and yield)
- Scan and/or Lambplan Data

Australasian Dorset Championships Committee Chair Robert Grieve said making the move to cancel the physical event because of Covid-19 turned out to be a wise move, and support for the online format had been strong.

"We were hoping to get 45 plus (lots), which we have done and it is great to see so many new studs offering rams, giving them an opportunity to offer lots for the first time - we will definitely keep that in mind for future events," Robert said. "Best of luck to all entrants in the sale for a good result, and let's hope the season keeps shining on us and the rain continues."

For further information on the sale please contact Ian Furze, Secretary, Australasian Dorset Championships either via phone 03 5444 4646 or email eo@bendigoshowgrounds.com.au.

From the archives

BIG ENTRIES FOR INAUGURAL DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Organizers are quietly confident the inaugural Australasian Dorset Championships to be held from the 12th to the 16th of September, 2008, at the Bendigo showground, Vic., will eventually become the largest Poll Dorset show in Australia.

Some 33 exhibitors have submitted entries for over 300 sheep and 65 sale rams.

Chairman of the event, Don McKinnon, said he was delighted with the response from exhibitors, which has shown how successful a stand alone breed event can be.

"It has taken several years of negotiations and meetings to get the go ahead to hold a major breed show and sale, and to receive so many entries in our first year...it is just phenomenal," said Mr McKinnon.

"With magnificent facilities at the showground, a proactive show society, a keen committee and backing from the Bendigo City Council along with free entry we are in no doubt that a large number of breeders, buyers and spectators will attend the four day event."

The program starts on Friday, 12th September, with sheep arrivals. Judging commences at 8.00 a.m. on the Sunday, 14th September, with the Dorset Horns first up followed by the Poll Dorsets.

Well known Poll Dorset breeder, Mr. Selwyn Boon, from New Zealand is the judge. A BBQ with refreshments will be held after judging.

Monday, 15th September, is a free day to allow buyers to inspect the sale sheep and exhibitors meetings to be held. A sit down dinner is to be held that night with guest speakers and a charity auction, which includes a large range of items to raise money for Beyondblue.

The ram sale is to be held on the Tuesday, 16th September, commencing at 11.00 a.m. with three agents participating, Elders, Landmark and Rodwells.

4 Steps to Risk Management in Agriculture

Courtesy of Safe Ag Systems

Risk = the likelihood or chance of a hazard resulting in incident or injury. In other words, the likelihood of something going wrong. The aim of Risk Management is to eliminate or reduce risk. The process to achieve this is very simple – keep S.A.F.E.

 ${\rm S}={\rm see}$ it. Identify the hazards and things that could hurt someone.

A = assess it. Think about what harm could come from the hazard, and how serious it might be.

F = fix it. Put 'controls' in place to eliminate or reduce the risk.

E = evaluate it. Did the controls work as you thought? This gives you a chance to tweak things to improve safety. Keep tweaking until you're happy you've got things as good as possible.



1. See it. Identify what can hurt you. This can be done many ways, from hazard reports logged by your workforce, workplace inspections identifying issues, or as a result of an incident investigation. Even just walking around, you will spot things that could potentially harm someone or cause damage. Generally, if you can fix it on the spot, do to and unless it's something with the chance to cause further harm, no report is needed. If you can't fix it on the spot, report it.

2. Assess it. What this means is make a judgement call on the likelihood of the hazard causing harm, and the consequences if it did. Use a Risk Matrix (below) and be honest in your assessment. Don't necessarily think of harm just to you, but think about what harm could happen to someone else such as a child or someone without your experience.

Risk Matrix. When determining the level of risk, use a Risk Matrix. The matrix below is derived from the international standard for risk management (ISO31000 for those interested). By deciding on the level of likelihood and consequence, where they intersect on the matrix is the level of risk. Use the same rating system for Inherent and Residual Risk.Risk Matrix Sample

3. Fix it. We mention controls here. One definition of a control is action/s taken to reduce the potential exposure to a workplace hazard. 'Controls' have a hierarchy for effectiveness. Ask these questions in order: Can you eliminate the hazard from your workplace all together? If it's not there, it can't hurt anyone. If you can't eliminate, can you substitute the hazard for something less harmful? For example, swapping a chemical for a less harmful one, or replacing a noisy bit of equipment for something less noisy. Can you engineer a way to keep a person from the hazard? This might be things like fencing around a dam, or using a guard to stop someone getting caught in machinery. Do you need to have documents or other administrative controls in place? This includes training, inductions, signage, safe work procedures, etc. Is personal protective equipment (PPE) needed? This includes boots, gloves, eye protection, hearing protection etc. The first 3 controls above (eliminate,

substitute and engineer) create a safer workplace. This means individuals are kept from the hazard and don't rely on their behaviours.While its recommended to use the higher-level controls to create a safer workplace, we know this isn't always practical. The last 2, administrative and PPE, rely on individuals to read and follow procedures, read and follow signs, wear PPE properly. Is this the safest option? Probably not. Yet when managing risk, many people head straight to these options and forget to consider the more effective options.

4. Evaluate it. Make sure what you've put in place to manage the risk is effective. Did your controls work as expected? Is the risk now eliminated or reduced? Make sure whatever you've put in place to control the risk hasn't created a new risk either. As you start to manage your risks and be S.A.F.E. you should also keep track of what you're doing. This is easiest if you have a Risk Register. You can download a free template or create your own. It's pretty simple – you just need a table or spreadsheet with a few columns. The column headings might be along the lines of:

- Details of risk or hazard
- What could go wrong /what harm could come from this
- Likelihood of something going wrong (NO controls in place)
- Consequence of something going wrong (NO controls in place)
- Risk Rating (note: this is what we call the 'inherent' risk rating. With nothing in place to manage the risk, what's the most likely scenario refer to the Risk Matrix at the end of this article)
- Existing Controls
- Additional controls or actions needed
- By who?
- By when?
- Likelihood of something going wrong (WITH controls in place)
- Consequence of something going wrong (WITH controls in place)
- Residual Risk Rating (note: with your existing and additional controls in place, you should have reduced the level of risk. The risk you're left with is called the Residual Risk Rating)

These are suggested columns in your Risk Register – it's up to you what you choose to include. Some people only want one risk rating, some don't want to add in the Who and When columns, some want to put in more detail. All of these are perfectly OK as it's up to each business to find what works for them. Just remember the aim of Risk Management is to eliminate or reduce the risk. By having a Risk Register in place and kept up to date, you can demonstrate this to your business, any investors or interested parties, and to the Regulator if they want this.


Risk Awareness, Assessment & Culture

Courtesy of Farmsafe Australia

Farm Safety Week is an opportunity to reinforce key safety messages and yet it is often the simplest message that rarely gets a mention. So, pay attention.

Be aware and assess the risk. That's the message.

Awareness of risk is a critical factor, if not the most important factor in safety messaging with regard to any danger on farm.

But what is risk awareness? It is simply the acknowledgement that a risk, or a combination of risks, are involved in an activity that is to be performed.

Why is such a simple thing so important? Because if you know the risk, you have a choice of how you will perform the activity and that allows you the opportunity to reduce or eliminate the risk altogether.

If you were aware that a chemical was able to cause caustic burns, you would make a different choice to how you dressed when handling that chemical, to say, how you would dress if you were watering the garden, right?

Safety can be that simple.

"Farmers and farm employees generally know the risks associated with the tasks that they perform day to day, however a combination of familiarity, complacency, fatigue, stress et cetera, can be the difference between business as usual and tragedy on farm" says Mr Charles Armstrong, Chair of Farmsafe Australia.

That is why the importance of on farm inductions, site specific risk assessments with follow up mitigation techniques and daily toolbox talks cannot be stressed enough. Inductions ensure that anyone new to the farm is familiar with the safety risks on farm and has basic information on how to avoid those risks. Site specific risk assessments and mitigation techniques ensure that farmers have considered all possible sources of danger and have put controls in place to minimise or eliminate those risks and regular toolbox talks open up the lines of communication for all employees to be aware of new or existing issues. These processes continually draw employee's attention back to the risks, even in jobs that they have been performing for most of their lives.

As part of Farmsafe Australia's revitalisation project, a new suite of downloadable toolbox talks will soon be made available to Aussie farmers for free. Just like the name implies, they are 5-minute fact sheets that can be chatted through while employees finish their morning coffees in the workshop and then easily stored in a clipboard in the toolbox.

"Unfortunately, the other factor that prevents the risk assessment method from being as effective as it should be is often the risk culture that is associated with farming" states Mr Armstrong. Risk culture is the social acceptance of the processes surrounding the identification, communication and management of risk.

In farming, risk culture often sounds like;

She'll be right, mate, I'm only driving at slow speeds on the quad, so I don't need a helmet or I've done it this way longer than you've been walking.

"Driving cultural change towards best practice safety approaches is not always popular as it forces each and every one of us to look in the mirror and face the facts that every day, we make choices, or deflect the responsibility of making choices, that could severely injure or even kill ourselves or those we care about" stated Mr Armstrong.

"It might mean that we have to face the uncomfortable conversation with a contractor about wearing personal protective equipment while mixing the chemicals to go in the spray rig or telling our father that we want to change the yard configuration that he has worked in for the last forty years because we feel that there are stock handling issues, or purchasing rollover protection for the farm quad bike.

"These aren't easy conversations, but they can mean the difference between high insurance claims, life-altering injuries and even death."

So, if anything is worth the risk, these conversations are.



Hillden Poll Dorset Stud

620 Bannister Lane, Bannister NSW 2580 Flock 1593

Stud ram sale online Tuesday 22nd September 12 noon auctions plus. Open day Saturday 19th September

> Inspections welcome by appointment. Showing at NSW Dorset Championships Cowra. Annual on property Ram sale Friday 6th November 2pm



Hillden 110-19 Supreme champion exhibit Canberra Royal. Retained in stud. Semen for sale.



Hillden 160-19 for sale online auctions plus 22nd September 12 noon.



Hillden 150-19 champion ram lamb Australasian. For sale online auctions plus 22nd September 12 noon.

Enquiries Welcome - Brian & Lorraine Frost, "Hillden", Bannister, NSW 2580 Tel (02) 4844 3134 Anthony - Mobile: 0408 689 857 James - Mobile: 0427 483 134



Armdale Park-180401 (T)

Sire: Armdale 520-16 Sire of Dam: Tattykeel 1034-12

Weight: 145kg (23/9/2019)	DEPTH: 58	
Fat: 8	EMA: 44.04	

Phone: Garry Armstrong 0427 275 134 Email: gcarmstrong@activ8.net.au \$45 per dose



Faraday Park-170020 (Terminator)

Sire: Sunnybanks-100033 Sire of Dam: Sunnybanks-100023

Weight: 146kg Muscle Width: 104 EMA: 45.65

Muscle Depth: 57 Fat: 13

Phone: Paul 0407 811 125

Email: sunnybanksfarming@bigpond.com



Kurralea-170511

Sire: Kurralea 160234 Sire of Dam: Kurralea 130233

TCP: 137	LEQ: 132
BWT: 0.4	PWT: 16.0
PEMD: 1.0	PFAT: -0.8

Phone: Ben 0429 814549 Email: lucycprentice@gmail.com



Newbold-190095

Sire: Marocara-150049 Sire of Dam: Newbold-150178

TCP: 155.95	LEQ: 156.48
BWT: 0.49	PWT: 15.90
PEMD: 3.19	PFAT: -0.30

Phone: Bill 0414 813 873 Email: bill@newboldstuds.com



Wunnamurra-180043

Sire: Aberdeen-160527 Sire of Dam: Wunnamurra-110173

TCP: 150.41	LEQ: 142.44
BWT: 0.46	PWT: 19.23
PEMD: 1.30	PFAT: -0.85

Phone: Andrew 0429 660 584

Email: wunnamurra@outlook.com.au



Gooramma-180124

Sire: Hillcroft Farms-130156 Sire of Dam: Ivadene-100056

TCP: 150.3 BWT: 0.46 PWT: 15.1

PFAT: -0.6

PEMD: 2.6

Phone: 0438 647 333 Email: james@gooramma.com.au



Hillden-190110

Sire: Hillden-170860 Sire of Dam: Hillden-14295

Phone: James 0427 443 134 Email: jfrost82@hotmail.com



Gooramma-160308 'Guru'

Sire: Gooramma-140270 'Headway' Sire of Dam: Tattykeel -100052 'Meat Machine'

TCP: 139.5	PWT: 15.7
BWT: 0.37	PFAT: -0.5
PEMD: 2.2	

Phone: 0438 647 333 Email: james@gooramma.com.au



Ilfracombe-170052

Sire: Marocara-150049 Sire of Dam: Ulandi Park-120135

TCP: 159.7	PWT: 14.93
BWT: 0.44	PFAT: 0.47
PEMD: 4.35	\$40 per dose

Phone: Damon 0427 972 006 Email: canalia@bigpond.com



Linton-160625

Sire: Wunnamurra-120455 Sire of Dam: Linton-130291

TCP: 163.37	PWT: 19.98
BWT: 0.47	PFAT: -0.01
PEMD: 2.96	\$50 per dose

Phone: Damon 0427 972 006 Email: canalia@bigpond.com



Ilfracombe-190112

Sire: Wunnamurra-120455 Sire of Dam: Ilfracombe-150172

TCP: 154	PWT: 17.47
BWT: 0.47	PFAT: -0.85
PEMD: 1.9	\$50 per dose

Phone: Damon 0427 972 006 Email: canalia@bigpond.com



Hillden-160780

Sire: Hillden-150040 Sire of Dam: Hillden-150445

TCP: 140	PWT: 17.8
BWT: 0.57	PFAT: -1.0
PEMD: 0.80	\$40 per dose

Phone: Damon 0427 972 006 or Geoff Davey 0438522105

Email: canalia@bigpond.com



Ridgehaven-190083

Sire: Bundara Downs-133266 Sire of Dam: Hillden-140320

TCP: 149.53	WWT: 9.6
BWT: 0.28	PWWT: 14.5
PEMD: 3.4	PFAT: -0.4

Phone: Isabele 0405 098 335 Email: info@ridgehaven.net.au





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2020 progeny trial update

Bowan Park Poll Dorset stud research flock is open to all members of the Australian Poll Dorset Association (APDA) and provides them the opportunity to assess their flock genetics and benchmark them within the Poll Dorset breed. The purpose of the progeny trial is to compare the performance of one sire to other in the same cohort of lambs.

The performance values to be measured 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 at carcase assessment.

BIRTH

- Gestation length for this group of Poll Dorset sheep is 147-150 days, with over 80 per cent lambs born in this period. 149 days is the most common.
- Lamb growth at full term (146+ days) is around 250g/day.
- Birth weight differences for birth multiples, is on average 1kg.
- Lambs below 2.7kg birth weight have a low survival rate. Most of these lambs were also triplets and quads.

FOUR WEEKS

Marking dates 9/6/20 and 10/6/20

- Ewes and lambs now grazing on wheat/canola, ryegrass/ lucerne/clover, wheat/clover.
- 426 lambs weighed.
- 50 lambs were identified as "growth inhibited by environmental factors" and removed from the reporting data.

TEN WEEKS

- Static lamb weights taken 22/7/20
- Ewes and lambs now grazing on a pasture mix of phalaris/ ryegrass/lucerne/clover.
- 1 mob of ewes and lambs the entire 2020 cohort are managed together.
- 418 lambs weighed
- 52 lambs were identified as "growth inhibited by environmental factors" and removed from the reporting data.

Bowan Park Open Day

Friday 11th September 1pm (the morning is set aside for the sire contributors)

Open to any interested person

All "on-farm" information and performance data will be presented

All progeny will be on display

236 South Bowan Park Rd Cudal NSW

RSVP bowanparkpolldorsets@gmail.com





20BP summary	ummary Birth 4 Week Weight Weight		10 Week Weight	
Average Weight	4.92kg	17.54kg	33.85kg	
Maximum Weight	8.23kg	31.0kg	49.2kg	
Average daily weight gain	n/a	414g	381g	
Maximum daily weight gain	n/a	735g	550g	



10 week old lambs yarded for weighing

"Pepperton" Poll Dorsets



ONLINE AUCTION 21ST OCTOBER 2020

Elite Livestock www.elitelivestockauctions.com.au by auctioneer Michael Glasser from GTSM



Rams available for inspection by appointment during the week prior to sale

* We have Semen available in Pepperton 190126 and 190123 and 180339





Enquiries always welcome: Roger & Diane Trewick Pepperton Farm, Elmore, Vic Ph: 03 5432 6190 Mob: 0428 326 190 Email: peperton@bigpond.net.au Website: pepperton.com.au



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16th ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2020 1pm Vic time Inspection from 11am

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Largest offering to date. Featuring impressive sons of Kurralea 435-16 (\$12,000) & Ulandi Park 151-17 (\$18,000)

Along with an outstanding lineup of industry leading Commercial Rams

Inspection welcome at any time

Heathmar females on offer for first time

The oldest Poll Dorset stud still operating in Victoria will offer ewes for the first time in its 65 year history.

Flock 10, operated by Robert and Phillip Smith and their families at Murchison, Vic, is having an online reduction sale on October 21 via AuctionsPlus.

Phillip said it was a big move for the stud - the fourth oldest in operation across Australia - as they have never sold ewes from their stud flock before.

"It is a great opportunity for potential buyers to obtain our ewe genetics for the first time - we will be offering about 150 ewes, keeping only a handful ourselves as we scale back the stud to focus on other areas of the operation," he said.

"They will be the entire flock of 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5 year olds, we won't retain any from those drops, and their entire pedigrees along with videos will be available online. They are right in the prime breeding age for the buyers and ideal for anyone wanting to get a few more stud ewes.

"They will be sold in October prior to joining, empty and ready for the purchasers to put to the ram of their choice. The ewes will feature Ulandi Park, Abelene, Tattykeel, Rene and Valley Vista bloodlines."

Phillip's grandfather began Heathmar in 1955 with the prefix coming from Phillip's mother's name - Heather Margaret.

Heather said her father Charles Gerrish purchased 25 Dorset ewes from HP Watson & Son and then in conjunction with neighbours John and Ian McIntosh (flock 9) introduced a Valma (flock 2) sire to the stud. Valma remained a strong influence on the stud.

"My father was breeding fat lambs with crossbred ewes, and there was a lot of interest in the breed at that time, so he decided to start the stud," she said.

In 1963 Charles transferred the flock to Heather and husband Robert - who was no stranger to the stud game, with his family having run Dumbreck Dorset Horn stud since he was 15.

"It was hard going early, breeding off the horn, and it took a number of years for people to swing that way - that was the challenge as people liked the horn sheep," Robert said.

"We were one of the quickest to have the poll brand which was a great achievement, and we've continued improving the standard of the flock, with heavy culling and focus on structure, over the years.

Heather said Poll Dorset sheep had changed enormously during their tenure, getting bigger and longer.

"One of the challenges has been retaining true Dorset composition while trying to get bigger sheep. We've purchased a lot of stud rams over the years, with sires from Tattykeel, Ashbank and Gloroy having the biggest influence on sheep we currently breed."



BREEDER PROFILE

60 Years of Faraday Park

Flock 320 Faraday Park is celebrating 60 years of operation in 2020 and the Tasmanian stud is going from strength to strength.

Current principal Paul Day has been behind the wheel of Faraday Park alongside Sunnybanks stud for the past decade, and has enjoyed plenty of success.

Paul's grandfather Peter began the stud in 1960 at Ulverston, Tasmanina, and his son, also Peter, carried it on from 1968.

Peter and wife Rosemary Day spent their first four years at the helm of Faraday Park in NSW, but soon decided it was "too hot and dry" and returned to Tassie.

Peter is humble about his reign running the stud, and prefers to talk about the success his son Paul has had since he took over.

He did however set the foundations for that success, starting th stud's annual on-property sale and developing the type of sheep Faraday Park is now known for.

Peter describes the Poll Dorset as an "excellent breed, great meat producer - I just love them".

"The Poll Dorset is totally different from the beginning, they used to be a little low short nuggety lamb, now they are bigger, taller, longer, heavier - they've gone from strength to strength," he said.

"They've got muscle, big hindquarters, ease of lambing - years ago there used to be a lot of trouble with lambing as they were heavy in the shoulders, but that has all changed - now one of their key traits is ease of lambing.

"They were always a popular breed, but prime lambs themselves have increased in popularity."

The returns in the sheep game are one of the biggest changes during his tenure at Faraday Park, according to Peter.

"Starting out we got up to \$1000 each (for rams), not getting up to \$10-12,000," he said.

"The price of lambs in general too, the lamb and sheep market is really really good - back in our day you were getting \$20 alamb, now it's \$200."

Peter's time in the show ring was a highlight for him, including his first Hobart Royal Show champion ram and ewe, and first prize at the Perth Royal Show.

"(My highlights) were catching up with people at shows and winning a ribbon or two, and of course getting some sales."

Paul Day has continued "winning a ribbon or two" in recent years, and took out the supreme sheep of the Melbourne Royal Show in 2018 with a Faraday Park Poll Dorset ram, in what was the first year the stud had exhibited there. Paul says he's learnt plenty from his dad over the years, and continues his philosophy of quality over quantity.

There are 40 Poll Dorset ewes in the Faraday Park stud, and another 40 in Sunnybanks, making for a very tight selection process.

"We utilise heavy culling to maintain a high quality, because we have limited numbers we only keep 10 young ewes every year," Paul said.

"This means we keep a very close eye on genetics - you get to know each ewe and their family lines.

"I focus on ease of lambing - that's what it is all about - smooth shoulders and neck length to ensure the lambs come out well and then have the vigour to grow.

"We've moved with the breed type towards longer bodies and away from short necks and wooly heads, as well as still keeping the early maturing type, which Poll Dorsets are renowned for."

Faraday Park and Sunnybanks will offer a number of stud sires and select ewes at the Australasian Dorset Championships Online Sale this year to celebrate their 60th birthday.



Peter Day with sons Paul & Bradley



Peter & Rosemary Day enjoyed exhibiting in sheep shows across the country

ANNUAL RAM SALE

Thurs 10th Sept, 1pm on property, Cudal NSW

Presale inspection day Thurs 27th Aug, 10am



LOT 1 Ridgehaven 190179 Sire: Ridgehaven 161362



LOT 4 Ridgehaven 190302 Sire: Tattykeel 170821



LOT 10 Ridgehaven 190300 Sire: Ridgehaven 171091



LOT 2 Ridgehaven 190110 Sire: Gooramma 170313



LOT 7 Ridgehaven 190003 Sire: Tattykeel 150172 BLACKJACK



LOT 11 Ridgehaven 190023 Sire: Springwaters 160066 POCOCK



10 Stud Rams 20 Stud Ewes 130 Flock Rams



LOT 3 Ridgehaven 190055 Sire: Hillcroft Farms 130497



LOT 9 Ridgehaven 190257 Sire: Ridgehaven 161362



LOT 12 Ridgehaven 190195 Sire: Gooramma 170313

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ANNUAL SALES 2020

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October 21st at 1pm

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Pioneer breeders delivered big Poll Dorset success

Courtesy of Vernon Graham, The Land

The Poll Dorsets breed was pioneered by three remarkable breeders in three different states - William Dawkins, South Australia, Lyell Stuart, Tasmania, and Rex Wilson, NSW.

And the three stud flocks they founded are continuing to produce top Poll Dorset genetics.

Dawkins' Newbold stud at Gawler River in SA was Australia's first registered Poll Dorset stud and is now run by his grandson, Bill Close, along with wife Angela and their daughter and sonin-law, Kate and Craig McLachlan.

Mr Close said his grandfather, who died in 1974, wanted to breed the horns off his Dorset Horns because of the animal welfare problems and yard injuries they caused.



Williams Dawkins, Newbold stud, Gawler River, SA, with a champion Poll Dorset ram at the Sydney Show in 1963.

Similarly-minded Dorset Horn breeders were Lyell Stuart, Valmont, near Whitemore in Tasmania, and Rex Wilson, Kismet stud at Howlong in southern NSW.

He said current breed leader, Graham Gilmore, Tattykeel stud, Oberon, NSW, reminded him a lot of his grandfather who he said was a great salesman and promoter of Poll Dorsets and somebody who could build confidence in others.

Dawkins' journey into breed pioneer started with the accidental mating of a Corriedale ram with a Dorset Horn ewe which resulted in a ewe lamb without horns.

This ewe produced a poll ram when joined with a Dorset Horn ewe which set him on a path to create a new breed of hornless Dorsets.

A few years later Lyell Stuart and Rex Wilson started their own breeding experiments but substituted Ryelands for Corriedales.

The trio plus Dawkins' son-in-law and studmaster Jack Reddin, formed the Australian Poll Dorset Association on September 28, 1954, during the Melbourne Show.

Dorset Horns were in their heyday in the 1950s and 1960s with the top studs bristling with high-quality ewes which they were reluctant to join with Poll Dorsets.

One who wasn't was Gus Taylor, Lindsbury stud, Cudal, in Central West NSW. Others followed his lead which significantly boosted the development of the new Poll Dorset breed.

Mr Taylor, who died in 1989, founded his Dorset Horn stud in 1939 and Poll Dorsets in 1957.

No Poll Doset stud could match Lindsbury's show record at the highly competitive Sydney Show ring between 1963-70.

Lindsbury was dispersed in 1974 with rams setting a then new world record of \$11,000.

Graham Gilmore remembers Gus Taylor as a much-valued mentor rather than a competitor in the ring.

His parents, John and Mavis Gilmore, established the Tattykeel Dorset Horn stud in 1959 followed by a Poll Dorset stud in 1964.



Cowra studmaster, John Treasure, Elouera stud, was a major force in the show ring.



Rex Wilson, Kismet stud, Howlong, with one of the first ewe lambs considered close to 100 per cent Poll Dorset around 1954.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Graham and his late brother Martin took the stud to new heights and now Graham's sons, Ross and James, have joined the team.

He credits the fierce competition in the show ring from John Treasure, Elouera Poll Dorset stud, Cowra, NSW, and Michael Lowe, manager of the Karawina stud, Oberon, NSW, for lifting the quality of the Tattykeel flock.

John Treasure was the person he had the most respect for in the show ring despite him wanting to win everything while Mike Lowe provided hard competition which forced Tattykeel to lift its game to keep up.

Mr Gilmore said the late Norm Armstrong, Armdale stud, Marrar, NSW, had made a major contribution to the industry in modern times by lifting the price flock rams.

Meanwhile, plenty of other Poll Dorsets studs have been making headlines in recent years.

The Prentice family, Kurralea stud, Ariah Park, set a new Poll Dorset record last year when they sold a ram for \$32,000.

Long-time breeders and industry stalwarts, the Douglas family, Abelene Park, Woolomin, NSW, sold a ram for \$24,000 in 2016.

The Frost family, Hilden stud, Bannister, NSW, and Simon and Melissa Male, Aberdeen stud, Henty, NSW, have also been performing strongly in the sale ring.



Noel Armstrong, Armdale stud, Marrar, NSW (left) with Jim Prentice, Kurralea stud, Ariah Park, in 2003.



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ACROSS THE DITCH

From the NZ President

Ian McCall NZ Poll Dorset Breed Committee.

Greetings to you all, from Poll Dorset NZ. As part of our breeder's annual levies the NZ breed committee decided to give each flock, your Poll Dorset Magazine. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to it as well.

Covid 19 has had a major impact on New Zealand, although, maybe not quite as much as in Australia, the social and financial fallout will be felt for many years to come. During the lock down farming was obviously an essential industry so we were able to continue pretty much as normal. It did put some pressure on our feed supplies as at that time of year, autumn early winter, we have to reduce our stock numbers down to our minimum but unfortunately our processing plants were only able to operate at 50 to 60% capacity when they would normally be at, near full capacity.

Unfortunately, the Canterbury show has been cancelled for this year it, is our major shop window to see some of the up and coming sires of the future and of course a great opportunity to catch up with fellow breeders from both sides of the Tasman. All our smaller district, spring shows are still on and hopefully they will have bigger entries than normal.

There has been a silver lining, to covid and that is the realisation by many, including Government, as to how important agriculture is to the NZ economy

As I write this some of our early country will be starting to get into lambing and most will be done over the next couple of months although, we have only just done our scanning and won't be lambing until October.



Alex Clements holds his winning supreme champion sheep of the show at New Zealand's Whangarei Show (Manu 86-15), judged by Dick Frahm

It is with great pleasure that I extend our congratulations to Graham Day for receiving The Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours. It is good that excellence and effort, in agriculture, is honoured in both our countries, considering the contribution it makes to the GDP.

I wish the Australian breeders all the best for their upcoming ram sales, from the photos I have seen on social media there is some very exciting young sires for sale again this year and of the type that would also suit most breeding programs in NZ. We are still able to import genetics from Australia.

To our NZ breeders we are heading into spring, we have new life, new hope, the flood's, the drought, of last season are behind us. I wish everyone all the best for a prosperous and satisfying year ahead.

Oxford farmers Dick and Ann Frahm have been breeding Poll Dorset sheep since 2005, and last year the high quality of their breed was acknowledged with awards at the Amberley A&P Show and the New Zealand Agricultural Show.

It has been an exciting time for the couple, with one of their award-winning rams being sold to a Chilean buyer for \$3000 at the Canterbury A&P Association's elite ewe and ram sale in Christchurch in November.

The sale showed their Poll Dorsets were highly regarded commercially, and were now also being recognised in the global sheep market.

The Frahms own Gracebrooke Stud, a 110ha irrigated sheep, beef and cropping farm in Canterbury named after their two daughters, Grace and Brooke. The couple also have a son, Mitchell.

The couple have 140 breeding ewes on the farm producing a lambing percentage of 180%, and last year had 55 ewe hogget replacements going back into the flock.

The Frahms also have two off-farm jobs. Mrs Frahm works as a teacher-aide four days a week at Clarkville School, near Kaiapoi, and Mr Frahm, a qualified butcher, is a seasonal night-shift worker at the Silver Fern Farms plant in Belfast.

It was a hectic schedule at times. "We both pass each other on the road," he said.

Mr Frahm, who is also the Poll Dorset breed committee's vice-president, said the breed was becoming one of New Zealand's most popular terminal sires due to its ability to produce fast-maturing lambs.



Dick Frahm (left), Speed McIlraith and George Lowe hold Mr Frahm's winning Poll Dorset entries in the all breeds trifecta class at the New Zealand Agricultural Show. PHOTO: SALLY RAE





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Warrawindi Fugitive 19-799

DOB: 21/06/19 Sire: Old Woombi 16-205 Dam: Warrawindi 17-547

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	ТСР
0.50	11.3	17.3	-0.2	2.1	140



Warrawindi Missile 19-764 DOB: 19/06/19 Sire: Ulandi Park 17-271 Dam: Haven Park 15-321

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	ТСР
0.39	9.6	14.2	-0.5	2.2	138.9



Warrawindi Voyager 19-528

DOB: 27/05/19 Sire: Old Woombi 16-205 Dam: Warrawindi 17-175

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	ТСР
0.49	11.3	17.6	-0.6	2.0	143.9



Warrawindi V8 19-664 DOB: 11/06/19 Sire: Haven Park 17-259 Dam: Haven Park 17-122

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	ТСР
0.46	10.4	15.7	0.0	2.2	143.7

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Bromar Products are Built to work together. Bromar Multifeeder available in two sizes 36Bag and 50Bag Many options available to tailor to your needs. Visit Bromar Website or give the Team a call for full list of available Options Website –www.bromarengineering.com.au

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