



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET

JOURNAL

VOLUME 51 / NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 2021

Valma Breaks STUD RAM RECORD



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE...



**RECORD
SALEYARD
SUCKER PRICE**
PAGE 11



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APPROVED**
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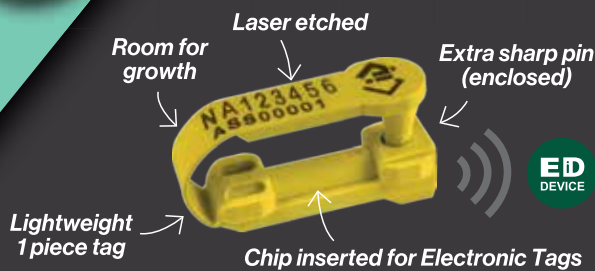


**RAM SALE
RECORDS FALL**
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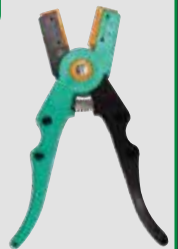
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For those that may not know me, myself and wife Julie have run a Poll Dorset Stud for the past 37 years at Kerang in Victoria. Mainly on irrigation. I have been involved in the Region & State committees from the start and have been involved on the Board for six years. We have three grown children and three grand kids, two live locally and one in America.

I would like to thank the APDA Board for intrusting me with the President's job for the next 12 months. I would also like to thank Isabelle for all her work as President in the past 2 years. I look forward to working with the crew in Bendigo and Jamie-Lee who is out and about.

Since our last journal we have seen three record's broken first there was Valma stud of Tasmania with a stud ram at \$41,000 then Tattykeel Stud of NSW highest on property stud ram average at \$15,954 going onto Armdale Park also of NSW with a flock ram average of \$3,927, well done

to these studs and any other studs that have increased their sale average from last year. It's a great time to be involved in the industry.

Due to Covid there have not been any spring shows to attend, where possible I attended some on property sales and was able to speak with other attending breeders. It was good to be able to get out and about again. Even able to introduce Margot to her first ram sale, which I hope she enjoyed.

I am more than happy to hear from members at any time, so feel free to ring and have a chat at any time.

It was sad to hear of the passing of Ray Sutherland recently he was the Victorian State's first Life Member and in my earlier days of being a member of the State committee I had a lot to do with Ray, he was a very knowledgeable stud breeder who shared his knowledge with younger members freely. He was involved in the junior judging at the Melbourne Royal for many years and many would have benefited from his wisdom.

We hope that this coming year will return to some sort of normality with hopefully the return of shows and face to face meetings.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a good harvest and a Merry Christmas a safe & happy New Year.

Geoff Davey

PRESIDENT



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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Annual On-Property

2021 SALE RESULTS



Thank you to all our bidders, under bidders and sale attendees for making our 2021 annual ram sale a success. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our new and existing clients, and our sponsors and suppliers for all your ongoing support.

Results: 100% Total Clearance

12 Stud Rams sold to \$5,500 averaging \$3,775

260 Flock Rams sold to \$6,700 averaging \$2,258

2022 On-Property Ram Sale

Tuesday, 4th October 2022, starting at 1pm

"Oak Hill" 1517 Howlong Rd, Burrumbuttock, NSW 2642

Our Latest Introduced Stud Sires

VALMA 20-096 - Purchased for \$12,000

Bwt	Wwt	Pwt	Pemd	Pfat	TCP	EQ	IMF	SHEARF5
0.58	11.09	19.30	3.07	-0.84	166.61	163.08	-0.22	-0.51

Top 20% WWT, Top 5% PWT, Top 10% PEMD, Top 5% TCP, Top 5% EQ,
Top 20% IMF, Top 10% SHEARF5.

VALMA 20-063 - Purchased for \$9,000

Bwt	Wwt	Pwt	Pemd	Pfat	TCP	EQ	IMF	SHEARF5
0.02	9.81	15.43	4.15	-0.21	163.47	165.20	0.22	-0.80

Top 5% PEMD, Top 5% TCP, Top 5% EQ, Top 5% IMF, Top 10% SHEARF5.

Old Woombi 20-418 - Purchased for \$4,100

Bwt	Wwt	Pwt	Pemd	Pfat	TCP	EQ	IMF	SHEARF5
0.26	9.91	15.02	4.13	-0.40	160.50	155.09	-0.41	1.98

Top 5% PEMD, Top 5% TCP, Top 5% EQ.



Congratulations to Simon and Ted Beattie for using Aberdeen Poll Dorset genetics and selling the son of Aberdeen 16-679 for \$24,000!

For all ram, semen and ewe enquiries call Rod or visit our website!

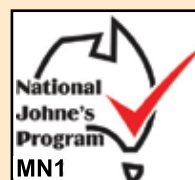


Rod and Ange Frohling

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SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

This year, board meetings and the AGM have been held via Zoom on Sunday August 29, 2021.

Election of Office Bearers 2021/22

President – Geoff Davey

Vice President – Wil Milroy

Finance – Treasurer Sascha Squiers, Isabele Roberts, Geoff Davey, Alistair Sutherland, Will Milroy

Administration & Planning – Chair Rod Davies, Garry Armstrong, Andrea Rowett, James Frost, Rod Davies, Laurie Fairclough, Tania King, Damon Coats, James Corcoran.

Promotions – Chair Alistair Sutherland, Geoff Davey, Andrew Scott, Will Milroy, Sascha Squiers, Isabele Roberts.

Flock Registration Committee – Chair James Frost, Damon Coats, Tania King

Research & Development – Chair Andrew Scott, Sascha Squiers, Damon Coats, Will Milroy, James Corcoran, Isabele Roberts

Finance Report

From a profit and loss viewpoint, the APDA performed well in the past financial year. Discussion again took place on where the funding from flock ram levy is placed in the accounts and the finance committee will endeavour to correct this for the forthcoming twelve months.

The following motion was carried

“That the Finance report be accepted”
Carried

Promotions Report

Alistair Sutherland provided a written report to the meeting and spoke of the promotional products that would be sent to all members and schools in the near future. The promotional campaign for this year featuring the knockout or punch campaign has been working well.

The following motion was carried

“That the Promotions report be accepted”
Carried

General business

There were two motions brought to the AGM:

The first to change the legal structure of the APDA to a Registrable Australian Body.
Carried

The second to move to a Preferential System of Voting for future board elections.
Carried

Flock Registration Report

The below motion was carried;

That flock 52 Keirstone be transferred to Hanks.

That Wrattenbullie be transferred from RN Davies to Brad Davies

Deregistered flocks

The meeting noted that there were approximately 14 flocks de-registering in the 2021 flock book.

Coledale 2021 sale results

- 129 offered
- 111 sold at auction
- Average price of \$1876
- Top price \$5000 Ram Sold to John & Clare Sinclair, Gartlee Poll Dorset Stud, Molesworth

Wallace, Sue & Kirsty would like to thank all purchasers and under bidders for their wonderful support this year.

Our best wishes to all for a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Christmas.

Contact Wallace and Sue Binnie
03 5765 2236 or 0427 944 035
wbinnie@bigpond.com
Kirsty Taylor : 0437 054 694
sutchtaylor@westnet.com.au



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Flock 1143

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2021 Sale Results

- * 40/40 ewes sold to \$1450 – av \$805 *
- * 27 stud rams sold to \$24,000 – av \$6500 *
- * 115/115 flock rams – av \$2130 *

Stud ram purchases include:

- * \$11,000 – RD & SE Horspole, VIC
- * \$10,000 – Camborn stud, NSW
- * \$9500 – Iona stud, VIC
- * \$9500 – Illfracombe stud, VIC
- * \$9200 – Kobyboyn P'ship, VIC



Derrynock 822/20 - \$24,000
Sold to A.Gillett, Wunnamurra stud



Derrynock 110/20 - \$11,000
Sold to D & C Gordon, Bruan stud

**A big thankyou to all who attended and bid at our 2021 sale.
And congratulations to everyone who has continued success with Derrynock genetics!**

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On the front:

Valma principals Andrew and Caroline McLauchlan and sons Oscar and Beau, with their \$41,000 record breaking ram. Photo: The Courier Newspaper

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ACROSS THE PENS

ON FARM SALES

Another fantastic year of sales for everyone, special thanks to Geoff Davey for taking me to Konongwootong to attend my first on farm sale and to Alistair and Jess Sutherland for their hospitality. All the results of sales to date are included in this issue and on our website.

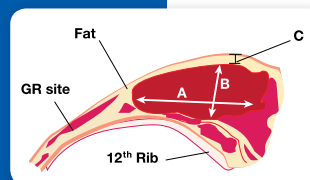


PROMOTIONAL GEAR

You should all have received some promotional gear from us in the form of hats/stubbyholders/stickers – if you would like to order more from the office, please email secretary@polldorset.org.au or phone 03 5443 9902.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Finally, a very merry Christmas to you and your families – the office will be closed from December 24 – January 4 but emails will be monitored during this time.



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PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

The spring ram selling season is almost over and as such our main publicity drive is nearly complete. This year we have used all types of media to promote our "Put a Punch into your production with a Poll Dorset Campaign" Ads were placed with traditional print media as well as running a digital campaign with Auctions Plus, Facebook and our own web site. The ads have been well received. Tasmania and Western Australia managed their own campaigns using their choice of ad from the material provided by the Promotions Committee. The Boxing theme caught people's eye and attracted a lot of comment.

Merchandise material has also been purchased and is in the process of being distributed to members to try and have a more visual presence at sale yard and other sheep related events. Covid has made this a challenge, but we got there in the end. Promotion packs have been sent to our School Studs and New Members. Each member will receive a pack also consisting of a hat and stubbie holder. The hi-vis hats have been most popular, and they certainly stand out. Each member received a bumper sticker in the September Journal and an updated version in the December Journal.

The Regional Promotions Grants are there for regions to use to promote Poll Dorsets in anyway they see fit in their own regions. Some regions take up this grant each year, but many don't. Regions who have applied for funds are reminded to get their invoices into the CEO as soon as possible. It would be great to have a short report on how they spent their money, perhaps it might inspire other regions to become involved. Naracoorte Hamilton Region spent part of their funds on two billboards that have been erected on strategic sites near the Hamilton Sale Yards and on the fence of the Naracoorte Show Grounds, on the main highway. Would your region like to do the same? Have you got just the site in mind for a bill board? Then send your application in!

We are always looking for photos to add to our library. Planning for next years campaign is already under way and we need a good library of photos that are easily accessible so that we can make the best of our promotional opportunities. Please

email anything that you think might be suitable to the Office. Suggestions for promotional activities are always welcome. Contact your local representative or just email them to the office. While we have a dedicated promotion team in Jamie-Lee, Sam and Patrick who are well supported by the Promotions Committee and Margot, it is up to all members to contribute to make our promotions as effective and successful as possible. Our members are our breeds greatest asset and the best source of ideas. We can't promote a secret so let us know your ideas.

Alistair Sutherland

Chair Promotions Committee



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

FEB 25-27	Royal Canberra Show	AUG 26-28	Australasian Dorset Championships
MAR 11-12	Wagin Woolorama	SEP 3-11	Royal Adelaide Show
APR 8-19	Sydney Royal Show	SEP 22-OCT 2	Royal Melbourne Show
JUNE	NSW Dorset Championships - Cowra	SEP	Royal Perth Show
JULY 15-17	Australian Sheep & Wool Show - Bendigo	OCT 6	Royal Launceston Show
AUG	Hamilton Sheepvention	OCT 19-22	Royal Hobart Show
AUG 5-14	Ekka Royal Queensland Show		

Sheep flock to reach 70 million

The forecast of a wet spring in many key sheep producing regions in Australia will drive the national flock to over 70 million head in 2021, according to Meat & Livestock Australia's 2021 October sheep industry projections.

The flock is also expected to grow beyond this in the coming years and is forecast to reach 76 million head by 2023 – its largest point since 2007.

MLA's Market Information Manager, Stephen Bignell, said the eastern states have been the key drivers behind this growth, supported by back-to-back strong seasons.

"The pace of the national rebuild has been even faster than initially expected because producers are using the good season to increase stocking rates and retain breeders," Mr Bignell said.

"We're expecting the season to have a positive impact on carcase weights, which have been revised up to 24.8kg for lambs and 25.6kg for sheep.

"Lamb slaughter is also expected to rise by 3% this year, although it's forecasted that sheep slaughter will be at its lowest level since 2011 because of the additional stock retention."

Mr Bignell said the combination of increased slaughter levels and carcase weights for lambs was a good sign for production, which is set to be the third highest on record in 2021 - before hitting a new record in 2022.

Ag shows receive funding of \$25M

Agricultural and royal shows have received a much needed funding lifeline, with funding of \$25 million to agricultural show societies as they recover from the cost of COVID-19, ensuring they can continue in 2022 and beyond.

There are 580 ag shows held in Australia each year providing a significant contribution of over \$1 billion to the Australian economy. Around 6 million people attend an ag show each year.

"The financial support announced by the Australian Government yesterday will enable ag shows to plan and implement shows in 2022 and beyond. The funding will give local communities, show societies and stakeholders the confidence to proceed with their shows for next year," Agricultural Shows Australia Chair Dr Rob Wilson said.

"We have seen hundreds upon hundreds of shows cancelled in 2020 and 2021 at great cost to communities, agricultural exhibitors and the 50,000 volunteers who underpin show societies."

"Ag shows are a most effective event for educating Australians about agriculture and food production, bridging the city-country divide and have been an integral fixture in rural communities for over a century, with some agricultural show societies approaching their 200th year."

Agricultural Shows Australia encourages local shows, their committees and showmen and women to prioritise their grant applications before the deadline.

More information here: <https://www.awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/infrastructure/supporting-ag-shows>

Acting CEO and new Chair for Sheep Producers

Ms Bonnie Skinner has commenced as Acting CEO of Sheep Producers Australia.

The Board believes this appointment will provide the essential consistency and stability needed for the next period while a recruitment process to appoint a permanent CEO in 2022, with a focus on leading the organisation to the next stage of growth and development is undertaken.

Ms Skinner, currently Deputy CEO, with her extensive knowledge and experience in the sheep meat industry will ensure a smooth transition for Members, stakeholders, and staff alike.

Sheep Producers Australia thank outgoing CEO Stephen Crisp who has now commenced as CEO of AUSMEAT.

Sheep Producers Australia has also announced Andrew Spencer as the new Independent Chair of the Board, following the expiration of the four year term of inaugural Chair Mr Chris Mirams.

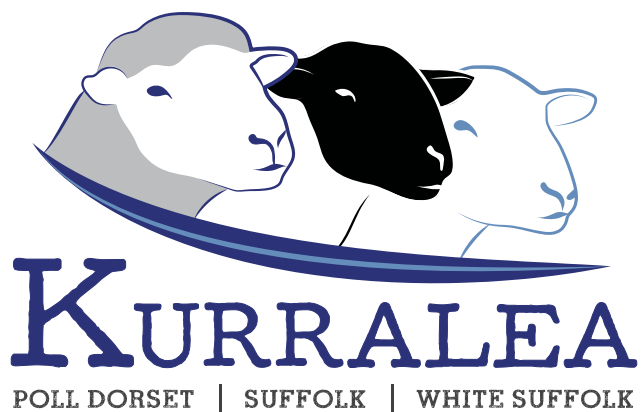
Ultimately responsible to its Members, Sheep Producers Australia's role is to provide national sheep industry leadership, policy, and advocacy and I think Andrew is well placed to take on the role," said Chris Mirams outgoing Independent Chair.

"Andrew is a well-respected leader in Australian agriculture, his strengths lie in his proven abilities in critical analysis, integrity and independent thinking. He is an Experienced Director, Chair and CEO." Mr Mirams.

"Despite the great financial position of many producers today, there remains significant challenges for the industry and organisation to address. I expect this will be challenging but also exciting and ultimately very rewarding." Mr Andrew Spencer.

BOM: Wet winter, wet spring

- November to January rainfall is likely to be above median for much of the eastern two-thirds of Australia, extending into eastern parts of WA.
- Extreme climate outlooks show November to January is 1.5 to 3.0 times more likely than normal to see rainfall in the top 20% of historical records for much of Australia away from the west. The month of November has stronger likelihoods, with parts of southern Australia 3.0 to 4.0 times as likely to see rainfall in the top 20%.
- Maximum temperatures for November to January are likely to be above median for much of western WA, parts of the north-east coastline, and far south-east Australia. However, below median daytime temperatures are more likely for central Australia, extending into north-west and south-west parts of Australia, as well as eastern NSW extending into southern Queensland.
- Above median minimum temperatures for November to January are very likely for almost all of Australia, with roughly equal chances of warmer or cooler than median nights for southern WA.
- November to January maximum temperatures are likely to be above median for much of western WA, parts of the north-east Australian coastline, south-east SA, western Victoria, and Tasmania (greater than 60% chance). Below median daytime temperatures are more likely for parts of northern and southern WA, the southern NT, eastern SA and eastern NSW extending into southern Queensland (chance of exceeding the median is 30 to 40%).



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*A special thankyou to everyone
who inspected our sheep in 2021
and invested in Kurralea genetics at
our annual sale.*



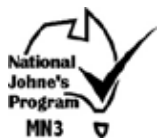
studstocksales.com

K 164-20 & K031-20

Sold to Hill View Poll Dorset Stud, Mirrool NSW

Overall Sale Result: 350/350 Rams sold to \$16,000 and an average of \$2,200

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Poll Dorsets set sucker price record - again

Poll Dorset new season lambs have set new record prices in saleyards not once but twice so far in 2021.

The National Trade Lamb Indicator hit a record 951c/kg carcass weight at the end of August, and prices remain well above year-ago levels.

The record national saleyard price for new season lambs was first broken by Poll Dorset-sired suckers that same week in August, before being beaten again a month later.

Current holders of the national record are Bob, Judy, Melissa and Joanne Rodham, from Uranquinty, NSW.

They sold their first pen of 54 for the season through RH Blake & Co at Wagga Wagga, NSW, in September for \$340 a head.

The lambs were estimated to be 34kg carcass weight, and were purchased by JBS Brooklyn.

Bob and Judy farm their property Elswick alongside daughters Melissa and Joanne, producing about 1000 Poll Dorset-sired lambs a year.

Melissa said they aim to sell off export-weight lambs from the first-cross ewe and Poll Dorset ram joining - which her father Bob had been doing his whole farming life.

This year the "stars aligned" for them, according to Melissa, who added they weren't expecting to break the record.

"Prices were good before we sold, and it wasn't a hard season for the ewes at all...the quality of the stock did it all themselves and we couldn't have asked for a better season," she said.

Lambs, still with their mothers, were grazed on a Lucerne and clover pasture, and only a handful of this year's draft remain on the property, with most turned off as suckers.

The record-breaking lambs were the first of their March-April drop lambs to be turned off for the year, and it should be noted the next two drafts also sold for more than \$300.

Ewes are purchased for Elswick each year from Ian Roberts at Marrar, and Poll Dorset rams are also sourced from Marrar, at Garry Armstrong's Armdale Park stud.

When it comes to selecting the best prime lamb sires, Melissa said the Poll Dorsets produce "a really nice lamb".



The \$340 record priced new season lambs.

"They just do, and they are reasonably quick growers - if you have a good season, you don't have to do much, the rams and the ewes do it all - there is very little input if you sell them as a new season lamb," she said.

It was the second time Poll Dorset-sired lambs set a sucker saleyard record price this year, with lambs bred by Gordon and Wayne Rodham, Uranquinty, NSW, making \$331.20.

They were also sold through RH Blake & Co at Wagga Wagga, estimated at 31kg carcass weight and purchased by Geelong, Victoria, processors M.C. Herd.

Gordon and Wayne bet their own previously held record of \$320 set in 2018.

Sheep and lamb prices have hit new highs across the board this year, according to Meat and Livestock Australia.

"The National Restocker Lamb Indicator achieved a new record of 1,034c/kg cwt on 1 September, 282c above year-ago levels, with the previous record set in March 2020," MLA reported.

"The National Trade Lamb Indicator (NTLI) hit a new record of 951c/kg cwt on 23 August, 324c above year-ago levels.

"Heavy lamb prices are also performing strongly, evidenced by a new national record set on 20 August of 984c/kg cwt, 384c above year-ago levels when prices were significantly impacted by the bottoming out of the export and foodservice trade.

"The aggregated industry price forecast (the aggregation of leading industry participants' forecasts of the NTLI, its upper range and lower range price as at 31 December 2021) forecast the NTLI falling away from current levels to 836c/kg cwt by the year's end."

**Break
RECORD\$
With the
Poll Dorset
punch**

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Introducing Hildden 234-20

Highest scanning Stockscan ram at Hildden
LW 159kg, D 70, W 114, F 12, EMA 61.45

Retained in stud – semen enquiries welcome

The team at Hildden would like to thank everyone
who has purchased our genetics in 2021.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

We look forward to catching up with you in 2022.

Enquiries Welcome - Brian & Lorraine Frost, "Hildden", Bannister, NSW 2580

Tel (02) 4844 3134 James - Mobile: 0427 483 134

RASV Showcase your Sheep Competition

Raiven Cole, nine years old from the Ashley Park Poll Dorset Stud won the 2021 Melbourne Royal, virtual Showcase your Sheep Competition.

Participants prepared a mock sales pitch video on a sheep of their choice from their own stud or commercial flock, promoting a sheep to prospective buyers. Students were encouraged to include relevant information that supported their sales pitch, a good visual of the animal, evidence in the form of actual weights, performance data and the need for true and verifiable sales information.

Raiven won the under 12 age group with her ram 200, Raiven spoke about her ram very well. We asked Raiven a few questions about her experience and her ram 200.

Why did you enter the competition?

- I entered the competition because I wanted to show everyone what I know about sheep, and what I have learnt. Also because I want to have more knowledge about sheep.

Tell us a bit about your ram and why he makes a good ram?

200 is a good ram because he is calm and quite gentle. He is a good ram for breeding because he has good depth of muscle. He's a nice strong ram. He walks nice and straight.

What do you enjoy the most about working with sheep?

- I enjoy how they start as lambs and watching them grow into nice rams and ewes. I love being outside with the sheep and helping.

How did you feel when you won the competition?

- I felt very shocked and amazed by how far I'd come since I was seven.



Raiven and her ram Ashley Park 200

2022 POLL DORSET Youth Day

EDUCATIONAL DAY ABOUT
ALL THINGS POLL DORSET



Finley Showgrounds
Friday 11th of March
More information
youth@polldorset.org.au



The Squiers girls Zarah 15, and Stella 13, Danika 16 from Shirlee Downs Poll Dorset Stud, Quairading, WA, cleaned up at Perth Royals, Junior Sheep Handler competition, taking out first, second and third out of a huge line-up of competitors. PHOTO: Countryman Newspaper

World-first development in eating quality for the Australian lamb industry

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Lamb processors and brand owners in Australia will be able to benchmark their product and ensure it meets their customer needs following commercial accreditation of an intramuscular probe that measures a key eating quality trait in lamb.

The Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards (AMILS) committee approved the accreditation application for the MEQ Probe in November.

Used in abattoirs on hot carcasses at line speed, the probe provides real-time information to meat processors on intramuscular fat (IMF), an important eating quality trait. This data can be used across the supply chain to inform branding and alignment to customer specifications, and back to on-farm to producers, helping to inform decisions that drive further value in the lamb industry.

The hand-held probe has three imaging needles which are inserted into the loin muscle at the 12-13th rib of hot carcasses

where it undertakes a spectral analysis to predict IMF.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Program Manager for Objective Measurement, Richard Apps, said MLA had invested with industry partners in the research and development of the Probe because of its potential to be transformational for the red meat industry.

"The commercial reality of the MEQ Probe will ensure Australia maintains its status as a global leader in red meat innovation and production – no other country is using this technology," Mr Apps said.

"There is also a huge benefit for the lamb supply chain with the technology allowing instant feedback to producers, so they are able to ascertain the IMF within their flock and plan how to improve or maintain IMF by using tools such as Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) and more targeted nutrition."

The accreditation of the probe also supports the commercialisation of the new Meat Standards Australia (MSA) sheepmeat cuts-based model.

Based on over 10 years of research, this model will revolutionise the sheepmeat industry by enabling producers, processors and brand owners to extract further value across the supply chain through eating quality segregation. The model uses three eating quality measures, including IMF, on each carcass, to predict the eating quality of nine cut by cooking method outcomes (grill and roast) for each carcass.

MEQ Probe's CEO, Remo Carbone said as the world's second-largest producer of lamb, it is fitting that Australia is leading the way in creating new standards for the eating quality of meat.



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"A certifiable measurement such as those generated by MEQ Probe provides opportunities across the entire lamb supply chain, from producers to retailers - but most importantly it will give assurance to consumers about the quality of the lamb they eat," Mr Carbone said.

"The accreditation of MEQ Probe as the first grading technology to accurately measure lamb's eating quality is a major milestone not just for us, but for Australia's entire agtech sector. We're

excited to be pioneering this vital technology that will help differentiate our meat sector on the global stage.

"We're also hugely grateful for the support of our initial clients, and for the work of industry partners such as MLA, AMPC and of course AUS-MEAT in bringing these new standards to life."

The accreditation of the probe helps open the way for the implementation of the new Meat Standards Australia sheep meat cuts-based model.



*The MEQ Probe is used to measure intramuscular fat in lamb.
Photo: MEQ Probe.*

AUS-MEAT makes landmark lamb IMF decision

Courtesy of Victoria Nugent, The Land

A lamb intramuscular fat percentage trait has become part of Australia's AUS-MEAT language after getting the green light by the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee in August.

The trait and the associated accuracy standards will now be used to accredit lamb grading technology. AUS-MEAT chairman Allan Bloxsom said the decision was an important step forward.

The language, developed by national research team ALMTech, can now be applied to lamb grading technologies, including infra-red probes and cameras, and it opened the way for commercialisation.

"After all the research that's been done, we now have some accuracy standards that can be applied to technologies going forward," Mr Bloxsom said.

"It's just now a case of people developing those technologies and getting them in front of us for accreditation."

ALMTech chief investigator Graham Gardner from Western Australia's Murdoch University said the team had been working very hard to develop technologies that can develop intramuscular fat percentage in lamb as it was a crucial trait for eating quality.

"We have been working on that trait for quite a while and it's a crucial next step for industry... it's one thing to measure a trait that matters to the lamb industry but to be able to trade upon it, it needs to be part of the industry language," he said.

"We've got an MSA model, MSA Mark II we're calling it, ready to deploy across industry but to actually deploy that model we need IMF percentage as an input value, so we need the technologies that can measure that trait so they can effectively enable industry to start predicting eating quality and start acting on it.

"While we have been going flat out developing those measurement technologies, industry can't actually trade upon that trait unless it's been enshrined within the language and that has occurred."

Professor Gardner said the lamb MSA model couldn't be deployed yet because of the lack of device that can measure intramuscular fat in real time at chain speed in an abattoir.

"Once we have got those devices, they can inform the IMF value, which is an input into the MSA lamb eating quality prediction model," he said.

"The second we've got a device in place in an abattoir, that abattoir can access the MSA Mark II model... it is literally ready to go.

"We've got our finger hovering over the go button and all we need is a plant to install an intramuscular fat percentage measurement.

"For us the end game is when the industry itself starts trading upon these traits."

Calculating TCP, LEQ and the eating quality traits

Courtesy of Gabrielle Sherring, Sheep Genetics

Sheep Genetics have developed a range of selection indexes as tools to drive genetic improvement that considers multiple traits of economic or functional importance. Each index has been built to align with typical breeding objectives of various types of producers, aiming to improve profitability in commercial sheep enterprises.

When indexes are developed, we define a breeding objective for different breeding scenarios. This involves an analysis of commercial flock production data to calculate the economic value of improving traits which affect profit, based on flock structure, production and price data. The breeding objective is then converted to an index by linking the profit traits to ASBV traits through genetic correlations.

Often the profit and ASBV traits are the same, for example weaning and post weaning weights (early growth rates) are key profit drivers in commercial flocks and are easy to measure in ram breeding flocks. Profit traits that are hard to measure rely on other correlated traits to drive improvement, for example using muscle and fat ASBVs to improve the profit trait carcass yield.

By combining the economic values of traits with the genetic relationships between traits, we can determine the appropriate relative weights which allow us to combine ASBVs into a single value for each animal.

Intramuscular fat (IMF) is a measure of the chemical fat percentage in the loin muscle of a lamb, and the visible

component is known as marbling. IMF has been shown to have a large effect on the lamb eating experience, including flavour, juiciness, tenderness and overall liking.

Shear force (SHEARF5) is an indicator of the consumer perception of tenderness and is the force required to cut through a cooked sample of meat using a standardised cutting blade (SHEARF5). For this trait, shear force is measured in the loin muscle five days after slaughter to allow for tenderisation that occurs with ageing.

IMF has a moderate to high heritability and a high negative correlation with shear force. Therefore, as IMF increases, shear force reduces and tenderness increases. The heritability SHEARF5 is moderate to high. Without a balanced approach, lean meat yield (LMY) and eating quality can work against each other. This is because several eating quality attributes are adversely correlated with LMY. Therefore, selecting for high LMY alone will result in a high yielding animal that has low eating quality.

The terminal selection indexes have been developed with the aim of increasing growth and lean meat yield, whilst maintaining or improving eating quality. The Terminal Carcase Production (TCP) index is mostly contributed to by the growth and muscle traits post weaning weight (PWT) and carcass eye muscle depth (CEMD). The TCP index also has small contributions from carcass fat depth (CFAT), LMY and dressing percentage (DRESS). IMF and SHEARF5 are eating quality traits that have been included in the index at levels that consider the correlations between LMY and will lead to maintaining eating quality.

The Lamb Eating Quality (LEQ) index balances large improvements in eating quality with modest increases in lean meat yield, and includes emphasis on worm egg count ASBVs for production systems where internal parasites may cause economic losses. The LEQ index is mostly contributed to



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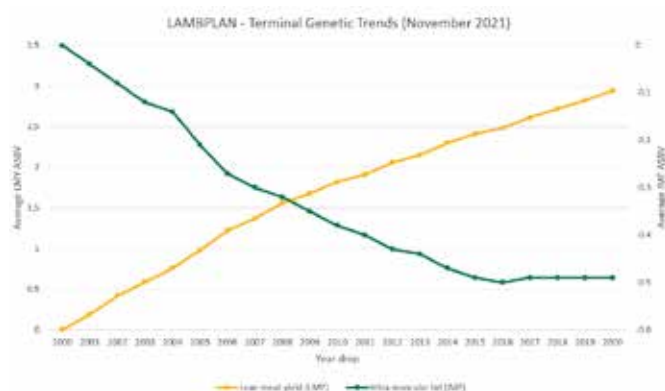
by the eating quality traits IMF and SHEARF5 at levels that consider the correlations with other traits in the index and will improve eating quality. High growth and carcass muscle is also favoured in the LEQ index where PWT and CEMD have strong contributions. Other traits that are considered in this index include CFAT, DRESS, LMY and worm egg count (PWE).

Why select for eating quality?

Genetic selection pressure for high yielding carcasses and carcass weight has led to an increase in LMY, causing a negative impact on the eating quality indicators of SHEARF5 and IMF. The preferred level of IMF in lamb meat is between 4% and 6% and lower shear force values represent more tender meat, with shear force of 3kg or less sought in lamb loin to achieve tenderness.

The industry phenotypic or mean value in 2018 for IMF was 4.3% and the range in Information Nucleus Flock lambs was between 2% and 7%. The mean shear force from the Information Nucleus Flock lambs was 2.4kg, with a range from 1.1kg to 7.7kg. This means that the average value sits only just above the minimum requirements for Australian lamb to meet consumer expectations. There is a large amount of variation around that average, meaning a lot of sheep meat is receiving eating quality scores that falls below the minimum requirements, and low volumes of sheep carcasses receive eating quality scores that are the highest standard.

Since the implementation of eating quality ASBV's and their incorporation into terminal indexes, selection decisions have seen the trend in the industry average IMF ASBV plateau whilst LMY has been steadily increasing. This represents the opportunity to improve eating quality without sacrificing increasing LMY.



Meat Standards Australia (MSA) has asked 38,000 consumers in eight countries about their willingness to pay for varying levels of eating quality. Results indicate that compared to a pass or 'good every day quality', consumers were willing to pay:

- half or 0.5 times for a fail or 'unsatisfactory quality'
- 1.6 times for 'better than every day quality'
- 2.1 times for 'premium quality'.

Eating quality is an important point of difference for red meats (beef and sheep meat). This means eating quality is as important as improving efficiency through LMY% to justify to consumers the price premium for red meat.

If the attributes are combined in the breeding objective, progress can be made simultaneously to improve both eating quality and LMY together.

Measuring eating quality

Currently there are no on farm methods to measure indicators of eating quality traits. Breeders, however, can get ultra sound scanning done for carcass traits and weigh animals to inform terminal indexes. Some breeds can get eating quality information via genetic linkages with animals that have been used in the resource flock. To get these linkages, purchase sires that have progeny or close relatives with progeny that have been selected as sires in the resource flock. You can also genotype animals in your flock to determine the genetic relationship with animals that have been directly tested for eating quality traits, but don't appear directly in your animals' pedigree. Genomic testing is available to Sheep Genetics members and the results are delivered via ASBV's.

A meat eating quality (MEQ) probe has recently been approved for use in sheep processing facilities in Australia. This technology will allow intramuscular fat measures to be taken on each carcass and supports the commercialisation of the new MSA sheepmeat cuts-based model. Sheep Genetics is currently investigating how we can incorporate the MEQ probe information into our analysis.

Proof for profit – MLA trials

The Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Resource Flock takes nominations every year to contribute semen to sire a cohort of progeny. These progeny are tested for a range of traits that are difficult to measure in typical ram breeding operations. The genetic links between these animals allow their test results to inform the traits of the rest of national flock.

Various trials have tested a range of traits and their impact on profit, including eye muscle depth, weight, carcass information, indexes, wool and reproduction. The results of these trials are available on the Sheep Genetics website. Go to sheepgenetics.mla.com.au then head to the Brochures and fact sheets page under the Resources tab and view the document 'Proof of profit – using ASBV's – What's in it for me?'. <https://sheepgenetics.mla.com.au/resources/brochures-and-fact-sheets/>

What can breeders be doing?

Looking forward, breeders can determine a breeding objective that aligns with their clients and the industry's long term goals. A breeding objective should consider your production system and target market and any limiting factors.

MLA conducts market research to gain insight into what consumers want which is available on the MLA website. To ensure a high demand is maintained for sheep products, we as an industry need to account for what the consumer is willing to pay for. Market research has shown that consumers consider lamb a meat perfect for special occasions, likely due to their expectation of high quality and the high price for the products. Consumers want sustainable meat from happy, healthy animals that is the right size to fit four chops on a meat tray, doesn't have too much external fat, and is in consistent supply.

ASBV's that relate to these consumer insights include:

Happy healthy animals	BWT – to decrease lambing difficulties and improve survivability WEC – to decrease worm burden
High quality meat of the right size	LMY, EMD and FAT – to ensure sheep meat is grown well to an appropriate size with not too much outer fat IMF and SHEARF5 - eating quality traits to ensure meat is high quality
Sustainable, consistent supply	PWT – to ensure lambs meet the market quickly to ensure supply DRESS – limiting wastage to improve sustainability, in combination with the other traits above that improve productivity

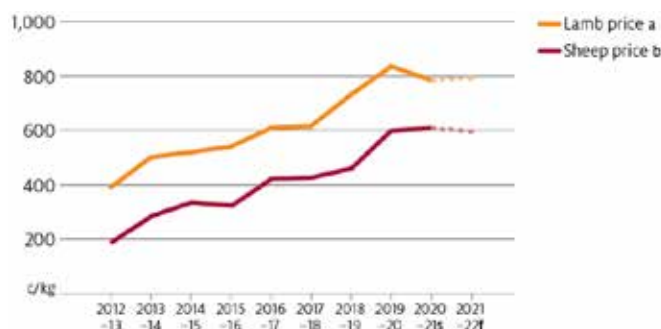
Sheep Genetics encourages ram breeders to nominate sires for the MLA Resource Flock and get involved in satellite flocks. These programs ensure that the genetics present in the industry can be understood and improved.

ABARES Sheepmeat: September quarter 2021

- Lamb and sheep saleyard prices are likely to remain high in 2021–22.
- Demand for lamb is expected to strengthen in the United States and the Middle East.
- Chinese demand for mutton is expected to weaken due to greater availability of pork in China.
- Flock rebuilding in the eastern states is expected to continue, following high rainfall in sheep-producing regions.

The national trade lamb saleyard price is forecast to remain high in 2021–22, rising by 1% to 791 cents per kilogram. The national mutton saleyard price is forecast to fall by 2% to 597 c/kg). In nominal terms, lamb prices in 2021–22 are expected to be the second highest ever recorded, while sheep prices are expected to be the third highest.

Figure 1 Lamb and sheep saleyard prices, 2012–13 to 2021–22



a National Trade Lamb Indicator. **b** National Mutton Indicator. **s** ABARES estimate. **f** ABARES forecast.

Lamb prices are expected to rise slightly in 2021–22 following the economic recovery in the US and the Middle East. These regions are Australia's major lamb markets. However, mutton prices are expected to fall slightly due to weaker demand in China. Greater availability of meat in China, specifically pig meat, is expected to reduce demand for Australian mutton.

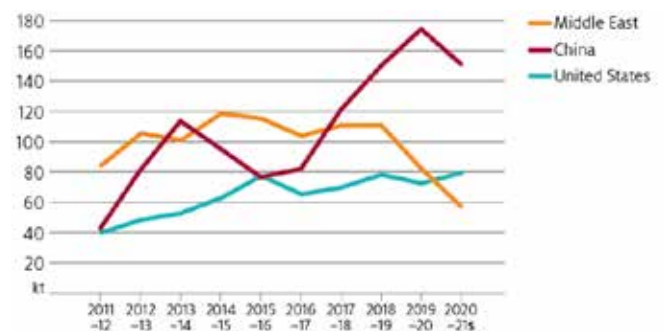
Favourable seasonal conditions in the eastern states are expected to encourage graziers to continue rebuilding their flocks, rather than send their lambs and sheep to slaughter. Australian supply of lamb and mutton is therefore expected to remain subdued over 2021–22.

Global sheep meat demand to shift to Middle East

Australia's sheep meat exports are expected to recover from 428 kt in 2020–21 to 453 kt in 2021–22. This is due to stronger demand in the United States and the Middle East, which is offsetting weaker demand in China.

In 2020–21, exports to the United States rose, while exports to China and the Middle East fell (Figure 2). In total, exports declined in 2020–21 due to weak global demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside tight Australian supply resulting from the domestic sheep flock rebuild. Exports to China are expected to remain subdued due to the anticipated recovery in China's pig meat production and the consequent availability of meat in the country.

Figure 2 Volume of Australian sheep meat exports, by country, 2011–12 to 2020–21



s ABARES estimate.

Sources: ABARES; ABS

Middle Eastern demand for sheep meat, especially lamb, is forecast to recover in 2021–22. Falling oil prices have previously weighed on the economic activity of the Middle East. Weak economic activity in the Middle East contributed to a 31% fall in Australian exports of sheep meat to the region in 2020–21. Global oil prices recovered to pre-pandemic levels in the March 2021 quarter. Middle Eastern oil-exporting countries are therefore expected to experience rapid economic recoveries in 2021–22. Sheep meat demand is expected to rise in the region as a result.

Live sheep exports to rise

In 2020–21, live sheep exports fell by 45% to 602,000 head. In 2021–22, live sheep exports are forecast to rise by 10% to 662,000 head.

The fall in live sheep exports in 2020–21 was partly due to tight supply in Western Australia. Western Australia exports most of Australia's live sheep, but many sheep were sent to the eastern states to support the flock rebuild in 2020. This meant fewer sheep were available for live export from Western Australia in 2020–21.

Weak demand in the Middle East caused by the COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to the fall in live sheep exports in 2020–21. Australian live sheep exports are especially concentrated towards oil-exporting countries in the Middle East, such as Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates. In 2019–20, 90% of Australian live sheep exports were sent to these countries.

Substantial year-on-year declines in export numbers during months outside the prohibition on live sheep exports to the northern hemisphere suggest the prohibition had little effect on the decline in exports in 2020–21.

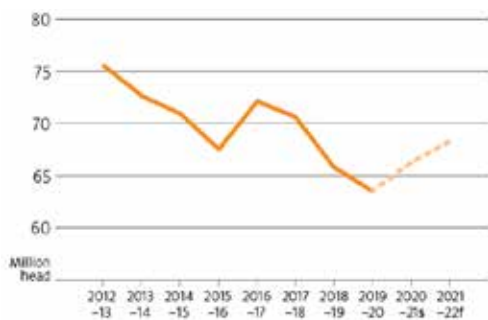
Australian live sheep exports are forecast to rise in 2021–22, as economic growth rebounds in Middle Eastern countries.

Australian flock rebuild to continue

The Australian sheep flock is forecast to grow to 68.2 million head by the end of 2021–22 (Figure 3).

Strong pasture growth in New South Wales is expected to encourage graziers in the state to rebuild their flocks. The August 2021 survey by Meat & Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation suggested that New South Wales had the highest proportion of graziers who were looking to rebuild their flocks. Flock rebuilding in Western Australia is expected to be slower than in the eastern states following the transport of sheep to the eastern states in 2020.

Figure 3 Australian sheep flock size, 2012–13 to 2021–22



s ABARES estimate. f ABARES forecast.

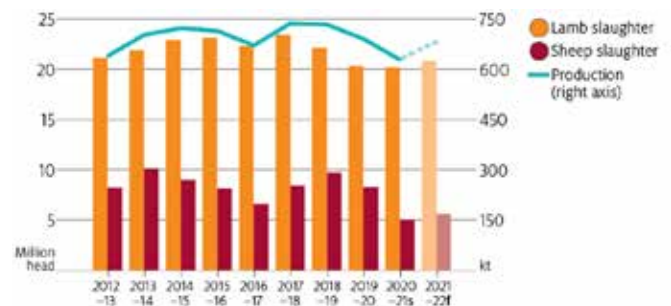
Sources: ABARES; Australian Bureau of Statistics

Production to rise for first time in 5 years

Sheep meat production is expected to rise by 8% to 680 kt. This is expected to be driven by increased slaughter and heavier slaughter weights, as favourable production conditions allow graziers to better feed their flock (Figure 4). In 2021–22 lamb slaughter is forecast to rise by 3% to 20.8 million head, while sheep slaughter is forecast to rise by 13% to 5.7 million head.

Lamb slaughter numbers remained steady in 2020–21. In the same year, sheep slaughter numbers fell. This is because graziers preferred to hold on to their sheep for flock rebuilding, rather than send them to slaughter. Some of the lambs born during the first stage of the flock rebuild are expected to grow into adult sheep, leading to more adult sheep being available for slaughter in 2021–22. For this reason, sheep slaughter is expected to increase alongside lamb slaughter in 2021–22.

Figure 4 Lamb slaughter, sheep slaughter and sheep meat production, 2012–13 to 2021–22



s ABARES estimate. f ABARES forecast.

Sources: ABARES; Australian Bureau of Statistics

Opportunities and challenges

Australia–UK Free Trade Agreement offers opportunity for market diversification. The proposed Australia–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would gradually increase tariff-rate quota volumes on sheep meat over 10 years.

The UK has been a relatively modest market for fresh and chilled sheep meat (Figure 5). Prices paid by UK importers have been on par with or below other high-value markets like the United States and the Middle East.

However, the FTA will provide farmers with an opportunity to make gains in the UK market and further support a diversification in exports. Learn more about the Australia–United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement.

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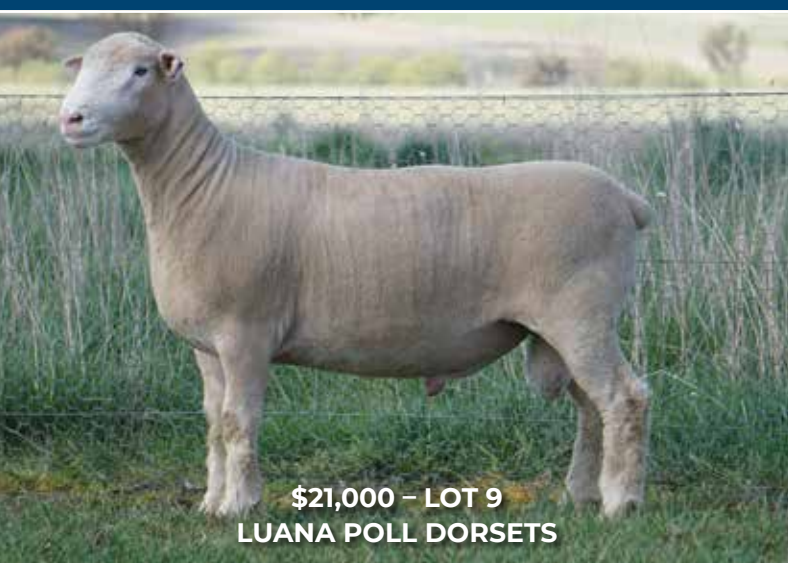
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Rams break records in buying bonanza

As we cautiously expected, it has been a record-breaking ram sale season for Poll Dorset breeders.

Records fell for both flock and stud sires, as a growing sheep flock, consistent lamb prices and a continuing good season in many areas encouraged strong bidding.

Last season, we reported averages commonly above \$1500, and a select few breaking \$2000.

This season, studs broke the \$3000 average mark, and were commonly landing in the \$2000s.

Sale high's were also on the rise, with flock buyers lifting their sites to \$5000 and above to secure the rams they needed, and a new record stud sire price.

Andrew and Caroline McLauchlan of Valma stud at Whitemore, Tasmania, set the new Australian record of \$41,000 for a stud ram.

Valma 200040 was offered in their AuctionsPlus select sale, and purchased by the Patterson family of Kinellar stud, Canowindra, NSW, with the Corcoran family of Gooramma stud, Galong, NSW taking a 25 per cent share.

The ram was by Felix 160494, a semen sire from the Felix stud at Greenethorpe, NSW, which has been used across seven flocks and has 631 registered progeny.

Valma 200040 has Australian Sheep Breeding Values in the top 5 per cent of all terminal sires for Post Weaning Weight (19.1), Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth (4.1) and Total Carcass Production (164.7), and an Intramuscular Fat (-0.13) in the top 20 per cent.

Valma principal Andrew McLauchlan said while he was hopeful the ram would sell well given the current industry climate, he wasn't expecting to break any records.

"We are wrapped that he made that money and that there was that much interest in him - while it is tremendous to get a record price, to see the amount of interest in our genetics was the most important thing for us, people wanting to use Valma sheep hopefully means we are heading in the right direction with our genetics," he said.

Andrew said the ram was out of a ewe that had bred multiple stud rams and came from a very strong family line.

"(The ram's) got a really good balanced set of ASBVs, he's very good on what is going to become quite important in the future with his eating qualities but still maintaining tremendous growth, muscle and fat figures on moderate birth weight," he said.

"All that is on a very good animal structurally...we have over 100 lambs on the ground by him and are really happy with them".

Also breaking a record was Tattykeel stud at Oberon, NSW, when their annual on-property stud ram sale averaged \$15,954 for 22 lots.

They nearly doubled the previous stud ram sale average, which Tattykeel also held at \$8700, set just last year.

Four rams sold higher than last year's top price of \$24,000 and buyers came from four states.

This year's sale topped at \$36,000 for Tattykeel ET200080 - the second highest priced ram of the season - purchased by the Armstrong family, Armdale Park stud, Marrar, NSW, and Karl Sinclair, Kinsale stud, Lidster, NSW

Armdale Park broke a record of their own, setting a new flock ram sale average price high of \$3927 for 173 lots sold, hitting a top of \$5000 five times.

Again, it was the stud's own record it broke, having set a flock ram average high of \$2217 in 2020 - an increase this year of \$1710.

Buying was no doubt boosted by Armdale Park-sired new season lambs breaking the national saleyard sucker record price twice in two months this spring.

Of the 59 on-property auctions that provided results for the 2020 December journal, the sale average was \$1584, with 6009 rams sold.

In 2021, the results we have received show an average of \$2029 for flock rams across about 65 sales, an increase of just shy of \$500 on last year, with 6548 rams sold.



Andrew and Caroline McLauchlan, Valma stud, Whitemore, Tas with Valma 200040 which sold for \$41,000



Tattykeel stud, Oberon, NSW, broke the stud ram sale average price record, selling 22 rams for an average of \$15,954. Pictured is the sale topping ram with buyers Karl Sinclair of Kinsale Poll Dorsets, Lidster, NSW and Garry Armstrong of Armdale Park Poll Dorsets, Marrar, and James Gilmore of Tattykeel Poll Dorsets, Oberon.



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Global recognition an important aspiration for Sheep Sustainability Framework

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Australia's world-first Sheep Sustainability Framework, launched earlier in the year, has a new Steering Group Chair, following an open request for expressions of interest.

Verity Morgan-Schmidt will take up the role for a two-year term following the departure of the inaugural chair, Professor Bruce Allworth.

Ms Morgan-Schmidt is originally from a wool and cropping enterprise in Western Australia.

With a Master of Arts (Politics) in Sustainability, Ms Morgan Schmidt was also the inaugural CEO of the award winning and fast-growing advocacy group, Farmers for Climate Action, was an Executive Officer (Livestock) with WA Farmers, has led weekly sales for Elders in WA and at one time held the title of Australia's youngest wool auctioneer.

Commenting on the appointment, Ms Morgan-Schmidt, who currently farms in Queensland's stunning Mary Valley, said she was incredibly proud to be leading the Sheep Sustainability Steering Group in what is a challenging yet exciting time for sheep meat and wool production in Australia.

"As global markets increasingly demand transparency and demonstrable sustainability credentials, the Australian sheep industry has an extraordinary story to share," Ms Morgan-Schmidt said.

"By balancing environment, animal welfare, our people and long-term financial sustainability, the Sheep Sustainability Framework shines a light on the crucial work of producers and supply chains, and positions industry to be globally renowned for sustainably producing the world's best sheep meat and wool, both now and into the future.

"The Australian sheep industry has long demonstrated a commitment to meeting and exceeding consumer expectations and the Sheep Sustainability Framework provides an important vehicle to demonstrate this work.

"I congratulate and thank the outgoing Chair, Professor Bruce Allworth, the founding Steering Group members and Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation for their extraordinary work and support in the development stages of this long overdue initiative.

"As incoming Chair, my priority will be in ensuring the rubber well and truly hits the road by strengthening reporting, increasing stakeholder engagement across the supply chain and elevating the Sheep Sustainability Framework as a globally recognised example of Australian industry leadership."

The Australian Sheep Sustainability Framework is a world first and designed specifically for and by the Australian sheep industry and its supply chain. The industry led framework identifies sustainability priorities, demonstrates best practice and uses evidence to track industry progress against key indicators.

The Framework is the product of extensive and targeted industry engagement and consultation by the industry appointed Sheep Sustainability Framework Steering Group. The framework outlines industry's commitment to sustainability through four key themes of Caring for Our Sheep, Enhancing the Environment and Climate, Caring for our People, Customers and Communities and Ensuring a Financially Resilient Industry.

Sheepmeat returns are no accident and there are still risks

Courtesy of Stephen Crisp, immediate past CEO Sheep Producers Australia

In many sheep producing regions sheep producers are counting some wins at present, particularly around the improvement in season, as well as the ability of the processing sector to continue to operate during a pandemic.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) has released a report that highlights two vital points relating to the high prices at this time, they are not only a function of re-stocking, and do not come about by accident. Firstly, sheepmeat has made up significant ground in improving returns in markets with which Australia has a preferential trade agreement.

Sheepmeat is sold across a diverse range of countries, and we have always battled with tariffs and quotas. The fact that sheepmeat has not been as high as other red meats is actually a tribute to that diversity in the market and the efforts of exporters who must deal with the wide range of requirements to market into 60 plus countries.

It takes a lot of Free Trade Agreements to cover the sheepmeat markets. Having more regions allow us preferential access reduces tariffs, increases quotas, or eliminates them altogether which has a direct impact on the processors ability to pay at the farm gate.

The second area is Non-Tariff Barriers. All those bureaucratic ways that our exports can be slowed. This is where an RDC, and Government can really assist commodities. The gamechanger for sheepmeat has been the extension of shelf life limits in the Middle East markets, many of which were achieved this year.

Shipping to the Middle East is not easy. Sea freight usually needs to be transhipped via a major hub such as Singapore. Because of COVID, there have been delays, container shortages, and missed connections. There is also a shortage of airfreight with few passenger flights.

An extension of shelf life has been essential in retaining value in the market, with product needing time to transit to the market and then to be sold in market. We can be thankful of the levy return in negotiating the extended shelf life, and also the investment in the vacuum packaging that underpins the product achieving this.

There are immediate risks to all this, I have already mentioned the current shipping problems, and others include:

- Labour shortages in abattoirs. Less labour means less ability to split the carcase multiple ways and maximise value it also means reduced kills and less competition.
- Domestic truth in labelling. In the red meat sector, lamb still has the highest proportion of domestic consumption (about 35%). Whilst lamb is only now starting to be targeted by cell based and plant based manufactured product, it has a lot to lose in allowing manufactured product that has no relation to sheep production, a free ride on the sheep producers back. It is the sheep producers levy that has provided much of the marketing dollar (including the famous lamb ads), and no other industry should take advantage of our natural product that is marketed using sheep industry dollars

The sheepmeat story is a good one, it is not an accident that the industry is where it is now, but it must always move forward, or we risk being overtaken by competition in one form or another.

Poll Dorsets tick the boxes for Squiers family at Pingelly

Courtesy of Caitlyn Burling, Farm Weekly

WHEN it comes to electing a top performer in prime lamb production, there's only one breed leading the polls if you ask David and Sheryl Squiers.

The Pingelly prime lamb producers are strong supporters of the Poll Dorset and the many beneficial traits they contribute to their first-cross lamb program.

Mr Squiers spent many of his younger years shearing off-farm and developed a keen eye and strong sense of what constituted a productive sheep.

So when the opportunity arose in 1997 to move to and take-over the family farm, both the Squiers were clear on the direction they wanted to take their family's Merino flock.

David's parents, Albert and Maartje Squiers, moved from the original family farm at Quairading in 1959 after purchasing the initial Pingelly property when they married.

A Merino flock has always prominently featured in farming life for the Squiers family and to this day continues to play an important role in the couple's business.

Of their 2000 Merino breeding ewes, 1300 are mated to Merna Poll Merino rams and 700 of the older, cast for age and culled hogget ewes are joined with Poll Dorset rams.

And if the Squiers' name and Poll Dorset in the same sentence are ringing a bell, it would be because the Squiers purchase their rams from their relatives and Poll Dorset stud breeders Chris, Adrian and Sascha Squiers, Shirlee Downs and Dongadilling, Quairading.

A couple of decades ago, when demand for wool was at its lowest, Mr Squiers said they started looking at how they could diversify their sheep operation and open different revenue streams through prime lamb production.

"We looked hard at our cash flow and decided we needed to diversify our operation," Mr Squiers said.

"It's the same old story of not wanting to put all your eggs in the one basket.

"We still enjoy producing a quality wool clip, but currently meat is worth more to our business."

After the main shearing in April, the Squiers send more than 100 bales of wool trundling out the farm gate, usually averaging well over six kilograms skirted for fleeces and some years have even reached up to 8kg skirted.

But it's the prime lamb production that powers extra profit for the family and Mr Squiers does everything he can to ensure its success.

Ilfracombe Poll Dorset Stud

"Fed Naturally...to Breed Naturally"

- **Ilfracombe-200286 ranked No 1 2020 drop ram for LEQ**
- **Linton-160625 ranked No 2 Poll Dorset sire for LEQ**
- **Semen Available**

Ph: Damon Coats 0427 972 006



ILFRACOMBE-200286

LEQ 171. BWT 0.43.
PWT 17.9. PEMD 3.34.
PFAT -0.09. IMF 0.48
SF5 -2.92



LINTON-160625

LEQ 175. BWT 0.49.
PWT 18.8. PEMD 2.91.
PFAT -0.22. IMF 0.88.
SF5 -3.16



"Like father like son"

It's certainly a happy new year for the rams when they join the ewes on January 1 every year at 2.5 per cent, when both the Merino and Poll Dorset rams are sent out to work.

The Merino rams are drafted off after six weeks and extra Poll Dorset rams are then sent in with the ewes as an insurance policy, giving every ewe on the property every opportunity to produce a lamb.

Mr Squiers' reasoning for this is to ensure they are running the most productive females possible, while also being able to mules in mid-July knowing there won't be any late Merino lambs.

He said they usually get an extra 50 to 60 F1 Poll Dorset-Merino lambs from doing this.

The first lot of lambs start to drop on the Squiers' 800 hectare (croppable) property in early June, usually correlating to the first mob of four-month-old F1 Poll Dorset-Merino lambs ready later in the year to be sold onfarm to Fletchers International.

Once that first consignment of lambs reaches a minimum of 44kg liveweight, they are sold in early October, with the assistance of Elders Narrogin livestock agent Jeff Brown.

The rest of the lambs are shorn later that month to produce a wool clip, then put onto stubbles and supplemented with lupins to bring them up to specification by January.

Most are sold onfarm to Fletchers, as Mr Squiers said he appreciates knowing what price he will receive before the lambs leave the farm.

Bringing lambs up to specification has always been easy with the hybrid vigour instilled by the robust Poll Dorset-Merino genetic combination and Mr Squiers believes the Poll Dorset has the best traits for the job.

"The Poll Dorsets have the best genetics and throw the best crossbred lamb," he said.

"They have no problem reaching weight targets quickly and have traits that produce a hybrid vigour well suited to the market.

"They are such strong animals, sturdy on their feet and with all the meat characteristics that everyone's chasing."

Looking over the figures from the 2020 season, the family averaged \$177 a prime lamb, while their June/ July drop Merino wether lambs were weaned and sold in October at 35-37kg liveweight for \$105.

To boost productivity even further, three years ago they pregnancy tested the Merino ewes joined with Poll Dorset rams and culled the dry ewes.

The following year, they decided to pregnancy test all 2000 ewes to ensure they weren't carrying unproductive females, with the exception of the maiden mob which is given a second chance to conceive.

As a direct result, in 2020 they culled 170 dry ewes and this year that number was reduced to 105, as they slowly consolidate their breeding stock.

They carry out their pregnancy testing in April, which Mr Squiers admits is a little late in the breeding schedule but it's when they can fit it in around their 50:50 cropping and sheep program.

As it's quite late in the pregnancy for the ewes, they can't accurately determine if the ewes are carrying twins, so they've never split twin ewes for extra feed from the main mob, but Mr Squiers said that could be a consideration going forward.

He has also recently purchased three Ezy Feeders to further maximise feeding efficiencies, potentially setting up a small feedlot operation for their lambs, but he's still waiting to see how the season is shaping up and if it will be required this year.

At this point, after a very wet winter, there is plenty of feed around for their sheep to graze and Mr Squiers expects his F1 Poll Dorset-Merino lambs to thrive in these ideal seasonal conditions.

The family made another investment in their sheep operation in July 2020, installing new sheep yards at two sites, improving sheep handling and ensuring their sheep production works as efficiently as possible.

With such investments and improvements, Mr Squiers said they are keen to continue to ensure their Merino and prime lamb operation are as efficient as possible, with the Poll Dorset powering their lamb production long into the future.



Pingelly prime lamb producers David (left) and Sheryl Squiers, with their grandsons Ned (2) and Sonny Squiers (4) check out their F1 Poll Dorset-Merino lambs.



Of the 2000 Merino breeding ewes on the Squiers family farm, 700 are joined with Poll Dorset rams for prime lamb production. David Squiers said it results in robust lambs that easily gain weight and mature early enough to reach target weights quickly.

Shirlee Downs PD wins interbreed crown at Perth Royal Show

Courtesy of Jodie Rintoul, Farm Weekly

A CLASSY Poll Dorset ram from the Squiers family's Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, gave the family its fifth interbreed win in seven Perth Royal Shows when it was sashed king of shed. Having missed out on the top award in the previous two shows (2018 and 2019), this year's win backs up its four consecutive wins between 2014 and 2017.

With 530 sheep in the shed from 43 studs representing 12 breeds, it wasn't going to be an easy task for the judges to settle on their interbreed supreme meat breeds champion exhibit, but they did and it was Shirlee Downs Poll Dorset ram which eventually got their nod and the champion ribbon.

Along with taking home the supreme champion ribbon, the Squiers family also went home with an \$800 cash prize sponsored by Nutrien Livestock.

The upstanding young ram earned the top award in front of a stylish Suffolk ewe from the Cole family's Sasimwa stud, York, which had been sashed the interbreed grand champion meat breeds ewe, after it got the nod from three of the five interbreed judges. Judge Nick Cheetham, Cheetara stud, Narembeen, who judged the White Suffolks in the show, said the ram was a great example of the Poll Dorset breed.

"He has magnificent scale and bone and carries plenty of meat especially through the loin," Mr Cheetham said.

Fellow judge Donald Cochrane, Perth, said the Shirlee

Downs ram was extremely well-muscled and a very good representation of the breed.

Along with taking home the coveted supreme champion of the shed title, the ram was also sashed the interbreed grand champion meat breeds ram of the show when it finished on 11 points two points clear of the reserve champion.



Stockdale stud, Yorke, exhibited the reserve champion ram.




2022 ANNUAL SPRING RAM SALE
WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER - 220 RAMS



THANKYOU

Thankyou to all who inspected or bid on our ram team this year, either in person or online. The favourable comments received on our genetics are what drives us forward. Looking ahead the stud's goals include providing more accurate information, the gradual improvement of our figures without sacrificing our type & continual addition of elite, visually correct new sires. The Janmac team look forward to an exciting 2022 ram selling season & another great year for our industry. Regards, Grant & Bryce.

 **INSPECTION OF OUR RAM LAMBS are welcome anytime.**
SEMEN AVAILABLE from several elite sires.

 **Grant & Bryce Hausler - Grant: 0427 861 013 - Bryce: 0427 861 031**
Email: grant.hausler@bigpond.com



POLL DORSET STUD

JANMAC.COM.AU  

AROUND THE SHOWS

The Shirlee Downs ram stood in the interbreed competition after taking out the champion ram title in the Poll Dorset judging, where it was also sashed the grand champion Poll Dorset.

In the Poll Dorset judging, judge Bruce Buswell, Beverley, said the ram had everything he wanted in a sire.

"He is very sirey, has good bone and muscle, great length and is good on his feet and legs," Mr Buswell said.

The 2020-drop ram is by Kurralea 180140 and it came from the scan class (Balmoral) initially in the Poll Dorset judging where it beat 10 other rams to the first-placed blue ribbon. In the scan class the 139.5 kilogram ram displayed scans of 48mm eye muscle depth, 11mm fat and 880mm length. The ram was sold at Shirlee Downs/Dongadilling on-property ram sale this month

for \$3500 to the Webb family, Kojonup.

When it came to the prestigious interbreed group class for three rams under 1.5 years the Poll Dorset breed again shone through.

Taking top honours this time was the Fairclough family's Stockdale stud, when their group of three rams finished on 12 points.

Mr Buswell said the Stockdale team was a very good group which matched up really well. "All three rams are full of flesh and have excellent feet and topline," Mr Buswell said. "They are very good examples of the Poll Dorset breed." Two of the rams in the team were sired by Claronden 150296 and the other was by Gloroy 130628.



Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, exhibited the champion Poll Dorset ewe (held by Chris Squiers) and the reserve (held by Sascha Squiers)



The interbreed supreme champion and grand champion meat breeds ram at this year's Perth Royal Show was exhibited by the Shirlee Downs, Quairading.

Hobart Royal 2021

Judge: Keith

McLauchlan, Valma

Shorn ram not exceeding

1.5 years: 1 Maccelslie Park, Penna. 2 Killara, Penna. 3 Sunnybanks, Penguin.

Bare shorn ram:

1 Maccelslie Park. 2 Killara. 3 Fairbank, Hagley.

Shorn ram born on or after

1st August: 1 Fairbank

Ram lamb: 1 Killara. 2 Killara. 3 Sunnybanks.

Shorn ewe not exceeding

1.5 years: 1 Sunnybanks. 2 Fairbank. 3 Fairbank.

Bare shorn ewe:

1 Sunnybanks

Group 1 ram & 2 ewes:

1 Sunnybanks. 2 Fairbank

Mervyn Weston Trophy:

Killara

Champion Ram: Maccelslie

Park. Reserve: Killara

Champion Ewe: Sunnybanks.

Reserve: Fairbank

R.A.Hughes Supreme

Exhibit: Sunnybanks



Maccelslie Park stud, Penna, Tas, exhibited the champion ram.



Supreme Poll Dorset exhibit at the Hobart show was the champion ewe from Paul Day's Sunnybanks stud, Penguin, Tas. Paul is pictured with judge Keith McLauchlan.

“Pepperton” Poll Dorsets



The top price ram at our sale was bought by Matt Reid of Rowallan Stud for \$12,500

Bwt 0.29 Pwwt 17 Pfat -0.5
Pemd 5.7 TCP 169 LEQ 160

Other stud rams were purchased to \$8500 to NSW and SA Studs

Stud Ram Average: \$6944

The average for the total clearance of 50 rams was \$1680



Enquiries always welcome:
Roger & Dianne Trewick
Pepperton Farm, Elmore, Vic

Mob: 0428 326 190

Email: pepperton@bigpond.net.au

Website: pepperton.com.au

Australasian Dorset Championships sale reaches \$23,250

Courtesy of Andrew Miller, Stock & Land

Hosted online through AuctionsPlus, the Australasian Dorset Championships online ram sale hit a \$23,250 top and averaged \$7102 for 22 rams sold of the 29.

Rangeview stud principal Will Milroy, Pipers River, Tasmania, said he was very surprised at the \$23,250 top price he achieved.

"Last year, I had a very good sale, so to top it off and go over and beyond was really great," Mr Milroy said.

Rangeview 200208, which sold to South Australian stud Mullinger Park, was described in the catalogue as a structurally-correct ram but moderate in size.

"He is well put together and hard to fault when it comes to his meat qualities," Mr Milroy said.

The August 2020-drop ram was sired by Valma 180063, out of Penrise 170110.

Described as being thick and stylish, with a great outlook, the ram was from a low birth weight sire, with positive fat and very good post-weaning eye muscle depth figures.

Rangeview 200208 had Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) of 0.13 for birth weight, 8.08 for weaning weight and 13.7 for post-weaning weight.



Sunnybanks 200037 sold for the second-highest price at the ADC sale of \$17,500



His post-weaning eye muscle depth was 4.04, his post-weaning fat was 0.67 and he had a terminal carcase production index of 144.38.

Mr Milroy sold five of the six rams he had for sale for an impressive \$11,700 average.

The second top-priced ram was Sunnybanks 20037 sold for \$17,500 by Paul Day's Penguin based Sunnybanks stud, Tasmania.

New South Wales based Abelene Park Poll Dorsets, Woolomin, sold all three rams they offered for a \$7083 average, and a \$10,000 top for Abelene Park 17-20.



Rangeview 200208, which sold to South Australian stud Mullinger Park, made the top price of \$23,250 in the ADC sale.

SALE RESULTS

STUD	STUD RAMS Sold	STUD RAMS Top	STUD RAMS Average	FLOCK RAMS Sold	FLOCK RAMS Top	FLOCK RAMS Average
Abelene Park	5	\$7400	\$5700	50	\$3400	\$2200
Aberdeen	12/12	\$5000	\$3775	260/260	\$6700	\$2258
Allendale	15	\$16,500	\$5500	76	\$3200	\$1602
Armdale				101/101	\$4000	\$2136
Armdale Park	16/16	\$14,000	\$6625	173/173	\$5000	\$3927
Ashcharmoo				32/45	\$1400	\$960
Ashley Park		\$15,500		30		\$2613
Athlone				224/230	\$3300	\$1533
Australasian Dorset Championships	22/29	\$23,250	\$7000			
Avondale				104/104	\$2200	\$1699
Bright Side				26/27	\$3000	\$1212
Chrome (Icon)				86/86	\$3000	\$1791
Coledale				111/129	\$5000	\$1830
Deepdene				119/119	\$4800	\$2620
Deloraine Downs				75/100	\$2800	\$1420
Derby Downs				75/100	\$2800	\$1420
Derrynock	27/27	\$24,000	\$6500	115/115		\$2130
Elite Stud Sheep, Adelaide	2/3	\$5000	\$5000			
Englewood Park				103/112	\$4200	\$1656
Estjam				43/43	\$4600	\$1809
Fairbank				46/67	\$2600	\$1656
Felix				143	\$8600	\$2691
Gilmore				163	\$4000	\$2261
Glen Devon		\$14,500		100/100		\$1802
Glenore	11/11	\$6200	\$372	74/90	\$2800	\$1723



SUNNYBANKS & FARADAY PARK



Sunnybanks-200037 "Chaos"
Semen enquiries welcome

**2nd Top Price Ram Australasian Sale
\$17,500 Sold to P Cain "Glenore"**

Thanks to all purchases and under bidders

- Sunnybanks-200037 P Cain "Glenore" VIC
- Sunnybanks-200033 K Sturgess "Redline" NSW
- Faraday Park-200046 C Butler "Yarrabera" SA
- Faraday Park-200034 C Roweth "Windy Hill" NSW

Paul Day

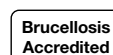
M 0407 811 125

E sunnybanksfarming@bigpond.com

Faraday Park
Flock 320

PO Box 298, Penguin TAS 7316

Sunnybanks
Flock 4287



SALE RESULTS

STUD	STUD RAMS Sold	STUD RAMS Top	STUD RAMS Average	FLOCK RAMS Sold	FLOCK RAMS Top	FLOCK RAMS Average
Gooramma	52/52	\$13,500	\$4846	86/86		\$2244
Hermes				111/111	\$3200	\$2335
Hillden	20/28	\$27,500	\$6575	123/151	\$4750	\$3244
Ilfracombe				95	\$3400	\$1390
Jackson				64/64	\$3250	\$2250
Janmac		\$7500		137/155		\$1969
Jews Harp				113/120	\$3500	\$2242
Kenlorne				73/82	\$2900	
Kentish Downs				174/174	\$4400	\$3051
Kismet				18/30	\$1600	\$1328
Konongwootong				200/200		\$1830
Kurralea	21/21	\$10,000	\$4357	150/150	\$2600	\$1924
Lambpro				170/170	\$3500	\$1726
LSK				81/81	\$2900	\$2007
Majella				107/107	\$3200	\$2112
Marocara				160/160	\$3900	\$3221
Morton	3	\$8000	\$4267	90	\$2400	\$1406
Mt Bathurst				61/81	\$2600	\$1131
Mulgundawa				134/148	\$4800	\$1894
Mullinger Park				175/186	\$6400	\$1591
Narranmore				100/100	\$5400	\$3000
Newbold	12/12	\$3000	\$2233	57/98	\$2000	\$1293
Old Woombi				27/29	\$4500	\$2189
Paxton				83/92	\$2500	\$1769
Pepperton		\$12,500	\$6944	50/50		\$2493
Pinora				72/72	\$2400	\$1880
Rene				61/77	\$3000	\$1743
Ridgehaven				139/144	\$4600	\$2304
Riverbend				50/50	\$2000	\$1348
Rosewood				88/88	\$4200	\$2322
Rowallan				147	\$3100	\$1836
Shellal				90/105	\$3000	\$1643
Springwaters	15/15	\$21,000	\$10,800	194	\$5500	\$3268
Sunnybanks/Faraday Park				20/24	\$2200	\$1630
Tattykeel	22/25	\$36,000	\$15,954	115/115	\$4800	\$2545
Ulandi Park	10/10	\$15,000	\$6720	139/139	\$4600	\$1841
Valley Vista				136/136	\$5500	\$2768
Valma	18/18	\$41,000	\$9030	144/154	\$3600	\$1807
Warburn		\$13,000		56		\$2014
Wilgarna					\$1550	\$1065
Wunnamurra				182/182	\$3800	\$1809
Yentrac				66/66	\$4600	\$1825



Jackson

Top Flock Ram: \$3250

Average: \$2250

Flock Rams Sold: 64/64

Phone: 0438 542 578

Email: jacksonlivestock@activ8.net.au

SALE RESULTS



Janmac

Top Stud Ram: \$7500

Average: \$1969

Rams Sold: 137/155

Phone: 0427 861 013

Email: grant.hausler@bigpond.com



Hildden

Top Stud Ram: \$27,500

Average: \$5000

Stud Rams Sold: 20/28

Phone: 0427 443 134

Top Flock Ram: \$4750

Average: \$3244

Flock Rams Sold: 123/151

Email: jfrost82@hotmail.com



Pepperton

Top Stud Ram: \$12,500

Average: \$6944

Flock Rams Sold: 50/50

Average: \$2493

Phone: 0408 468 820

Email: pepperton@bigpond.net.au



Derrynock

Top Stud Ram: \$24,000

Average: \$6500

Stud Rams Sold: 27/27

Phone: 0409 189 116

Flock Rams Sold: 115/115

Average: \$2130

Ewes: 40/40 average \$805

Email: derrynock@outlook.com



Newbold

Top Stud Ram: \$3000

Average: \$2233

Stud Rams Sold: 12/12

Phone: 0414 813 873

Top Flock Ram: \$2000

Average: \$1293

Flock Rams Sold: 57/98

Email: bill@newboldstuds.com



Springwaters

Top Stud Ram: \$21,000

Average: \$10,800

Stud Rams Sold: 15/15

Phone: 0422 560 361

Top Flock Ram: \$5500

Average: \$3268

Flock Rams Sold: 194

Email: rowleys@springwatersstud.com.au



GLENORE

POLL DORSET

STUD

From us at Glenore we'd like to thank all our clients for their support throughout 2021 and wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year



Glenore's 11th Annual Ram Sale

11 Stud rams sold to
an average of \$3272,
74/90 Flock rams sold
to \$2800 to average
\$1723

Glenore 310-20
(Pictured)
Sold to Max Davis and
Dianne Williams,
Sutton Grange for
\$6200

Peter and Gillian Cain 'Glenore'

582 Carisbrook-Eddington Road, Carisbrook, Victoria, 3464

Mobile - 0407 843 711 | Email - petegillcain@bigpond.com

Ray Sutherland - a distinguished service to the breed

Ray Sutherland passed away on 27th October 2021 in his 94th year, after a short illness. Despite covid restrictions curtailing social activities, Ray was active and interested until the end. Ray is survived by 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. One of the last events he attended was the Konongwootong Dorset Open Day, where he was able to do two of the things he loved - meeting people and looking at sheep. Vale Ray after a life well lived.

This story was published in the APDA journal in 2017 when The Australian Poll Dorset Association awarded its inaugural Distinguished Services Awards to Ray Sutherland.

Ray's story began in 1927 in a small town in the Mallee, called Nullawil, Victoria where he was born on his parents' property "Balmoral".

He remembers his father paying 30/- for "Rags" the gig pony, with "Fairy" the saddle pony. Ray studied at Nullawil Southwest

school until he left, with his Merit Certificate, to work on the family farm at the age of 14. His parents' farm was a typical Mallee farm of the time, with his father always having some livestock as well as crops. All the family were involved with the work that need to be done on the farm.

Ray's father always maintained that if you were going to have livestock then it might as well be the best. "It takes as much grass to feed a poor animal as it does a good one" was one of his sayings. So, over the years they had an Ayrshire Stud, Large White Pig Stud, and a Jersey Stud. Stock were shown in various show around the state and Ray's father and his horse "Pete" also competed very successfully at the Show Jumping at the Melbourne Royal in 1916.

Ray met Betty Tippet and they married in 1953. They took up residence at "Deloraine" Harrow Rd Konongwootong on 180 acres. At the start, they milked about 30 cows and had a small flock of crossbred ewes. Ray went out shearing; "to put shoes on the feet of the children". Ray and Betty had four children, two boys and two girls.

Ray thought that there was a better future in producing meat than wool, so the "Berray Dorset Horn Stud" was registered in 1956, with the purchase of five ewes-in-lamb for 25 guineas each. They were all from the Deepfield bloodlines. In 1971 more land was purchased and the "Berray Poll Dorset Stud" was registered. Ray would have preferred to call the studs "Deloraine" but this name was already taken by a Border Leicester Stud, so until that name became available the prefix "Berray" was used. Ray bought his first Poll Dorset ram from Murray Reynolds at Kalkee.

Ulandi Park

POLL DORSETS


Flock No. 3125 ~ Breeding to Industry Needs ~ Founded 1980



2020 Ulandi Park On Property Sale Summary

12 Feature Rams Sold- top \$15,000 - Average \$6,250
137 Flock Rams Sold - top \$3,000 x 3 - Average \$1812
We appreciate the support of all Purchasers and Underbidders

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



OBITUARY

The top horned ewes were used to start his Poll Stud. The stud gradually grew until it had about 500 registered ewes. Initially rams were sold by private selection and the Sea Lake and Wycheproof ram sales. Deloraine had its first on property sale in 1991. 86 Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset rams were offered as well as 10 ewes.

Ray was first introduced to Dorset Horns through a family friend Roy Pendlebury and then through him to Joe Turnbull. Joe Turnbull was the stud master for Sir Kenneth Luke from the "Deepfield Stud" at Romsey. Joe became a lifelong friend and mentor to Ray and Betty. Ray particularly remembers a ram he called "Regal" which he bred in 1993 and sold in 1993 to Rex Hall of the Gadang Stud at Keith. "Regal" had a very successful show career. Ray continues with his father's belief that if you are going to have livestock you may as well have the best that you can.

Ray and Betty were always involved in local community events and shows. Both were prepared to go to meetings and become part of committees, realising that you only get back from life what you are prepared to put in. Ray is a Life Member of the Coleraine P & A Society and Victorian Poll Dorset Association.

He was instrumental in getting the Junior Judging Competition going at Melbourne Royal. He has always been interested in promoting Poll Dorsets and helping new stud breeders. For many years, Ray represented the Naracoorte Hamilton Region on the Victorian State Committee. Ray has always enjoyed the fellowship and comradery he experienced while showing sheep. He particularly remembers the jokes and banter amongst the breeders, in the days of trimming and preparing sheep for the show ring. He particularly enjoyed the banter between himself and Jim Prentice as Swan supporters and George Vanstone who supported Geelong. For Ray, showing wasn't just about winning a ribbon but about the people he met and the friendships he made.

Ray and Betty supported many shows including Coleraine, Merino, Edenhope, Naracoorte, Hamilton, Casterton, Mt Gambier, Portland, Horsham, Heytsbury and Melbourne Royal. Ray enjoyed the trips he and Betty went on with fellow breeders. They went to Western Australia and met Eric Heal, Chris Squires and Max Whyte. He remembers enjoying a magnificent afternoon tea hosted by Eric and Ron Wright, at the Pine Avenue Stud. They also went to the UK and enjoyed going to the Edinburgh and Four County Shows. It was because of the trip that he sold some Dorset Horn semen to the UK.

Ray retired to Coleraine and the Deloraine Stud was split between his two sons and evolved into the Deloraine Downs and Konongwootong Studs. Always competitive, Ray has taken up playing quoits and social bowls. He and Betty were very keen "Old Time Dancers" and enjoyed attending local dancers. He still enters his vegetables in the Coleraine Show and stewards the Sheep Section.

Ray has seen many changes in not just the Poll Dorset industry but in agriculture over his 90 years. He has witnessed the change from horse drawn machinery to huge tractors. Ray was a member of Lambplan from its instigation, but he still believes that the 4 Ts of ram selection are still the most important: "Teeth, Toes, Testicles and Type". If a ram can't physically do the job that it was bred for; then it's not much use.

He was particularly fond of the times he spent being part of the Poll Dorset industry. He made many friends and remembered many funny incidents, good times and characters that he has met along the way. He remembers such people as John Treasure, Freddie Bretag and his brothers from Dimboola, John Coats and his father at Donald, Noel Dury and Keith McKenzie. He like to catch up with John Cocks and Jim Childs, all past members of the Poll Dorset Industry. He still gets a kick out of seeing a great line-up of sheep and discussing the merits of each breed. His advice to many a new breeder is to; "Keep Trying", as the winner today might be the loser next week, and first place is only one person's opinion on the day.



Ray Sutherland being presented with his Distinguished Services award. On his 80th Birthday October 2017 at the Konongwootong Hall. L-R Lyn Schinckel Alan Schinckel Jim Childs Geoff Davey Ray and Alistair Sutherland



Ray Sutherland with his favourite ram Regal

Zoe Bain brings fresh enthusiasm

Courtesy of Tim Cronshaw, Otago Daily Times

Neville and Dianne Greenwood are happy their granddaughter Zoe Bain has brought a new lease of life and fresh enthusiasm to Broadlands farm, home of Adelong Poll Dorset Stud in Canterbury's Ellesmere, New Zealand.

A boxful of ribbons and a stack of sale catalogues are testament to their success with the breed.

The latest win was at the Ellesmere A&P Show in Leeston, where 384-18 was crowned champion sheep of the show against all breeds. The late bloomer was shown as a hogget at the Canterbury A&P Show but didn't make the first cut.

Mr Greenwood says the ram was his pick, but the judges didn't see it that way — and that's just the ups and downs of sheep showing.

"Commercially, he's got very good numbers. He's a moderate sheep, which is what people look for nowadays and we try to breed. He's got very good 100-day and 200-day growth figures for his progeny and a very good muscle scanner and he's got a very good hindquarter and 1-3 on the foot score. So he's pretty hard to fault ... in my opinion."

More than likely 384 would have been put to the test again at the Canterbury show had it not been cancelled because of Covid-19.

Miss Bain no stranger to the fickle fortunes of sheep exhibiting. She was supposed to be the steward at the Ellesmere event, but was put out of action by an appendix operation.

One of nine grandchildren, she knew from early on that the farming life was for her. During weekends and school holidays she would help with the weighing, weaning and tailing, making sure the right tag number went to the right lamb and the correct markings went on the ewes.

She has been working full time for about a year now at Broadlands, and will be mixing this with theory when she starts on a 20-month Primary ITO course

"I can't sit still and could never sit in an office all day, so just being outside and always moving I find my brain is just going. Obviously, I love the animals and that makes it priceless."

She gravitates towards technology and the genetic side of stud breeding, intrigued by eye muscle scanning and learning more about pairing this with their temperament and other traits.

Mr Greenwood says his granddaughter isn't shy about asking questions and likes to know everything that's happening on the farm.

This natural curiosity is needed for stud breeding, he says.

"She keeps me motivated and keeps me going. I dare say it's easy to stop, but if you give her two or three years and she wants to do something then that's fine with me."

She has four stud ewes and her newly registered flock — Broadlands — has seven lambs, as well as 2018, 2019 and 2020 progeny.

Her grandfather has helped her with mating, but likes to leave much of the decision-making to her so she can learn from her successes and mistakes.

"You look at the ewes and if you want more bone or more muscle on them you just work it out from what rams you have and foot scores and eye muscles," Miss Bain said.

"Grandad gives me suggestions and then I choose, but if I choose an idea that could've been a bit better then he will suggest another. It's all testing waters really."

Mr Greenwood was 13 when he started the Adelong stud in 1970. His father wasn't so keen on poll Dorsets and preferred the ryeland breed, now seldom seen in Canterbury.

Mr Greenwood has seen good and bad times come and go — including Rogernomics, sharemarket crashes, high interest rates and low lamb prices, which have turned a corner lately.

His advice to his granddaughter is for her to use her youth wisely as it doesn't last long.

"You've got to be passionate or it just doesn't work. Average or mediocre doesn't cut it."

About 550 poll Dorsets are mated each year to between 10 to 12 stud sires. Genetics have been brought in from Australia in the past and will likely be brought in again in the future to freshen bloodlines.

They also breed Suffolk-cross rams, putting a Suffolk sire over poll Dorset-Texel ewes. About 40 of these 18-month-olds will join 120 poll Dorset rams in their December 1 sale.

The sheep are run on about 200 hectares with some pea and green bean growing, and about 140ha is leased out to a dairy farming family.

Miss Bain hopes to show her own sheep next year, Covid-19 permitting, and visit studs here and in Australia to learn more about breeding.



Ellesmere A&P Show winner 384-18 is the standout in this year's crop of poll Dorset rams at the Greenwoods' farm.



Zoe Bain is a natural with all the animals at her grandparents' Canterbury farm, Broadlands. PHOTOS: TIM CRONSHAW

Pneumonia and pleurisy in sheep during summer

Courtesy of Agriculture Victoria

Both pneumonia and pleurisy in sheep can prove costly for producers, from having slow growth rates, carcase trimming or even death.

Pleurisy is inflammation of the lining of the chest cavity and is seen at slaughter as translucent bands joining the lungs to the insides of the ribs.

Pleurisy typically occurs in conjunction with pneumonia, which makes sheep reasonably sick. Many sheep recover from pneumonia, so the residual pleurisy is seen at processing.

Outbreaks of pneumonia and pleurisy are caused by either environmental, animal and pathogen factors, these could include:

- dusty conditions, hot weather, and excessive crowding
- inadequate nutrition, concurrent disease (e.g. internal parasites), and stress. These all impact the animal's immune system making them more susceptible to pneumonia
- pathogens include bacteria and viruses - primary pathogens like *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* initiates a mild pneumonia with no or mild signs – which can make the sheep more susceptible to a secondary bacterial infection which leads to severe disease

- parasitic infection from lung worm can play a role
- additionally, poor drenching technique can lead to aspiration pneumonia.

Agriculture Victoria Veterinary Officer Hayden Morrow said the severity of signs can vary greatly as some sheep will not show any respiratory signs except a reduction in weight gain, while others develop nasal discharge, coughing, laboured breathing, exhaustion, and a lack of appetite before progressing to death.

“Clinical cases of pneumonia lead to increases in mortality, increased treatment costs and a reduction in animal welfare. However, reductions in weight gain from mild cases are also likely to be significant,” Dr Morrow said.

Agriculture Victoria advises to focus on prevention and manage risk factors, which include:

- avoid handling/transporting sheep in hot dry conditions – consider impact of mixing purchased groups of lambs from different sources (stressful but also potentially exposes lambs to new pathogens)
- ensure nutrition and access to water is optimised – ensure other major animal health issues such as intestinal worms are managed, and suitable shade is available
- hosing down dusty yards and laneways before moving stock – consider impact of stocking rate on dust levels when containment feeding and avoid dusty feeds
- do not lift head above horizontal and don't drench in cradle
- new sheep could be carriers of respiratory pathogens that are new to your flock. Clinical cases of pneumonia can be treated with consultation from a private veterinarian.

For more information, read the Pneumonia Pleurisy factsheet on the Animal Health Australia website or contact your private veterinarian for advice.



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DNA Testing FAQs

Courtesy of Neogen

Embarking on DNA testing for the first time might seem a daunting task but be assured it is an easy and affordable process that can deliver significant improvement in a flock through better selection at joining time.

What does DNA testing tell us as sheep breeders?

DNA testing is a fast and reliable way to read the genetic code that determines a sheep's performance and knowing the genetic merit of an animal at a younger age can guide selection and breeding decisions and shorten generation interval within your flock.

Where do you start?

The first step is to look at your breeding objective and identify what sort of DNA test is the best option for you. Having visually identified the pick of a drop, a DNA test can then be used to identify which animals to keep and which to cull from your breeding program. For breeds like the Poll Dorset the GGP 50K is the most popular as it feeds directly into the LAMBPLAN system. What if you are not a member of LAMBPLAN?

While the GGP 50K is Neogen's most popular testing option for terminal breeders, for breeders not in LAMBPLAN we can offer parentage testing. Parentage testing is a popular choice amongst breeders who syndicate mate their animals or would like to elevate mothering up from their production system. DNA parentage is the most accurate way to identify full pedigree of an animal and allow your purchasers to buy with confidence.

Is taking a DNA sample hard?

The short answer is no. To get started you will need an applicator and Tissue Sample Units (TSUs), these can be sourced from Neogen. TSUs are designed so that each sample

has its own vial and cutter which reduces the risk of sample contamination. Each TSU has its own unique ID that can be linked to the animal's ear tag, these can be easily recorded into on farm databases. Neogen's lab will also accept samples as blood cards or semen samples.

What information do I get from a GGP 50K test?

Neogen's GGP 50K test results are combined with the physical measurements that you send through to LAMBPLAN and become a part of your animals Australia Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs). Genomic Breeding Values (GBVs) are produced for critical traits including birth weight, weaning weight, post weaning weight, eye muscle depth, fat dept and carcase weight. Through ASBVs GGP 50K test reports on the key drivers of sheep meat eating quality with values for lean meat yield, intramuscular fat and shear force these traits are otherwise impossible to measure without post-slaughter measurements.

What research is behind the GGP 50K test?

Neogen's GGP 50K test was developed with close collaboration with the former Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC) and contains the top ovine SNPs (exclusive to Neogen). Research by Moghaddar et al (2019) has been shown that using the top SNPs increases prediction accuracies by 7-10% in both purebred and composite animals, when compared with conventional Ovine 50K tests which impute data.

How long does it take before you will see results?

We recommend allowing at least 1 week in postage before your samples are received at the Neogen office. Results are usually received 3 to 4 weeks from the time the samples arrive at the laboratory. An additional one to two weeks should also be factored in for the results to be processed through the LAMBPLAN analysis (data runs are conducted on the 1 and 15 of each month).

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Quarter page	\$219	\$274
1/8th page	\$162	\$202

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