



# THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 54 / NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2024

Poll Dorsets  
scoop pool  
at Bendigo



INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE...



MLA LAMB  
PRIORITIES  
Page 8-9



YOUTH  
YARNS  
PAGE 24-27



FULL SHOW  
COVERAGE  
PAGE 37-42

# YENTRAC

## PRIME LAMB SIRES

**Offering 3 rams at the  
Australasian Dorset  
Championships**



**The winning pair and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
in the group of three rams  
at the Australian Sheep  
and Wool Show are  
pictured above**

### **SALE DATES**

**Tatura:** 25th September  
(110 Craven Rd)

**Ballarat:** 16th October  
(New location Ballarat Showgrounds)

*Watch our Facebook page for further details*

**R.W. & L.L. McCartney**

**Ph:** Rob 0412 808 082

**Email:** rmccartney4@bigpond.com



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the September journal edition. It was a top priority to get this edition out to you all before the Australasian Dorset Championships, and we have achieved that, with many thanks to you all for being so prompt with submitting your advertising material, and everyone in the APDA office and our journal editor Fiona Myers for always being motivated to achieve the deadlines. I know it's an important issue with breeders advertising their sale rams for the ADC sale, and on-property auctions and I know it's essential to have it in your hands at the start of September. It is also fundamental to have our Flock Register out to members in a timely manner, and ideally before ram sales, and at the time of writing my report it is looking like it will be on schedule.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Victorian Sheep Show, in Ballarat, in June and the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in July in Bendigo and it was great to see a good number of entries at both these shows with strong competition amongst breeders. In Bendigo it was great to see our up-and-coming Poll Dorset youth exhibiting from Finley High School, NSW and first-time exhibitors at the show were, Scots PGC College Warwick, QLD with both schools competing strongly with each other in the novice section and in the open Poll Dorset breeder classes.

In Bendigo Poll Dorsets were well represented in the Interbreed shortwool competition on the Sunday, and congratulations to Springwaters stud who took home the Interbreed Shortwool sheep of the show also to Valley Vista stud who exhibited the reserve interbreed sheep of the show with their champion Poll Dorset ewe. These accolades show the quality, strength and power our breed carries when it comes to across breed comparison in the show ring.

Lambex 2024 is just around the corner (at time of print) and the APDA have taken trade space to spread the word how good our breed is and why producers should be using PD rams. Lambex is to be held at the Adelaide convention centre from 7th-9th August and I wish to thank the Adelaide region and in particular Kate McLachlan for all her hard work preparing to make the APDA booth successful. It is great to

have members willing to put their hand up and take the reins. I also wish to thank Isabele Roberts who has also been a huge contributing act, working with Kate to making it a success.

The AGM is to be held in Bendigo on Sunday 15th September at the Prince of Wales Showground during the ADC. The meeting has been rescheduled to begin at 9am, to allow time for people to attend to sale rams. The APDA welcomes member input to contribute to our breed success going forward. There are three notice of motions that require your attention at this meeting and if unable to attend but would like to express your vote then please return your proxy form to Margot Falconer, APDA secretary, no later than 24 hours before the meeting start time.

The board will have an information help desk set up at the Australasian Dorset Championships. This will be open during the show and will also be able process any sale ram registrations and transfers if you have all the registration requirements with you on the day. If you have any questions or queries it is a great opportunity to speak with Margot, Patrick or Keryn from the office.

To bring everyone up to date on the breed conference it has been decided to postpone this event to early 2026, with more details to come as they develop. This was mainly due to the short time frame to organise the event successfully and the opportunity to source and secure potential key speakers relevant to our industry. The Wagga region will take the helm with the support of the APDA office and board members.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. John Jasper, WA, who was a past president of our association from 2003-2005. John was known to many in our breed and was the stud principal of the now dispersed 'Jolma Stud' in WA. I think many of us can remember the Jolma advert in the journal, with the rams 'revving up'. And on another sad note, Gloria Harris, from the now dispersed 'Gloroy stud', Victoria, recently passed away in June, aged 93 years. Gloria and her husband Roy founded the stud in 1956 in Newbridge and their son Colin continued what they started until dispersing in 2014. I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Colin & Jenny Harris and family.

And finally, as we head into ram selling season, I wish you all the best as you prepare for your ram sales, and I trust seasonal conditions that have played havoc in some regions, will improve in the areas that have suffered most.

**Tania King**  
PRESIDENT



## 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**  
Patrick Falconer  
marketing@polldorset.org.au

**Journal Editor**  
Fiona Myers  
fionarmyers@gmail.com

**Administration & 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

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# RIDGEHAVEN

POLL DORSETS



## 2024 ANNUAL RAM SALE

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On property, Cudal NSW

Inspection 10am | Lunch 12pm

*Presale inspection day*  
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Ruth 0438 642 113

Isabele 0405 098 335

Floyd 0402 185 727

info@ridgehaven.net.au

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20 Stud Ewes

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**Our cover:** Dane Rowley from Springwaters stud at Boorowa, with the supreme short wool exhibit at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo, Springwaters 107-23. Full Bendigo report, page 37.

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# ACROSS THE PENS

## SHOWS

Congratulations to all the winners from the recent Australian Sheep and Wool Show and Sheepvention – Bendigo had a strong number of Poll Dorset entries, perhaps one of the biggest groups in recent years. Good luck to all those at the Australian Dorset Chamionships in September.



## ADC HELP DESK

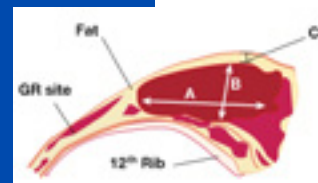
The Australian Poll Dorset Association will have a help desk set up at the ADC Championships for the entire event with Sunday after the ram sale specifically there to facilitate registration and transfer on the spot. We look forward to seeing you all at the show.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I urge you to read the treasurer's report in this issue. Proposed changes to our reporting and systems are highlighted and will produce cost savings for the association.

## 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.



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# PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

*What's not to love about a surge in lamb prices!*

*It's great to see the prices recover back to normal and profitable levels after the crash of 2023. This will give lamb producers a much needed confidence boost prior to the ram selling season, and should underpin some good consistent results for Poll Dorset breeders.*

This year's promotional campaign is progressive across the media types. Placement of advertising is tracked to be where we expect producers to be looking during the season. We have split the focus between print and online advertising, and targeting a message of productivity and profitability. Lamb producers have many and varied reasons for their sire choices, but all would agree that achieving successful business outcomes is front and centre.

You may have met our new journal editor Fiona Myers at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show. She is a long time Poll Dorset advocate and very experienced journalist; it's great to have her get our Poll Dorset messages out into the media. She has recently taken on some of the social media communications too. If you have any story leads, send her an email at [communications@polldorset.org.au](mailto:communications@polldorset.org.au)

LambEx is going to be so great! By the time this has gone to print, it will be all over, but I just wanted to mention that it is such a wonderful opportunity to immerse in our industry community and share the Poll Dorset advantage!



*Isabele Roberts*

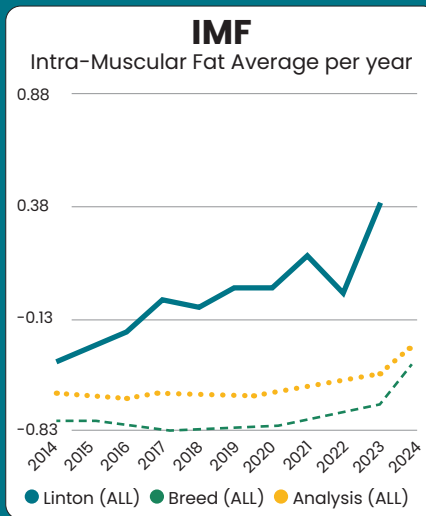
PROMOTIONS CHAIR

## Linton Dorsets

FLOCK 2288



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**A good selection of stud rams will be available Sep/Oct 2024**

**Semen available in:**

Linton 210167	LEQ 167	imf 0.6
Linton 210634	LEQ 164	imf 1.0
Linton 210245	LEQ 158	imf 1.0
Linton 210105	LEQ 156	imf 0.7
Linton 200174	LEQ 154	imf 0.5

**George Carter** T: 0447 272 371 E: [linton@caubaune.com.au](mailto:linton@caubaune.com.au)



*Dear Members,*

***I wanted to take this opportunity to alert you to some proposed changes in the financial setup of the Australian Poll Dorset Association.***

Over the past 12 months, we have been actively looking to improve the financial processes and reporting to make it more streamlined to use, and clearer to understand. The majority of improvements are workflows within the secretariat and book keeping and are working well. One significant change that is proposed (and will be discussed and put to the annual general meeting for approval), is the change to the financial year reporting period.

Our current financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. The proposed financial year will run from May 1 to April 30.

### **Why change APDA financial year?**

To make things simpler and clearer for all and for the following reasons:

- The proposed dates are aligned with the flock return period, allowing both association membership reports and financial reports to match up.
- Currently, yearly budgeting occurs in March which requires two years of financial reports. With the bulk of income in the fourth quarter, starting the reporting period then simplifies the budgeting process.
- The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements presented at the AGM will better reflect APDA financial position, prior to the current year income being received.
- The secretariat is burdened by a high workload during end of June and July due to sheep show commitments. Changing the APDA audit and reporting to May allows their workload to be spread over a quieter period.
- The current financial period can make for a very tight turnaround from the auditors to the members (28 days prior to the AGM).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SEP 2-10** Royal Adelaide Show
- SEP 8-10** Australasian Dorset Championships
- SEP 21-OCT 1** Royal Melbourne Show
- SEP 23-30** Royal Perth Show
- OCT 5-7** Royal Launceston Show
- OCT 20-22** Royal Hobart Show

### **Why is the new financial year May 1 to April 30?**

- May 1 – April 30 will capture all the benefits outlined above, as well as remove the current administration challenges.
- We considered April 1 – March 31 to completely align with the flock return period, however as the AGM is required to be held within five months of the end of the financial year, this is too early. With the AGM held (usually) early September, we would fall out of the required time frame.

We have identified some changes to the payment system that will also improve efficiently and streamline the system. Our member database and accounting software systems have capabilities to automatically flow information which reduces the cost of book keeping and improves accuracy.

To enable APDA to capture these cost savings, the following changes are occurring.

- APDA terms of trade have been reduced from 42 days to 14 days.
- Paying by credit card, the merchant fee from July 1 is added to the member payment amount.

When using the database for transactions you need to:

- Remember to log out, this ensures your transactions are recorded and an invoice is created.
- When paying by direct debit, the information in the
  - reference window : your flock number
  - detailed description window: invoice number PDxxxx

Thank you

**George Carter**

Treasurer  
APDA

# MLA's new chief on sheep research

Meat and Livestock Australia has a new managing director in Michael Crowley. The Australian Poll Dorset Journal put some questions to Mr Crowley about the lamb industry.

### Tell us about your background

I started as Meat & Livestock Australia's managing director at the end of May. It's an opportunity for me to return to MLA in a new capacity after previously having been the chief executive officer at Herefords Australia. Prior to that, I worked with MLA over a 14-year period in roles including Regional Manager for Europe and Russia, manager of Meat Standards Australia and general manager for research, development and adoption.

Key work at MLA over my 14 years at the company has covered many aspects of our sheep supply chain. This includes implementing MSA for lamb and sheep meat, overseeing MLA's investments through the Sheep CRC and being part of the Sheep CRC executive with particular focus on eating quality and genetics; establishment of the National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) to drive increased investment in genetics research and development; oversight of objective measurement and lamb boning automation



Michael Crowley

investment and many other components of lamb and sheep research and development and adoption.

I have also worked on marketing and market access for lamb and sheep meat. When I was based in Europe, I was involved in the early stages of the Free Trade Agreement negotiations working very closely with our official government representatives and the industry. The UK now offers big opportunities for the sector as a high value market with more favourable access conditions.

The Meat Standards Australia team has been working closely with sheep meat processors over the past few years towards commercialisation of the MSA sheep meat cuts-based model. While MSA lamb is the immediate priority for domestic consumption and overseas export, there is currently research under way into eating quality for hogget and saleyard consigned sheep.

Driving faster rates of genetic gain has also seen a significant increase in the uptake and use of Australian Sheep Breeding Values. In more recent years, adoption of genomic technology (developed as part of the Sheep CRC) has seen significant growth and improved genetic trends for hard to measure eating quality traits across the Sheep Genetics evaluations.

### What are MLA's research priorities for lamb?

A full breakdown of MLA's research priorities in financial year 2025 for sheepmeat, including lamb, is featured on page 9 of MLA's Annual Investment Plan.

The priorities for R&D investment are developed through consultation with producers through the Regional Advisory Councils – particularly Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC) and the Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC) as well as with the sheep industry peak industry council Sheep Producers Australia (SPA). These priorities feed up into the MLA Strategic Plan and the Annual Investment Plan.

Our priorities for lamb centre around: customers and consumers, traceability and biosecurity, productivity and sustainability. For the on-farm production sector we are focussed on investments that drive productivity, deliver profitability and deliver a positive environmental outcome. Productivity driven sustainability is key.

We are also working on investments that deliver better value signals through the supply chain with further work on the adoption of objective measurement technology and uptake of the MSA cuts-based model that delivers individual animal feedback to producers.

We balance our investments across marketing and R&D in line with the MLA five-year strategic plan that is directly aligned to the industry strategy – Red Meat 2030.

### Are there any areas that MLA's research can offer greater profitability to the lamb industry? Any specific projects or programs you would like to mention?

A key to driving improved profitability outcomes is to deliver productivity-led sustainability initiatives.

MLA is working on animal vaccine investments including mRNA and scour worm vaccines. Scour worms cost the sheep industry more than \$100 million per year, so we are developing a single shot, long-acting vaccine for scour



# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

worms in sheep. We're one year into this project with four more to go.

Research into better pastures is also key for the lamb industry and increasing profitability. Pointing to some work underway in Western Australia for example, a \$870,000 project is looking into maximising potential stocking rate through pasture management techniques in Western Australia. This six-year long project will aim to engage 240 producers managing a total of 1.4 million sheep. The overall goal is to increase pasture production and reduce the time taken to increase sale weights and supply sheep in out-of-season periods when pastures have typically been limited.

MLA also has a strong research focus on ewe and lamb mortality and this is led by the sheep reproduction strategic partnership which seeks to profitably and sustainably increase lamb production by increasing weaning rates and decreasing mortality. MLA's adoption programs also regularly deliver results on scanning and managing for multiples.

MLA's adoption programs also help to provide greater profitability for lamb producers. The most recent MLA Adoption Outcomes Report for 2022/23 stated that up to 9.3 million sheep were influenced by practice change programs. Of particular note are MLA's Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) and Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS) outcomes for the sheep industry. In 2022/23 PDS delivered outcomes for up to 4.3 million sheep, while PGS positively affected up to 1.2 million sheep.

MLA also delivers the national genetic evaluation for sheep through LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT as part of Sheep Genetics. This provides a direct pathway for MLA's investment in livestock genetics R&D through to commercial producers in the form of Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs). Examples of key projects that MLA has invested in where outcomes have been incorporated into Sheep Genetics includes the delivery of world-first eating quality indexes for lamb that balance improvements in productivity traits with positive outcomes for the consumer. This work is underpinned by the data that has been captured through the Sheep CRC Information Nucleus Flock (INF) and the MLA Resource Flock.

The Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF) connects industry with customers and the supply chain on meaningful sustainability outcomes. It works through extensive stakeholder engagement through the industry forums and consultative committee forums. This year's annual update was launched at LambEx in Adelaide. The industry has an amazing sustainability story to tell, and the SSF is a great vehicle to help tell that story and have a meaningful conversation with our supply chain, customers and consumers.

## What proportion of lamb levies is spent on research and what is spent on marketing? Do you think this is the right mix?

In 2024–25, MLA plans to invest \$299.9 million in research, development and marketing activities across 16 program areas. MLA budgets to invest \$39 million of sheep levies for 2024-2025. Of this, \$12.3 million will be allocated to research and \$26.7 million will go to marketing. The Australian Government matches dollar for dollar for research activities, so this figure will in fact equal \$24.6 million for sheep-relevant research.

In the 2023/24 investment projections, \$595,000 of funding through the MLA Donor Company was allocated towards sheep priorities. It is important to note that does not cover

sheep-related investments outside the program, e.g. sheep vaccine might sit under animal welfare. It is also important to note that actual project (MLA Donor Company) spend would increase when matching MDC funds are included.

A full breakdown of MLA's research priorities for sheep meat including lamb is featured on page 9 of MLA's Annual Investment Plan.

## What should lamb producers look forward to in terms of outcomes from the MLA for research?

Lamb producers can expect several outcomes from MLA's research. These include:

- Focuses on enhancing lamb production efficiency, such as better feeding regimes, breeding strategies, and disease management practices.
- Research aims to improve lamb meat quality attributes that are desirable to consumers, such as tenderness, flavour, and nutrition. This can help in better market positioning through the development of high-quality brands and connect with delivering product that meets consumer appetite.
- Producers can benefit from MLA research that explores and promotes the adoption of new technologies, such as precision farming tools, genetic advancements, and data-driven management practices.
- To capitalise on MLA's investment in genetics lamb producers can do this through utilising ASBVs and selection indexes in their sire selections this coming sale season. If you would like to know more about the role of genetics MLA has released its updated Bred Well Fed Well workshops. For more information on utilising ASBVs in ram selection decisions check out the MLA Genetics Hub [genetics.mla.com.au](https://genetics.mla.com.au)

## Do lamb producers get good bang for their buck with lamb levies?

Absolutely, levies paid by sheep producers are used to fund a variety of activities and services aimed at benefiting the lamb industry. These activities typically include research and development (R&D) projects, marketing campaigns, industry training, and market access initiatives. All initiatives are designed in order to generate more value for lamb and sheep meat throughout the supply chain.

MLA continuously evaluates its programs to ensure they are delivering tangible benefits and maximising returns on the levies paid by producers. MLA's most recent Producer Adoption Outcomes Report noted that during 2022–23 MLA delivered \$59 million in annual net benefits to producers involved in MLA adoption activities.

MLA will soon begin consultation on how the next five-year MLA Strategic Plan can align with the goals of Red Meat 2030, as well as identify and address priorities for the industry. As well as the upcoming conversations with industry on the strategic plan development, I'm also looking forward to catching up with lamb producer at events like LambEx in Adelaide in August, MLA Updates in Perth in October, and the Annual General Meeting in November, and a whole host of other events.

I encourage producers to get along to these events, learn more about MLA, and have a chat with me. - <https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/events-and-workshops/>

# BEST IN BREED GENETICS



## TOP POLL DORSET RAMS

K40-23: SIRE K457-20

TCP: 148, PWWT: 16.9, PFAT: -1.0, PEMD: 2.3

K46-23: SIRE BRUAN B80-20

TCP: 153, PWWT: 17.5, PFAT: -1.0, PEMD: 2.6

# 2024 ANNUAL RAM SALE

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12.30 PM AEDT

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K58-23: SIRE SHIRLEE DOWNS 2-20

TCP: 151, PWWT: 20.7, PFAT: -1.5, PEMD: 1.2



K436-23: SIRE BRUAN 80-20

TCP: 150, PWWT: 16.3, PFAT: -1.1, PEMD: 2.4



Ben Prentice | 0429 814 549  
ARIAH PARK - NSW

Lucy Prentice | 0409 544 080  
[lucy@kurralea.com](mailto:lucy@kurralea.com)



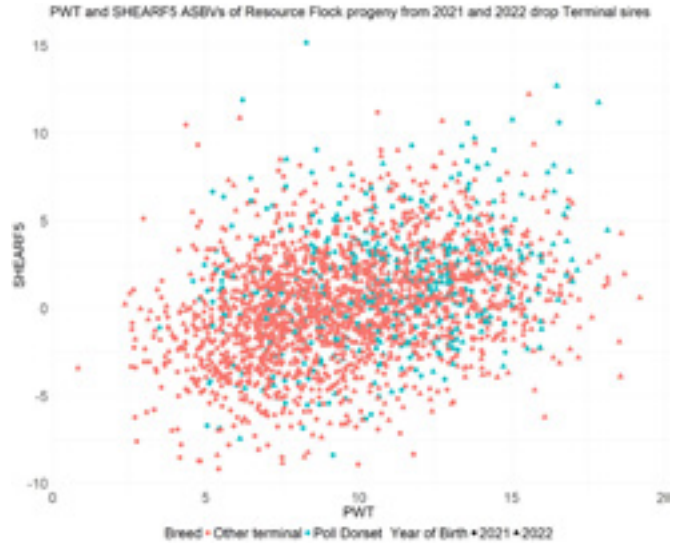
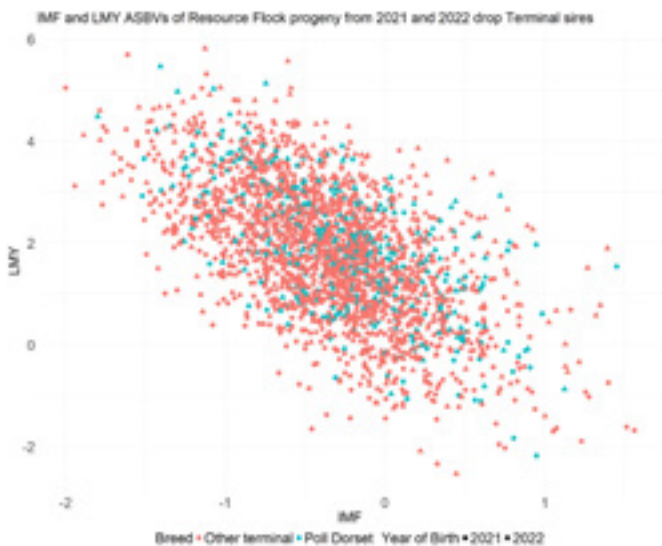
# Poll Dorset performance in the Resource Flock

MLA's resource flock aims to collect difficult to measure phenotypes like eating quality traits from a diverse range of sires which are reflective of the Australian sheep industry. Progeny from the resource flock are also genotyped, which ultimately contributes to the larger sheep reference population (animals with both a genotype and phenotype). The Resource Flock underpins the ability for Sheep Genetics members in flocks across Australia to leverage genomic information, allowing animals without a direct phenotype to receive ASBVs for hard to measure traits. Hence, why animals that do not have a direct measure for carcass and eating quality traits like intramuscular fat, lean meat yield, and shear force receive IMF, LMY, SHEARF5 ASBVs.

Poll Dorset progeny make up about 20 per cent of terminal progeny from the past three years worth of the Resource Flock (2020, 2021, and 2022 joinings). The below graphs show ASBVs for IMF compared to LMY, and PWT compared to SHEARF5 for progeny from Poll Dorset sires (compared to progeny from other Terminal sires) from the 2021 and 2022 joinings. Please note that the below graphs are indicative of the sires submitted to the Resource Flock. It is evident from the data that there is a diverse range in performance for both Poll Dorset sires and all other Terminal sire breeds for all growth, carcass, and eating quality traits. This reinforces the message that there is as much variation within a breed for a trait as there is across breeds. The progeny from the 2023 Resource Flock joining are currently being processed and having meat science traits collected.

Eating quality traits like IMF and SHEARF5 have a negative genetic correlation with growth and carcass traits like PWT, DRESS, and LMY. When making selection decisions, it's important to consider having a defined breeding objective and use selection indexes and ASBVs to make balanced genetic progress towards the traits in your objective.

The sire nominations are now open for the 2025 joining for the Resource Flock. The selection criteria will be based on relationship to sires already in the Resource Flock, genetic diversity and index values. To nominate rams for the 2025 Resource Flock, please fill in the form using the QR code.



## Preparing for sale & show season

Sheep Genetics has released a series of resources for the upcoming sale season aimed at both seedstock and commercial producers, including:

### Guide to sale catalogues and pencards

When looking at sale catalogues and/or pencards for animals you're thinking about purchasing, there are several things to check. Not all sale catalogues and pencards look the same or have the same information listed so it's important to make sure you're looking at the most up to date information.



### Understanding the percentile bands

Percentile bands are a key piece of information used to understand ASBVs. They are updated with every run and explain the variation for each trait across the industry, identifying the figure that represents the top 1 per cent, all the way down to the bottom 10 per cent.. This tells you where each breeding value sits relative to industry.



These resources can be added to a sale catalogue to assist commercial producers in understanding ASBVs and identifying high performing sires that will meet their breeding objective.

Getting your data in order prior to sale is important to ensure accurate breeding values! To organise a time to discuss your data with Sheep Genetics, please fill out a request from via the QR code.



## Performance recording in drought conditions

Sheep Genetics has released some information to address common questions we have been receiving recently about performance recording in drought conditions and the challenges around collecting phenotypes for the genetic evaluation when seasonal conditions are poor. If you would like to read more about performance recording in drought conditions please scan the QR code or contact Sheep Genetics to discuss any question you have.





# POLL DORSET STUD

*Improving Performance & Profitability*

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**On-Property**

## 2024 Annual Ram Sale

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# Not all semen is equal

It seems AI is coming to breeding sheep, where AI not only stands for artificial insemination, but artificial intelligence known as machine learning.

PhD candidate Katherine Seymour (pictured) is with the animal reproduction group with the School of Life and Environmental Sciences with the University of Sydney.

And it's hoped her research will be able to shed more light on the success of artificial insemination.

"My entire PhD thesis on the whole is looking at sperm morphology with rams and determining what variation can be seen with rams, what variation can be seen with human assessor's findings and how morphology assessment could be improved upon with machine learning," Ms Seymour said.

Such is the interest in her work that she presented different parts of her work at two separate conferences within a month – one at Melbourne and one in Dublin, Ireland.

Her first outing was in Melbourne, where she presented to delegates at the Australian Association of Animal Science (AAAS) conference on the variation in the amount of normal sperm in ram ejaculates taken over an eight-week period.

"The overarching message is basically that morphology is a critical assessment of fertility, Ms Seymour said.

"But there hasn't been much research into the variation expected to occur in rams that haven't had any external stressors placed upon them.

"We wanted to look at what variation could you expect in a healthy, happy ram?"

The research is in the process of being published but Ms Seymour said there were key findings.

"I collected ejaculates off three rams over an eight-week period, three times a week and took two ejaculates on each of those days so a total of 48 ejaculates taken per ram," she said.

"We wanted to mimic an artificial breeding centre environment so the rams were housed internally so that their environment and feed could be controlled.

"The rams were also housed in individual stalls within view of the ewes, so they could see and smell the ewes but couldn't fight amongst themselves for them."

Ms Seymour said that the results had shown that across that eight-week period there was a massive amount of variation in the percentage of normal sperm (PNS) in each ram.

"Rams would get incredibly good results one day (high 90 per cent PNS), then on the next get terrible results (10 per cent PNS) with no apparent rhyme or reason," she said.

"We aren't sure exactly why this was happening, but it was interesting to see that rams can have massive amounts of variation in a controlled environment."

Ms Seymour said the only consistent trend that was found in the entire dataset was that the second ejaculate taken on the same day (so no more than four minutes after the first collection) had significant decreases in the PNS (in the realm of 10 per cent).

"We are going to dive into the data a bit more to see what specifically impacted this result ie which types of abnormalities



were increasing to try and determine why this occurred," she said.

"For industry relevance we would recommend artificial breeders or vets that are wanting to pool ejaculates taken on the same day should check each ejaculates morphology separately to make sure there aren't reducing the overall quality of the sample with poor quality second ejaculates.

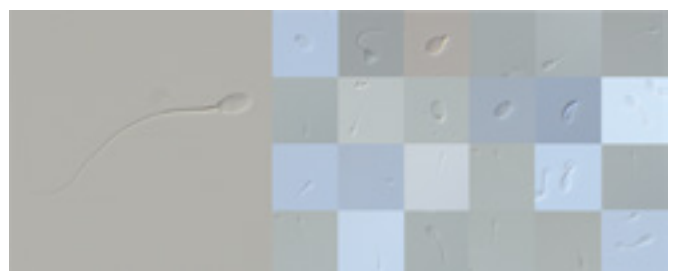
"We would also recommend that for breeding soundness examinations, if a ram fails a morphology assessment the producer could consider doing a second assessment at a later date to double check the results as the ram could be expected to improve significantly. "

Her presentation at Dublin was at The Society of the Study of Reproduction (SSR) where she presented her initial research into developing a machine learning algorithm for sperm morphology assessment with rams.

This research is in its preliminary stages, so they have only seen an accuracy of 76 per cent with the machine learning model but Ms Seymour said it was "a promising start to transitioning sperm morphology assessment to a new objective measurement tool".

"We are aiming to continue working to improve this result and also to develop a model that could assess sperm using more categories," she said.

"There is the hope that this research would make morphology assessments more reliable, quicker and ultimately accessible to producers.



*Normal v abnormal semen*



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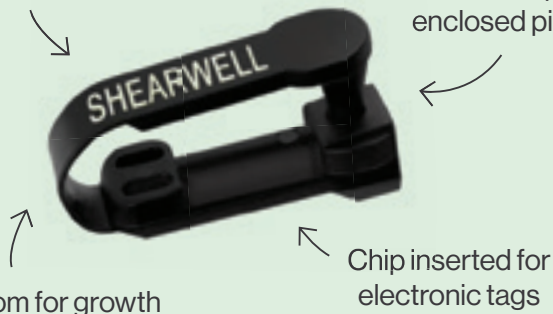


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230131	Bruan 210026	0.37	18.3	3.3	-0.7	-0.4	3.0	158.2	162.9
230144	Ilfracombe 200286	0.53	18.6	3.9	-0.9	-1.2	6.1	150.5	162.5
230064	Bruan 210026	0.44	16.5	3.3	-0.02	-0.18	0.2	160.8	162.0
230020	Bruan 210026	0.23	17.6	3.2	-0.9	-0.4	3.1	158.9	161.7

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OB  
CERT  
#43





# Why it pays to know about Ovine Brucellosis

NOTE: All Poll Dorset members please note Rule 31 – Ovine Brucellosis – to start or maintain a registered flock with the APDA, all flocks must be part of the relevant Ovine Brucellosis scheme with their appropriate state authorities as of March 2021 flock return.

**Article by Dr Colin Chapman.**

Ovine brucellosis is an ever-present risk in Australia .

Good biosecurity practices can protect you from big losses when it comes to ovine brucellosis (OB), a disease that has been in Australian sheep for many years and is probably never going to be eradicated, largely because of the costs involved and the fact that *Brucella ovis* rarely infects humans.

Recently, there has been an increase in the incidence of OB in parts of NSW and many positive cases are still being reported in other states.

### What is Ovine brucellosis?

Ovine brucellosis is a bacterial disease of sheep caused by *Brucella ovis*, one of several different types of *Brucella* organisms. It lives only in the sheep: it doesn't live on the ground or in the water, something that makes it easier to control than, for example Ovine Johne's Disease. This is because you don't have to take steps to eradicate *Brucella ovis* in the environment as well as from the sheep.

Ovine brucellosis is quite different to other forms of brucellosis, particularly bovine brucellosis where the cause is *Brucella abortus*. This bacterium causes cows to become sick, resulting in some of them aborting their calves. Another difference is that *Brucella abortus* is also infectious to humans but, after many years and many millions of dollars, bovine brucellosis, was officially eradicated from Australia in 1989.

### What problems does it cause in sheep?

When OB is in your flock of sheep it will probably not be noticed: sheep seldom become unwell when infected with *Brucella ovis*. What you will notice is that your ewes have fewer lambs and/or extended lambing periods but these 'markers' will probably only be evident over a period of several years, and even then may be attributed to other causes.

On closer inspection you may find that some or all of the rams you used have lumps and bumps in the testicles but further testing is required to be sure it is OB. In the early stages of investigation it must be kept in mind that scrotal lesions can also be associated with abscesses, injury, hernias or some other bacterial diseases, such as actinobacillosis.

### How does it reduce lambing percentages?

Ovine brucellosis reduces fertility in the rams by causing a partial or complete blockage in the tubules (epididymides) which run from their testes up to the penis, causing rams to be partially or totally infertile. For example, the epididymis on one side might be blocked but the other side may be open. The degree of infertility cannot be determined by palpation. Once OB gets into the reproductive tract of rams it stays there, and rams of all breeds and age are vulnerable.

### What about the ewes and wethers?

Ewes mated with infected rams will possibly have *Brucella ovis* present in their reproductive organs for brief periods of time

afterwards, almost always with no significant consequences although it is known that OB has occasionally been associated with abortion in ewes and with increased perinatal mortality.

Recently-infected ewes can become "carriers" of the infective bacteria whereby a ewe which mates with an infected ram can pass *Brucella ovis* onto another ram if this subsequent mating occurs soon after the first.

### How do I check my flock for brucellosis?

If you have had a reduction in lambing percentage and duration then the next step should be for your rams to be checked. This involves palpating the testes to feel for lumps and bumps. If there is any on the testes or around the epididymis, pea size or bigger, then that should prompt a further investigation to be sure *Brucella ovis* is the cause, as mentioned earlier. This involves a blood test which tells us if the rams have ever been infected by *Brucella ovis*, doing so by detecting the presence of antibodies to *Brucella ovis* in the blood.

If there are positive blood tests then a plan should be made for that particular farming enterprise to eradicate OB. It is not compulsory to do so because OB is not a "notifiable disease" but whenever you use the National Sheep Health Declaration information is required about ovine brucellosis, specifically about participation in an OB accreditation scheme .

Options for eradication is to either get rid of all the rams in that particular flock or test and only get rid of the rams that tested positive but repeated flock testing will then be required, and this can take months to achieve because it is necessary to obtain two consecutive negative tests.

Antibiotic treatment is ineffective for OB. There is no vaccine for OB.

### What is the best preventative course of action?

Ovine brucellosis comes onto a property when someone buys a new ram that is infected and puts it in with their ram flock. Doing this without prior quarantine and testing can infect a whole flock of rams within days or weeks.

The ideal way is to buy rams from an accredited brucellosis-free flock, making sure the accreditation. Is current.

Buying a ram from a farm without accreditation is possible but strict biosecurity will be required, centred around keeping the ram in isolation until repeated testing over several months to achieve two consecutive negative tests.

### What is involved with accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary process in Australia. The Department of Agriculture in your state can go through the procedure with you. Someone will come out to inspect the fences, look at the husbandry and whether the rams are kept together. They'll go through the steps with you about how to get accredited and how to maintain your accreditation. Normally, two blood tests are taken several months apart and at the same time palpation of the testes and checks of fences are done.

Once the accreditation is granted, the testing needs to be repeated generally every year after that. Only the rams used or might be used need to be tested, along with a sample of the others on the property is sufficient to maintain your accreditation. The guidelines vary slightly between states so do check with your District Veterinary Officer to confirm the testing arrangements in your area.

**For more information I recommend the excellent Prime Fact produced by the Department of Primary Industries NSW: Ovine brucellosis ([nsw.gov.au](http://nsw.gov.au))**



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Sire: "Tex" AP83-21.  
For sale at Bendigo.



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- AP70 - 2nd Intermediate shorn class Cowra. Sire: Tattykeel 155-21
- AP85 - Unshown August drop. Sire: "Tex" AP83-21
- AP89 - 1st Junior pair Cowra. Sire: "Tex" AP83-21
- AP110 - 2nd Junior shorn class Cowra. Sire: "Tex" AP83-21
- AP137 - 3rd Junior woolly class Cowra. Sire: "Tex" AP83-21
- AP171 - 1st Junior pair Cowra. Sire: "Tex" AP83-21
- AP199 - Unshown August drop. Sire: Tattykeel 155-21
- AP204 - Unshown August drop. Sire: Tattykeel 155-21

**Many of these rams can be viewed at Bendigo or on farm prior to sale.**

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# What's in store for lambs

**JT Agri-Source director and BestWool BestLamb chairman Jason Trompf is a well known figure in the lamb industry.**

**Here's his take on what's happened in the past 12 months and what's ahead.**

**"The flow of lambs, if we had had an earlier break, would have been steadied up; producers would have worked on finishing lambs to higher carcass weights.**

"But in the absence of that break, I think the processors had plenty of lambs coming at them and the need to go out with a more positive price was not there.

"The challenge is the repercussions of that.

"The short-term implication is that many lambs have been sold at lower carcass weights and most likely there will be a real shortage of lambs in say, mid-August.

"And normally that August mid-September (supply) gap is filled by early suckers and one of the home of them is South Australia, parts of which are having super-challenging seasonal conditions and northern Victoria is as well.

"So therefore you are going to have a double whammy shortage of supply in that period.

"But I think the bigger picture opportunity that would be supported by a positive price signal is what people are doing with their next crop of lambs and how many ewes they are retaining to join.

"The last 12 months have been a big adjustment for sheep producers; they have come off a series of good seasons, many sustained years of good prices, but both things have turned against them, along with interest rates and several other factors.

"It's put the pinch on a lot of sheep producers and I think the industry really needs to consider the implications of the ewe base.

"I can see us running 'It's Ewe Time' forums in 2025 because we are going to run low on the ewe base, with Western Australia's challenges, New South Wales' season that was but was forecast to be wasn't.

"I think a lot of ewes will have their lambs weaned early in South Australia and Victoria this year and with the mutton trade up and about our ewe numbers will be really compromised.

"Then you are tasked with this challenge of having adequate reproduction, and reproduction efficiency that enables you to simultaneously sustain the flock to grow it and grow the number of lambs supplied to the trade.

"We've been able to do that in the past, but it's really challenging and relies on two or three good seasons in a row."

"In mixed farming zones, I am concerned about the sheep industry having a massive loss in the battle for acres, and what may happen is, with the mutton (price) schedule looking pretty good, farmers get out of their ewes, finish one of their last crops of lambs and by the time you get to the end of this season quite a few more mixed farms might have no sheep right across big parts of Australia.

"The other thing that is going to happen is that ewes that have lambed and lost their lambs because of the pressure on the lambing paddocks they will get pulled out at lamb marking and in a lot of cases go straight on the truck.

"So I just think people are going to try to drop that adult ewe that can take a fair bit of feed out of the paddock, on any excuse they will be put on the truck because the (price and cost) signals over the last six or 12 months haven't been positive.

"That's coming back to the original point; if we had a positive outlook throughout this winter, I think farmers would have a different mindset going through this phase.

"Whereas at the moment, for many, they might see a late price spike, will have played all their cards, their rams will have gone and I'm worried about their mindset on where they are heading with their sheep flock.

"There hasn't been those (market and industry) leadership signals on a range of fronts – pricing, future opportunities in sheep, future demand signals in 2025 and beyond.

"There has just been a lack of a voice about the great future that exists, in the sheep meat industry in particular.

"I just feel we've got to do a better job in supporting the everyday sheep producer to deal with current circumstances but also have an eye for the future, and I think this will turn really quick and it's the farmers that can get their way through the trenches and have a productive base in a productive state for next year that will be able to really capitalize on that."

**Article courtesy of Terry Sim, Sheep Central**



# Out of season lamb production bonus needed

PROCESSORS might have to look at paying more to encourage out-of-season slaughter weight lambs as producers battle increased costs brought on by challenging seasonal conditions, the 2024 BestWool BestLamb conference in Ballarat was told.

There were also concerns about the implications of the current low rainfall-induced higher cost climate on future lamb production levels and ewe flock retention, and lack of industry messaging, to ensure strong sheep meat demand is met.

Dunkeld prime lamb producer Matthew Crawford asked Agrista director John Francis, with his experience with benchmarking, for an estimation on what it is costing producers to meet changing market specifications.

Mr Crawford said lamb market specifications from processors have changed over the last decade.

“A good lamb used to be 18 kilograms (carcass weight), now it’s 22 (kgs),” Mr Crawford said.

“In that 150 days (of the growing season) if you look at a week’s weight gain, it’s hard to hit 18kgs on 80 per cent of your lambs.”

He said in terms of cost of production, anything producers do outside of the spring growing season added significant cost.

“Lambing earlier adds costs, holding lambs later adds significant cost,” Mr Crawford said.

“Do you suck up the costs or do you have a cost of what that extra two kilograms is adding to our cost of production?”

Mr Francis said he thought prime lamb businesses were some of the most challenging to operate because “one chink in the armour” dropped them out of the targeted market category and into a high cost business.

“I think you’ve got to do your partial budgets and understand whether you can achieve that (target weight),” he said.

Mr Francis said producers had to “cop it” in some years.

“You win some you lose some, every benchmarking meeting I go to I have a fight about this, so I won’t have an easy solution for you,” he said.

“But I do think a lot of the processor cost is being pushed back onto you (producers) and I do think that what was previously a 16kg acceptable animal went to 18kg, went to 20kg, has gone to 22kg.

“There might be a point where they have to pay us a lot more for us to deliver what they want, because at the moment I see a bit of a mismatch and I think you’re right, there is not many people achieving a \$4 or \$4.50/kg carcass weight (cost of production).

“And you’re right that goes up with other costs in your business that aren’t delivering any value.

“So my view on your question is, do a partial budget from the point that you are (at) and establish what the marginal value is of putting the extra 2-4 kilograms on, and what the marginal cost is.

“But factor in, if you’re at optimal stocking rate you are flogging feed from something else, that would be the most important point for me and I think that’s the bit that is often missed – I’ll carry them on, but I won’t acknowledge the fact that I’m flogging that feed from my ewes which is setting up my next production cycle.”

After his session, Mr Francis said the partial budget was necessary for producers to understand what price they would need to justify extra cost to meet a market lamb weight requirement.

“And there are plenty (of producers) at the moment that are accepting a price that is less than their cost of production,” he said.

But Mr Francis said rather than pushing the issue toward processors, although their prices were part of the issue, producers should take the control that they have to drive the cost of production down to make sure there is a margin. Although Mr Francis said he suspected that profit margin is narrowing in the current seasonal and feed cost conditions.

“So at some point you make a decision that it is too narrow and I will go somewhere, I’ll do something else with the land, go to an alternative enterprise,” he said.

However, Mr Francis said moving to another enterprise could also be costly.

“My view would be you might be better off staying in your own (enterprise), but in order to do that probably you need to know your business well enough,” he said.

He said the first step is working out actual and targets for kilograms of production/hectare and cost of production.

“Then work out what can be improved in your existing business because it will be far lower than changing the whole enterprise,” Mr Francis said.

“Rather than just jumping ship, stop, review and think well, are they anomalies, we just learnt that they were.”

He said wool or lamb producers should look at their businesses and work out what they can do within that enterprise, rather than moving into another.

“Because if you have a look at our benchmarking data, most of the (cost and return) variation is within enterprises rather than between enterprises over the long-term,” he said.

Mr Crawford said at some point if producers were going to be producing lambs at preferred weights outside the growing season “at some point the price will have to be more.”

He believed producers needed to send clearer messages to processors about what prices were necessary to justify producing lambs at certain weights outside the growing season.

At the moment, processors can buy plenty of lambs so there was less need for higher price signals, he said.

“If you do your sums for that 150-day growing season, even if you put 300 grams a day on lambs — and not many producers are doing 300 gms over 80 per cent of their lambs – so what we are actually doing is incurring cost by lambing

## MARKET UPDATE

earlier and trying to extend that 150 days,” he said..

“So I think the bigger issue is the discount for that 18kg lamb.”

Mr Crawford said producers were being lured into spending the money to achieve lambs meeting market specifications.

“I think this year we didn’t have a choice, but as a general rule anything we do outside the growing season is going to add cost, but are we going to be rewarded for that cost?,” he said.

Looking forward, Mr Crawford believed fewer producers would be willing to add cost to their operations to produce lambs of market weight outside the growing season.

“The processors have actually got to decide - do they want those heavy lambs earlier and (in terms of price) and how much do they want them?”

Mr Crawford conceded that the price offered for 20kg-plus lambs had often been shy of levels profitable to many producers.

He said most of the year the price offered “had a 6 in front of it” and producers with a cost of production of \$4.50/kg were in the top 20 per cent whereas the average was around \$6.50/kg.

“So if you are an average producer you are selling at a loss,” he said.

“A 7 (in front of the price) won’t give you a 3 per cent return.”

Article courtesy of Terry Sim, Sheep Central



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# The critical role played by the United States

North America remains a crucial player for the Australian lamb industry despite the protein being considered niche and unfamiliar for about 40 per cent of US consumers.

US consumers are progressively increasing their willingness to try lamb, particularly the millennial generation, despite being challenged by concerns around taste, familiarity and limited knowledge on how to prepare it.

In the past financial year, Australian lamb exports to the US rose 20 per cent to 80,787 tonnes.

Australia is the major supplier of lamb to the US with around 80 per cent of market share, growing at a CAGR of 10 per cent between 2019 to 2022. The second largest supplier is New Zealand which accounts for around 20 per cent of lamb imports.

Lamb is traditionally regarded as a seasonal food for specific holidays with large retail sales spikes during Easter and Christmas. The pandemic drove consumers to try a greater variety of proteins and, as such, there has been a huge increase in home consumption of lamb with 74 per cent of US shoppers trying it (versus only 43 per cent in 2018).

Within these home eating occasions, not only has special occasions meals risen to 52 per cent (versus 34 per cent in 2018) but those wanting to elevate an everyday meal has almost doubled (51 per cent in 2022 versus 23 per cent in 2018).

There has also been an increase in those using lamb as part of their everyday meal rotation, up to 40 per cent in 2022 compared to 31 per cent in 2018.

And with limited knowledge of lamb, Americans are much more likely to consider source of protein, 'naturalness', sustainability and ease of preparation ahead of 'country of origin' when purchasing lamb.

Consumers who purchase lamb frequently are generally

premium shoppers, spend more in store and who prefer healthier, home cooked items. They also use the online channel more to purchase a greater variety of cuts.

The top six attributes why lamb was rated as excellent by consumers were:

- Has good flavour/taste
- Is high quality
- Is a good source of vitamins and nutrients
- Is a good source of energy
- Is all natural
- Is raised in a way that is good for the environment/ environmentally sustainable.

The most popular lamb cuts are leg and loin, accounting for just over 45 per cent of volume share. Interestingly, rack (ribeye), which has become popular in recent years, now sits at about 15 per cent of volume share but almost 30 per cent of value market share.

The top four opportunities to encourage trial of lamb are by offering tips on preparation or how to cook, a better price, trying a free sample and recipe ideas (Source: MLA Global Consumer Tracker 2021).

While supermarkets are still the main purchase channel for Australian lamb, sales are also highly skewed to online retailers and club store warehouses. Stores such as Costco attract a younger, more affluent consumer, who seeks more ethnically diverse cuisine and more exciting 'non-traditional' flavours, with lamb recognised as a viable option.

The opportunity for continued lamb sales looks promising, with some of the increase stemming from the need for variety, increased 'cook at home' time, and renewed consumer interest in lamb.

When it comes to food service, lamb penetration on US restaurant menus was steadily growing before 2019 but the pandemic forced operators to remove lamb from menus in order to streamline menus (Source: GlobalData).

It is estimated the overall penetration for lamb is approximately 20 per cent, featuring most often in fine dining restaurants, indicating room to expand and grow into other restaurant segments as well as into other cuisine menus.

The top reasons foodservice operators choose Australian lamb are due to ease of sourcing and affordability. Lamb imports from other country of origin suppliers fall behind in quality and taste. There are opportunities to improve the perceptions of Australian lamb and create a stronger position.

Nearly one third of food service operators are using lamb to target changing patron demographics. This shift in demographics means a more culturally diverse population is paving the way to demonstrate lamb's versatility through alternative cuts and more casual applications featuring lamb.

Historically, protein-oriented operators (e.g. steakhouses) and Indian restaurants have driven lamb menu penetration but there is an opportunity for Australian lamb to bring more diversity and unique flavour to menus, while delivering premium perceptions among diners for operators.

Imports make a significant contribution to the lamb and mutton supply in the US. Imports typically account for approximately 70 per cent of total sheep meat consumed in the US (Source: GIRA)



# Why Angus chose Poll Dorsets

For Angus Webb, starting his own Poll Dorset stud was born of passion for breeding high quality genetics.

The family's prime lamb operation bred terminal offspring near Yerong Creek, in southern NSW, a successful commercial venture but it wasn't quite enough for Angus.

"I was a bit frustrated because I like to see how investing in genetics can improve a flock long term," Angus said.

"Being involved with Poll Dorsets and the knowledge I had retained made it an easy decision to establish a Poll Dorset stud of my own."

The basis for the Kanangra stud was a small flock of stud ewes in 2012, and initially rams were bred to use in the family business.

The next nine years only increased the hunger for Angus to become more involved in genetics, and in August 2021, he bought the entire 2020-drop of classed in ewes from Ulandi Park.

Kanangra Poll Dorsets was registered in 2022.

"I have always had a passion for the breed and enjoy breeding and matching genetics in pursuit of the consistent and quality line of rams our prime lamb industry demands," Angus said.

"Farmers require production efficiency in all aspects of their business, and the prime lamb industry is no different.

"The Poll Dorset breed is the most dominant breed for the terminal market, allowing lambs to hit target weights quicker, whether that be as a sucker or an export lamb.

"Poll Dorset-sired lambs also sell with high demand in the saleyards and over the hooks due to their high carcass yields, presentation and consistency.

"Processors know they can get a reliable, consistent and quality product which puts dollars in their pocket."

Angus said confidence in the Poll Dorset-sired lambs meant processors and prime lamb producers were keen to seek the breed's genetics.

"It's exciting for me to be in an industry that is walking the walk and proving in the paddock and on the plate why our breed is so dominant," he said.





## YOUTH YARNS

The Kanangra stud has 270 ewes this year and next year, 350 ewes will be joined.

And rams are already being sold from the stud. The first drop of sale rams was sold in 2022 - Angus is currently selling 100 rams annually and sells all the rams privately.

“At the moment, I enjoy selling privately as I can get to know the people that buy my rams and better understand their breeding objectives and how they run their operations,” Angus said.

There’s been two big moments for the young stud.

Angus said the biggest influence was buying the complete 2020-drop classed in ewe drop from Ulandi Park Poll Dorsets. This, he said, was crucial in ensuring the stud had a strong and consistent base to breed from.

“The ewes have the breeding attributes that the Kanangra stud believes in and are very much industry relevant in today’s sheep market,” he said.

The other was buying AP220200 from Armdale Park at Marrar, NSW, last September for \$26,000.

“He is an exceptional ram; he boasts a depth of pedigree with three ET ancestors and multiple rams that have bred at the highest level, so he is no fluke!” Angus said.

“He carries himself exceptionally and is put together beautifully with a true sire’s head and neck extension.

“He carries width across the loin and a tremendous hindquarter.”

Angus said the ram was a perfect fit to sire the ewe base and breed Kanangra’s next generation of ewes.

Early signs are good – the ram already has lambs on the ground that are extremely consistent and true to the Dorset type, Angus said.

“I believe that this ram will end up having the most influence on the Kanangra stud, which is extremely exciting,” he said.

He’s also entered AP220200 in the Bowan Park Poll Dorset Research stud trial, not only to test the ram’s performance but also to offer more information to ram clients of the stud.

“As part of the business, we make sure we supply a product that is both relevant and productive for our clients,” Angus said.

“Australian Sheep Breeding Values hold a relevance to many clients, and it is important that we supply as much information as possible.

“The Bowan Park research trial helps to gain accurate data on the ram’s progeny of lambs, both in the paddocks and over the hooks.”

Angus said trialling his new ram against other sires also helped to benchmark and fast track the ASBVs for his own stud.

But he will never lose sight of what he sees as critical to a good ram, and that’s structural correctness and growth.

“As a sheep breeder, I always class on structure, weight for age and the Dorset type that I aspire to breed,” Angus said.

“These aspects help to lay a base for the breeding program.

“ASBVs are an additional tool that allows breeders further information on traits that they may be chasing in their flock.



Above: The \$26,000 ram AP 220200

“At the end of the day, structure and weight gain along with good management is what drives an efficient and profitable prime lamb enterprise.”

Angus is excited about the future of the lamb industry and his role in it.

He said prime lambs had been one of the most reliable and consistent sectors in agriculture for the past 15 years, with the Poll Dorset breed at the forefront of these results.

“As the world’s population grows, it will require more red meat,” Angus said.

“Demand looks only set to increase in future years, which gives Poll Dorset breeders and prime lamb producers the confidence to invest and produce the best red meat in the world.”

# Success at SA Sheep Expo

The Poll Dorset breed continues to invest in its future with the Adelaide Region sponsoring five young sheep enthusiasts to attend the 2024 SA Sheep Expo.

The five bursary recipients gave feedback on their experiences at the event.

**Name: Alisha Carter**  
**Awarded the Jamestown Show Experience**

**Where are you from:** One Tree Hill, South Australia

**Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending:** More knowledge within the sheep industry as well as branching out to create new friends that have a passion within the sheep industry.

**What are three things you learnt from the expo:** I learnt a lot over the three days at the sheep expo however, I improved my handling drastically, learnt and broadened my knowledge on nutrition as well as the meat market with where the lamb/sheep meat goes to and what are they looking for and wanting.

**What topics would you like to see at the next expo:** I would like to see more of the genetic side of things with sheep, such as what are breeds aiming to improve with the quality of sheep, either being wool, fertility or their meat.

**Name: Chelsea Wilkinson**  
**Bright Side, Handlers Class Intermediate 1 Merit Award**

**Where are you from?** Purnim, Victoria

**Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending:** I was hoping to gain more experience with handling a sheep, judging a sheep and all the things you have to do for the sheep before it's even born, which includes what to feed your ewe while she's pregnant, how to treat her properly if she gets sick and also all the things you do when the lamb is born to keep it healthy and maintain its growth properly.



*Caption: SA Sheep Expo participants: front row: Jack Kay, Emi Hughes and Chelsea Wilkinson and back row: Patrick Stewart, Alisha Carter and Lachie Gardiner holding sheep from the Glen Devon stud.*

**What are three things you learnt from the expo:** How to maintain and care for the sheep properly which includes what types of grains is good for ewes during pregnancy and which grains help milk production. I learnt how to judge a Merino and its wool a bit better than I did before going to the expo. And I learnt that sheep which are fed from grass causes the sheep's fat to be more yellow because of the beta carotene, then sheep who have been grain fed has white fat.

**What topics would you like to see at the next expo:** How to prepare your sheep for a show (at home before you leave and when you arrive at the show), and probably more handler classes during the days there, so the participants can grow some kind of bond with their sheep and get to know the sheep better before the judging day.

**Name: Patrick Stewart**

**Where are you from?** Mt Pleasant SA

**Before going to the expo, what was one thing you were hoping to gain from attending:** I was hoping to learn what agricultural careers can come from the sheep industry.

**What are three things you learnt from the expo:** I learnt a lot more about the different breeds of sheep and feeding requirements. The butcher demonstration was very interesting as I didn't know much about butchering and the sections of a sheep carcass. The feeding requirements of a ewe before and after birth.

**What topics would you like to see at the next expo:**

- Agriculture technologies within the Sheep industry.
- More topics about meat breeds.
- More topics about how to produce high quality meat and wool sheep.

**Name: Lachie Gardiner**  
**Third place, Handlers Class Junior 5**

**Where are you from:** Oakbank, Adelaide Hills, SA

**Before going to the expo what as one thing you were hoping to gain from attending:** Before attending the expo I was looking forward to learning more about the behaviour of sheep. This would give me a better understanding of how to handle them when showing. I was also hoping to learn about the common characteristics of various breeds of sheep.

**What are three things you learnt from the expo:** I found it interesting to learn about the process of wool production and how wool goes from the shearing process to being sold on the market.

I learnt about the different vaccine requirements for requirements for sheep specifically before lambing and transport. I also learnt the correct process to administer the vaccines to help prevent sickness and disease in the herd.

I learnt about the new electronic identification (eID) tagging that all lambs born after the start of 2025 will require. This will aim to improve biosecurity in Australia.

**What topics would you like to see at the next expo:**

I would be interested to see a session on the transport of sheep, focusing on the health and welfare of sheep during transport. It could include information such as appropriate transport conditions to minimise stress on the sheep, and the maximum travel times for sheep without a break.

# YOUTH YARNS

## Other Poll Dorset youth involved and successful included:

- Charlotte Cain, Glenore Stud, second place senior age group, senior champion young judge, reserve senior champion handler
- Elsie Johnson, highest achiever intermediate age group, intermediate champion young judge, reserve intermediate champion handler

- Zoe and Nathan Lush, Fairview Hills, senior young judges merit awards
- Nathan Lush, Fairview Hills, second place, handlers class senior 2
- Zoe Lush, Fairview Hills, second place, handlers class senior 1.

## Scholarship to Emi Hughes

Emi Hughes, Bernalta Stud won the LambEx Emerging Ewe Scholarship at the SA sheep expo.

The Emerging Ewe scholarship is a fully paid scholarship to attend the 2024 LambEx conference, funded by the SA Sheep Industry Fund. It was awarded to the top-scoring intermediate and senior participants competing in a pitching competition. Participants were expected to pitch an idea, technology, or innovation that will make a difference to and improve the sustainability of the sheep, lamb, and wool industry.

Emi said the scholarship would allow her to attend her first LambEx conference, where she hoped to network with industry experts, researchers, and advocates.

"I am especially excited about the research seminars, highlighting the newest advancements in the industry," Emi said.

To gain the scholarship, Emi pitched an educational program for aspiring breeders and interested people to learn about sheep practices 101. This would be a short-term program, linking industry experts with people wanting to quickly learn essential

day-to-day practices such as general handling, drenching, crutching, vaccinations, nutrition, genetics, and transport. It then extends to partner-up beginners with existing stud breeders in a mentorship program. This would provide a free lending hand for the stud breeder and an opportunity for the beginner to learn from the best of the best.



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# A 40-year love affair with Poll Dorsets

Poll Dorset breeder Geoff Davey is just as enthusiastic about the breed as he ever was after celebrating four decades of involvement.

Geoff, and wife Julie, established the GeeJay Poll Dorset stud at Kerang in 1994, though he'd been breeding Poll Dorsets for a couple of years before that.

And he said the biggest attribute of the breed – early maturity – remained just as relevant now as it did when he first started out.

His stud was created by buying six ewes from George Hall at Korop, “which was all we could afford at that time”.

“It allowed us to make a start, and while my father had been a Dorset Horn and then Poll Dorset breeder, well anyone who knows me, knows I'm an independent person so I wanted to do it myself,” Geoff said.

That flock has now built up to 120 stud ewes and the sale of about 55 rams a year, and an on-property sale for the past 20 years.

Many of his rams stay within 50 kilometres of home, something which he said was a good thing.

“We do sell the odd ram further afield, but we have very loyal buyers who come back every year and even one person who I went to school with that has bought at every sale,” Geoff said.

Over the decades, Geoff has stayed true to what he sees as the biggest attribute of the breed – early maturity.

He largely resisted the move in past years to go bigger, and said it was good to see many breeders had returned to the early maturity focus.

“Poll Dorsets offer early growth at a young age and that is a big selling point,” Geoff said.

“Our commercial clients want to be able to sell 75 per cent of their lambs at 16 to 18 weeks, and as a stud breeder, if you are not focussed on that, you are not doing the right thing by them.

“You need to get early growth at an early age.”

Growth is the key focus of his operation, but at the same time, he makes sure his rams have good structure, are able to walk freely and have short, downs-type wool.

“I know a lot of lambs are sold over the hooks now and the skin values are less, but that good skin type is something I also feel is really important,” he said.

There's been many highlights over the past 40 years, but Geoff nominates the fiftieth anniversary of the Poll Dorset breed and a large dinner at the Royal Melbourne Show which attracted 200 people.

He's also enjoyed judging at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, at Sheepvention at Hamilton and the Ballarat Sheep Show where he has cast his eye over big numbers of Poll Dorsets.

Stints on both the state and federal Poll Dorset associations have extended his commitment to the breed, and it's clear he is just as enthusiastic about why it is the most popular prime lamb sire in Australia.

“Really, Poll Dorsets have been popular since day one, and 70 years later, they are still just as popular if not more so,” Geoff said.

“It's hard to get butchers to go on the record, but when you talk to them, they will tell you that nothing can beat a Poll Dorset-sired lamb.”



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230088	0.48	11.60 <b>TOP 20%</b>	16.11	3.08 <b>TOP 20%</b>	5.35 <b>TOP 5%</b>	-1.23	145.86	128.82	-1.34
230180	0.51	10.56	14.99	2.62	3.68	-0.33	148.43	138.68	-0.89
230223	0.48	9.77	14.19	1.32	3.32	-0.94	135.04	132	-0.5
230239	0.43	11.09 <b>TOP 20%</b>	16.06	3.61 <b>TOP 10%</b>	4.53 <b>TOP 5%</b>	-0.68	156.55 <b>TOP 10%</b>	147.74	-0.86
230402	0.49	10.73	15.17	1.48	3.44	-0.58	138.52	131.43	-0.67
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\*Enquiries also welcome on our 2023 drop stud ewes

## NSW Hall of Fame inducts three more

Three past Poll Dorset stud breeders were inducted into the NSW Dorset Championship Hall of Fame during the championships at Cowra, NSW.

Max Douglas, Abelene Park stud, Woolomin, and Eric and Joyce Dixon, Ashbank stud, Dubbo, were inducted with their respective family's accepting the awards.

NSW Dorset Championship chief steward, Roger Taves, Pine Creek Poll Dorsets, Canowindra, said Max Douglas was a "great pioneer of the breed over a long time".

His son Marshall Douglas, who still runs Abelene Park, Woolomin, said his father loved coming to Cowra and catching up with other breeders.

"He loved a yarn and sometimes particularly when we were holding the sheep out there he'd have more focus on talking to people than he had with the sheep," he said.

"Trying to get his eye sometimes was impossible.

"He was another one like Eric - loved his sheep, loved these moments.

"We miss having some of those fellas around but we've got memories of them and it was some of our favourite memories sitting the car coming from Cowra on the way home analysing everything to do with the show."

Mr Traves said Eric Dixon was always a gentleman.

"He was always pleasant, always a gentleman and always willing to have a yarn to you and have a joke," he said.

"He was one of the nicest people I can remember and Joyce was always beside him in the show ring holding sheep.

"It was always a pleasure and an opportunity to have a yarn and have a chat with them and it was great what they did towards the NSW championships."

The Dixon's son Daryl Dixon, who still runs Ashbank stud at Dubbo, said his parents were very passionate Dorset breeders.

"They loved going to the shows and affiliating with everyone," he said.

Mr Dixon said his father attended his last show when he was 85.

"He lived for his sheep -he loved them so much," he said.

"I think they would have been very chuffed to know they were getting an award like this.

"I know the Dixon family ourselves are very proud of what they have done."

While Mr Dixon said he currently does not show and may not again, he said it had been a great time in his life and had formed many great friendships with other breeders.

**Article courtesy of Alexandra Bernard, The Land**

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# Laurie Fairclough

*Stockdale Poll Dorset stud,  
York, Western Australia*

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

Laurie joined the board of the Australian Poll Dorset Association in 1995, where he has represented his home state of Western Australia. The Stockdale Poll Dorset stud started in 1987. He joined the board to improve his knowledge of the breed and to be a voice for the WA breeders. He is currently the vice-president of the association.

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

Laurie sees a strong future for Poll Dorsets, especially with the breed's well known early maturity a key factor in its popularity. With the cost of carrying an animal (the time taken between birth and turnoff) a factor, Laurie said most producers wanted to be able to sell their lambs as quickly as possible, so early maturity was a key asset for the breed. But equally, the ability of Poll Dorsets to go onto to bigger export weights at 30 kilograms carcass or heavier was another factor which gave commercial breeders flexibility in their marketing options.

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

Some of the biggest changes that Laurie has seen in his Poll Dorset breeding has been the increase in length of lambs. And in WA, breeders have been keen to clean up points of rams, ensuring the progeny of those rams (commercial lambs) are able to keep as free as grass seed as possible. With big penalties for carcasses with grass seeds, this was a key factor which breeders in that state had addressed. At the same time, recognising that Poll Dorsets were now often joined to Merinos, and especially in WA, easy lambing was vital so smooth shoulders and good shoulder settings, combined with great hindquarters and meat, had emerged as sires suitable for the industry.

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

Laurie said Poll Dorset ram breeders need to remain focussed on what was important for commercial producers, and keep that commercial relevance, if they wanted to maintain the premier prime lamb breed in Australia. Early maturity must never be lost from breeding strategies, Laurie said, as this was a key attribute for the breed. And Laurie said having other breeds vying for terminal sire ram sales was a good thing for Poll Dorsets, as "it keeps us pushing the limits".





VV240155

61.5kg  
MD: 35mm  
MW: 92.5mm  
Fat: 5

VV240106

58kg  
MD: 44mm  
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Fat: 6

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POLL DORSET STUD

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# John Robert Jasper, pioneering WA Poll Dorset breeder, dies at 88

**Vale- John Robert Jasper October 29 1936 – June 24, 2024.**

John 'JR' Jasper, a passionate breeder, promotor and supporter of Australian Poll Dorsets died peacefully on June 25. He is survived by his wife Wilma, his three sons, Perry, Ashley and Graham, eight grandsons and a great-granddaughter and two great-grandsons.

Born and raised on a property in Cunderdin, he attended primary school in town, spent a year boarding at Guilford Grammar School and returned to work on the farm in 1952.

JR established Western Australia's fifth registered Poll Dorset stud in 1958, under the name Jolma, a portmanteau of John and Wilma.

In those early years, JR spent many patient and sometimes frustrating years crossing polled rams over his horned ewes to achieve a pure, genetically stable Poll Dorset flock.

It was during this time that a friendship with fellow breeder Dawson Bradford Snr was just developing, and the two would continue to share their enthusiasm for the breed for the rest of JR's life.

His enduring contribution to the breed was recognised in 2011, when he was bestowed with a life membership to the Australian

Poll Dorset Association at the Perth Royal Show. He served as the president of the association in 2004 and 2005, a promotions officer and on the WA committee.

He was a passionate supporter of the Perth Royal Show, where Jolma Poll Dorsets frequently returned to Cunderdin with armfuls of rosettes, ribbons and trophies. He won his first Champion Ram ribbon in 1984.

Between 1992-2005 the Jolma stud dominated the Champion Ram awards at the Perth Royal Show, winning eight times, and taking out Supreme Interbreed Ram in 1992.

"John's ability to recognise and breed high performing sheep was further apparent when one of his ewes, tested by Sheep Genetics Australia in the late 1990s, was found to have the highest breeding values from 90,000 ewes tested since 1991," recalled Mr Bradford.

A tragic injury in late 1970s meant in the decades after, a matchup between a spirited ram and JR in the sheepyards often ended in a win for ram.

But his deeply personal connection to Cunderdin, life on the land and his beloved Poll Dorsets meant that – against the advice of medical and allied health professionals – JR refused to stay away from the sheepyards.

The Jolma stud was sold in 2016, to Tim Stephenson, and JR's final years were spent at Peter Arney House in Perth, where a copy of the Poll Dorset Journal was always on the bedside table.

A funeral service was held in Cunderdin on July 5th and attended by hundreds of people, who reflected on his legacy as a Poll Dorset breeder, his passion for the Fremantle Dockers, his kindness and his commitment to his community.

**Article courtesy of Clint Jasper**



*JR Jasper and Jolma's first Perth Royal Show Champion Ram (1984)*



*Right: 1992 JR Jasper and Perry Jasper, Supreme Interbreed Champion, 1992.*





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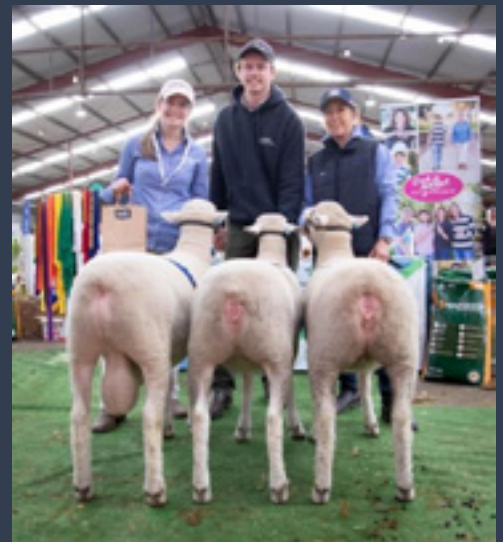
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# NSW studs dominate at Bendigo

Two NSW studs took the top honours at the Poll Dorset judging at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo, Victoria.

Under the eye of judge Finlay MacDonald from Porcupine Ridge, it was the Springwaters Stud from Boorowa, NSW, which took out the major ram sashes while fellow NSW competitors Valley Vista from Coolac took both ewe broad ribbons.

The grand champion ram, Springwaters 107-23, was in its first showing and was sired by Glenore 21-0048 and out of Springwaters 18-0098. It was drawn from the Ian Bucknall Trophy class for rams under 1-1/2 years, which had to be machine shorn no more than seven days prior to judging and measurements taken by the scanprobe machine were used to contribute to the judge's decision.

The April 2023-drop ram weighed 157.5 kilograms, had a muscle depth of 57.5mm, a muscle width of 122mm, a fat depth of 7.5mm and an eye muscle area of 54.01.

Breeder Dane Rowley said the grand champion ram was bred using an outcross sire from Glenore but was from a home bred ewe.

It was the fourth time that Springwaters had claimed the grand champion ram title at Bendigo, but Mr Rowley said it was still a substantial win.

The ram went on to be judged supreme Poll Dorset exhibit of the show and then took out the supreme short wool champion across all breeds, vindicating the decision of the judge.

The junior champion ram was also exhibited by Springwaters (tag 481-23), an August 2023-drop ram which had come up as class winner for rams born after August 1 in the preceding year, closely and evenly shorn, with not more than 2cm of wool.

Both rams will be offered for sale in the Springwaters stud's on-property sale on October 4.

Reserve senior champion ram and reserve junior champion ram were both exhibited by Hillden, at Bannister, NSW, which also took out the most successful exhibitor award.

And it was a clean sweep of the ewe awards by the Scott family, Valley Vista where the grand and reserve champion sashes went their way.

The grand champion ewe, Valley Vista 0154, was the reserve champion ewe at the NSW Dorset championships at Cowra, NSW, a month before the Bendigo fixture, and was an April 2023-drop ewe. She will be joined by artificial insemination in November this year.

The sire of VV 0154 was VV 138.14, a ram known as Fyfe, which was a prior supreme interbreed prime lamb exhibit at Bendigo.

Judge Finlay MacDonald said there were all styles of Poll Dorsets in the showing of more than 125 sheep "but we need all types in a breed to suit different markets".

"Some of us produce sucker lambs and also grow them out to be big heavy export lambs and get rewarded a premium at this time of year (winter)," Mr MacDonald said.

"That's probably the beauty of the breed that there are markets for everything out there and you need sheep that are able to do that and cover all bases and perform in a range of environmental conditions and areas."

Mr MacDonald said he had been looking for plenty of red meat in the loin and hindquarters when picking winners, as well as structural correctness and breed type.

He had been an associate judge about 18 years ago and said the breed had progressed since then.

"Twenty years ago, we went through this big, long plain type of sheep and now the breed has the size in them but also added the thickness and got away from lambing difficulties," Mr MacDonald said.

"They are big, long sheep but they have maintained that maturity about them – the whole market has changed really and we are looking for that 24-26 kilogram (carcass weight) lamb not a 16-18kg lamb.

"The Poll Dorset has been able to develop with the industry needs and processor needs and you could see here today (at Bendigo) that there are plenty of commercially relevant sheep that do the job."

Mr MacDonald said the early maturity of Poll Dorsets was clear in the lamb classes, showing just how the breed could perform.

"When you hit that premium with Coles or Woolworths, a sucker that is 24 or 25 kilograms is where you get premium money, that's straight off mum at four to five months old."

Mr MacDonald said the depth of the lamb classes was notable, given some exhibitors had tough seasonal conditions at home, and while it was a credit to the management of those sheep, it was also a credit to the breed that they had been able to perform despite the conditions.

Mr MacDonald said it had been a pleasure to judge, and while he was able to find his first and second place winners, it was more challenging to find other place getters in the big classes.

"We all know there is no such thing as a perfect sheep, and we can all find faults, but it's the things you can handle a bit more that can make the difference," he said.

In the novice section, Finley High School from Finley, NSW, took out the champion novice sheep with an exhibit from the class for shorn ewes under 1-1/2 years and bred by the exhibitor.

The same ewe went on to compete in the open classes, where she was placed second in the class.



Valley Vista from Coolac, NSW, exhibited the champion and reserve champion ewe at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo

# Finley High School's A-grade performance

Two schools made their presence felt at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo, and Finley High School from Finley, NSW, made sure their trip south was worthwhile.

They won all the novice classes, and then those sheep went into the open classes, a feat that was vindication of the hard work by students and their teacher Gary Webb.

Their shorn ewe under 1-1/2 years placed second in her open class, only beaten by the eventual grand champion ewe, who also went on to be reserve champion short wool exhibit in the show.



Finley High School students



“Judge Finlay (MacDonald) remarked that she was in consideration for reserve champion Poll Dorset ewe,” Gary said.

Other results in the open judging included second in the ewe born after July and third in the bare-shorn ewe class. In the ram classes, there were three classes where the Finley High School sheep placed fifth against some tough opposition.

Finley High School Poll Dorset stud was founded in 2002 and holds a sale each year but are always on the hunt for more clients to share their genetics with.

“Local farmers have been supportive, buying most of the rams as flock rams,” Gary said.

“We are ruthless when keeping rams as we have limited land, so only the best eight were kept from 2023.”

The program has support from fellow Poll Dorset breeders, especially the Frost family from Hillden Poll Dorset Stud at Bannister, which has donated semen for Finley High School since 2012.

“They continue to be great supporters each year as we discuss what rams to use next and they have not charged for semen,” Gary said.

While ribbons and judge’s acclaim and comments are great feedback, he said the benefits for being involved in breeding Poll Dorsets were more than just sheep knowledge.

“Students learn a wealth of skills that help prepare them for life,” Gary said.

“We see students increase their confidence and personal skills when communicating with judges, stewards, exhibitors and public and they can discuss sheep and the Finley High School agriculture program.

“Through shows, students must work effectively as a team.”

The alumni from the Poll Dorset stud have gone on to do things in agriculture, and undoubtedly, some of the impetus was from their experiences in the show ring and breeding sheep.

“Many students transition to university and go on to a range of vocations,” Gary said.

“We have past students who manage sheep and cattle enterprises, are agronomists, vets, stock and station agents, and biosecurity officers, and are valuable workers on farms.”

This year has been a good one for the stud and the show team, and Gary said improvement was seen each year.

“We are now being very competitive in most classes we enter,” he said.

“We won our first class at Bendigo in 2017 with a ram lamb and have won a number of classes since.

“We proudly won reserve champion ewe at Cowra Dorset Championships in 2023, which was possibly our best result ever.

“Winning interbreed championships at the Royal Melbourne Show over the past two years was very exciting, even though there were limited Poll Dorsets exhibited.”

Caption: Finley High School’s (front) Ava Schlink, Year 8, Abbey Tanner, year 8, and (back) Erica Hammond, Year 12, teacher Gary Webb, and Maggie Bramley, Year 10, with the champion novice exhibit.

# AROUND THE SHOWS

## International visitors at Bendigo

There was an international flavour at the judging of the Poll Dorsets at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo, with the attendance of two breed enthusiasts from Brazil.

Rodrigo Galleas from the King Star Farm at Curitiba, Brazil, had come to Australia on a 15-day trip to see Poll Dorset genetics and made time to watch the judging at Bendigo.

The King Star Farm runs a flock of about 400 Poll Dorset ewes and has used Australian genetics since about 2015 including Tattykeel at Oberon, NSW, which was one of the studs on Mr Galleas' visiting list.

He said the Poll Dorset breed was growing quickly in Brazil, where the rams were used over Merinos but also over a breed known as Santa Ines.



Rodrigo Galleas, Brazil



Tania King and Laurie Fairclough



Chelsea and Elizabeth Wilkinson



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# Tattykeel dominates at NSW Sheep Show

Tattykeel Poll Dorsets has continued to dominate in the show ring, this time at the NSW Sheep Show at Dubbo, NSW, in May.

The Black Springs based stud claimed all ram and ewe broad ribbons during breed classes under judge Lochie Ramm, Bo-Bar Poll Dorsets, Braidwood, NSW.

Supreme exhibit went to the ewe, Tattykeel 230031, who backed up her supreme ewe win at Sydney Royal.

She came through the pair of shorn ewes class, with Mr Ramm noting her overall balance.

"She's really stylish," he said.

"Good from tip to toe."

James Gilmore, Tattykeel, said the supreme ewe descended from Tattykeel 970080, which had been a proven breeder for the stud about 25 years ago.

"It's on both sides, she's a double cross. And that's something we're looking for - to be condensing pedigrees and genotype like that," he said.

The stud had been a closed flock for more than 20 years and was only becoming more consistent with the sheep it produced, Mr Gilmore said.

Crossing older genetics from influential sires with modern sheep helped keep the breed true to type, he said.

"We're continuing to focus on breeding animals that are what made our breed dominant for so many years," he said.

"We're certainly making huge gains on growth - there's no problems there - but one of the things we're really focused on keeping in there is breed type.

"We believe it's just so important, because without it, you don't have a breed, you don't have a difference, and you don't have a market."

The reserve champion ewe, Tattykeel 230027, was out of the supreme exhibit from the 2021 NSW Sheep Show, who was a full ET sister to the stud's ram that won the first inter-species supreme class at the 2022 show.

Mr Gilmore said there was a lot of common ancestry among the champion winners at the state show over the years.

The 2022 inter-species supreme exhibit was also the sire of the champion ram, Tattykeel 230014.

The ram came through the shorn pairs class and was also the supreme exhibit at this year's Sydney Royal.

Mr Ramm said the ram was eye-catching from the moment he saw him.

"I liked him in a pair and I like him even better on his own," he said.

"There's nothing I can fault in that ram."

His ET brother, Tattykeel 230015, was reserve, with Mr Ramm noting the ram's depth of body and incredible hindquarters.

Mr Gilmore said the dam's first three flush sons had averaged \$30,000 with the following two averaging \$20,000.

"These are the next two after that, so it's pretty exciting," he said.

The stud would use one of the rams for an upcoming flush program and then decide whether the pair would be offered at its on-property sale, he said.

**Article and photos courtesy of Rebecca Nadge, The Land**



James Gilmore, Tattykeel, judge Lochie Ramm, Bo-Bar, Braidwood, and Graham Gilmore, Tattykeel. Picture by Rebecca Nadge



Tattykeel's Wesley, 6, James, Ross, and Lawson Gilmore, 6, Black Springs, with (centre) judge Lochie Ramm, Bo-Bar Poll Dorsets, Braidwood. Picture by Rebecca Nadge



James Gilmore, Tattykeel Poll Dorsets, Black Springs, with judge Lochie Ramm, Bo-Bar Poll Dorsets, Braidwood, and the supreme exhibit. Picture by Rebecca Nadge

# First for Rene at NSW championships, Cowra

In a first for Rene Stud at Culcairn, the Mitchell family claimed supreme exhibit on the final day of the NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra, NSW

Under the eye of judge Wallace Binnie, Bungeet, Victoria, the grand champion ewe, exhibited by Rene's Scott Mitchell, was awarded the top spot ahead of the grand champion ram from Cranbrook Poll Dorset stud, Canowindra, from the first day of competition.

The ewe, Rene 429.23, was an AI twin sired by Rene 53.19 Chris.

Mr Mitchell said he was "speechless" by the result.

"We've spent a lifetime selecting genetics and animals that will click to our stud and what we achieved today is unbelievable," he said.

"We're over the moon - I've been coming here since I was 12 and this is the first time we've won that.

"They used to do father son judging and Dad [Doug Mitchell] got the judging job and I was the associate judge and that was when I was 12 so I have been coming here since then.

"The feeling is hard to explain - all the hard work."

Mr Mitchell said the ewe was "something really special".

"She's got so much class and presence, a great Dorset type, heaps of thickness, and structurally so good," he said.

"As the judge said, very hard to fault her.

"I think that's what got her over the line, she had a bit more style and was more eye-catching. "It is a big job getting over a ram."

Mr Mitchell said this was the first time the ewe was shown and she would now have a break before being back in the show ring at the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo, later in the year.

"She has done what she needs to do, so we'll try and have a crack in the champion of champions at the end of the year," he said.

Judge Mr Binnie said the ewe "had everything".

"Femininity, very correct, great structure, stood square on her feet, a lovely head and a pretty face," he said.

The Mitchell family runs about 220 Poll Dorset ewes, along with Charollais and White Suffolks.

Mr Mitchell said they have a May, June and August lambing to spread it out.

"We sell a lot of rams to the west so they've got to be able to travel," he said.

"We try and aim for something with a bit of length and a lot of muscle."

The reserve champion ewe was awarded to Valley Vista Poll Dorset stud, Coolac.

Mr Binnie said the ewe caught his eye the second it walked into the ring.

He said the ewe was structurally correct with length and stretch.

In other ewe results, Valley Vista also placed first in the ewe lamb class, while the Central West NSW region award for highest place ewe lamb went to Pine Creek Poll Dorset Partnership, Canowindra.

**Article and photos courtesy of Alexandra Bernard, The Land.**



Supreme exhibit at NSW Dorset championships, from Rene at Culcairn, NSW

# Cranbrook takes NSW ram at Cowra

After a brief hiatus, Cranbrook Poll Dorset stud, Canowindra, has returned with a bang taking out the grand champion ram at the NSW Dorset Championships.

Held at Cowra, NSW, 18 studs took to the ring with Cranbrook 42-23 awarded the senior champion ram before going on to claim grand.

Philip Balcombe, Cranbrook, said the ram had good growth for age and was a very correct ram with good temperament.

"He's got a very strong Poll Dorset head on him," Joanna Balcombe said.

Sired by Tattykeel 1061-18, the ram won grand champion off the back of being awarded interbreed champion at Bathurst Show earlier this year.

The Balcombe family runs about 140 stud ewes and sells about 60 rams a year, with the grand champion to be on offer this year.

Judge Wallace Binnie, Bungeet, Victoria, said the junior, intermediate and senior champion rams were all outstanding exhibits.

"I was particularly drawn to the junior champion but when I placed him beside the senior champion the thickness of carcass of the senior ram was too much to overlook to give the junior champion the benefit that he would develop to that extent," he said.

"He was a very heavy ram that had very few faults."

Reserve senior champion ram went to Rene stud, Culcairn, for Rene 395.23, sired by Valley Vista 155.21 and out of Rene 973.18.

Abelene Park, Woolomin, took a clean sweep of the intermediate and junior ram classes, claiming champion and reserve for both.

The intermediate champion was Abelene Park 43-23, sired by Tattykeel 155-21 while reserve was Abelene Park 60-23, sired by Tex AP 83-21.

Marshall Douglas, Abelene Park, said the intermediate champion was well-muscled.

The junior champion was Abelene Park 210.23 and reserve was Abelene Park 91.23, both sired by Tattykeel 155-21.

Mr Douglas said the junior champion had a really good outlook.

"His carcass shape, he's structurally really correct and a clean face which is important to us," he said.

Judge Mr Binnie said it was like splitting hairs between the two junior rams but the champion was hard to go past.

Mr Douglas said he judged at the Dorset Championships with his father in 1991 and had been coming almost every year since.

"We just see it as a great opportunity to get our sheep out and benchmark them against some of the best in NSW," he said.

The Douglas' run about 200 Dorset stud ewes and Mr Douglas said they cull heavily, being strict on structural traits.

Abelene Park was also awarded the most successful exhibitor and the highest strike rate award.

Cranbrook won the overall Stockscan performance ram, while the Central West NSW region award for highest placed ram lamb went to Mt Bathurst, Poll Dorset stud, Black Springs.

Cranbrook had further success in the group classes taking out NSW pair of the year.

Rene stud won the group of two rams and one ewe, as well as the group of three rams.

Finley High School claimed the sires progeny group.

In the Dorset Horn classes long-time exhibitor Kei-Vale Dorset Horns stud, Boorowa, won the champion and reserve for the ewes and rams.

**Article and photo courtesy of Alexandra Bernard, The Land.**



*Philip and Joanna Balcombe, Cranbrook Poll Dorset stud, Canowindra, NSW, flank judge Wallace Binnie, Bungeet, and with their grand champion ram at the NSW Dorset championships at Cowra, NSW.*



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# Hamilton Sheepvention

Esther Glasgow says she unlocked a childhood dream after winning her first Sheepvention broad ribbon at Hamilton amid juggling a full-time off-farm job and tough seasonal conditions.

The Estjam Poll Dorset stud principal won the supreme Poll Dorset exhibit of the show with an April 2023-drop ram, nudging out a Mallee Park ewe to claim the breed's top honour.

"As dad says, we are very commercially relevant and to have a commercially-relevant ram go on and win a broad ribbon is so important for a stud like ours," Ms Glasgow said.

Ms Glasgow runs the enterprise with her fiancé Brad Ewing at Woolsthorpe where 140 ewes are joined each year.

The stud sells between 50-60 Poll Dorset rams via an on-property sale in early October each year.

Ms Glasgow said the aim of the stud was to produce rams that were suitable for prime lamb production, with the intention to get lambs on the ground and off their mums as soon as possible.

"Early maturity and muscle are two standout characteristics of a Poll Dorset," she said.

The stud was established in 1998 when Ms Glasgow was eight, alongside her 10-year-old brother at the time.

The stud's motto is "meaty rams, meaty lambs".

"We do get very wet where we are so it's important for us to make sure our rams are structurally sound and as perfect as we can get them, along with a big, fat cover because we do also get very cold," Ms Glasgow said.

Mr Ewing said a key test for the rams was in Ms Glasgow's parents' prime lamb operation, where Poll Dorsets were joined to about 500 mature ewes, and Southdown rams to maiden ewes.

"He has about 100 maidens and out of the 500 mature ewes that he joins, Esther's parents will sell 85-90 per cent of the lambs straight off mum of the Dorsets," Mr Ewing said.

"We find the Southdowns need to stay on a bit longer and get finished."

The April 2023-drop supreme champion, 230043, is no stranger to the show ring after it won supreme Poll Dorset exhibit at the Victorian Sheep Show in Ballarat, before going on to win reserve short wool supreme interbreed of the show.

The ram was sired by Rangeview 21058 and out of an Estjam ewe, 80016.

The stud has 40 lambs on the ground sired by the prize-winning ram, and plans to offer him for sale at the Australasian Dorset Championships in Bendigo in September.

"I'm excited and I'm happy that my hard work and determination has paid off," Ms Glasgow said.

"I work full-time off farm as a program coordinator, so often I see and feed these rams in the dark in my second full-time job at night."

She also paid tribute to her fiancé for his support in the stud.

"Brad's my mentor... he keeps me on the straight and narrow and he helps me get rid of my foxes and he's my maintenance man, so he does all my heavy lifting," Ms Glasgow said.

Tim Ferguson and his daughter Jacey Ferguson, Mallee Park Poll Dorsets and White Suffolks, Hopetoun, won the champion Poll Dorset ewe of the show, with a May 2023-drop sheep.

The ewe, Mallee Park 142, was sired by Bruan 26 and out of a Mallee Park ewe.

Mr Ferguson the ewe would be retained and used extensively in the stud's breeding program.

Poll Dorset judge Will Milroy, Rangeview Poll Dorset stud, Pipers River, Tasmania, commended the exhibitors for the line-up of rams and ewes after several challenging months.

"Poll Dorsets are still the number one prime lamb sire in Australia, known for their consistency and early growth and the supreme exhibit had all the characteristics of a renowned ram in the industry," he said.

"I was looking at the meat qualities of these sheep, along with a good hindquarter, a very good loin and short-dense wool and all the exhibits had those traits.

"He was a beautiful Dorset type with length of body, packed full of meat and carried himself right through."

**Story courtesy of Bryce Eishold, Stock and Land**



*Mariane Ferguson, Mallee Park, Hopetoun, Victoria, hold the grand champion ewe at Sheepvention at Hamilton, with Chelsea Wilkinson*



*Esther Glasgow, Estjam, Woolsthorpe, Victoria, and judge Will Milcory, Rangeview Poll Dorsets, Pipers River, Tasmania, with her ram which was judged grand champion and supreme exhibit at Sheepvention*

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# Understanding The Random Shuffle of Genes

Genomic testing is widely considered the most significant transformational technology in livestock breeding since the introduction of Estimated Breeding Values, or EBVs, with genomic information now routinely incorporated into beef, sheep and dairy genetic evaluations around the globe.

To understand the value of genomic testing for the prediction of breeding value in these genetic evaluations, one must first understand how genes are inherited from one generation to the next.

An animal's genes are contained within its DNA, which is bundled into chromosomes. Livestock have pairs of chromosomes, with the number of chromosome pairs in an animal's DNA varying across the different species (table 1). For example, cattle have 30 pairs of chromosomes, or a total of 60 chromosomes. One chromosome in each chromosome pair is inherited from the animal's sire, and one from the animal's dam.

When the animal reproduces, for example, a sperm is produced by a sire, one of the chromosomes in each pair is selected at random and passed on to the progeny. So, when a sperm is produced, the selection of chromosomes that are passed on is similar to flipping a coin numerous times (i.e. 30 times in cattle, 27 times in sheep), with a different combination of heads and tails returned each time a new sperm is produced.

If we label the chromosomes the sire inherited from his father as blue (paternal) and the chromosomes inherited from his mother as pink (maternal), the number of possible combinations of the sire's paternal and maternal chromosomes that can be passed onto the progeny is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Illustration of the shuffling of chromosomes that occurs during sperm formation. The first column represents the bull's two sets of chromosomes. Chromosomes inherited from the bull's sire are in blue. Chromosomes from the bull's dam are in pink. The other columns depict possible combinations of paternal and maternal chromosomes in individual sperm cells. There are more than 1 billion possible combinations.

Delving into this in more detail, the number of possible chromosome combinations that can be passed on in cattle

is 1,073,741,824 (i.e. 230), while in sheep the number of possible chromosome combinations is 134,217,728 (i.e. 227). And this number ignores the exchange of segments between paternal and maternal chromosomes that occurs in a biological process called recombination.

The manner in which chromosomes are passed from one generation to the next is often described as the progeny receiving a random sample of the sire's genes, or mendelian sampling, and with the number of possible combinations, the genes passed on in no two sperm are exactly alike. The same number of possible combinations is true for each egg produced by a dam, meaning the number of possible chromosome combinations inherited by animals from their parents is literally in the billions.

Think for a moment about your favourite set of full siblings, being brothers or sisters with the same parents.

Perhaps this is your favourite set of embryo flush mates, your brothers and sisters, or your children. The dissimilarity between full siblings may be striking, for example, one may

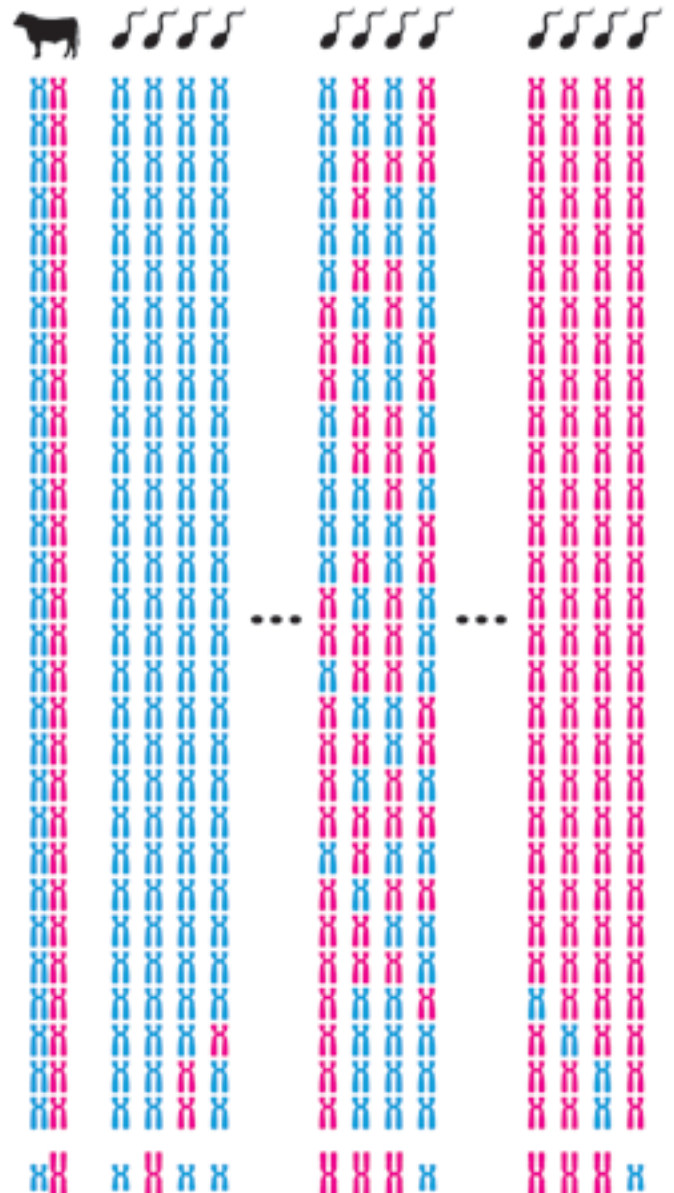


Figure 1

Table 1: Number of chromosome pairs by species	
Species	Chromosome Pairs
Human	23 pairs
Cattle	30 pairs
Sheep	27 pairs
Goats	30 pairs
Pigs	19 pairs

## SPONSORED CONTENT

be short and the other tall, one may have light hair and the other dark hair, or one may be laid-back and the other excitable.

The similarities and dissimilarities between full siblings are due to differences in the chromosomes that they have inherited, and the environment they have experienced.

So what does this mean for breeding values?

In their simplest form, the estimated breeding value (EBV) calculated for an animal can be thought of as one half of the sire's breeding value, plus one half of the dam's breeding value, plus the mendelian sampling term. The mendelian sampling term represents the animal's difference from the average of its parents' breeding values and is due to the random sample of genes and chromosomes that the calf inherited.

$$EBV_{CALF} = \frac{1}{2} EBV_{SIRE} + \frac{1}{2} EBV_{DAM} + \text{mendelian sampling term}$$

In a traditional, pedigree based genetic evaluation, there is no data available when an animal is born, so the Mendelian sampling term can not be estimated, and the animal's EBV is reported as the parent average. This is often referred to as the 'mid-parent' EBV value.

As performance data is subsequently collected on the animal, and the animal's progeny, the mendelian sampling term can be estimated, and the animal's EBV either increases, decreases or remains unchanged, reflecting the random sample of genes that the animal has inherited from its parents.

But this approach has limitations and it can be problematic collecting effective performance information on the animal to enable the mendelian sampling term to be estimated. For example, traits that are difficult or expensive to measure, traits that can't be measured prior to the animal entering the breeding herd, traits that have a low heritability, or animals that are in small contemporary groups.

This is where genomics now provides considerable value.

In a genetic evaluation that incorporates genomic information, such as the industry single step genetic evaluations that are conducted in the beef and sheep industries in Australia and New Zealand (e.g. BREEDPLAN, Sheep Genetics), predominantly for seedstock animals, genomic data provides an insight into the random sample of chromosomes that an animal has inherited, which enables an estimate to be made of the Mendelian sampling term early in an animal's life.

For example, in the real world example provided in Figure 2, based on averages, the animal would be expected to share 25 percent of its genes with each of its grandparents. But, due to the random shuffle of genes and chromosomes, this percent can vary greatly. Genomic testing reveals that the animal shares 25.8 percent of their genes with their paternal grandsire (orange chromosome pair), and 15.4 percent of their genes with their maternal grandsire (green chromosome pair).

Figure 2. Illustration of the use of genomic information to determine the shuffling of genes and chromosomes, and the subsequent relatedness between an animal and its paternal and maternal grand sire

Knowledge of the chromosomes that an animal has inherited via genomic testing, and the resultant ability to better estimate the mendelian sampling term, results in the availability of more accurate and reliable EBVs for animals.

**To further discuss the development of a genomic testing program for your livestock breeding program, contact staff at Neogen Australasia.**

Reference: 'The Random Shuffle of Genes: Putting the E in EPD' - <https://beef-cattle.extension.org/the-random-shuffle-of-genes-putting-the-e-in-epd/>

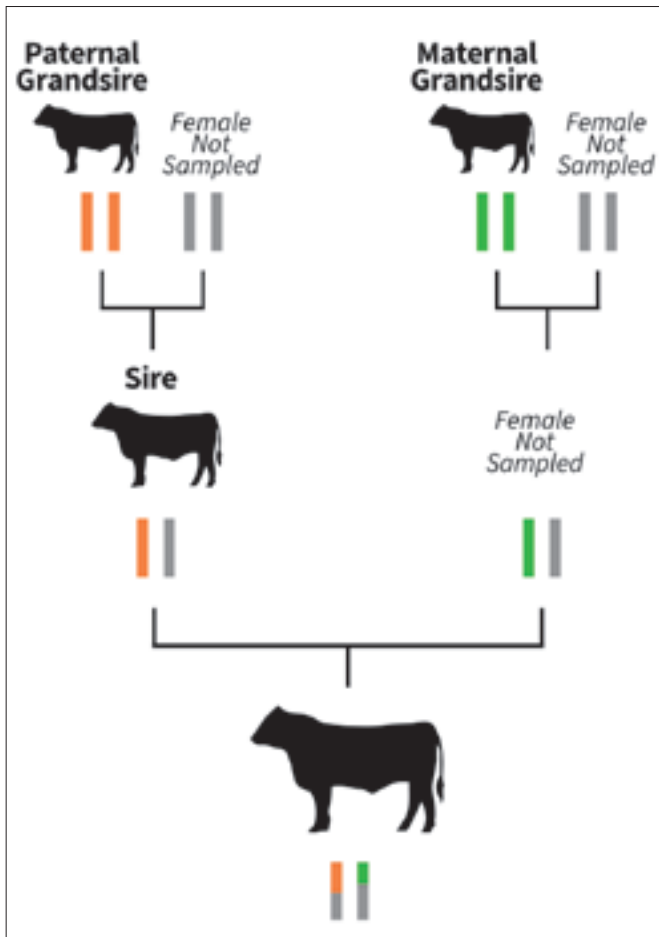
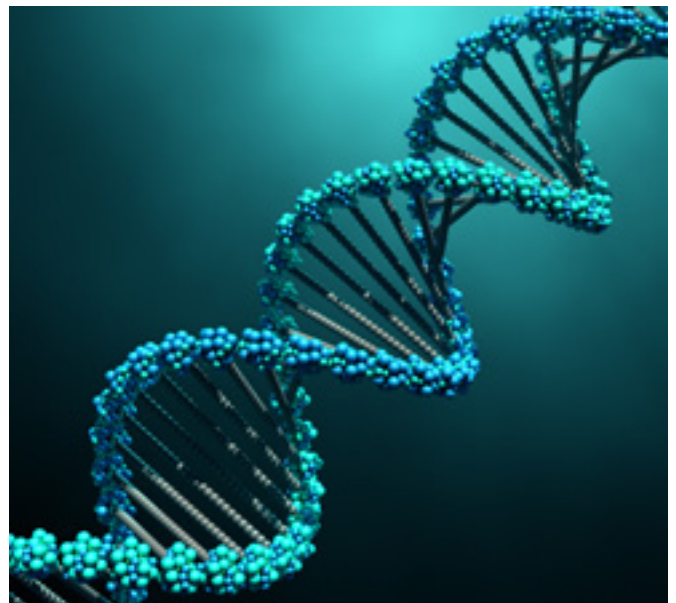


Figure 2





**Tried.**

**Tested.**

**True.**



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# Ulandi Park

POLL DORSETS

Flock No. 3125

*- Breeding to Industry Needs -*

Founded 1980

**27th Annual On Property Sale**  
**Friday 27th September 2024 - 1.00pm**  
**10 Feature and 130 Flock Rams**

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

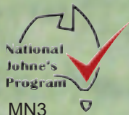
Check our website, Facebook and YouTube for updates during September  
Clayton and Andrea Rowett, RSD 33A, Kapunda SA 5373

(63 Murray's Road, Marrabel)

(08) 8848 6038 Clayton 0408 852 927 Charles 0499 193 661

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# The Australian Poll Dorset Association would like to welcome four new members to the flock book



## FLOCK NUMBER 4675

**PARKES HIGH SCHOOL**  
2a Albert St, Parkes, NSW 2870

**Volume:** 69 (Founded 2023)

**Prefix:** Parkes High

**Contact:** PARKES HIGH SCHOOL

**Mobile:** 0423 873 947

**Phone:** 02 6862 1844

**Other:** Grace Wright 0408 370 933

**Email:** natasha.shankelton@det.nsw.edu.au

**OB Free Accreditation:** (AC:BR 85416)

**Rams used for 2024:** Ridgehaven-220704 (60876)

**Ewes put to Ram for 2024 drop:** 9 (P) Total – 9

**Additions:** Ram Ridgehaven-220704 (60876) from Ridgehaven (F.918)

## FLOCK NUMBER 4676

**HUGH NASH**

“Tekoona”

201 Toogong Road, Toogong, NSW, 2864

**Volume:** 69 (Founded 2023)

**Prefix:** Nangar Valley

**Contact:** HUGH NASH

**Mobile:** 0474 975 662

**Email:** tekoona pastoral@gmail.com

**Rams used for 2024:** Cranbrook-220113 (60851)

**Ewes put to Ram for 2024 drop:** 7 (P) 4 (E) Total – 11

**Additions:** 2 x Ewe Lamb from Cranbrook (F.4520); 3 x Ewe (pregnant) from Tattykeel (F.981); Ram Cranbrook-220113 (60851) from Cranbrook (F.4520)

## FLOCK NUMBER 4677

**D & K TESKERA**

1578 Mount Terrick Road, Roslynmead, VIC, 3564

**Volume:** 69 (Founded 2023)

**Prefix:** Roslynmead West

**Contact:** DANNY & KAREN TESKERA

**Mobile:** 0429 462 660

**Phone:** 0429 462 660

**Email:** dannyteskera@bigpond.com

**OB Free Accreditation:** (AC:BR 286)

**Rams used for 2024:** Tattykeel-220004 (60956)

**Ewes put to Ram for 2024 drop:** 24 (P) Total – 24

**Additions:** 14 x Ewe (unmated) from Tattykeel (F.981)

## FLOCK NUMBER 4678

**J HAMILTON**

3294 Belububla Way, Canowindra, NSW 2804

**Volume:** 70 (Founded 2024)

**Prefix:** Uralla

**Contact:** JAKE HAMILTON

**Mobile:** 0483 853 234

**Email:** jake.hamo61@gmail.com

**Rams used for 2024:** Hilliden-210060 (60802)

**Ewes put to Ram for 2024 drop:** 18 (P) Total – 18

**Reserve Junior  
Champion, Sheepvention.**



**Ivadene 230217** Sire: MV526/21

Bwt	Wwt	Pwt	Pfat	Pemd	IMF	LMY	TCP
0.62	12.72	19.70	-1.21	3.46	-0.54	5.19	168.43

Tag 920 Tag 920 Tag 920 Tag 920

**Interbreed Lamb Production Champions, Sheepvention.**



**Ivadene 230621** Sire: MV526/21

Bwt	Wwt	Pwt	Pfat	Pemd	IMF	LMY	TCP
0.55	13.24	20.15	0.06	5.30	-0.59	5.17	173.31

Tag 920 Tag 920 Tag 920 Tag 920

**Ivadene 230025** Sire: P303/20

Bwt	Wwt	Pwt	Pfat	Pemd	IMF	LMY	TCP
0.52	13.28	20.35	-0.32	3.33	-0.29	4.46	169.39

Tag 920 Tag 920 Tag 920 Tag 920

**IVADENE RAM SALE - BENALLA OCTOBER 8th 2024**

See us at the Australasian Dorset Championships



FIVE DECADES OF GENETIC ADVANCEMENT

**2024 ANNUAL  
ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE**

**WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER  
12 NOON SA TIME**

On-Property - 'Yacca Downs' Woolshed, Woolumbool SA & AuctionsPlus

**240+ PROFIT SEEKER RAMS FOR COMMERCIAL BREEDERS**



**BREEDING QUALITY  
RAMS for the  
PRIME LAMB MARKET  
SINCE 1975.**

Offering fit, robust, reliable & functional seedstock rams with well-balanced ASBV's capable of moving your flock forward.



**WOOLUMBOOL  
STUDS**

Poll Dorset • White Suffolk • Multi-Meat

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AARON CLOTHIER  
0428 658 002

## SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	DATE	TIME	STUD RAMS	FLOCK RAMS
Abelene Park	NSW	26th September	1:30pm		40
Aberdeen/Hovell	NSW	8th October	1pm		250
Armdale	NSW	20th September			
Armdale Park	NSW	27th Sept		16	170
Ashbank	NSW	11th September			90
Ashcharmoo	NSW	26th October	1pm		
Athlone		18th October			200
Barwon	NSW	11th October			140
Bo Bar	NSW	14th November			100
Bowan Park Open Day	NSW	20th September	1pm		
Brimfield	WA	1st October			30
Bruan	VIC	21st October			150
Brurob	VIC	11th October	1pm	8	90
Cranbrook	NSW	5th September			
Deepdene	NSW	6th September		0	100
Derby Downs	VIC	4th October	1pm		90
Derrynock	VIC	10th October			
Dursley	NSW	5th September	11am		50
Englewood Park	VIC	9th October	1pm		
Estjam	VIC	4th October			45
Fairbank	Tas	7th November			60
Geejay (20th Annual Sale)	VIC	24th September	1pm	3	48
Glenore	VIC	2nd October	1pm	10	90
Glen Devon	SA	16th September			100
Hillden	NSW	1st November	2.00pm	10	140
Icon	VIC	3rd October	11.30am		
Ilfracombe	VIC	30th September	1.00pm		100
Ivadene	VIC	8th October	1.30pm	15	100
Janmac	VIC	2nd October	1pm		
Kenlorne	SA	15th October	1.30pm	2	80
Kentish Downs	NSW	6th November	1pm		
Kentish Downs online only (2023 Drop)	NSW	20th September	1pm		
Konongwootong	VIC	17th October	11am	10	190
Kurralea	NSW	24th September	12:30pm		

## SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	DATE	TIME	STUD RAMS	FLOCK RAMS
Leween	WA	4th October			50
LSK	VIC	25th October	1.30pm	10	100
Majella	VIC	20th September	1pm		110
Mallee Park	VIC	23rd September			
Marocara	NSW	3rd September	1pm		
Melton Vale	TAS	19th November	1.30pm		120
Merrengreen	NSW	25th September	11am		70
Moora Hills	VIC	9th October	2pm		80
Mulgundawa	SA	14th October			
Mullinger Park	SA	3rd October			200
Narranmore	NSW	13th September			
Newbold	SA	20th September	1pm	12	88
Pembroke	VIC	10th October			60
Pepperton	VIC	16th October	1pm	5	45
Pinewalla	NSW	5th November	1pm	10	120
Pinora	Vic	16th October			70
Rene	NSW	27th September			
Ridgehaven	NSW	12th September	1pm	150	
Rowallan	NSW	6th September			
Shellal	VIC	8th October	1pm		
Shirlee Downs	WA	13th September	12.30pm		140
Springwaters	NSW	4th October			220
Tellarup	WA	9th October	1pm		60
Ulandi Park	SA	27th September		10	130
Valley Vista	NSW	4th October			150
Valma (Online Auction)	TAS	16th September			43
Valma (On property)	TAS	14th November			300
Warburn	NSW	25th September		9	50
Warrawindi	SA	11th October			150
Woolumbool	SA	2nd October	12 Noon		240
Wunnamurra	NSW	12th September			180
Yentrac (Tatura)	VIC	25th September			60
Yentrac (Ballarat)	VIC	16th October			40

# ARMDALE PARK POLL DORSET STUD

[www.armdalepark.com.au](http://www.armdalepark.com.au)

'QUALITY BREEDS QUALITY'



## ANNUAL STUD & FLOCK RAM SALE

16 STUD RAMS - 180 FLOCK RAMS

**Friday 27th September 2024 - 1pm**

**On-Property, 'Armdale Park' Berry Jerry Lane - Marrar**

Sale Interfaced with  
**AUCTIONS PLUS**



**PRIOR INSPECTIONS  
WELCOME**



**Top Priced Stud Ram 2023  
AP220200 - Sold for \$26,000**



- **Highest Australian Poll Dorset flock ram average four years running**
- **Highest Australian Stud Ram average 2023**
- **Sire of current National Record-priced new season lambs**

**Garry & Catherine Armstrong**

Mobile: **0427 275 134**

Email: [gcarmsstrong@activ8.net.au](mailto:gcarmsstrong@activ8.net.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. Additional scans are \$5 each.
1/2 page	\$82.50	
1/4 page	\$60.50	
1/8 page	\$49.50	

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

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

**Supplied photographs:** When sending photographs electronically for

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

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

## ADVERT SPECIFICATIONS

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

## ADVERTISING BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

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.

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On Property and Online



Selling Agents: Ray White Livestock and Elders:  
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**Email:** info@pepperton.com.au  
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Available Options: ▪WiFi Scales ▪ Batch & Standard Scales ▪Tall Auger ▪Trail Feed

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\* In clean grain conditions  
▪All Prices Plus Freight  
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## **Bromar Sheep Lickfeeder**

\*Guaranteed to feed finer rates than any other feeder



First Restriction  
Closes top to bottom



Second Restriction  
Closes in sideways



Third Restriction  
Individual feed stations

### **Superior Licking Action** **Original 3 Way Restriction System** **Since 1994**

Grain is right at the top so small lambs can access.

Mothers train their lambs to feed when their only a few days old

One adjustment and no grain pressure on the adjustment slides



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