



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 55 / NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2025

Tattykeel's
clean sweep



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE...



HOW TO GET
\$454 FOR LAMBS
Page 17



YOUTH
YARNS
PAGE 21-24



FULL SHOW
COVERAGE
PAGE 33-44



39TH ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE Friday 7th November 2025 at 2pm

Stock scanned, Brucellosis Accredited, Gudair Vaccinated

NSW DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

- ★ Champion Intermediate Ram, Hillden 512-24
- ★ Reserve Champion Senior Ram, Hillden 61-24
- ★ Reserve Champion Ewe, Hillden 530-24
- ★ 1st Group 1 Ram & 2 Ewes

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW RESULTS

- ★ Reserve Champion Junior Ram, Hillden 538-24



538-24 ASWS Reserve Junior
Champion Ram –
FOR SALE, Australasian.



512-24 NSW Dorset Championships
Intermediate Champion Ram –
FOR SALE, Australasian.



61-24 NSW Dorset Championships
Reserve Senior Champion Ram.



530-24 NSW Dorset Championships
Reserve Champion Ewe.

Showing at the Australasian in September

- Selling 3 rams in the sale
- Show Team for Private Sale

INSPECTIONS WELCOME & ENCOURAGED

Brian and Lorraine Frost
"Hillden" 620 Bannister Lane,
Bannister NSW PH: (02) 4844 3134
James Frost - 0427 483 134



Duncombe and Co.
Jock Duncombe - 0427 661 899
Nutrien - Rick Power 0437 131 925
Daniel Croker - 0407 283 783

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

Reflecting on this moment, I am filled with both nostalgia and pride. The transformation we've witnessed in recent years is nothing short of extraordinary.

From paddock to plate, every link in the supply chain has felt the positive impact of these unprecedented achievements. It is a testament to our collective dedication, innovation, and willingness to adapt that the prime lamb industry now stands stronger than ever before. Watching producers, breeders, and all those connected to the industry benefit from these record-breaking times has been deeply rewarding. As I prepare to hand over the reins, I do so knowing that this vibrant industry – and in particular, our remarkable breed – is poised for even greater accomplishments in the seasons to come.

These prices have been welcomed by the whole industry, from those who produce commercial lambs to those who finish them to those who breed the genetics. There's a key message here though - wherever the prices may sit, Poll Dorset-sired lambs need to be at the top of the averages. And when you scan through the national records, it's reassuring to see that the vast majority of those high-priced lambs commanding \$400 and above are all sired by Poll Dorsets. This is not an accident.

It's the hard work put in by our stud breeders and consistent attention to detail when it comes to growth rates and carcass shape that has allowed

the Poll Dorset breed to shine brightly and set benchmarks within the prime lamb industry.

While it is important to recognise the strength of our breed, it's also vital that as stud breeders we continue to hold true to type, but also to move with what meat buyers, and ultimately consumers, want. Listening and then responding to those market signals is vital to ensuring that Poll Dorsets remain front of mind when commercial producers are making decisions on what breed of ram will deliver the best lambs and drive the profits in their flocks.

The top prices have come from a range of commercial operations - some are joining Poll Dorsets to Merinos and others are joining them to first or second cross ewes. That's another strength of our breed that we need to make known - that our top terminal genetics can be joined to a range of different breeds and produce a lamb which gains weight quickly and then has a high-quality carcass at the end of the process.

We can never rest on our laurels and the promoting our fantastic breed, whether it's at the local show, entering hoof and hook competitions or going to field days, we all need to be ambassadors for what the breed can do and is doing for the Australian lamb industry.

The showing at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo in July was an example of just that. There were record entries, a young judge, and classes of up to 20 in a lineup. What an impressive sight and what a statement this made of just how dominant Poll Dorsets are. To top it off, Poll Dorsets won the champion interbreed short wool group and champion short wool exhibit. Congratulations to the Tattykeel team and for representing our breed on centre stage at the biggest sheep show in the southern hemisphere. As members of the Poll Dorset breeding family, you can't help but feel proud of what this says about our breed.

The camaraderie within our breed is another thing that we need to be proud of, and I have experienced this firsthand. When my husband, Chris passed away, I was deeply touched by the support from members who reached out with cards, flowers, and phone calls. Knowing that our family was in your thoughts and prayers during such a difficult time brought solace and reminded me of the true spirit of our association.



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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

President
Tania King

Vice President
Laurie Fairclough

CEO & Secretary
Margot Falconer
secretary@polldorset.org.au

Advertising Sales
marketing@polldorset.org.au

Journal Editor
Fiona Myers
fionamyers@gmail.com

Graphic Design
Sam Garland
samgarlanddesign@gmail.com

Address for correspondence
Australian Poll Dorset Association Inc.
Unit 1/6 Merino Court
East Bendigo, VIC 3550

Telephone: (03) 5443 9902
Fax: (03) 5443 9354
Email: secretary@polldorset.org.au
www.polldorset.org.au
ABN: 65 206 172 969

The Australian Poll Dorset Association Inc reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement submitted for publication in the Australian Poll Dorset Journal. It is the responsibility of the advertiser, member or advertising agency concerned, to ensure that the advertising complies with the provisions of the Trade Practices Act 1974 relating to advertising. While every effort is made to publish advertisements as ordered, no responsibility is taken for the failure of an advertisement to appear as ordered. Opinions expressed in the Australian Poll Dorset Journal are not necessarily those of the Association or its journal editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would especially like to express my heartfelt thanks to George, Margot, Isabele, my fellow board members, as well as Keryn and the office staff. Your understanding and willingness to step in when I needed to take time away from my responsibilities meant so much. Your collective support and compassion have reinforced my pride in belonging to such a remarkable group of people.

As I prepare to step down, I do so with a deep sense of optimism for our breed's future. I am confident that, in the hands of the incoming president, our society will continue to flourish and adapt, meeting the evolving demands of the modern lamb industry with both strength and vision. The dedication and passion that define our breeders will ensure that Poll Dorsets remain at the forefront of excellence, innovation, and leadership in the years ahead. I wish the new president every success, knowing that our breed is set to thrive under their guidance, and that the legacy we have built together will only grow stronger with each season.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our secretary, Margot, whose unwavering commitment and attention to detail have been a cornerstone of our breed society. Margot, your years of dedicated service have not only kept our operations running smoothly but have also fostered a spirit of unity and professionalism that has strengthened our breed.

Your tireless efforts behind the scenes have been felt by all of us—organising, communicating, and ensuring that every member felt valued and informed. We are deeply appreciative of the legacy you leave behind, one of reliability, warmth, and excellence.

On behalf of all members, I wish you a fulfilling and joyful retirement. May this next chapter bring you as much happiness and satisfaction as you have brought to our organisation.

Regards

Tania King

PRESIDENT



ABELENE PARK

Founded
1977

Spring Ram & Ewe Sale

September 25, 1.30pm

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

- 45 Stud and Flock Rams
- 15 Maiden Stud Ewes

Check our website and facebook page for video and details of selected rams. Phone bidding available and free delivery for stud rams in NSW and can assist interstate.

Marshall Douglas - 0408 961 883
www.abelenepark.com



Junior & Reserve Champion Rams at Cowra. Both to be offered in Bendigo. Left: AP211 sired by AP69-22 "Hornet"
Right: AP111 sired by Tat155-21. Also selling our Res. Intermediate Ram AP82 sired by AP228 "Aldi"

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
ACROSS THE PENS	5
PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT	6
TREASURER'S REPORT	7
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: Building the bridge: why linkage is the key to breeding value success	8
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: Feed efficient sheep	11
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: Preparing your commercial clients for sale season	13
INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT: ICMJ wrap up	14
COMMERCIAL FOCUS: The story behind \$454 Poll Dorset-sired lambs	17
MARKET UPDATE: Australia's \$4 billion chop of lamb exports	19
YOUTH YARNS: SA Sheep Expo	21
YOUTH YARNS: 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day	22
ANIMAL HEALTH: Ram transport	27
SPONSORED CONTENT: Improving your tag retention	28
BOARD MEMBER FOCUS: Margot Falconer Q and A	31
AROUND THE SHOWS: Sheepvention	33
AROUND THE SHOWS: Australian sheep and wool show, Bendigo	34
AROUND THE SHOWS: Supreme ewe continues winning tradition with back-to-back success	37
AROUND THE SHOWS: 'Best Poll Dorset ewe I've seen in 40 years' rises to the top at NSW Sheep Show	38
AROUND THE SHOWS: Standout ewe caps off supreme day of judging for Poll Dorsets in interbreed	39
AROUND THE SHOWS: Pair of Poll Dorsets ewes proves winning combination in Sydney judging	40
AROUND THE SHOWS: Back-to-back win for Canowindra stud at NSW Dorset Championships	41
AROUND THE SHOWS: Cracking ewe' claims supreme sash at the NSW Dorset Championships	43
AROUND THE SHOWS: Dubbo Hoof and Hook	44
SPONSORED CONTENT: Accelerating Genetic Progress: The Role of Timely Genomic Data Delivery	46
ACROSS THE DITCH	48
SALE DATES	52
ADVERTISING RATES	55



Our cover: Tattyekeel Poll Dorset Stud from Black Springs had a stellar outing at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo. Pictured is James Gilmore with the supreme shortwool exhibit which had earlier won the grand champion Poll Dorset ram at the show

ADVERTISER INDEX

Hillden	2	Stockscan	21	Ivadene/LSK	37
Abelene Park	4	Ridgehaven	25	Pepperton	42
Janmac	6	Newbold	26	Neogen	43
Timberlea	7	Zoetis	27	Armdale	50
Shellal	12	Shearwell	29	Kurralea	51
Ulandi Park	16	Derrynock	30	Zoetis	55
Glenore	18	Ashcharmoo	31	Bromar	56
Valley Vista	20	Yentrac	32		

ACROSS THE PENS

CEO RETIREMENT AND NEW ROLE FOR KERYN HENDY

My retirement is now imminent with my last official day Friday September 19. I have loved working with you all over the past six and a half years and count many of you now as friends. I wish you all the very best in the years ahead. I know that times are tough for you sometimes but you all manage to enjoy a chat on the phone and I shall miss the many contacts I have made.



You have come to Known Keryn in the office through the annual flock return, registrations and transfers and all things Poll Dorset. Keryn has recently been promoted and her job title is Manager Breed Secretariats. She will continue to work with you and with new CEO Sue Open who officially starts August 25 - I hope a few of you will have met Sue at Bendigo and also at the ADC Championships.

SHOWS

Congratulations to all those who attended the recent Australian Sheep and Wool Show – probably the largest number of Poll Dorset sheep for many, many years. Well done to the winners and to those who did well at Sheepvention – I enjoyed catching up with those of you that I did.

ADC HELP DESK

The Australian Poll Dorset Association will again have a help desk set up at the ADC Championships for the entire event with Sunday after the Ram Sale specifically there to facilitate registration and transfer on the spot. We look forward to seeing you all the show.

SPRING SALES

Good luck with your Spring Sales, a full list is in this issue of the Journal and our website is being updated daily.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 30 - Sep 7 Royal Adelaide Show

Sep 12-14 Australasian Dorset Championships

Sep 23-30 Royal Perth Show

Sep 27-Oct 4 Royal Melbourne Show

Oct 9-12 Royal Launceston Show

Oct 23-25 Royal Hobart Show

PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

In the past journal, we had intended on hosting webinars throughout the year, however upon journal release, there was a range of very useful webinars scheduled by other organisations.

I'd like to direct you towards Australian Wool Innovation's YouTube channel. There have been some fantastic webinars released by AWI throughout the year, which have addressed timely and relevant topics such as utilising EIDs for profit and productivity, carbon emission calculations, and managing sheep nutrition in dry times.

And for genetics information, Sheep Genetics YouTube also has some useful, quick videos on aspects of the Sheep Genetics website and the information that goes into developing breeding values.

We do not want to reinvent the wheel and push out webinars of the same topics when there is a lot of great information already out there. We'd love to hear from you if you think there is a gap that we can fill, or perhaps more specific information tailored to Poll Dorset breeders.

Work is underway on the refreshed Australian Poll Dorset Association website. The release date will be announced when complete. The website will have a fresh modern look to move with the times and better position our breed with the future lamb industry. We will ensure that it is easy to navigate to access resources.

Once again, I'd like to put a call out to any avid photographers that are capturing high quality images at various points in the



year, at ram sales, in the yards, out in the paddock at lambing, weaning or putting the rams out etc.

If you are happy for us to use these in promotional material and social media posts to promote the Poll Dorset breed, I'd love to hear from you!

Brittany Bolt

PROMOTIONS CHAIR

COMMERCIAL RAM SEEDSTOCK SPECIALISTS

200+
POLL DORSET & WHITE SUFFOLK RAMS

\$13,000 Top Priced Ram of 2024 Sale

**2025 SPRING
RAM
SALE**

**WEDNESDAY
1ST OCTOBER. 1PM**

**ON-PROPERTY AUCTION
GOROKE RAM SHED**

Producing BETTER LAMB starts in your pastures using proven genetics. With decades of breeding, we know what works. We value structure, bone and style.

To this we add data & technology ensuring we breed & offer the very best quality stock & genetics at our annual auction.

Grant Hausler – 0427 861 013 | Bryce Hausler – 0427 861 031 GOROK, VIC

janmac.com.au

TREASURER'S REPORT



The 2025 financial year is a transition year hence the financials show a loss of \$53,458 because the bulk of the income was already collected in the previous financial year, yet the expenditure was in this financial year. Going forward, budgeting will be much easier than the situation in the past, where income and expenditure was spread over two financial years.

The financial position of APDA on the 30 April 2025, was \$337,8876 in assets. The share portfolio held a value of \$103,811, term deposits totalled \$191,070, and there was a working account of \$43,005. In addition, there are trust accounts of flock ram levy fund of \$43,830 and the trophy account of \$5,100.

The board had the flock book checked, printed and ready for posting with this issue of the journal. The cut off date for inclusion in flock book volume 71 was August 1. The late return fee has been increased to \$55.00 for flock returns received after July 1, to get order to get the flock book printed on time.

George Carter

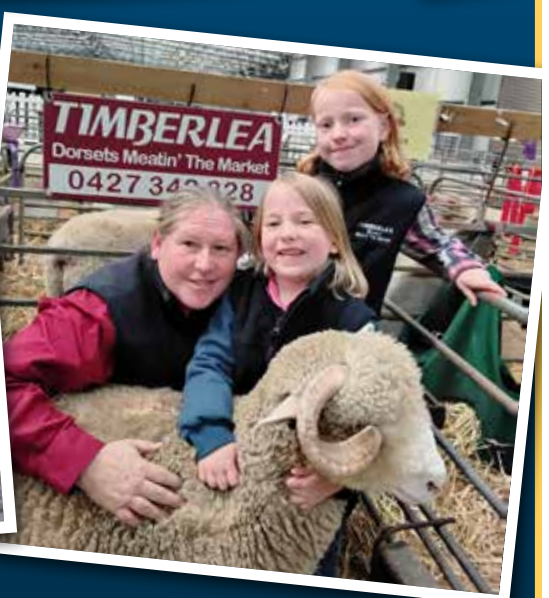
TREASURER

The APDA 2025 financial reports will be emailed two weeks prior to the annual general meeting in September. Should any member want a hard copy prior to the meeting, please contact the office and they will provide you with one.

TIMBERLEA Poll Dorsets

Flock 20 ~~~~ EST 1955 ~~~~

CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF POLL DORSETS



GJ & GM Vale & TM Bouchier 966 Vales Road Picola Victoria 3639
Gavin: 0429 932 211 Tamsin: 0427 342 828 Email: timberlea966@gmail.com

Building the bridge: why linkage is the key to breeding value success

When it comes to animal breeding, the term 'linkage' gets thrown around a bit, especially in conversations about breeding values and genetic evaluation. But let's be honest, it can sometimes leave you wondering, 'What actually is linkage, and why does it matter so much?'

If you've ever submitted data, only to find your animals don't rank well or, worse, don't get breeding values at all, you've likely run into the issue of poor linkage. It's one of those behind-the-scenes factors that can quietly limit the value of your recording efforts if you're not aware of it.

So, I thought I'd take a moment to break it down. In this article, I'll unpack what linkage is, why it's critical for making sense of your data and, most importantly, what you can do when your breeding program is starting with little or none of it.

Why linkage matters

Firstly, let's zoom out. I looked up the formal definition of linkage, and this is what I found: Linkage: the action of linking or the state of being linked.

Not super helpful on its own, but drill down further and you get: Link: a relationship between two things, especially where one affects the other.

In the breeding world, that's basically what we're talking about. Linkage is the relationship between animals that are run in different environments but share some common genetics, and those shared genetics are the links. It's these links that allow us to fairly compare animals across different flocks/herds, farms and even countries. Without them, we can't confidently benchmark or trust the breeding values we're looking at.

Think of linkage as a genetic bridge, created when animals in your flock or herd share a common sire with animals in other flocks or herds. That bridge helps to connect your data to the national evaluation system (for instance, Sheep Genetics or BREEDPLAN, here in Australia).

Once that bridge exists, the evaluation system can make fair comparisons between animals raised in different environments (imagine animals on different sides of the bridge). But without shared genetics (ie linkage), there's no bridge, and your data can't be reliably compared. This leads to lower EBV accuracy and reduced visibility of your animals in the national system.

For instance, you might have a ram that's performing brilliantly in your operation: great growth, structure, lamb survival, etc, but his EBVs don't reflect that. The reason? He isn't genetically linked to animals in other flocks. Without that connection, the system can't compare his data properly and has no way of knowing whether he's good only in your environment and under your management, or whether his progeny will perform well elsewhere. The value is there, but without the genetic bridge, it's hidden.

Causes of poor linkage

Just like any bridge, linkage doesn't just appear, and it's not built overnight. It's something we need to keep in mind and build over time. If you're new to performance recording, or

you've had a break and are starting again, your flock or herd might not be well connected to the national evaluation system.

Poor linkage often comes down to a few key factors:

- One of the biggest factors is not having any shared sires with other flocks/herds. If your genetics aren't used elsewhere, or you're not using proven sires with wide industry use, there's no genetic bridge to compare animals in different places.
- Another cause is the absence of DNA testing. Without genomic data, the system can't detect deeper genetic relationships that might not be obvious from pedigree records alone.
- Finally, submitting minimal or isolated data causes issues. For example, only recording one trait, one group, or for one season, all limit the ability of the evaluation system to connect your animals to the broader population.

Overall, strong linkage takes deliberate effort. It's essential if you want accurate, trusted breeding values that truly reflect the genetic merit of your animals.

Practical strategies to build linkage and value

Introduce connected sires

One of the most effective ways to build linkage is to bring in sires that are already genetically connected to other flocks (or herds). These 'reference sires' act as anchors, as their shared genetics form the bridge between your animals and the wider evaluation system.

Artificial insemination (AI) offers a great opportunity to access sires with high accuracy and broad usage. Sheep Genetics recommends that even if you use just one connected sire for every 10 rams, that's often enough to significantly improve linkage.

Natural service sires can also be valuable if they come from flocks or herds with strong data and proven breeding values. Choosing sires with high accuracy for traits important to your breeding goals (like growth or muscle) ensures that their impact is not only genetic but also valuable in terms of benchmarking.

It's also important to look at how widely a sire has been used across different environments and over multiple years, and how many progeny he has recorded across different flocks/herds. Sires with wide industry use give your flock or herd a common genetic thread with many others, allowing the evaluation system to compare data with confidence. Over time, repeating this strategy across generations compounds the benefit, giving your flock or herd long-term access to higher EBV accuracy and visibility in the national evaluation.

DNA testing with purpose

DNA testing is one of the most powerful tools to build linkage, but it works best when used strategically. Testing key animals like sires and retained replacements helps connect your animals to the broader evaluation system, especially if those animals share genetics with others in the database.

Even small numbers of well-chosen animals can significantly strengthen your linkage. For example, DNA testing a sire that's also used in another flock or herd enables the system to make confident comparisons between both environments. It also uncovers hidden genetic relationships that may not have been captured in traditional pedigrees.

When used over time, DNA builds a genomic picture of your flock or herd's structure, allowing the evaluation to

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

estimate breeding values more accurately, even for traits with low heritability.

The key is to be deliberate. Don't waste resources testing every animal or at random. Instead, test those that will influence future generations or will be used for benchmarking. This approach to DNA testing not only improves the visibility of your animals in the national database but also allows your breeding values to gain strength and accuracy, even in the early years of recording.

Focus on within-flock/within-herd values

When linkage is still developing, don't underestimate the power of good within-flock/herd selection. While breeding values may be low in accuracy early on, your own adjusted weights, structural assessments and raw performance data are still valuable for guiding breeding decisions. Keep detailed records of weights, growth rates, lambing outcomes and visual traits, especially if you're selecting replacements or sale rams.

In commercial operations, feedback from kill sheets or client performance can also be useful for identifying consistent sire lines and high-performing ewes.

This internal data becomes more powerful as linkage strengthens over time. Early on, it helps you make sound genetic decisions even if national benchmarks aren't yet fully developed for your flock or herd. Ultimately, within-flock/herd selection keeps your breeding program progressing while you work toward building broader linkage and full confidence in the national genetic evaluation.

Target key traits first

When beginning to record and build linkage, it makes sense to focus on traits where your raw data has the most impact.

Traits like weaning weight, post-weaning growth and eye muscle depth are moderately to highly heritable and relatively straightforward to measure. Because of their genetic simplicity and ease of collection, they're also more likely to generate useful EBVs even when linkage is still developing.

In contrast, traits like reproduction, eating quality or worm resistance are lower in heritability and often require large datasets or genomic support to estimate with confidence.

So, early on, lean into the traits where progress is more visible and the data you collect has more weight. That doesn't mean ignoring the more challenging traits, but rather being cautious in how you interpret their breeding values while the accuracy is still developing. As your linkage and dataset grow, accuracy will improve across all traits. Focusing on the key, high-impact areas first can build momentum, both in genetic gain and in confidence in your data system.

Collaborate to build linkage

Linkage doesn't have to be built alone. In fact, collaboration can fast-track the process. Working with neighbouring breeders or within a producer group allows you to use shared sires intentionally and benchmark your animals more quickly. By selecting a common AI sire or swapping sires with trusted breeders, you instantly create genetic connections that strengthen the evaluation for everyone involved.

Producer groups or breed society trials are ideal for this. Even small-scale collaborations, such as two producers agreeing to use a shared sire and compare results, can make a difference. Data from multiple environments provides more context and confidence in genetic evaluations, which boosts breeding

value accuracy and usefulness. You can also benchmark traits and performance across farms, allowing for honest feedback and improvement.

Programs like sire evaluations, young sire programs or resource flocks/herds are designed with linkage in mind. And the bonus of these initiatives is that you're not just building linkage; you're building community and shared learning, which benefits your breeding business beyond the data.

Keep perspective

Building linkage and seeing strong breeding values isn't something that happens overnight. It can take several years of consistent recording, smart sire choices and ongoing DNA testing to see the full benefit of linkage. But that investment pays off in the form of accurate, reliable breeding values that reflect your animals' true genetic merit. The key is to stay consistent and not get discouraged if your breeding value accuracy looks low early on. Remember, even the most well-established flocks and herds started somewhere. Every shared sire, every DNA test, every year of good data recording is a step forward.

Linkage is cumulative, meaning the more connections you build, the stronger your evaluations become. Celebrate the wins along the way, whether it's better lamb survival, improved growth rates or positive customer feedback on your rams. Over time, these small wins compound to provide you with a flock or herd that's not only genetically stronger, but also recognised and benchmarked at an industry level. Stay the course and it'll be worth it in the long run.

Linkage is the foundation of meaningful genetic evaluation. Without it, your best-performing animals risk going unrecognised. So, take a strategic approach, lean into collaboration and don't lose sight of your breeding goals. With consistency and purpose, you'll build a program that not only makes progress within your own gates but also helps lay down a strong genetic bridge, one that connects your animals to the broader industry. And once that bridge is built, your animals can be fairly compared, accurately benchmarked and recognised for the true value they bring.

Article courtesy of Phoebe Eckermann, NextGen Agri



Phoebe Eckermann.



Albury-Wagga Wagga Region NATIONAL POLL DORSET CONFERENCE *Unite, Breed, Succeed*

LOCATION

The Range, Wagga Wagga, NSW

DATES

Sunday 22 February 2026 – Tuesday 24 February 2026

PROGRAM

- Sunday evening Meet & Greet – Barefoot Bowls
- Monday & Tuesday – speakers, presentations and trade stalls
- Monday – Conference dinner with guest speaker
- Tuesday – Conference after party at local brewery

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Mark Ferguson from Nextgen Agri
- Rabobank's Angus Gidley Baird
- MLA & Sheep Genetics
- Sprout Agribusiness on finance and succession
- Neogen with DNA & Genomics
- Wright Social on social media marketing

COST

- Conference \$300 (under 25s \$250)
- Dinner \$100

Scan the QR code to stay up
to date with the latest details
about the conference



Feed efficient sheep

Promising Western Australian research findings into sheep feed efficiency and methane emissions have been delivered at an international livestock genetics conference in New Zealand.

Preliminary results from a joint Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Meat and Livestock Australia project has flagged the potential to select for more feed efficient sheep which produce less methane.

Speaking at the 26th Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand, DPIRD research scientist Brittany Bolt said feed-use efficiency and reducing methane emissions in sheep were critical strategies for enhancing market access, profitability and the long-term sustainability of the sheep industry.

“Over the past two years we have collected feed intake, liveweight and growth from 756 weaners from MLA’s Resource Flock at DPIRD’s Katanning Research Station, which uses industry nominated genetics from Merinos, maternal, terminal and shedding breeds,” she said.

“From our measurements, we found that liveweight and growth account for 72 to 89 per cent of variation in average daily intake.

“When we adjust average daily intake for liveweight and growth, we can identify animals that are consuming more feed and those that consume a lot less at the same liveweight and growth.

“There is significant variation across and within all breed types in the study, which suggests that there is opportunity to select for more feed efficient animals.”

Researchers also used Portable Accumulation Chambers to measure methane on the Resource Flock weaners.

“Methane is an important part of understanding productivity efficiency as methane is a bi-product of ruminant digestion - energy that is not used for growing muscle, wool or fat - it can be viewed as wasted energy,” Ms Bolt said.

“Like feed intake, liveweight and growth are major drivers for methane production, generally, the greater the liveweight and growth the greater the methane produced.

“What this means is, if we are selecting only for reducing methane, we are sacrificing production.

“Our research so far has demonstrated a large amount of variation in both feed intake and methane production. We have been able to identify animals that are consuming less feed, producing less methane with the same amount of liveweight and growth as animals that are conversely eating a lot and producing more methane.

“This research highlights the potential for genetic improvements to help reduce methane emissions and enhance feed efficiency in sheep, offering pathways to a more sustainable and profitable sheep industry.”

Ms Bolt said researchers were still in the early stages of data collection.

“We will continue to collect feed intake and methane data in Katanning over the next three years,” she said.

“The feed intake and methane data collected here in WA, will ultimately contribute to the development of new Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) to allow producers to select for more efficient and productive sheep.”



Inside the Sheep Feed Intake Facility (SFIF) at Katanning Research Station, WA. MLA Resource Flock weaners in the shed to capture individual feed intake records.



ADPA board member and researcher Brittany Bolt recording methane production from sheep in Portable Accumulation Chambers.

Shellal



46th Annual sale

TUESDAY

14TH OCTOBER

On-Property Hawksdale
Victoria @ 1pm

Stud Rams & Flock Rams

All stud rams are DNA
genomics tested and
eligible for full stud
registration and transfer



Contact: Tania King 0429 720 062
Geoff & Pam 03 5560 6241
Email: Shellalpolldorsets@gmail.com
Website: www.shellal.com



Preparing your commercial clients for sale season

With sale season fast approaching it's important you and your commercial ram buyers know how to understand the information presented in a sale catalogue or pen card and be able to benchmark animals' genetic merit against the Percentile Bands for industry performance



Put a QR code to the Genetics Toolkit in your sale catalogue to help your commercial clients get sale ready by understanding:

- How to shop for high performing sires
- ASBVs and selection indexes
- Ram buyers guide to sale catalogues and pen cards
- How to search for animals on the Sheep Genetics website
- Ram team tracking
- Setting a breeding objective
- Flock Profiles

Launch of the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis

The Combined LAMBPLAN analysis run will be released from the 15th of August 2025 analysis run! Sheep Genetics is very excited to release the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis to enable direct comparisons of the genetic merit of Maternal and Terminal animals. The Combined LAMBPLAN analysis also enables the future ability to develop and provide better commercial tools and outcomes under a single analysis e.g., Flock Profile for a first and cross multi-breed animals, and other commercial genetic selection tools for multi-breed animals. There are some world-leading enhancements to the evaluation which have resulted in more accurate ASBVs!

We will be running a series of webinars, Analysis Enhancement booklets, and podcast episodes to provide insight into Combined LAMBPLAN research analysis and what it means for your flock. Please scan the QR code to register for the Combined LAMBPLAN webinar on the 15th of August 2025.



Sheep Genetics understands this is a significant enhancement and will take some time to understand for both seedstock breeders and commercial ram buyers. For this reason, we're recommending continuing using current Terminal ASBVs in your 2025/26 ram sale cataloguing.

The Combined LAMBPLAN analysis will be a research analysis run in parallel with the current Terminal and Maternal analyses until the release of the final phase in early 2027. The below table shows the staged phase releases, with the growth, development, and eating quality traits included in the first phase release in August 2025.

Phase	Module
Phase 1	• Growth and Development module RBVs
	• Eating Quality module RBVs
Phase 2	• Lambing Ease module RBVs
	• WEC module RBVs

Phase	Module
Phase 3	• Component Reproduction module RBVs
Phase 4	• Wool module RBVs
	• Visual module RBVs
Phase 5	• Combined LAMBPLAN research indexes
Phase 6	• Analysis and Pipeline refinement
	• Turn off Maternal and Terminal analyses

Get your data quality in order before sale season

High data quality is important for accurate ASBVs – flocks that have high data quality also make higher rates of genetic gain, compared to flocks with low data quality. As stud breeders, you're spending a lot of time recording traits so it's important you're getting the most out of your data. Ensuring you're validating your data prior to submission will increase the quality of the data used in the genetic evaluation. You can check the quality/effectiveness of your data by logging onto the Sheep Genetics website and accessing your Data Quality Score (DQS) report

Remember the evaluation doesn't know what is happening on farm, so it relies on you submitting accurate records to produce accurate ASBVs.

Accurate data = accurate ASBVs = better selection decisions

Please scan the QR code if you wish to talk to Sheep Genetics about your data quality



Updating pedigree after genotyping

It's important to update the pedigree of animals in your on-farm software after getting your genomics results back from your provider. The pedigree does not automatically update once you get your genotyping results back and sometimes the sire/dam that you suggested is incorrect which results in a genomic pedigree inconsistency – or an inconsistency between the pedigree you suggested, and the actual pedigree result according to the genotype results.

Genomic pedigree inconsistencies need to be fixed, as where there is an inconsistency between the actual and suggested pedigree of an animal, it means that the pedigree used in the Sheep Genetics analysis is not entirely correct resulting in inaccurate ASBVs!

Sheep Genetics reports genomic pedigree inconsistencies on your Flock Reports dashboard. If you have genomic pedigree inconsistencies please review and update these accordingly, noting to change the pedigree method to "DNA" in your on-farm software. Then make sure you re-submit the relevant year drops for lambs with genomic pedigree inconsistencies.

Please contact Sheep Genetics if you have any questions

Marnie Hodge
Senior Development Officer
Sheep Genetics
mhodge@mla.com.au
0400 948 784

ICMJ wrap up

Future industry leaders poised to make their mark on the global red meat industry were given a taste of what Poll Dorsets can do at Wagga Wagga, NSW, in June.

The Australia Poll Dorset Association was an Inter Collegiate Meat Judging event sponsor and two NSW breeders took the time to present to the Australian and international students in a formal setting and a workshop.

The sponsorship provided the APDA the opportunity to showcase the importance of Poll Dorset genetics in the lamb industry. The Careers Expo which links students with businesses in the red meat industry, is a space to meet and speak about what their business does, potential career opportunities, and graduate programs.

As welcome drinks sponsor for the evening, Poll Dorsets were front and centre, with Cudal, NSW, Poll Dorset breeder and committee member Isabelle Roberts speaking for five minutes to the students and agricultural businesses, and a slide show of Poll Dorset sheep played in the background during the evening.

Ms Roberts was one of the formal speakers during the conference sessions representing her family's stud, Ridgehaven, and used her time to prepare the students for the practical sessions that followed.

"I spoke on identifying key genetics, and how we utilise phenotyping to increase our understanding of certain traits," Ms Roberts said.



Students taking part in the ICMJ looking at phenotypes of young Poll Dorset rams.



Joe Scott from Valley Vista at Coolac, NSW, was one of the workshop presenters at the ICMJ conference.

"It's ultimately linking the genetics of production with the outcomes that are required for the entire supply chain to be successful."

Ms Roberts was joined by Coolac, NSW, Poll Dorset breeder Joe Scott from Valley Vista stud, who presented live sheep workshops on phenotyping in practice for both breeding and prime lambs.

A group of 12-week-old Poll Dorset lambs was used for visual assessment and the purpose of the workshop was to practically describe how to phenotype a sheep, and give the participants the opportunity to experience this skill.

Students were told about the value of characteristics like structure and visual characteristics and then adding performance data to their assessments.

"Students were split into two groups, where the phenotyping process was explained," Ms Roberts said.

"We showed them what to look for, why it was important, how to score each trait, and use the results to make decisions about the animal."

Joe Scott ran the breeding program group, and asked the participants to categorise the animals into one of three groups: whether they were suitable for a stud breeding program, suitable for a commercial breeding program (flock ram) or whether they should be culled.

Isabelle Roberts ran the prime lamb group, and asked them to make some marketing decisions such as are they ready to sell; can you estimate a carcass weight, and which meat processor contract would you select?

"Many of the students had no previous experience with sheep, but jumped in to have a go," Ms Roberts said.

"Prior to the lamb workshop, they had completed a lamb carcass breakdown workshop, so found it easy to understand the carcass shape and fat cover attributes that were explained."

Mr Scott said he had never been to ICMJ before and took the chance to talk through a pen of ram lambs and impress on the students the importance of visual appraisal of things like good feet, good head, good depth of body and carcass and true to type.

"We then look at the data sheets and if they confirm that the one we liked also has the data, so a ram like that would become an elite stud sire," Mr Scott said.

"The next two or three you would work out that they were good flock rams and maybe the last one would be culled to go into the prime lamb market."

Mr Scott said it was important not to look at just data when selecting rams.

"We find that with a lot of younger breeders coming through that they are very good at reading data and process it and working out which ones they want," he said.

"Equally important is knowing that ram or ewe can go out and walk around your place for four or five years to make sure they can eat.

"If they don't have depth of body, and you've got a ram that has slightly lower data, you are better off going with him if he has a big, deep bodied carcass and stands up on his feet.

"It's about learning how to look at sheep and assess their phenotype and then go to the data."

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Mr Scott said participants were more knowledgeable about pigs and cattle, and it was valuable to give insights into sheep.

"We encouraged the students to look at the data, but also to always come and look at the sheep too, and see if the phenotype backed up what they saw on the sheets," he said.

Mr Scott said he had met ICMJ graduates before through his pregnancy scanning business and many were playing big roles within the red meat industry.

"It was good to be able to meet some of the students, learn something about them and establish contact because it's likely they are all going to be people that find their ways into key roles," he said.

Mr Scott said the chance to speak with students was timely given the run of record lamb prices over the past few months.

"The students had been hearing about those prices and asking questions about that and we could tell them that the Poll Dorset-sired lambs had been excelling in the saleyards," he said.

"It was good to be able to get into a pen of lambs which were only four months old and to be able to show to them that the Poll Dorset-sired lambs were 50 kilograms and they were right at the top end of the breed."

University of Queensland student Kathryn Fisher was at the ICMJ and was overall runner up champion judge as well as being part of the UQ team that was runner up to the winners from Texas, US.

Ms Fisher was also the champion lamb judge, no mean feat given that she comes from a beef property.

"I am from a family owned and operated cattle station in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and went to boarding school in Charters Towers and attend university at the UQ Gatton campus," Ms Fisher said.

"After taking a gap year last year I have rearranged my studies and am now finishing my Bachelor of Agricultural Science majoring in Animal Science at the end of this year while also completing a Bachelor of Agribusiness majoring in agricultural production at the University of New England.

"I have no idea what next year has in store so I am very open to opportunities like ICMJ to broaden my scope of what's out there."

Ms Fisher admitted to having no knowledge of sheep before the event.

"I come from cattle country and the last time I was close enough to touch a sheep was mutton busting at a rodeo when I was three or four so I had to do a lot of study when it came to the sheep part of the competition," she said.

"The Poll Dorset workshops really helped me put what you see in the chillers in perspective.

"I also enjoyed talking to the representatives from Gundagai Lamb as they are taking the processing side of things leaps and bounds and it's fascinating to learn about an industry that is all new to you."

Ms Fisher said she had boosted her lamb industry knowledge through the judging competition.

"In terms of lamb judging, I think knowing what you are looking for in a carcass really helps when you are looking at a live animal and knowing what quality attributes to look for in a cut of meat to have a great eating experience," she said.

"But also knowing a little bit about the industry helps me to advocate for it and spread the word about lamb, which I intend to do."

Penny Crothers was part of the Marcus Oldham team that won the ICMJ lamb judging competition and said taking part had been extremely valuable.

Ms Crothers is from Goondiwindi, Queensland and spent six years after leaving school working on cattle stations and on a pearl farm in Broome, Western Australia.

She is studying for a Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness) at Marcus Oldham and her attitude to throw herself into every opportunity she could saw her compete and be part of the ICMJ.

"It was fascinating to really understand the significance of exports across all industries, pork, beef and lamb and how they are key to the success of the meat industries in Australia," Ms Crothers said.

"It was also interesting listening to Isabelle Roberts discuss the correlation between phenotypes and genetics and the importance of having that balance within the flock to see the best results."

She said the opportunities to network, both with peers and experts in the meat industry, were incredible.

"Hopefully, those connections will continue on for many years to come," she said.

"Practicing and developing the skills of communication and networking will help in all situations, whether that be meeting new people at an event or presenting well in an interview.

"The biggest thing from the conference was learning more about the career scope within the industry and while it's daunting, it also makes it exciting to see which path draws me in."



One of the young ram lambs up for assessment at the ICMJ workshop.



Isabelle Roberts, Ridgehaven, Cudal, NSW speaking about phenotypes to the ICMJ students.

Ulandi Park

POLL DORSETS

Flock No. 3125

- Breeding to Industry Needs - Founded 1980

28th Annual On Property Sale

Friday 26th September 2025 - 1.00pm

15 Feature and 120 Flock Rams

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

Sale interfaced with:  AuctionsPlus™

We welcome your inspection on property



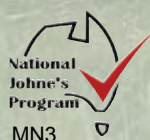
Check our Website, Facebook and You Tube for updates during September

Clayton and Andrea Rowett, RSD 33A, Kapunda SA 5373
(63 Murray's Road, Marrabel)

(08) 8848 6038 Clayton 0408 852 927

www.ulandiparkpolldorsets.com.au

Accredited Brucellosis Free



The story behind \$454 Poll Dorset-sired lambs

It's feeding the breeding that has helped the McMahon family from Tullamore in central-western NSW achieve some of the nation's top price lambs this winter.

The McMahons held a national record of \$454 for a couple of weeks for their home grown Poll Dorset-sired lambs, which had an estimated carcass weight of more than 47kg and were sold through agency Kevin Miller, Whitty, Lennon and Co at the Forbes saleyards.

At the time, KMWL agent Matt Lennon said it was a huge achievement.

Of the draft of about 100 lambs, the best pen made \$454 and the "seconds" made \$450. The Poll Dorset-sired lambs out of first cross ewes had an estimated carcass weight of about 47kg.

"They do a professional job with finishing lambs and everything was spot on with this draft, as it usually is," Mr Lennon said.

That finishing system is run by Ross McMahon, who operates a feedlot that turns off a mix of home-grown and bought-in lambs, turning out between 15,000 and 20,000 lambs a year.

Their home grown lambs are produced from first cross ewes sired by Poll Dorset rams, a breeding program that produces what Ross believes are the "perfect lambs".

They breed their own Poll Dorset rams and turn off a portion of their February-drop lambs as suckers, before the southern turnoff begins.

Once supermarkets make the move to get lambs in Victoria, they then turn the focus of their production system into the feedlot to finish to heavier weights.

The McMahons feedlot is automated, with Feedtech Feeding Systems installed. Feed is automatically supplied from a 70-tonne silo, to four pens which each hold about 800 lambs. Trough lengths are 59m.

The lambs were being fed a home mixed ration of lupins, barley and buffers, but as the cost of grain rose, they switched to Coprice lamb feedlot blend.

Lambs go into the feedlot at about 40kg liveweight, and with weight gains of up to 400g a day, are usually out within six to eight weeks at a liveweight of 50-55kg to target the heavy domestic trade market.

The process has to be simple, Ross said, given he runs the operation by himself. Lambs go in, are drafted into 5kg weight ranges, are fed and sold.

The automated feeding has been a game changer, Ross said, and while the lambs usually have access to feed all the time, there's the opportunity to tweak things around weather.

"If we know that there is wet weather coming and the feed will be affected in the troughs, we can switch off the feed and let the lambs clean them out, so there is no feed lost," Mr McMahon said.

And while feeding is important, the breeding of the lambs and how they perform is one of the biggest influences on profit.

The highest performing lambs will put on the most weight in the quickest time, and therefore minimise the cost of feed.

"We usually budget on about \$40/head for feed costs," Mr McMahon said.

"Clearly, if they are putting on weight more quickly, then that makes it more profitable for us."

There is a sweet spot, he said, when it comes to weight gain. His own Poll Dorset-sired lambs seem to have the quickest weight gains when they hit 50kg liveweight, and then, they are "on the move", he said.

As for those \$454 lambs, the Poll Dorset-sired draft was mostly bred by the McMahons with some bought in lambs topping up the numbers.

Some from the same line were entered in the Dubbo Hook and Hoof Competition, spurred on by Ross's two sons Archie, 11, and Freddie, 8.

And two decks from the same draft averaged \$350 when they were sold about six weeks before the record breaking draft.

"We kept back 100 lambs to see if we could break \$400, just for the fun of it, and we certainly did that," Mr McMahon said.

The ability of Poll Dorset-sired lambs to create records as extra heavy weights and the ability to fit into a feedlot but also post good returns as suckers makes them versatile, Mr McMahon said.

"The Poll Dorset-second cross lambs have frame, and can grow out to the weights if not sold as suckers," he said.

"You have weight gain, and the end product is just better and they produce a nice line of square, neat lambs."



The run of McMahons lambs that made up to \$454 at Forbes, NSW, and were fed in their feedlot.



Matt Lennon from KMWL Forbes, NSW with vendor Ross McMahon, Tullamore, NSW, and Archie McMahon, Charlie Mortimer, and Freddie McMahon, after selling lambs at Forbes saleyards in June for \$454 in what was a national record at the time.



15th Annual On Property Ram Sale

Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 1:00pm

7 Specially Selected Rams
10 Specially Selected Ewes
70 Flock Rams

Sale Rams Available for Inspection

Breeding Top Quality Rams Since 1962



Glenore 150-25 & Glenore 115-25



Glenore sired prime lamb



Glenore 23-24, Glenore 198-24 & Glenore 98-24
Group of 3 Rams Sheepvention

Peter, Gillian & Charlotte Cain

Glenore, Carisbrook Vic 3464

0407 843 711 | petegillcain@bigpond.com



Australia’s \$4 billion chop of lamb exports

Australian lamb export value exceeded \$4 billion for the first time over a 12-month period in the past financial year (2024/2025) and was up 14 per cent year-on-year figures. Export volume was slightly lower (down 1 per cent) but was still the second highest ever at 363,109 tonnes shipped weight.

Top lamb export destinations were consistent with previous years, but volume shifts occurred:

- United States and Canada: Both the US (up 5 per cent) and Canada (up 11 per cent) saw year-on-year growth. The US increased lamb carcass, shank and boneless loin while Canada saw carcass, manufacturing, breast and flap plus leg growth.
- Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Malaysia: PNG saw a 4 per cent growth with the expanding young and urbanised population driving consumption. Lamb flap demand increased due to popular gathering and celebratory dishes. Malaysia saw a 13 per cent increase due to strong economic growth.
- Middle East: Saudi Arabia (up 25 per cent) and Qatar (up 30 per cent) increased year-on-year with consumption driven by tourism industry growth and more expatriate workers. Lamb cut exports have greatly diversified over the past decade with carcass volume falling from 74 per cent in FY2014–15 to 58 per cent in the past financial year.
- China: Lamb export volume decreased 9 per cent year-on-year while mutton increased 18 per cent year-on-year driven by heightened demand for lower-priced products. Consumers remain cautious in their discretionary spending.
- Iran: Export volumes to Iran were significantly lower (down 29 per cent year-on-year), largely due to flight disruptions because of regional conflict.

Market diversification continues

Market diversification continues as a key risk management strategy to enhance industry resilience and sustainability.

Australian lamb export volume to top markets has experienced a downward trend for the past 30 years. However, export destination numbers have increased. Both are indicators of increased market diversification.

Access enables market diversification

- China: Chilled lamb exports to China have almost quadrupled in FY2024–25, in part due to a significant increase in approved chilled access establishments – up to twenty from just one.
- Middle East Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): GCC shelf-life of Australian chilled vacuum-packed sheepmeat has increased from 60 to 90 days, following years of research. This allows more sea-shipped product, reducing freight and wastage costs.

The United Kingdom (up 44 per cent year-on-year) and India (up 124 per cent year-on-year) are both experiencing above-average market growth due to improved market access because of recent new free trade agreements.

Aussie lamb exports have experienced extraordinary growth since enforcement of the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (A-UK FTA), aided by decreased domestic UK production, zero tariffs, record Australian production and lower Australian prices.

Roasted Australian frozen bone-in lamb legs have been long-time British favourites for Easter and Christmas celebrations. MLA’s UK team has focused on expanding opportunities for chilled lamb and cut ranges with importers, buyers and consumers. This has resulted in larger volumes of boneless legs, half legs, rack, shoulder, short loin, skirt, and breast and flap options.

MLA UK country manager Richard Sanders said the A-UK FTA was opening doors for exciting collaborations and growth.

“British consumers are enthusiastic – not just about the familiar Aussie favourites, but also for a growing range of value-added cuts,” Mr Saunders said.

“Aussie lamb is also carving out a place in UK foodservice, where its mild, versatile flavour suits a wide range of global cuisines.”

Article courtesy of MLA Market Insights Manager Vivian Harris.

Increasing market diversification of Australian lamb exports			
	FY1994–95	FY2024–25	% change
Volume share of Top 10 export markets	85%	70%	-18%
Volume share of Top 5 export markets	67%	51%	-24%
Total number of export destinations	75	91	+21%

Valley Vista



CONSISTENCY WHEN IT COUNTS

2025 RETAINED SIRES

VV 240155

VV 240106

SEMEN AVAILABLE



150 RAMS SELL ON-PROPERTY FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025

3 STUD SIRES TO BE OFFERED AT AUSTRALASIAN DORSET CHAMPS



ANDREW: 0419 208 272
JOE: 0429 220 492

VALLEY VISTA, COOLAC,
NSW 2727

✉ VALLEYVISYA@VALLEYVISTA.COM.AU

📘 /VALLEYVISTAPD

🌐 WWW.VALLEYVISTA.COM.AU



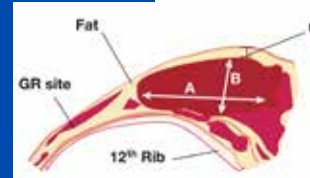
SA Sheep Expo

The Adelaide region of the Australian Poll Dorset Association proudly sponsored eight young participants to attend the 2025 SA Sheep Expo, held from the 17th to the 19th of April. The Australian Poll Dorset Association was also a premier breed sponsor of this year's event, continuing its strong support for youth engagement and education within the sheep industry.

The SA Sheep Expo is a hands-on educational forum for young people aged 12 to 23, designed to develop skills and foster connections within the sheep sector. Over the first two days, participants attended workshops led by industry experts on a range of topics including nutrition, technology, young judging, ring craft, autopsy, feed budgeting, and the Young Farmers Challenge.

On the final day, participants competed in a handlers competition, working with a sheep they had been allocated and cared for throughout the event. Senior participants were paired with junior entrants to offer support and mentorship across the three days.

Participants were assessed on their handling skills, stock presentation, attitude, junior judging, assignment work, and the cleanliness of their pens. The Expo continues to be a valuable opportunity for young people to build confidence, knowledge, and lasting friendships within the sheep industry.



Could you be missing out?



StockScan is the only performance recording system delivering **processed data** on eye-muscle width, depth and area measurements, providing definitive results to achieve:

- **MORE MEAT**
- **HIGHER YIELD CARCASSES**

An on-farm tool used by Stud & Commercial Breeders. Run by dedicated breeders who understand the Prime Lamb Industry.

Information or scanning bookings contact:
Hayley Buerckner
Ph: 0455 955 829

Email: stockscan@live.com
www.stockscanservices.com.au



2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day

A chance to learn about the prime lamb industry and the role that Poll Dorsets play were some of the key outcomes from the 2025 Youth Day at Cowra, NSW, in August.



Yass High School took out the best performing school at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.



Brendan Mansbridge, Brooklyn Park, Eugowra, with winner of the Emma Clark memorial junior stockman student Olivia Wiffen from St Paul's College at Walla Walla, NSW, and Ruth Klingner from Ridgehaven at Cudal, NSW at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.

And the event which originally drew on another held in southern NSW and was held for the first time in 2015, has now become so popular with schools that numbers have to be limited.

The 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day drew participants from local areas like Cowra, Canowinda, Forbes, Grenfell and Orange but also from further afield including Mudgee, Walla Walla, Wagga Wagga, Yass and Sydney.

In all, 150 students gathered at the Cowra Showgrounds to tackle everything from sheep judging to animal health, farm safety to nutrition, and genetics to chop judging.

Youth day organiser Ruth Klingner from Ridgehaven Poll Dorset stud at Cudal, NSW, said the event, run every two years, was developed deliberately to offer industry information, as well as traditional inclusions like junior judging.

"We wanted to provide that industry-wide information, to show that there are careers all through agriculture and not just running a stud," Ms Klingner said.

"There are kids that may have thought that agriculture can only mean working on a farm, but coming here could produce future agronomists or farm advisers, or at least future chop eaters!

"We also went to a school teacher to see what we could tick off in the agriculture curriculum by providing that information at the youth day."

That's not to say that junior judging has been ignored, with all students given information on what to look before, then allowed to use this information to assess rams and ewes.

Ms Klingner said students from years 7-12 were able to attend, and while entries up to age 25 were open, no older participants had taken part this year.

Sheep scanning was demonstrated at the youth day by Phil Balcombe from Canowindra, NSW, who also runs the Cranbrook Poll Dorset stud.



St Pauls Walla Walla students Evie Bahr, Ruby Routley and Samuel Lane at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.

YOUTH YARNS

Mr Balcombe said he was happy to showcase one of the management techniques used to make the prime lamb industry more efficient.

"I think that it is important for everyone to know where their meat comes from, and the management that is needed to make sure this is efficient," Mr Balcombe said.

"They might complain about a \$30 leg of lamb not knowing the effort it takes to get it there."

Mr Balcombe told students that pregnancy scanning was one of the big advances the industry had made.

"Years ago, we were only doing wet and dry scanning, and now people know that scanning for multiples can mean an extra 10-15 per cent through managing them better, and that's a very profitable increase," he said.

Mr Balcombe said it was easy to talk about the benefits of using Poll Dorset rams to students.

"We are the number one terminal breed in Australia and the breed that can do a sucker lamb at 14-16 weeks, as well as grow out to a heavier weight," he said.

The Riverina Anglican College agriculture teacher Trevor Dawson brought eight students from Wagga Wagga, NSW, with the students part of the school's show team.

Mr Dawson said the students, which ranged in age from year 7-11, enjoyed the chance to get real life, hands on exposure at the youth day.

"This day ticks off so many things in our curriculum, on the one day, in a short time, and from a range of presenters," Mr Dawson said.

"Everything is here and the kind of information they get from experts in their field is so much better than if it was just me presenting at school."

TRAC has a Poll Dorset stud with 25 ewes, and is based on Armdale Park bloodlines.

Mr Dawson has been bringing students to the youth day for more than 10 years and said the students enjoyed the learning, as well as the "fun part" competing in junior judging.

"We come for the education and any wins are a bonus," he said.

One of those winners was Year 9 student Ruby Routley, from Urana, NSW, who took out the intermediate junior judging title representing her school St Paul's College at Walla Walla, NSW. St Paul's took out five of the six sheep junior judging awards.

Ms Routley, who comes from a White Suffolk and Merino stud operation, said it was her first time at the youth day and enjoyed the opportunity to learn new skills.

"It is worthwhile to come here, even if you do come from a farm," she said.

"You get more exposure to different things and a range of subjects and things we've not experienced."

The Emma Clark memorial junior stockman award went to fellow St Paul's student Olivia Wiffen.



Taking part in the chop judging were St Matthews Catholic School, Mudgee, NSW, students Will Harrison, Will Maher and Lana O'Connell at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.



Phil Balcombe, Cranbrook, Canowindra, NSW, runs a pregnancy scanning business and showed students the value of scanning at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.



Breaking down a lamb carcass into cuts was one of the demonstrations at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.

YOUTH YARNS



Butchering a carcass by Greg Hamilton from Windradyne Poll Dorsets at Canowindra, NSW, created a lot of interest with students at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.



The Riverina Anglican College students from Wagga Wagga taking part in the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW, included James Cruikshanke, Zach Charlton and James Cooper.



It was a clean sweep for St Pauls at Walla Walla, NSW, with the novice junior judging with Zac Howard taking third place, Olivia Wiffen second place and Aaron Lieschke first place at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.



Chop judging was keenly contested at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW with Georgie Anning from St Raphaels College placed third, Kayla Goodacre from Orange High School and Abi Bembrick from Forbes High School.



The big team from St Pauls at Walla Walla at the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.



Jock Townsend, Philip Klingner and Jack Coleman, from Forbes High School, enjoyed the hands on aspects of the 2025 Poll Dorset Youth Day at Cowra, NSW.

RIDGEHAVEN

POLL DORSETS

60
Years
ANNIVERSARY

2025 ANNUAL RAM SALE

1pm Thursday 11th Sept
On property, Cudal NSW

Inspection 10am | Lunch 12pm

*Stud Rams and Ewes available for inspection
Fri 29th and Sat 30th Aug, 9am–12pm or by appointment*

Ruth 0438 642 113

Isabele 0405 098 335

Floyd 0402 185 727

info@ridgehaven.net.au

20 Stud Rams
130 Flock Rams
20 Stud Ewes



www.ridgehaven.net.au

OJD MN1—V • FOOTROT FREE • BRUCELLOSIS ACCREDITED FREE



Online bidding via **AuctionsPlus**



Luke Whitty 0427 524 442 Paul Breen 0427 102 667

3% rebate to outside agents accompanying or introducing buyers in writing prior to sale and settling on their behalf.



Newbold

ELITE PERFORMANCE & QUALITY

Flock Number 1

Founded 1917



81ST ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE

STUD RAM OFFERING TO INCLUDE:

Tag	Sire	BWT	WWT	PWWT	PEMD	PFAT	IMF	SF5	LEQ	TCP
240370	Newbold 220186	0.5	12.7	18.3	3.1	-1.1	-0.3	3.5	163.9	165.7
240638	Derrynock 200074	0.3	12.7	18.6	2.7	-0.6	0.06	2.7	160.1	158.9
240090	Felix 220804	0.2	10.9	17.9	3.6	0.1	-0.7	2.3	148.4	157.2
240547	Derrynock 200074	0.6	13.3	18.9	2.7	-0.6	-0.5	5.3	151.1	155.1
240114	Newbold 210103	0.4	12.2	18.3	2.7	-1.4	-0.9	4.7	144.3	154.2

Data run 15th July 2025.

Full Stud Ram list at newboldstuds.com.

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1PM

12 STUD RAMS | 88 ELITE FLOCK RAMS

BID ONLINE VIA AUCTIONS PLUS

Bill Close 0414 813 873
Craig McLachlan 0418 838 751

Elders - Tyson Fechner 0439 531 501
Nutrien - Peter Marschall 0428 196 935

newboldstuds.com



OB
CERT
#43



Ram transport

Leading up to ram sales, these are some tips from Meat and Livestock Australia about transporting rams. Ram transport can be crucial to not only the performance of rams but also how happy ram buyers are with their purchases.

The following should be taken into consideration:

- Do not introduce rams to each other on the truck: Ensure that rams are run together for a minimum of two to three days prior to loading. The longer the better, as this gets them accustomed to each other and settled in the yards where they will work out their social hierarchy. It is far better for this to happen in the yards than on the truck or trailer and will result in less complications during transport. During this socialisation time, provide good quality dry hay and clean water.
- Prior to transport take them off feed and water overnight and load at daylight the next morning.
- Lighter penning density is an important consideration for rams.
- Identify any dangerous animals prior to the truck arriving and communicate clearly with the driver which animal/s are higher risk.
- Have multiple people on hand to load, to minimise risk. Never load alone - this is a significant Work Health Safety risk.
- Rams can be susceptible to disease – ensure clean trucks and up-to-date vaccinations.

- Consider air flow, shade and forecast temperatures in transport. Heat stress can impact the production of semen in the weeks after a heat stress event.
- Where possible, allow rams time to adjust to their new environment before joining. The bigger the change in nutrition, temperature and humidity, the longer the time to adjust.

Information provided on MLA's training and tools.



Remember the EWE losses



GUDAIR PROTECTS YOUR SHEEP FROM OJD WITH A SINGLE DOSE FOR LIFE

Each year
OJD kills
6.2%
of adult sheep from
infected flocks¹



¹Toribio, J; Bush, R; Windsor, P. (2004). A Study of the Biological and Economic Impact of OJD in affected Sheep Flocks in NSW. OJD.023, MLA Limited.

Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 94 156 476 425. Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2024 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved June 2024. ZL2002

zoetis

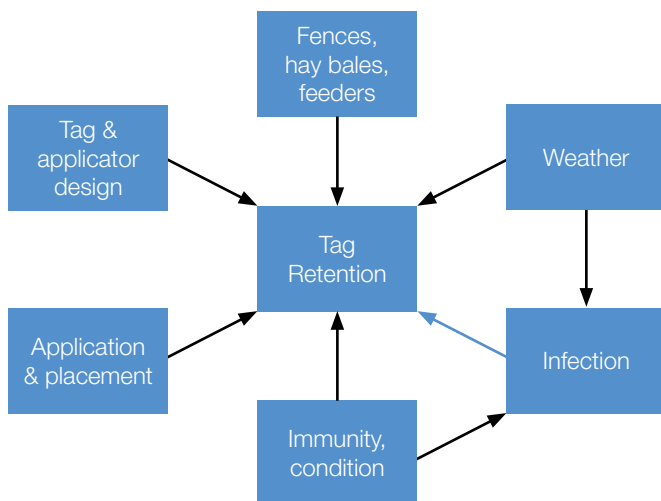
Improving your tag retention

For Brad McCormick, Shearwell Australia's Industry Liaison Manager – one of the most common queries raised by sheep producers is that of the retention of ear tags. Read on and work your way through the many interacting variables and factors involved.

Tag Retention

Moving from visual tags to mandatory electronic (eID) tags has led to more interest in tag retention. An animal losing an ear tag is not just the financial loss of the cost of a tag, the loss of traceability or the cost of replacing the tag at a saleyard; it can mean the loss of identity, including pedigree and performance information that reduces the sale value of the animal itself.

There are many factors that impact the retention of sheep tags:



Tag and applicator design

All tags cause invasive damage when applied to a sheep's ear. Tags that are lightweight, easy to apply and cause the least amount of injury can make a difference. Applicators that make insertion relatively quick and easy can improve tag placement, which will also result in better retention. The length of the spike or pin limits the space for the ear – look for a sizable gap that lets the ear breathe.

The size of the puncture hole can also affect the retention rates between different kinds of tags. A loop like the Shearwell SET tag has very little movement if it's properly positioned in the ear, and is less likely to snag on wire, twine or hay netting.

Button tags may have a thicker spike to pierce with, and the tags themselves are heavier. Any movement of the tag will enlarge the original puncture, especially if the tag gets caught on something and the animal pulls back. Once the hole becomes loose around the spike then the tag is prone to moving, and the final result might be the entire tag being pulled through the hole and lost.

Tag handling and placement

Tags are made of Nylon, a type of plastic. While Nylon is essentially an inert substance, it can take up or lose moisture, which can make the tags slightly more flexible or brittle. Newly purchased tags should remain in their ziplock plastic bags in a place akin to your kitchen pantry – dry, cool and away from direct sunlight – until you are ready to apply them.

Dip tags into a disinfectant immediately prior to application to help prevent infection. The disinfectant also provides a degree of slipperiness to the spike of the tag for a smoother puncture.

Follow the tag manufacturers' instruction for correct placement in the ear, and only use the applicator provided.

Environmental challenges can lead to tag losses regardless of the design and placement of the tag. Fences, old wire, weldmesh, scrub, hay twine and wrap, feeders, yards, water troughs and sundry other obstacles are used by stock to rub, scratch, hook up, cut, damage and/or pull-out ear tags. Containment feeding sites should be assessed and cleaned up of obvious problems. Good tag retention is a shared responsibility between the tag manufacturer and the farmer.

Infection, individual sheep/ lamb immune status and the weather are all interlinked. Infections at the tag insertion site are a common source of frustration to producers. Sometimes it needs a detective to get to the bottom of the problem. Was the weather an issue at marking, or were the sheep in low condition and low immune status due to poor seasonal conditions? Was there so much rain that the ears of the sheep were wet for long periods and ripe for water induration? Was the season making for poor colostrum transfers to the lambs, leaving them vulnerable? Were the sheep's ears thicker than normal – some lines of sheep have thicker ears than others.

The healing process after tag insertion takes 4-6 weeks. That is plenty of time for bacteria to be introduced, flies to have an impact, or seasonal conditions to turn for the worst.

Weather, feed and environmental conditions vary year to year but using some simple tactics can minimise their effects. Use a sprinkler or hose to reduce the amount of dust in covered yards. On the other foot, if the yard or paddock conditions are wet and muddy consider using a portable cover over the working area. Maintain your applicators and handling gear as free from manure and dirt as possible. If sheep are backward in condition, try to schedule marking when they have lifted in condition. Follow the feeding and management programs that have ewes in good condition at lambing and therefore providing the lambs with a good start.

It is important that you advise your supplier/ manufacturer if you are having tag retention issues – Shearwell for one, will do their best to investigate problems and work with customers to sort out the issues.

Starting with a well-designed tag and applicator combination, Shearwell believes it can help producers to 'keep their tags'.

Tag well with Shearwell.

Prepared by Brad McCormick, Shearwell Australia, July 2025.



Shearwell Data

Livestock Systems

Proud to sponsor the
Poll Dorset Association



eID is now mandatory for sheep and farmed goats born from 1 January 2025

Shearwell Data is here to help – we have the quality tags you need and a speedy turnaround. So you won't have to wait months for your tags to arrive!



Excellent Customer Service



High Quality Products



Speedy Turnaround

Call the Shearwell team today to place your tag order and take advantage of the various state tag discount programs.



© Mizpah Poll Dorsets

Why choose Shearwell?



Quick turnaround times from order to dispatch – don't wait months for your order!



Brought to you by a family, farmer owned business focused on supporting your needs



Great service and support – our team are here to assist your business



Robust, reliable, Australian Made products – designed by farmers to do the job

Call 1800 998 934 **Visit** shearwell.com.au



Tag well with Shearwell

The total conformation and performance package



Flock 1143

Est. 1966



Annual Production Sale

Thursday 9th October, 1pm



Early maturing rams available with lower bwt and shorter gestation lengths



Rams available with Elite genetics for early growth



Rams selected for All-Round performance and Eating Quality

**Sale offering includes
30 elite 2024 drop
ewes offered at 12pm
on Auction plus only**

Ted Beattie
0409 189 116

Simon Beattie
0429 330 562

Email: derrynock@outlook.com
Web: www.derrynock.com.au

Please enquire
for catalogue

Brucellosis accredited
Footrot free - MN3v

COMMERCIAL FOCUS - COMMERCIAL RESULTS

Margot Falconer Q and A

Margot Falconer has been the official face of the Poll Dorset breed for several years. As she prepares to step down from the role, we asked her about her time.

When did you take on the role as the head of the Australian Poll Dorset Association?

I started in the role in March, 2019.

What have you seen in your time at the helm of the breed?

The board has achieved such a lot during the past few years. Some of the highlights have involved the building of the current APDA database, mandatory DNA testing and the introduction of the four-generation parentage. All these things have been done to protect the purity of the breed for the future.

What have you noticed about the APDA?

The breed is supported by wonderful board members who willingly give up their time to nurture, protect and grow the breed.

What are the best bits of the job?

I think it's been the interaction with the individual breeders that I have met over the time and catching up with them at shows. It's also a big thrill when the flock returns are all done on time (That is still a bit of a dream but it does give the office a chance to get on the phone and call them!)

Where do you see the future of the Poll Dorset breed?

Poll Dorsets should and will remain the top meat breed of sheep in Australia. As a breed, we want to be known as the first choice for any other breed looking to cross to boost meat production and profit.

What will you miss about the job?

What I will really miss is talking with all the Poll Dorset breeders throughout the year – and the fabulous Poll Dorset board – past and present. I shall also miss the team in the office, Keryn and Sue who are a terrific duo and it is wonderful to work with a team that feel the same way about the breed as I do.



Australian Poll Dorset Association secretary Margot Falconer being presented with a life membership to the Australian Sheep Breeders Association by Ross McGauchie, Terrick West, Prairie, Victoria.



ON PROPERTY

RAM SALE

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2025
1PM - MARULAN

- ✓ Ewe bloodlines: Ashcharmoo, Gooramma, Hildden and Springwaters.
- ✓ Ram bloodlines: Ashcharmoo, Gooramma and Springwaters.
- ✓ All rams have been DNA Tested.
- ✓ Low Birth Weight, early maturing and high muscling lambs.





Justin Cooper: 0439 423 130 | Narlisa Cooper: 0412 195 931 | Email: narlisa.cooper@westnet.com.au
16327 Hume Highway, PO BOX 37, Marulan NSW 2579

Nutrien
Matt Joseph 0427 211 697
Matthew Campion 0437 290 435

YENTRAC

PRIME LAMB SIRES

**POWER IN THE RAMS.
PROFIT IN THE LAMBS.**

Selection of the 2025 Show Team



We will offer 3 rams from the
show team at Australasian
Dorset Championships

SALE DATES

Nutrien

Tatura: 24th September

Nutrien Yea - Tyson Bush 0419 756 746

Nick Farley 0427 529 335

Ballarat: 15th October

Nutrien Ballarat - Ned Balharrie 0437 738 499

Nick Farley 0427 529 335

Watch our Facebook page for further details

Ph: Rob 0412 808 082
Katie 0402 658 802

Email: rmccartney4@bigpond.com



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK



Sheepvention

A southern NSW stud has swept the field at Sheepvention at Hamilton, Victoria, taking all the major broad ribbons.

The Mitchell family's team from Rene at Culcairn, NSW, won champion ewe and champion ram with the ram then going on to be the supreme exhibit of the breed.

Judge Paul Day from Faraday Park at Penguin, Tasmania, said the lineup of sheep at Sheepvention was impressive and showed the breed was heading in the right direction.

Mr Day said the champion ram, which ultimately took the best of the breed sash, was a true Poll Dorset type.

"The ram had smooth shoulders, great neck extension and was hard to fault," Mr Day said.

And he was full of praise for the champion ewe, which was also from Rene.

"The ewe was a similar type of sheep to the ram, in terms of a beautiful neck, smooth shoulders and length of body," Mr Day said.

"These are the types of sheep that allow easy lambing - there is no profit in dead lambs."

It was the first time Mr Day had judged at Sheepvention and said it was "good to cross it off the list" after judging at many other fixtures.

Rene principal Scott Mitchell said it had been a stellar outing for the stud, and the big trip to take six Poll Dorset sheep - three rams and three ewes - had been worthwhile.

The champion ram, tag number 864-24, won the class for rams under 1-½ years with less than 2cm of wool. It had been shown before at the NSW Dorset championships where it had won the same class and was born in May, 2024.

"We will be keeping this ram, but we will probably be selling semen from him," Mr Mitchell said.

"The pedigree on both the sire and dam side of this ram is very strong and that adds to his appeal for us."

The champion ewe, tag number 832-24, was an April 2024-drop and won the similar class to the ram, for ewes under 1-½ years with less than 2cm of wool. The ewe will go into the stud's breeding program and is one of two that will be flushed.

All the sheep that Rene took to Sheepvention will now be taken to the Australaisan fixture in Bendigo later this year.



The champion Poll Dorset ewe at Sheepvention was exhibited by Rene at Culcairn, NSW.

Rene capped off a broad ribbon clean sweep by winning the champion Poll Dorset group of one ram and two ewes, which included their champion ram and champion ewe, and another ewe with tag number 870-24.

And the success kept coming when the interbreed awards were judged, with Rene taking the champion group, as well as reserve champion interbreed ram, and reserve champion interbreed ewe, only missing out on the champion interbreed ewe on a countback after scores were tied after the first round of judging.

Mr Mitchell said the wins had been rewarding and it was their best result at Sheepvention.

"We've only really been back showing for two years and it is something I am passionate about," he said.

"It's a big passion of mine and we walked away from it for about 10 years but we are back in now and really enjoying it."

Mr Mitchell said he hoped the show success and high prime lamb prices would spill over into ram sales this spring.

"It's hard to know how the fall in the ewe flock will play out but you would hope the big operators will be out there buying as usual," he said.



The Poll Dorset group winners at Sheepvention with Rene's Doug Mitchell, Cameron Lowan and Scott Mitchell.



Supreme champion Poll Dorset exhibit from Sheepvention from Rene, at Culcairn, NSW with judge Paul Day, Penguin, Tasmania, and Scott Mitchell, Rene, Culcairn, NSW.

Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo

A return to the show ring produced a dominant performance for the Tattykeel stud from Oberon, winning every class and five of the six broad ribbons at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo.

In a remarkable showing under the eye of judge Charlotte Cain, the Gilmore family's sheep won every class where they had entries.

Ms Cain was one of the youngest judges at the show, and said it was "the biggest shock of my life" when she realised she was judging the Poll Dorsets at Bendigo.

"It's such a huge job, with an outstanding lineup of sheep, and every year people come from all across Australia to this show," Ms Cain said.

"For someone my age and a female to be asked to do this a great honour and I can tell a lot of people have a lot of faith in me."

Ms Cain said she was looking for structurally sound sheep which were good on their feet and had excellent carcass attributes.

"The sheep I was looking for need a lot of meat behind them to produce rams to breed on and go out and breed prime lambs for the export and trade market," she said.

"Meat is a huge part of that and if we don't have it, people won't be buying Poll Dorset rams."

She said she was also looking for a true Dorset type with a strong Dorset head and a soft muzzle.

She commended the lineup from Tattykeel which she said was an extremely strong team of sheep, but also that other exhibitors were not far behind.



The Supreme Champion Poll Dorset exhibit at the ASWS at Bendigo was earlier judged the champion ewe, and is being sashed by judge Charlotte Cain, Carisbrook, with James Gilmore, Tattykeel, Black Springs, NSW.

"There were some magnificent sheep especially from Finley High School, and for a school to have sheep the standard they do is a credit to them," Ms Cain said.

"The Finley School sheep are doing extremely well, and if they keep pushing, they will be at the top soon enough."

It was a ewe that caught the judge's eye as soon as it came into its class that was awarded the supreme exhibit.

Tattykeel's ewe, 240019, was sired by Tattykeel 220308 and out of Tattykeel 210550, and first won the class for ewes under 1/12 years, closely shorn.

Tattykeel stud co-principal Graham Gilmore, Black Springs, NSW, said it was the ewe's first showing.

The ewe was the result of an embryo transfer and ranks in the top 1-2 per cent of the flock, he said, and will be retained in the flock.

Ms Cain said the ewe caught her eye early on.

"The ewe which was supreme exhibit is the kind of sheep we want to promote as a Poll Dorset," Ms Cain said.

"She has a beautiful head, she is packed full of meat from her shoulders to the hind leg and just stood up amazingly.

"To win over the ram (for the supreme exhibit title) she had to be pretty good and in my eyes, I couldn't not choose her.

"When she came out in her class, I knew she was going to be out there in the champion lineup."

The reserve champion ewe also came from the Tattykeel stable, with Tattykeel 240015 runner up to her stable mate.

When it came to the ram classes, Tattykeel also won every class it entered, and ended up with the grand champion ram, Tattykeel 240088.

The ET-bred senior champion ram, sired by Tattykeel 220308 and out of Tattykeel 210046, had already posted show success, judged the supreme ram exhibit at the Sydney Royal Show and champion Poll Dorset ram at the NSW State Sheep Show in Dubbo, NSW.

The ram will be offered at the stud's sale in October, but semen would be retained for use at Tattykeel.

Tattykeel also claimed reserve senior champion ram with 240074 and junior champion ram with 240193.

Hillden Poll Dorset stud, Bannister, NSW, was awarded reserve junior champion ram with Hillden 538-24.



Reserve junior champion ram held by James Frost, Hillden, Bannister, NSW, and junior champion ram held by James Gilmore, Tattykeel, Black Springs, NSW at the ASWS at Bendigo.

AROUND THE SHOWS

Tattykeel was also awarded the most successful Poll Dorset exhibitor.

And while one stud dominated the grown sheep classes and broad ribbons, Sam and Maddy Armstrong from Armdale at Marrar, NSW, also had a strong showing, and managed to win both the ram and ewe lamb classes.

Tattykeel then went on to win supreme champion shortwool exhibit of the show as well as supreme shortwool group, capping off a very successful outing for the stud.



The Armstrong family, Armdale, Marrar, NSW, with the class winning ram and ewe lambs at the ASWS at Bendigo. Pictured are Georgia, Maddy, Issy and Sam Armstrong.



Tattykeel from Black Springs, NSW, capped off a stellar showing by taking out the interbreed champion short wool group at the ASWS at Bendigo.



Judge Charlotte Cain assess the lineup at the ASWS at Bendigo.



Harry Frost, 11, won the junior handlers class at the ASWS Bendigo.

AROUND THE SHOWS



Poll Dorset judge Charlotte Cain and APDA president Tania King at the ASWS at Bendigo.



Alice Frost, 13, won the senior handlers class at the ASWS Bendigo.



Waiting for the judges verdict at the ASWS at Bendigo.



Lineup of judging at one of the big classes at the ASWS Bendigo.

Supreme ewe continues winning tradition with back-to-back success

A winning streak continues in the interbreed judging at the NSW Sheep Show, Dubbo, now entering its twelfth year. During the judging on Saturday evening, the supreme exhibit came down to a choice between a Poll Dorset ewe and a White Suffolk ram, with the Poll Dorset ewe from Tattykeel, Oberon, backing up her interbreed win from the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The ewe, Tattykeel 240040, was previously judged supreme Poll Dorset exhibit, during Friday's breed judging.

In the interbreed ewe judging, the panel of 11 judges cast their eye across exhibits from 18 breeds to select a longwool, shortwool and shedding interbreed champion.

But it was not a clear-cut decision with the shortwool judges' determinations resulting in a tie for two sheep.

The stewards called in another two judges to try and break the deadlock, only to end up in another tie.

It took a third tiebreaker judge to declare the short wool interbreed supreme ewe, the Poll Dorset entry.

That Poll Dorset ewe then went up against the longwool champion - a Corriedale from Roseville, Young - and the shedding champion ewe - the White Dorper entry from African White Dorpers, Thyra.

The finding went to the Poll Dorset ewe, which then went on to claim the overall supreme title.

This was the ninth time in a row, a Tattykeel Poll Dorset had won the supreme ewe and the 12th consecutive time, the stud won supreme overall.

In the group class of one ram and two ewes, out of 15 entries, the shortwool winners were the Poll Dorsets entry from Tattykeel.

The overall interbreed winning group was the Tattykeel Poll Dorset entry.

Article courtesy of Elizabeth Anderson, The Land



NSW Sheep Show head steward Steve Cresswell, Emma Bowman, James Gilmore, Tattykeel, Oberon, and Abbey Wilson, Canberra, representing the Wilson-Tink family, with the Sandra Wilson-Tink Memorial Trophy-winning supreme sheep of the show - a Poll Dorset ewe.



IVADENE
POLL DORSETS

2025 RAM SALES



LSK STUDS

Ivadene Poll Dorsets
Tuesday 7 October
Benalla, VIC

Peter Godbolt:
0457 591 929



LSK Studs
Friday 24 October
Hexham, VIC

Zac van Wegen:
0437 243 906




Ivadene 240253
Res. Junior Champion -
Hamilton Sheepvention

BWt	0.42
PWWt	16.3
PEMD	3.10
PFat	-0.1
TCP	155

Lachie & Soph Kelly: 0428 898 230

'Best Poll Dorset ewe I've seen in 40 years' rises to the top at NSW Sheep Show

Tattykeel proved untouchable in the ring, going undefeated through the Poll Dorset breed classes at the NSW Sheep Show at Dubbo, NSW.

The Black Springs stud claimed all ram and ewe broad ribbons under judge Craig Henry, Kanoona Park, Curban, on Friday, May 30.

Supreme exhibit went to the ewe, Tattykeel 240015, who backed up her Peter Taylor Memorial Perpetual trophy honours at Sydney Royal.

She came through the pair of ewes under one-and-a-half years class, with Mr Henry impressed by her overall balance and shape.

"An unbelievably hard ewe to fault and she's probably the best Poll Dorset ewe I've seen in about 40 years," he said.

"She's got perfect shape, balance and is beautifully wide through that loin.

"She's good on her feet and parades very well."/>

James Gilmore, Tattykeel, said the excitement of breeding lay in the pursuit of producing an animal like that and the ongoing challenge of trying to replicate it.

Sired by Tattykeel 200034, out of Tattykeel 210004, and descended from Tattykeel 970080, the supreme ewe comes from an exceptional line of successful sheep.

"She's from nearly an entirely embryo-transferred line, and the depth of her pedigree is what's really exciting," he said.

"Her father was the supreme ram at Cowra Dorset [Championships] in 2021, and her grand sire, we put back through our stud four or five years ago.

"On her dam side, her mother was also a supreme at Sydney Royal."

Mr Gilmore said the ewe would be flushed in November.

The reserve champion ewe, Tattykeel 240036, also rose through the pair of ewes under one-and-a-half years class.

Sired by Tattykeel 220308 and out of Tattykeel 210550, Mr Henry credited her beautiful balance and style.

In the rams, Tattykeel 240088, climbed through the single shorn ram under one-and-a-half-year class to win the champion broad ribbon.

The win follows his success as the champion Poll Dorset ram at Sydney Royal.

The ram's great grandsire on the dam's side, Tattykeel 150723, took out the supreme exhibit at Sydney in 2016.

"He has continued to come on since Sydney Royal," Mr Gilmore said.

"His grand sire is Tattykeel 217-2008, which is another ram we dropped back into the stud as we wanted to see how they'd do in a modern time and they stack up really well."

Mr Henry said the ram was a "standout and clear winner" in a very difficult section.

"He is a beautifully balanced and attractive sheep with great expression when he walks and stands square," he said.

Tattykeel 240061, was reserve, with Mr Henry noting the ram's tremendous carcass and early maturity.

Article courtesy of By Elka Devney, The Land



Ross and James Gilmore, Tattykeel, Black Springs, with the reserve champion ram Tattykeel 240061, and champion ram Tattykeel 240088.

Standout ewe caps off supreme day of judging for Poll Dorsets in interbreed

It came down to girl power in the judging of the supreme exhibit in the meat sheep and dual-purpose breeds interbreed, with a Suffolk ewe up against a Poll Dorset ewe at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in April.

The Suffolk ewe was shown by Bowen Suffolks, Millthorpe, with the Poll Dorset ewe shown by Tattykeel, Black Springs.

In a tight judging, adjudicated by a panel of 12 judges, the result went the way of the Poll Dorset, Tattykeel 240040.

It capped off a successful day for the Gilmore family at Tattykeel, who had already won the JA&MY Gilmore Perpetual Trophy with their Poll Dorset pair, made up of the champion ram and ewe from each breed, as well as the Peter Taylor Memorial Perpetual trophy for a ram and two ewes, also from their Poll Dorset showing.

Graham Gilmore, Tattykeel studs, Black Springs said it was the ewe's first outing with plans for her to be exhibited at Dubbo Show and the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo later this year.

In its path to supreme, the ewe had first won in the Poll Dorset judging, then the supreme all other breeds prime lamb ewe, before winning supreme all other breeders prime lamb exhibit - against the Tattykeel Poll Dorset ram, Tattykeel 240088.

Judge Steve Pederick, San-Souci, Bundaberg, Qld, said the ewe was a great example.

"The ewe has terrific balance, stands naturally and I think she's a great sheep," he said.

Judge Marty Koolstra, Kallista Wiltshire Horn stud, Dandenong Ranges, Vic, said the Poll Dorset ewe displayed excellent muscling in her hind quarter and he admired the amount of loin.

Mr Gilmore said it was not an easy feat to win the supreme.

"Your first win is always the one that you think the most of and it's the biggest rush, but you're only as good as your next win," he said.

"So you just have to keep fronting up and producing the sheep and you need a lot of good sheep if you want to win a lot."

The ewe was by Tattykeel 34, who was the supreme ram at Cowra Dorset Championships in 2021 and out of a Tattykeel Jackpot daughter.

Mr Gilmore said the stud had a focus on producing sheep that would get results for their clients.

"Our data is our clients' results - how long it has taken to get a lamb killed to market and then what the yield is on that from live weight to dead," he said.

"That's the thing that really pays for our clients.

"We look for a balanced approach on everything all the way through, which is yield, carcase shape and obviously eating quality is going to be a big thing in the future."

In the Peter Taylor Memorial Perpetual trophy, Tattykeel took the honours with their team of one ram - Tattykeel 240088 - and two ewes - Tattykeel 240015 and Tattykeel 240040 - all still displaying milk teeth.

Tattykeel also triumphed in the JA&MY Gilmore Perpetual Trophy, with their supreme exhibit ewe and supreme all other breeds prime lamb ram winner -Tattykeel 240040 and ram Tattykeel 240088 - called a "standout" by judge Cherie Pagan.

There were 13 breeds competing all up in the interbreed, scrutinised by the entire judging fraternity of Steve Pederick, San Souci, Bundaberg, Qld; Brenton Heazelwood, Melton Park, Whitemore, Tas; Peter Baker, Loddon Park, Baringhup, Vic; Barend Cronje, Tullinga White Dorpers, Condobolin; Roger Traves, Pine Creek Poll Dorsets, Canowindra; Cherie Pagan, Cooina Border Leicesters, Gilgandra; Alastair Day, Allendale, Bordertown, SA; Roger Wilkinson, Camborn, Pooncarie; David Pipkorn, Detpa Grove, Jeparit, Vic; Kevin White, Neilrex; Marty Koolstra, Kallista Wiltshire Horn stud, Dandenong Ranges, Vic; Bianca Williams, Merton White Suffolks, Gilgandra; and associate judge Megan Baker, Orangeville.

Article courtesy of Elizabeth Anderson and Helen De Costa, The Land



Yvette McKenzie, Grasmere Poll Merino stud, Bethungra and Graham Gilmore, Tattykeel studs, Black Springs, with the supreme breeds prime lamb exhibit Tattykeel 240040.

Pair of Poll Dorsets ewes proves winning combination in Sydney judging

A set of pairs has proven difficult to split in the Poll Dorset judging at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The grand champion ewe, Tattykeel 240040, had come out during the judging of a pair of milk-tooth ewes, before going on to claim the tricolour sash on April 16.

It was the first-ever showing for the young embryo-transfer bred ewe but there was a winning pedigree in her background

Stud representative James Gilmore said the ewe was sired by Tattykeel 20040 - the supreme Poll Dorset at the NSW Championships at Cowra in 2021 - while her dam, Tattykeel 181150, was bred from Tattykeel Jackpot, which won the supreme exhibit at the NSW Sheep Show at Dubbo in 2016.

Mr Gilmore said the ewe would be set to be flushed in November, after likely competing at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo, Vic, and at the NSW Sheep Show in Dubbo.

Another interesting element of her breeding was her great grandsire on her sire's side, Tattykeel 970080 - nearly 30-year-old genetics.

"We've gone back to the future to remain relevant," Mr Gilmore said.

The reserve champion ewe, Tattykeel 240015, had stood alongside the champion in the pairs judging.

Judge Roger Traves, Pine Creek Poll Dorset stud, Canowindra, said he needed to "split some hairs" when it came down to splitting the duo.

"They're a very similar type, very well-muscled sheep," he said.

"They're two very good, outstanding sheep."

In the end, he said the winner "carries a little more condition", giving her the edge over her half sister, by the same sire.

The champion ram also came from the milk-tooth pairs judging, Tattykeel 240088.

Mr Traves said the ET-bred ram's scale took his eye.

Reserve champion ram, Tattykeel 240090, came from the bare-shorn milk-tooth class.

"There was not much between the two, both good examples of the breed," Mr Traves said.

Mr Gilmore said it was also the first show for the champion ram, with him also to head to Bendigo and Dubbo, before likely being offered for sale in September.

He said the ram also had a winning pedigree, with its great grandsire on the dam's side, Tattykeel 150723, the supreme exhibit at Sydney in 2016.

With Tattykeel having such a strong performance during judging for a number of years, Mr Gilmore said there was still a feeling of accomplishment.

"It's not easy to do well showing," he said.

"A lot of people are very competitive in what they do."

He said showing was a good way to benchmark sheep.

"It lets us know where we fit, which is what originally drove showing to become a thing," he said.

"You never lose the thrill of winning at a show, you just hope the show side remains relevant to the commercial industry and we think it is."

Article courtesy of Elizabeth Anderson, The Land



Tattykeel's Graham and James Gilmore, Black Springs, with the champion and reserve champion Poll Dorset ewes.

Back-to-back win for Canowindra stud at NSW Dorset Championships

A ram described as “outstanding” by the judge claimed the grand champion ribbon on the first day of the 2025 NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra.

For the second year in a row Cranbrook Poll Dorset Stud, Canowindra, took out the title, this year with tag number 14, under the eye of judge Dane Rowley, Springwaters, Poll Dorset stud, Boorowa.

Joanna Balcombe, Cranbrook, said the ram, sired by Tattykeel 884, was “very balanced”.

“He’s not necessarily the biggest ram here today but no matter where you put him he stands nice and square,” she said.

“He’s got a beautiful topline on him and the carcass to match.”

It wasn’t his first time in the spotlight, having claimed supreme ram at Bathurst and Blayney shows.

The ram will now go into the stud’s ram sale in September.

Ms Balcombe said it was a “pretty special” win, after the stud had also claimed grand champion at last year’s NSW Dorset Championships.

Philip Balcombe said the ram was a good example of what they aimed to breed in their operation, where they run 140 stud ewes.

“We aim for quick maturing, moderate frame, true Dorset types,” he said.

Judge Mr Rowley said it was a very close championship with the Cranbrook ram’s balance, thickness and maturity on display putting him on top.

“He’s presenting perfectly,” he said.

Cranbrook’s ram was senior champion before going on to claim grand ahead of the intermediate champion Hillden 512 and junior champion Abelene Park 111.

James Frost, Hillden Poll Dorset stud, Bannister, said it was the intermediate ram’s first show.

“He’s a really well fleshed ram, structurally correct and a good Dorset type,” he said.

Mr Frost said the ram, sired by Hillden 555-22, would now be shown at the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo, before being offered in the show’s sale.

Running 700 stud ewes, alongside a first-cross commercial flock, he said the ram was a really good example of what they were aiming to breed.

“Early maturity, good fleshing and good Dorset characteristics,” he said.

Mr Rowley said the ram had good strength of muscle and bone.

“He’s got the commercial attributes, plenty of length, thickness and strength,” he said.

The junior champion Abelene Park 111, sired by Tattykeel 155-21, was described by Marshall Douglas, Abelene Park, Woolomin, to have everything they liked about a ram.

“He’s got the carcass length we like, a bit more moderate of frame,” he said.

Mr Douglas said it was the ram’s first show and he had been used in the stud as a ram lamb.

He is now bound for the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo.

Mr Rowley said the junior champion ram had a “good head, a good outlook and a little bit more depth”.

The reserve junior champion was Abelene Park 211, reserve intermediate champion went to Abelene Park 82, and the reserve senior champion was Hillden 61.

In the school class Finley High School claimed the most successful school.

Article courtesy of Alexandra Bernard, The Land



Brett and Marshall Douglas, Abelene Park, Woolomin, and judge Dane Rowley, Boorowa (centre) with the two junior champion rams at the NSW Dorset championships.



Judge Dane Rowley, Boorowa, Philip and Joanna Balcombe, Cranbrook Poll Dorset stud, Canowindra, with the grand champion ram at the NSW Dorset championships.

Final Ram and Ewe *Dispersal Sale*

**Wednesday 15th October at 1pm
On Property and Online**

**Final opportunity to
purchase leading
Lambplan genetics**



Ewe Dispersal and 2 Elite Sires

**on Friday 10th October 2025
at 11.30am Online Only**

Final Ram Sale

**Wednesday 15th October
2025 at 1pm On Property
and Online**



**Roger & Dianne Trewick
Pepperton Farm, Elmore, Vic**

Mob: 0428 326 190

Email: info@pepperton.com.au

Website: pepperton.com.au

Cracking ewe claims supreme sash at the NSW Dorset Championships

A “hard to fault” ewe claimed the supreme title at the NSW Dorset Championships held at Cowra in June.

Sam and Maddy Armstrong from Armdale Poll Dorsets, Marrar, NSW, took out the championship with their ewe, Armdale 67.

Under the eye of judge Dane Rowley, Springwaters Poll Dorset stud, Boorowa, the ewe was awarded supreme ahead of the grand champion ram Cranbrook 14, exhibited by Cranbrook Poll Dorset stud, Canowindra, and the Dorset Horn champions.

Mr Armstrong, a fifth-generation stud breeder, said the ewe, sired by AP220200, was very correct.

“She’s packed full of meat which is industry relevant,” he said.

“She doesn’t put a foot wrong and stands up well.”

Mr Armstrong said the supreme ewe, who was the reserve champion at Gundagai, would be shown at Bendigo and the Australasian Dorset Championships, before being retained for stud use.

He said she was a very true to type Poll Dorset ewe, which was what they aimed to breed in the stud.

The Armstrongs purchased the nearly 90-year-old Armdale stud two years ago, from Sam’s grandparents, and have been working to make it their own.

Mr Armstrong said they joined 500 ewes this year and will also mark the stud’s 50th on-property sale.

Armdale also claimed the most successful exhibitor and highest strike rate for the championships.

Judge Mr Rowley, said she was a “cracking ewe”.

“She has so much power but is still so balanced and feminine,” he said.

“She has so much bone and type but still so stylish to go with it.”

On the way to supreme, the Armdale ewe first claimed grand champion ewe ahead of the reserve Hillden 530, exhibited by Hillden Poll Dorset stud, Bannister.

James Frost, Hillden, said the ewe was out of Hillden 181-18, who was the supreme exhibit at the NSW Dorset Championships in 2019.

Mr Frost said he admired the ewe for her overall correctness and type.

“She’s really strong for a ewe but still has a lot of femininity,” he said.

Mr Frost said the ewe would now be retained in the stud.

Mr Rowley said the reserve champion had power and strength, along with good bone and type.

“She’s got a beautiful head on her,” he said.

In the group classes the NSW mixed pair of the year was awarded to Cranbrook, Canowindra, while Hillden, Bannister, claimed the group of one ram and two years.

Valley Vista, Coolac, was awarded group of three rams and sires progeny.

Article courtesy of Alexandra Bernard, The Land



Sam, Maddy and Isabella Armstrong, Armdale Poll Dorset stud, Marrar, and judge Dane Rowley, Boorowa, with the supreme exhibit at the NSW Dorset championships.

Dubbo Hoof and Hook

Poll Dorset-sired lambs proved they were winners both on the hoof and on the hook at the Dubbo Prime Lamb competition and auction in May.

The hoof and hook competition draws a big number of entries, so many that only the class winners on the hoof make it through to the hook judging.

The competition is also a welcome commercial addition to the annual Dubbo Show, and while originally the competition had pens of six lambs, this has been brought back to pens of three.

This year there were 86 entries, covering a range of breeds but Poll Dorset-sired lambs again featured at the top of the placings.

Ridgehaven Poll Dorsets from Cudal, NSW, won the champion pen of sucker lambs on the hook, the reserve champion pen on the hoof, the champion sucker lamb entry and were the most successful exhibitors. And Westwood Grazing Company, Spicers Creek, NSW, kept the winning way going for Poll Dorsets, taking out the heaviest pen of lambs and also the special award for the most outstanding pen of lambs.

The champion lamb on the hook was a three-month old Poll Dorset-sired lamb from Ridgehaven's commercial flock, which had a liveweight of 50.2 kilograms and a carcass weight of 26.7 kilograms. It had a yield of 53 per cent, a saleable meat yield of 51 per cent, fat cover of 21mm and an eye muscle area of 14.7 square centimetres.

Of the nine top carcasses which included a range of breeds, Poll Dorset-sired lambs took 3 of 9 of those placings, including the champion and third placing.

Competition committee member Angus Kelly said there were 86 pens of lambs, with three in each pen, entered in the hook and hook competition, with only the class winners on the hoof going on to be processed and assessed.



Isabele Roberts, Ridgehaven, Cudal, NSW, with Fletcher International's Dale Cameron, Bordertown, SA.

He said the competition provided a benchmark for producers to see how their lambs compared to similar and other breeds.

"This competition is offering a commercial aspect to the show," he said.

And there was the opportunity for those who entered to be able to donate their lambs to raise money for charity, which this year generated almost \$63,000, bringing the gross donations to \$360,000 from years of donations.

Melissa Fletcher, Fletcher International Exports, Dubbo, bought three, 49kg, Poll Dorset, on-hoof reserve champion pen lambs, donated by Ridgehaven Poll Dorsets, Cudal, for \$5000. Ms Fletcher's spend was donated to her chosen charity, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.



The winning lambs from Ridgehaven, Cudal, NSW, at the Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof and Hook competition at Dubbo, NSW.



Smart  **Flock**™

ELITE

The Fastest Way to **Better**
Results for **Poll Dorsets**



 **NEOGEN**®
There *is* a Difference

+61 (7) 3736 2134 | naa-lab@neogen.com
14 Hume Drive, Bundamba QLD 4304
neogenastralasia.com.au



Accelerating Genetic Progress: The Role of Timely Genomic Data Delivery

The use of genomic tools in Australian sheep breeding programs continues to increase, driven by the demand for more accurate, earlier selection decisions and the ability to fast-track genetic gain. For terminal sire breeds such as the Poll Dorset, genomic testing is particularly valuable for improving growth, muscling, fat cover, and carcass traits—all of which are moderately to highly heritable and economically important.

A key factor in the effective implementation of genomics is the timeliness of results. Neogen Australasia aims to deliver results

in the fastest time possible and guarantees Smart Flock Elite customers it will take no longer than 28 days.

Early-Life Genomic Selection

Genomic selection facilitates the prediction of accurate breeding values early in an animal's life, often well before phenotypic data are available. This allows for the confident use of young, unproven animals such as ram lambs, or non-parent sires, effectively reducing generation intervals and increasing the rate of genetic progress.

The availability of genomic breeding values at an early age also enables more informed management decisions, such as pre-emptive culling of animals that do not meet breeding objectives. This improves overall flock efficiency by conserving feed, labour, and other resources for higher-merit individuals.

Laboratory Workflow and Sample Processing

Neogen's Bundamba laboratory in Queensland processes a high volume of ovine genomic samples through a standardised,

STAGE 1 Approx. 48 Hours

1. SAMPLE ARRIVAL

Samples are delivered to 14 Hume Drive, Bundamba QLD 4304 via post.

2. INITIAL INSPECTION

Customer Service date stamp incoming sample mail, and verify the contents to ensure all samples are accompanied by both a paper copy of the Submission Form and that a digital copy of the Submission has been received and is also on file.

3. SAMPLE COLLECTION

Customer Service collects the samples and transports them to Sample Reception

4. SAMPLE LOGGING AND QA

The samples remain in Sample Reception until they are logged into LIMS (our Laboratory Information Management System), sorted, and undergo a quality assurance inspection. Samples that pass QA are submitted to Lab 1. Any discrepancies identified between the physical samples received and the Submission Form are referred back to Customer Service for resolution with the submitting Customer.

STAGE 2 Approx. 4 - 7 days

5. DNA EXTRACTION AND PREPERATION

Samples are arranged and transferred into 96 well plates for extraction. Sometimes there will be a short wait until the plate can be filled.

6. DNA PURIFICATION

After extraction, the DNA undergoes three rounds of purifying washes to remove any debris, leaving only pure DNA.

7. DNA QUANTIFICATION

This is an internal QA check to confirm that the DNA extraction was successful and sufficient DNA is available to proceed to the next lab stage. This check is at random, not all individual samples can be assessed. If there isn't enough DNA, the extraction process is repeated.

For TSU Samples: Barcodes are scanned into the system to confirm alignment with the batch in LIMS. This is done using a bed scanner that can process 96 samples simultaneously. The TSU rack is then placed into a decapping machine to remove the white caps and access the samples. The TSUs are then placed in an oven with a heat-activated enzyme (ProK), where DNA is extracted from the samples.

For Hair Samples: Each hair sample is individually scanned into the system. A lab technician then removes the sample, aligns the hair follicles using tweezers, and cuts the follicles into a test tube. This process will typically take 1 hour to complete one sample plate. Once a rack of hair samples is prepared, it is also placed in an oven with the ProK enzyme for DNA extraction. This process is more manual than the TSU process and takes more time to prepare.

SPONSORED CONTENT

multi-stage laboratory workflow. To prevent delays in the entry of samples into the system, breeders are strongly encouraged to carefully complete submission forms and follow best practices when preparing samples:

- Use the Neogen Excel Sheep Submission Form and ensure all samples are included.
- Use a barcode scanner (even a basic desktop model) to input TSU barcodes directly into the form, reducing data entry errors.
- Use conditional formatting (e.g. highlight duplicate values) to check for duplicate TSU barcodes and animal IDs.
- Ensure that sex and year of birth are recorded. These fields improve future parent verification matching and are required for batch inclusion of tested sires/dams in later runs.
- Select the correct test(s) and list potential sires and dams. Neogen does not automatically include all tested animals in parent verification; selection must be specified.
- The submission form includes an optional feature to automatically include all tested males and females, but this relies on accurate birth year and sex data.

Once samples arrive at our lab the process is:

Insert Infographic

Integration with Sheep Genetics

To enable this process, each animal must already exist in the Sheep Genetics database with a valid SGID. Breeders are responsible for submitting:

- The SGID,
- Pedigree information, and
- At least one phenotypic measurement.

It is important to note that Neogen can process DNA and return parent verification results even before Sheep Genetics submission occurs. In this case, genotypes are stored in a holding state until they can be linked to an SGID. This gives breeders flexibility to confirm parentage prior to formal genetic evaluation and avoids processing delays once full submissions are made.

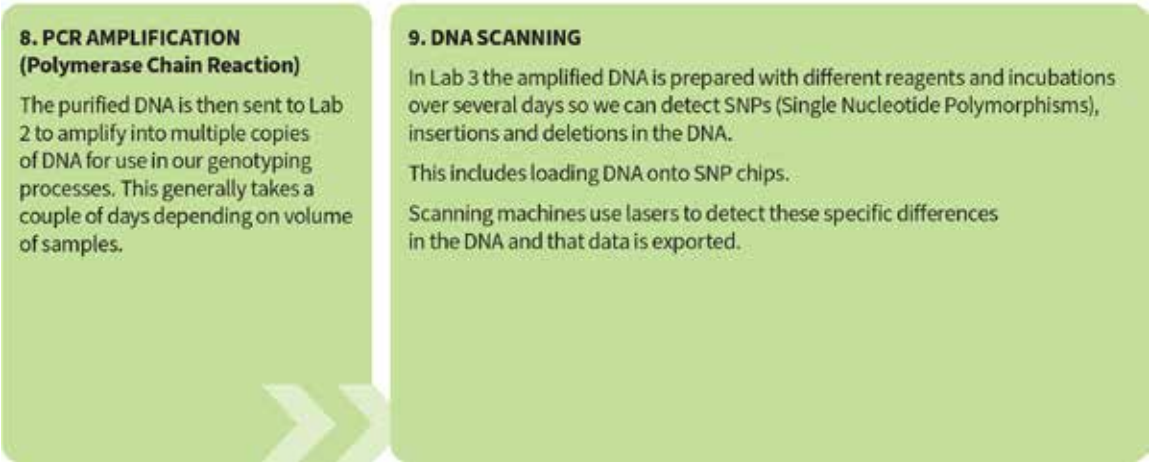
This flexibility is particularly valuable where breeders wish to confirm pedigree prior to data upload, or where lambs are DNA sampled before phenotypic data are available. It allows for more strategic planning of joining and selection activities while ensuring the integration of accurate genomic data into the national evaluation.

Conclusion

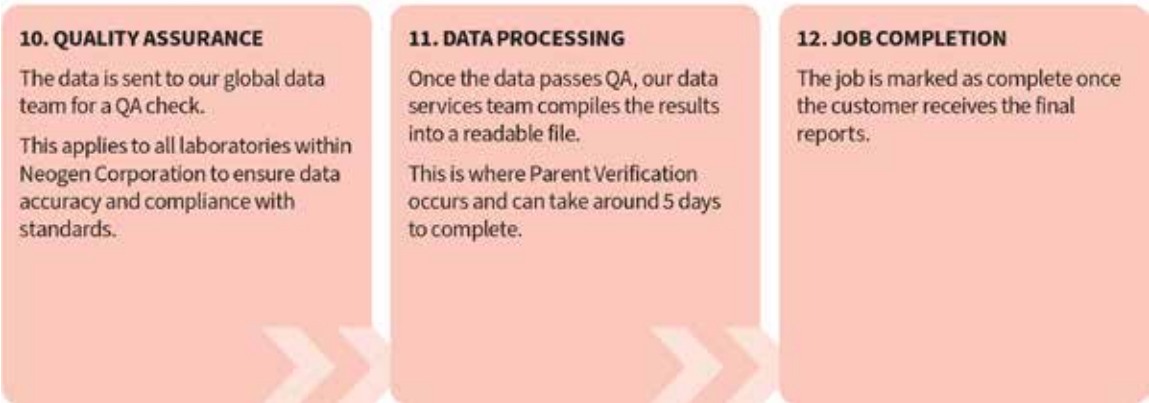
For terminal sire breeders such as Poll Dorset producers, the integration of timely genomic testing with the LAMBPLAN evaluation system represents a significant opportunity to improve genetic accuracy, shorten generation intervals, and enhance overall flock productivity.

With a guaranteed 28-day turnaround, structured lab protocols, and seamless integration with national genetic evaluation systems, Neogen's services support breeders aiming to make more responsive and informed selection and mating decisions—ultimately leading to measurable genetic gain.

STAGE 3 Approx. 5-14 days



STAGE 4 Approx. 5 - 7 days



ACROSS THE DITCH

In this edition of Over the Ditch, first generation stud owner 21-year-old Tim Wilson from Central Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, shares his story of how he got into breeding Poll Dorsets and his hopes for the future.

How I started:

I'm 21 and have been breeding Poll Dorsets for 13 years. While my parents are sheep and beef farmers, they're also competitive show jumpers, meaning I spent much of my childhood travelling New Zealand every weekend for eight months of the year. A&P shows were always a highlight - while the entertainment and hot chips did capture me initially, I naturally gravitated toward the sheep exhibitions.

At just six or seven, I began helping my best friend Dylan Bibby (also a show jumper and the son of Hamish Bibby who runs Kelso) show his Black and Coloured sheep at local A&P shows. Dylan had great success, but I noticed his sheep were often beaten by the larger meat breeds, sparking my interest. After a few years of helping and observing at A&P Shows, I recall a pivotal moment driving home in the horse truck with my dad. At age nine in 2012, I pitched the idea of breeding sheep, detailing a plan for how I'd care for them, where they'd live, and how the venture could benefit us both. He agreed. I told him I was interested in either Suffolk or Poll Dorset - the breeds that seemed to outperform Dylan's sheep - and asked for his opinion. His advice was Poll Dorset.

I later found out his choice was linked to my nana, Di Murphy, who runs a 500-ewe commercial Poll Dorset flock. Dad likely thought her decades of experience would be a huge help - and he was

right. That Christmas, only weeks later, aged nine, I received a voucher to pick any three Poll Dorset ewes from Di's farm. That gift marked the start of my Poll Dorset journey.

Four years later in 2016, I had saved enough money from breeding Poll Dorsets and other work to purchase 29 stud ewe lambs from P.G King (F.368) and a first pick stud ram heavily discounted to \$300 from R. Lee (F.507). Following this, my other grandparents who were renowned Dorset Down and Border Lester stud breeders, Jan and Tony Wilson, registered my stud for me as my thirteenth birthday present in 2016.

It is easy to understand why I have immense gratitude to my entire family, given that everyone in my family has had a significant part to play in establishing my stud. While my nana, Di, only has a commercial flock of Poll Dorset, in my opinion, I would say that she breeds the best Poll Dorset in New Zealand, with impeccable structure and size, killing lambs before anyone else, ewe hogget year groups pregnancy scanning up to 175 per cent and mature age groups even greater. Similarly, I am supported by the stud wisdom from the other grandparents, Jan and Tony, who sold up to 250 rams a year back in the 1980s and 1990s, with Tony frequently offering many tips and tricks. And my father, son of the latter, is an exceptional commercial Romney farmer, who makes very calculated and innovative decisions.

My sheep operations

My flock of stud ewes quickly grew to about 50, and stabilised there for about seven years where I'd sell about 20 rams annually, with the past few years growing my ewe flock up to 80 stud ewes with goals to meet growing demand. The type of sheep I have stumbled into breeding is very easy-going and commercial-like, low maintenance and sound. My weaned ewe hoggets are immediately mixed with Dad's 800 retained hoggets where they run as a single mob under commercial conditions. My stud ewes are heavily pressured where after weaning in November, I force them to dry up by grazing beneath tree blocks (conscious of protecting the udder size, shape and health for next year) until early February where they are taken out and then begin the flushing process before mating. All sheep in the stud are only ever fed grass, never exposed to crop or supplementary feed. This mirrors the conditions of my ram clients operations, ensuring that the sold rams will continue to perform as expected, and ideally, hopefully result with happy customers.

I was fortunate to spend five years as a weekly boarder at Lindisfarne College. My family then urged me to go to university after school opposed to the option of going straight to farming, so I made a plan to go to the University of Canterbury to study a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with Honours. I am currently in my fourth and final year of the degree, all going well, and have specialised into Water Quality and Flood Modelling aspects of Civil Engineering (an interest heavily related to farming and personal due to Cyclone Gabrielle that hit Hawkes Bay in 2023).

Time away at school and uni had many positive consequences with my flock. Spending up to two months at a time away from the stud, I would set stock the sheep until the next time I was home to attend to their needs. Over the past nine years, this has resulted with my sheep becoming very resilient to health and environmental challenges with only the 'survival of the fittest philosophy' very prevalent. While this system means performance likely suffered elsewhere, Mt Herbert Poll Dorsets have evolved to rarely getting fly strike or soundness troubles, never bearings or birthing troubles nor worms, which I believe are all nice traits.

A key challenge is to line up key farming dates such as teasing the ewes, rams in, rams out, highest concentrated lambing interval, shearing and eye muscle scanning with my university breaks



Tim Wilson with one of his award winning sheep from his Mt Herbert Poll Dorset stud at Hawkes Bay, NZ.

due to my circumstances of studying afar, and ensuring that the paddock I leave them in is sufficient until next time I am home.

I sold my first rams at the age of 11. I remember initially being very nervous for the ram selling interaction and begging either of my parents to come down to the yards to assist but they would refuse, and this forced me to mature quick and smart. I also remember a buyer coming for just one ram for their lifestyle block, and they turned up with a thick wad of \$20 notes and they negotiated me so far down to nearly half price, and being so young and inexperienced I never bartered back and had little respect/value for my own sheep, which is a funny story in hindsight. These sorts of lessons forced me to stand up for myself and my beliefs. My family have stayed out of the entire running of my flock since I started back in 2012, which was beneficial to me as I was forced to take responsibility of communicating and organising shearers, eye muscle scanners, vets, and clients, while moving the stock, collating data, controlling animal health challenges, and managing finances by myself since I was a wee kid.

Being chucked in the deep end like this with my stud, prior to even becoming a teenager, forced personal growth and I am so grateful to my family for this as it has helped shape the bloke I am today.

I have sold about 20 Poll Dorset two-tooth rams since I was 14 years old, and look to sell about 35 this year. I have had a regular clientele base supplying returning clients with most rams sold to large, steep, rough commercial farms in Wairoa/Gisborne which is up the east coast of the North Island. I have a client from Gisborne that initially took six rams in 2017 and now takes 12 every year, which may be an insignificant number for many ram sellers, however, I take pride that clients are happy with the sheep they get, and seem to return and sometimes return asking for more. I am pleased that what Mt Herbert Poll Dorset is doing seems to work and add value to New Zealand's primary industry in a tiny way. Dad often uses my ram lambs and my redundant stud sires as part of his terminal sire team for his commercial flock to balance grazing fees.

I record all rams on Sheep Improvement Ltd (a national genetic evaluation system) which takes into account muscle, growth and survival indexes. About 25 per cent of my most current crop of rams to sell in Dec 2025 have NZTW above 2000. I record rams on SIL as I consider it an aid when selling rams, however, personally in terms of data, I only make decisions based on raw data like weaning weight and muscle area, because I feel I don't understand empirical indexes and how they are derived and believe that it is risky trusting and basing decisions on something that I don't fully understand.

When culling ewes or lambs, data sheets are not taken to the yards, however, my engineering background does enable me to dig into and graph some cool trends with my raw data to reflect on genetic decisions. For example, inspecting how different external sires influence Mt Herbert progeny in different ways thus what studs click for my sheep or not is one example. I run Mt Herbert Poll Dorset stud primarily on phenotype, getting greater satisfaction with what I see in the paddock vs in a spreadsheet, and feel that the data I generate is just supplementary information. Since all of my clients are large scale commercial farmers, I often ask ram buyers what direction they may want or look for. I personally take much larger consideration for my clients opinions compared to empirical NZTW indexes. To add a point of difference to my rams compared to others in the industry, I have been breeding for FE resistance and worm tolerance since I was 13 years old, and plan to measure FEC in 2026 once ini is done.

I want to pay tribute to my nana Di Murphy (Darney as I call her). She was the person to instigate Mt Herbert Poll Dorsets, giving

me my first three sheep, initially driving me everywhere I needed, and gradually moulded my eye for stock. She drove me to buy my very first stud ewes and ram, and continued this support by being there for nearly every sheep purchase I have made within my stud, including countless hours driving or flying around NZ to inspect sheep. Her support and backing is my primary motivation to continue improving and striving to breed excellent sheep (and outside of sheep, a significant motivation to work hard and succeed at uni and as an engineer). I understand that I am fortunate to be able to learn sponge knowledge that she has gathered from breeding Poll Dorset for many years before me.

After exhibiting my Poll Dorset's for a few years, I asked whether she would be keen to join the fun and we partnered together, exhibiting under the name 'D Murphy & T Wilson', to target the commercial classes with her Poll Dorsets and the stud classes with mine. I love sharing the good days with her, and I am proud to tribute my success to her because without her, I certainly wouldn't be breeding sheep now.

Goals and achievements:

As soon as Mt Herbert Poll Dorsets was developed, I wrote down two goals. I wanted to win a sheep of the show (with a homebred naturally), and I wanted to have an on-farm ram auction, similar to that frequently seen in Australia. I have achieved the first goal with a ewe and lambs at foot, but I have since pivoted that goal to win a sheep of the show with a Mount Herbert ram hogget.

As these goals were set by me at age nine, my goals have since developed with maturity such that I have added another - to sell a stud ram hogget - as it would make me immensely proud to contribute to the wider Poll Dorset breed within New Zealand when the time is right and my sheep become worthy enough.

Despite my very young age, I have been fortunate to have been asked to judge stud sheep at A&P shows throughout New Zealand. I find the challenge very fun, while the experience often exposes me to different sheep and farmers located afar that I may not typically cross paths with. Similarly, last year at 20, I was asked to join our local CHB A&P shows committee representing the sheep section which was a great privilege to have been asked.

The farm itself:

Our family home farm, namely Mt Herbert, is 1400 hectares of rolling to steep terrain in Central Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. My father has been fortunate to add on three neighbouring blocks since first purchasing Mt Herbert off my nana, Di Murphy, to all accumulate to a similar size of Mt Herbert again. His capital stock totals 5,800 commercial breeding ewes, predominantly purebred, moderate build Romney, but a recent venture has seen him dabbling into Wiltshire Horns. He grows 1200 bulls from yearlings to supply dairy service bulls and also beefies to kill (Jerseys and Angus).



Tim Wilson's draft of two-tooth ram sale hoggets in 2023.



ARMDALE

POLL DORSET STUD

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

50th Annual On-Property
Ram Sale

15 Stud Rams

90 Flock Rams

Friday 19th September 2025
1pm



sjmjarmstrong@gmail.com



Sam - 0427 560 185

Maddy - 0457 281 567



"Armdale"

278 McCormacks Lane, Murrumbidgee



Armdale Poll Dorset Stud



PROUDLY BREEDING FOR GENERATIONS



ELITE RAMS, KURRALEA 341-24
& KURRALEA 315-24, IN THE 2025 STUD GROUP



TOP PRICED RAM POLL DORSET RAM 2024
LOT 3 K433-23

2025 ANNUAL SPRING RAM SALE

**TUESDAY 30TH
SEPTEMBER 12.30 PM AEST**

Structurally excellent,
functional, easy care rams
bred for performance &
carcase merit.

ON-PROPERTY
ARIAH PARK, NSW
& AUCTIONSPLUS



**300+
RAMS**



Poll Dorset | White Suffolk | Suffolk | Ultra Whites

kurralea.com

2025 STUD RAM FEATURE SIRES



KURRALEA 457-20



SHIRLEE DOWNS 002-20



Ben Prentice | 0429 814 549
ARIAH PARK - NSW

Lucy Prentice | 0409 544 080
lucy@kurralea.com



SALE DATES

STUD	WHERE	STATE	DATE
Bowan Park Open Day	Bowan Park	NSW	Friday, August 29, 2025
Cranbrook	Canowindra	NSW	Thursday, September 04, 2025
Deepdene	Marrar	NSW	Friday, September 05, 2025
Rowallan	Crowther	NSW	Friday, September 05, 2025
Marocara	Wongarbon	NSW	Tuesday, September 09, 2025
Ashbank	Dubbo	NSW	Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Dursley	Grenfell	NSW	Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Ridgehaven	Cudal	NSW	Thursday, September 11, 2025
Bundara Downs	Bordertown	SA	Friday, September 12, 2025
Narranmore	Elong Elong	NSW	Friday, September 12, 2025
Australasian Dorset Sale	Bendigo	VIC	Sunday, September 14, 2025
Valma (On property)	Whitemore	TAS	Monday, September 15, 2025
Valma (Online Auction)	Online	TAS	Monday, September 15, 2025
Wunnamurra	Jerilderie	NSW	Thursday, September 18, 2025
Armdale	Murrumbidgee	NSW	Friday, September 19, 2025
Gooramma	Galong	NSW	Friday, September 19, 2025
Kentish Downs online only	Online	NSW	Friday, September 19, 2025
Majella	Bungeet	VIC	Friday, September 19, 2025
Newbold	Gawler River	SA	Friday, September 19, 2025
Sammon Brothers	Bungeet	VIC	Friday, September 19, 2025
Shirlee Downs	Quairading	WA	Friday, September 19, 2025
Mallee Park	Hopetoun	VIC	Monday, September 22, 2025
Warburn	Warburn	NSW	Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Yentrac (Tatura)	Tatura	VIC	Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Abelene Park	Woolomin	NSW	Thursday, September 25, 2025
Coledale	Glenrowan West	VIC	Thursday, September 25, 2025
Armdale Park	Marrar	NSW	Friday, September 26, 2025
Ulandi Park	Kapunda	SA	Friday, September 26, 2025
Merringreen	Finley	NSW	Monday September 29 2025
Ilfracombe	Donald	VIC	Monday, September 29, 2025
Geejay	Kerang	VIC	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Kurrulea	Ariah Park	NSW	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Southern Cross Rams	Harden	NSW	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Glenore	Carisbrook	VIC	Wednesday, October 01, 2025
Janmac	Goroke	VIC	Wednesday, October 01, 2025
Kismet	Howlong	NSW	Wednesday, October 01, 2025

SALE DATES

STUD	WHERE	STATE	DATE
Tattykeel	Oberon	NSW	Wednesday, October 01, 2025
Woolumbool	Naracoorte	SA	Wednesday, October 01, 2025
Icon	Hamilton	VIC	Thursday, October 02, 2025
Mullinger Park	Kybybolite	SA	Thursday, October 02, 2025
Derby Downs	Kangaroo Flat	VIC	Friday, October 03, 2025
Estjam	Woolsthorpe	VIC	Friday, October 03, 2025
Springwaters	Boorowa	NSW	Friday, October 03, 2025
Valley Vista	Coolac	NSW	Friday, October 03, 2025
Brimfield	Kendenup	WA	Tuesday, October 07, 2025
Ivadene	Hexham	VIC	Tuesday, October 07, 2025
Englewood Park	Inverleigh	VIC	Wednesday, October 08, 2025
Moora Hills	Broadwater	VIC	Wednesday, October 08, 2025
Derrynock	Trentham East	VIC	Thursday, October 09, 2025
Pembroke	Telangatuk East	VIC	Thursday, October 09, 2025
Barwon	Yerong Creek	NSW	Friday, October 10, 2025
Brurob	Kilmore	VIC	Friday, October 10, 2025
Leween	Narrogin	WA	Friday, October 10, 2025
Rene	Culcairn	NSW	Friday, October 10, 2025
Mulgundawa	Robe	SA	Monday, October 13, 2025
Kenlorne	Beachport	SA	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Shellal	Koroit	VIC	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Pepperton	Elmore	VIC	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Pinora	Heyfield	Vic	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Tellarup	Manjimup	WA	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Yentrac (Ballarat)	Ballarat	VIC	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Konongwootong	Konongwootong	VIC	Thursday, October 16, 2025
Bruan	Condah	VIC	Monday, October 20, 2025
Jewsharp Poll Dorsets	Baynton	VIC	Tuesday, October 21, 2025
LSK	Hexham	VIC	Friday, October 24, 2025
Ashcharmoo	Marulan	NSW	Saturday, October 25, 2025
Kentish Downs	Colingullie	NSW	Wednesday, November 05, 2025
Fairbank	Hagley	Tas	Thursday, November 06, 2025
Hillden	Bannister	NSW	Friday, November 07, 2025
Pinewalla	Crookwell	NSW	Monday, November 10, 2025
Bo Bar	Braidwood	NSW	Thursday, November 20, 2025
Melton Vale	Whitemore	TAS	December 3, 2025

PROMOTIONAL PRODUCT ORDER FORM



CLOTHING

Trucker Cap	\$ 18.00
Cap	\$ 15.00
Beanie	\$ 19.00
Necktie	\$ 25.00
Reversible Vest	\$ 85.00
Shearers Singlet	\$ 47.50

MERCHANDISE

Stubby Holders	\$ 5.00
Round Sticker (8cm) pk:100	\$ 35.00
Pens	\$ 3.00

INFORMATION

What is a Poll Dorset?	\$ 5.00
Ram Selection	\$ 5.00
Journal	\$ 22.00
Flock Book	\$ 10.00

SIGNS AND BANNERS

Farmgate Sign 60cm x 45cm	\$ 16.00
Horizontal Banner (3x1m)	\$ 150.00
Tear Drop (double side)	\$ 160.00
Pull Up retractable	\$ 145.00

YOUR DETAILS

Name:

Email:

Stud Prefix:

Postal Address:

Phone:

Item	Cost per item	Qty	Size	Total cost
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Delivery: All orders will be posted unless alternative arrangements are made.

Postage: Shipping costs will be invoiced separately. Prices may vary depending on your location.

Please note: Some products may have a minimum order quantity.

Total cost

Please return order form to secretary@polldorset.org.au or post to 1/6 Merino Court, East Bendigo, Vic. 3550.

P: (03) 5443 9902 | **F:** (03) 5443 9354 | **E:** secretary@polldorset.org.au | **W:** www.polldorset.org.au

ADVERTISING RATES

ADVERTISING RATES

(INCLUDES FULL COLOUR) ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

	Members	Commercial
Back cover	\$751	\$938
Inside front or back cover	\$601	\$751
Double page spread	\$889	\$1112
Centre spread	\$947	\$1184
Full page	\$543	\$679
Half page	\$358	\$448
Quarter page	\$219	\$274
1/8th page	\$162	\$202

SERVICE FEES

ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

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

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

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

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

Supplied photographs: When sending photographs electronically for

advertising or editorial use, they need to be at least 1MB in file size and high resolution; and attached as a jpeg file.

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

ADVERT SPECIFICATIONS

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

ADVERTISING BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Patrick Falconer, Unit 1/6 Merino Court, East Bendigo, 3550
Tel: (03) 5443 9902 Email: marketing@polldorset.org.au

ADVERTISING COPY & MATERIAL

All advertising and service rates are subject to change.

Issue	Advertising material	Date posted
May	Closes April 14	April 28
September	Closes August 8	August 23
December	Closes November 13	November 27

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

THE NEW GOLD STANDARD OF SHEEP VACCINES

ERYSIPELAS ARTHRITIS

CHEESY GLAND (CLA)

BOOSTED WITH VITAMIN B12

5 CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASES

ALL IN A 1ML DOSE

GlanEry® 7in1 B12

250 Doses
250 mL

PROTECT YOUR EWES AND LAMBS FROM:

ERYSIPELAS ARTHRITIS • CHEESY GLAND (CLA) • 5 CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASES • BOOSTED WITH VITAMIN B12

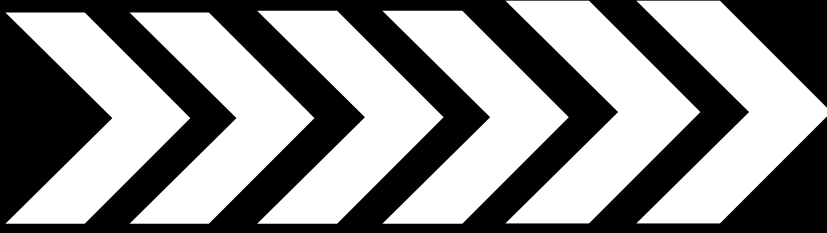
ALL IN A 1ML DOSE

- ✓ Stops **Lame Lambs**
(Erysipelas arthritis)
- ✓ Protects your **Wool Cut**
- ✓ Protects **Meat Quality**
- ✓ More **Lambs to Sell**
- ✓ **Easy to use & Convenient**

Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 94 156 476 425. Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2023 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. June 2023. ZL1704.

LX | **LivestockSolutions** Information in your hands | ZOETIS.COM.AU/LS

zoetis



BROMAR
ENGINEERING

**FOR LEADING STUDS
BUILT BY FARMERS FOR FARMERS**



**SUPERIOR LICKFEEDER
AND MIGHTY MULTIFEEDER
36 OR 50 BAG**



@bromarengineering

CALL 1300 276 627

bromarengineering.com.au