



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET

JOURNAL

VOLUME 56 / NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2026



Commercial REALITIES

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THIS ISSUE...



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FOR PROFIT**
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ARMDALE PARK POLL DORSET STUD

'QUALITY BREEDS QUALITY'



FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2026 - 1pm

ANNUAL STUD & FLOCK RAM SALE

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

INDUSTRY LEADING GENETICS...

SIRE INFLUENCE RECOGNISED AT HIGHEST LEVELS:



AUSTRALASIAN 2025
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS EWE
HILLDEN 240530
Sired By ARMDALE PARK 210243



SHEEP & WOOL SHOW 2026
CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT
ARMDALE 250134
Sired By ARMDALE PARK AP220200 "ELVIS"



SHEEP & WOOL SHOW 2026
CHAMPION & RESERVE CHAMPION EWES
ARMDALE 250022 & 250056
Sired by ARMDALE PARK AP220200 "ELVIS"

ARMDALE PARK 2026 STUD RAM TEAM

- ✓ AuctionsPlus
- ✓ DNA & genomics tested
- ✓ LAMBPLAN ASBVs
- ✓ Stockscan

This years sale line up features the same sire lines behind multiple Australian Champions. Sires include

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- AP230059 Sold for \$15,000 - Sire of our leading 2026 Stud Rams, First Sons Available
- AP230343 Sold for \$10,000 - First Sons Available

Real sheep. Real data. Proven results.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on the past few months, one of the highlights was being judge at the NSW Dorset Championships, the fortieth time it has been held. This year the event crystalised many things for me. Most importantly was the role breeders can play in breed. The late Lindsay Wright loved being part of the Poll Dorset breed. It was not about "winning at all costs", as he was all about the love of breeding Dorsets.

Lindsay invested the wool proceeds from the central west ewe trial in the 1980s. This enabled him to support the vision of Sandy Morrison, Rodney Watt and Rod Marr to develop Cowra into a breeder friendly show with its exhibitor raffle, no inspections, just trust on trimming and a relaxed atmosphere and this event has given judging experience to many breeders.

Lindsay loved watching and discussing the merits of each class. It was wonderful to see Doug, Lindsay's son. Congratulations to Roger Traves, Ruth Klingner, Chris Marr and Greg Hamilton for their efforts in running such a wonderful show. Chris Marr was attending his fortieth show, which is an incredible feat.

Shows are a long-established means of promoting our breed, but as the times change, social media has emerged as a very cost effective way of raising awareness of Poll Dorsets. Every smart phone has a camera. A good photo can be worth more than words. Whether it is a high priced pen of Poll Dorset cross lambs, sucker lambs in the paddock or just a happy snap. Every post adds to the awareness and acts as a reminder to lift the profile of Poll Dorsets. Please send these kinds of shots to our head office, who are more than happy to share the good news on our socials.

And when it comes to breeding, it has moved from an art form to a science. The most successful breeders are those who are able to blend both and you don't have

to be in one camp or the other. The best breeding is a total package.

Years ago, the board moved to make sire verification mandatory as part of adopting science. This was done to ensure the right pedigree of any purchased stud rams, and would also provide a means of tracking animals should any issues emerge in the Poll Dorset flock. Decisions like this have meant the breed can quickly identify and remove any issues if they arise.

Genomics is now the railway of breeding. The resource flock now has over 187,000 Poll Dorset records, and this in turn drives the Sheep Genetics breeding values. There has been a massive investment by breeders and the prime lamb industry, in time and money to create the resource flock.

The breed needs every breeder to be part of the future by working towards a common goal. I encourage breeders to take the next step, and do full genomics including Sheep Genetics. It's important that the valuable genetics seen in flocks across the nation are included in this, to ensure the future of the breed.

In exciting news, the board has been working towards improving the price received for Dorset wool, with the aim of more than covering the cost of stud ewe shearing. Dorset wool is used in bedding. It is envisaged that the program will develop into forward supply contracts giving certainty to Michell and our breeders. This project is collaboration of AWI, Martin O'Sullivan, James Carter, and Floyd Legge.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to Damon Coats, who is retiring from the board after 14 years including a term as chairman. Damon has been a valued board member, who will be missed. He is a gentleman, who is respected by breeders for being very approachable and his forward thinking views have been valued, as has his ability to see hard projects through. The breed thanks him for his commitment and dedication. I always enjoy my time spent with Damon and Peggy and wish them all the best for their future.

May the lamb season bring the rich reward for stud breeders and commercial operators alike, and may Poll Dorsets continue to dominate the top rates across the nation.

George Carter

PRESIDENT



THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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Ulandi Park

POLL DORSETS

Flock No. 3125

- Breeding to Industry Needs - Founded 1980

29th Annual On Property Sale

Thursday 24th September 2026 - 1.00pm

10 Feature and 140 Flock Rams

(Including First Progeny of Derrynock 800-23 and Derrynock 20-23)

Agents – Nutrien, Elders & Spence Dix Co

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

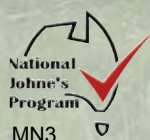
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Our cover: Angus Knight from June, NSW, is looking for the greatest return per hectare, and for him, that means running Poll Dorset rams over first cross ewes to turn off lambs for the supermarket trade. Picture: Karen Wilson

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ACROSS THE PENS

As we head into spring and the busy sale season, it is hard to believe I have now been in the role of Secretary/CEO for 12 months. Looking back over the past year, it has been a privilege to work alongside such a passionate and progressive membership. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly and shared their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for the Poll Dorset breed.



One of the highlights over the past few months was catching up with so many members at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show. Events like these are a great reminder of the strength of our association and the friendships that exist throughout the industry. I look forward to seeing many of you again at the upcoming Australasian Championships and meeting more members as we continue through the spring calendar.

As we move into the busy spring sale season, there is certainly a positive energy across the industry. Sale catalogues are being finalised, preparations are well underway, and we look forward to seeing another outstanding line-up of Poll Dorset genetics offered throughout Australia. On behalf of the association, I wish all vendors every success for the season ahead.

The September edition of the Poll Dorset Journal is another great example of what can be achieved through collaboration. Thank you to Stephenie for her continued work securing advertising support, and to Fiona for bringing together another engaging edition filled with member news, sale information and industry updates. The journal continues to be one of our most valuable communication tools, and I encourage members to keep sending through stories, achievements and photographs so we can continue to showcase the success of our breeders and the strength of our Association.

Behind the scenes, Keryn has been busy processing annual flock returns and maintaining our membership records. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their returns promptly. Accurate records are essential to the smooth operation of the association and ensure we can continue providing the best possible service to our members.

I would also like to acknowledge our Board Directors and Regional Representatives for the time and commitment they continue to give to the Association. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but their dedication plays an important role in ensuring we continue to move forward, promote the breed and support our members.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Australian Poll Dorset Association. I look forward to catching up with many of you at the Australasian and over the coming months and wish everyone a safe, successful and rewarding spring sale season.

Sue Opie

SECRETARY/CEO

PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

The past 12 months have been a productive period for the Promotions Committee, with a strong focus on improving the Association's communication channels and strengthening the Poll Dorset brand.

A significant achievement has been the launch of our new association website. The new site provides members with a more modern, user-friendly platform that better showcases the breed and improves access to information.

While we are extremely pleased with the outcome, the website remains an evolving project, and we will continue refining content, adding resources and making improvements based on member feedback.

The Poll Dorset Journal continues to be a key communication tool for the Association and continues to grow year on year with each edition, providing members with industry news, sale information and breeder updates while also promoting the breed to a wider audience. We remain committed to continually improving the quality and value of each edition.

Our social media presence continues to grow and remains one of the most effective ways of promoting the Poll Dorset breed, member achievements and association activities. However, its success relies heavily on member involvement. We encourage all members to follow the Australian Poll Dorset Association on social media and tag @australianpolldorsetassociation whenever sharing your sale results, show successes, on-farm updates or other Poll Dorset news. By working together, we can significantly increase

the reach of both individual studs and the association, ensuring the breed receives greater exposure and growth across the industry.

One area where we continue to seek support is photography. High-quality images are essential for the journal, website, social media and promotional material, yet we often struggle to source suitable photographs from across the membership. Whether you share images through social media and tag the association or email them directly to us, your contributions are invaluable and help us tell the story of the Poll Dorset breed.

Looking ahead, the Promotions Committee is developing a new national campaign to support the upcoming sale season. The campaign will feature a refreshed, streamlined brand presence, supported by targeted press promotion and advertising across relevant agricultural websites and digital platforms.

The aim is to maximise exposure for the Poll Dorset breed and ensure our promotional efforts reach commercial producers and the broader sheep industry where they will have the greatest impact.

The Promotions Committee will continue to focus on building a consistent and professional presence across all communication platforms while encouraging greater member engagement. With the continued support of our members, we can further strengthen the profile of the Australian Poll Dorset Association and promote the outstanding achievements of all of our breeders throughout Australia.

Sue Opie

ON BEHALF OF THE PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Janmac
POLL DORSET
WHITE SUFFOLK
STUDS

PREMIUM RAMS TO BREED PREMIUM LAMBS

**2026 SPRING
RAM SALE**

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER - 1PM

**200+
POLL DORSET &
WHITE SUFFOLK
RAMS**

ON-PROPERTY AUCTION | GOROKE RAM SHED
Better lambs start with proven genetics.

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2026 Ram Sale

30th September

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Tyson Bush 0419 756 746

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2026 Financial year (30 April 2026) saw the end of the first 12-month financial reporting period with the new financial year being from 1 May to 30 April.

The year did result in a financial loss of \$12,507, with \$1,925 of that loss arising from the APDA Conference held in February 2026 at Wagga Wagga. The costs associated with the management and hosting of the database have also

significantly increased this past year, and that, along with the website, are currently being reviewed by the APDA to determine if future costs could be reduced, while still maintaining an effective database for members.

Our current book keeper is retiring at the end of August 2026, and a couple of options are being investigated to ensure a smooth transition. We will also take this opportunity to fine tune our chart of accounts to enable more accurate tracking of income and expenses against specific categories such as ram levy/promotions, database and general expenses.

As of the 30 April 2026 the Net Assets of the Association were \$387,631, compared to \$402,178 the previous April. The share portfolio was valued at \$118,241, the trophy account remained at \$5,100, while our term deposit decreased to \$203,221. The working account at the end of April 2026 held a balance of \$48,343. In addition the Flock Ram Levy Fund contained \$41,790.

Liz Mann
TREASURER



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 28	Bowan Park Research Flock Open Day
Sept 5-13	Royal Adelaide Show, Adelaide, SA
Sept 11-13	Australasian Dorset Championships, Bendigo, VIC
Sept 24-Oct 4	Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne, VIC
Sept 26-Oct 3	Royal Perth Show, Perth, WA
Oct 21-24	Royal Hobart Show, Hobart, TAS



ON PROPERTY

RAM SALE

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2026

1PM - MARULAN INSPECTIONS - 11AM

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





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Shellal



47th Annual sale

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

On-Property Hawksdale
Victoria @ 1pm

Offering Stud & Flock Rams



**Exhibiting and
Offering at the ADC**

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Making every lamb count for profit

There's nothing traditional about one commercial lamb operation run in NSW despite using a well established breeding strategy of a Poll Dorset ram over a first cross ewe.

With 2600 ewes and a bank of terminal sires, the operation run by Angus Knight is focussed 100 per cent on generating the greatest profit per hectare from the grazing portion of the operation.

Angus, who also works off farm as an agronomist, first came back to the family farm in 2018, buying it from the family in 2022 and then expanding in 2024.

The mix is 50:50 cropping and livestock, with a neat synergy between the top enterprises helping to generate the greatest income from his farming operation.

A prime lamb operation has been run for generations by the Knights and has always used first cross ewes and Angus sees no reason to change.

"They are resilient tough animals and even though there are less of them around, we do not have any trouble finding the 400 or 500 replacements we need every year," Angus said.

And rather than outlay money to buy the top lines, he said his investment was better spent and generated better returns by spending more on rams.

"We look for quality genetics in our Poll Dorset rams because the cash we spend can be spread across the business further, with the impact of that going across more lambs," he said.

It's an interesting take on breeding, but one that is kicking goals.

Each year, the Knights turn off 140 per cent of lambs from their ewe flock, with about one third of the lambs sold as unshorn suckers and the remainder shorn and sold before they are 10 months old.

They target the supermarket trade, selling drafts to Coles at about 25 kilograms carcass weight.

Ewes are scanned and lambed down in single and twin lambing mobs. The goal is to keep twin-lambing mob numbers to about 200, while single lambing mobs can get up to 400 if necessary.

Ewes lamb down in June onto winter grazing dual purpose wheat crops, before those crops are then locked up to take on for grain. Ewes are then run on pastures before lambs are weaned and are ideally finished on lucerne crops supplemented with barley. Weaning percentages sit at about 130-140 per cent average against an average scanning percentage of 150-160 per cent.

This year, some ewes lambed a little earlier, as extra numbers were bought in and were already in lamb, so about 400 will be sold before the main draft.

"The goal is to get the lambs off as quickly as we can, and we tend to lamb a bit later than others who target an autumn lambing," Angus said.

"But it works for us as it fits in with our feed curve where grazing crops fill in the gaps over winter.

"We have our maximum DSE during spring when most years we have feed, and then as the lambs are sold off at the same time as our feed supplies are falling."



COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS

The dual purpose crops provide six to eight week grazing, and this year, if spring rains materialise, should hopefully still yield about 4.5 tonnes/hectare.

While on the grazing crops, Angus is diligent about providing licks including salt, lime and causmag, and not only providing them but making sure they are fresh especially after rain.

“Just having lick in the paddock is not enough - it has to be fresh so they will go to it,” he said.

“The last thing you want happening is for your ewes to get milk fever, which is not uncommon when on grazing crops.”

Quick lamb growth is one of the key planks in the enterprise, and Angus said that was a reason he had stuck with Poll Dorset, due to the rapid muscle growth.

“It’s a nice balance because you have the large frame of the first cross ewe, and then the meat and muscle of the Poll Dorset,” he said.

Poll Dorset rams are selected from the Kentish Downs Poll Dorset stud near Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Each year, Angus downloads the spreadsheet of rams and then puts parameters around what Australian Sheep Breeding Values he is looking for. That includes Weaning Weight figures of 10-12 and Post Weaning Weight numbers of no less than 15 and up to 17.

Once the catalogue is trimmed down according to his parameters, Angus then goes to look at the rams to check he is happy with them before bidding accordingly.

The spend in genetics is showing up in the quality of lambs produced, Angus said, and if they can’t be finished on the ideal mix of lucerne supplemented with barley, they will go into a confinement area where they are fed a barley/lupin mix.

He had his first attempt at feedlotting lambs two years ago and learned from experience that cutting corners did not produce the kinds of results he was looking for.

A second attempt was much more successful and showed that if the season turns for the worse, there’s still the ability to turn his lambs off within 10 months, albeit under a different finishing regime.

But it’s the lucerne stands, combined with barley in feeders, that provide the ideal system for Angus, producing growth rates of around 300g/day, and without the labour intensive nature of the feedlot.

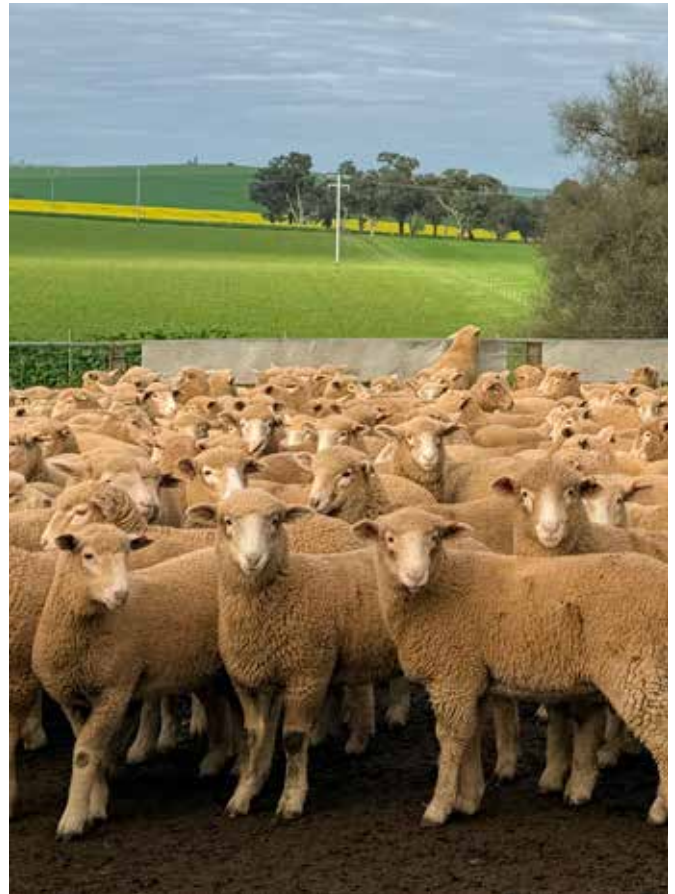
While lamb returns are stellar, Angus said he would never do his numbers on the current prices, yet he’s more than comfortable to have sheep in his farming mix.

“We do have areas that are not suitable to drag an air seeder around and grow crops, and I like having sheep and they fit into our whole farming system, where we can graze the crops and then harvest them,” he said.

He’s comfortable, too, that he’s not in the papers selling the heaviest lambs at the \$400-plus mark.

“For us, we look at returns per hectare so we are trying to produce the greatest amount of meat we can per hectare and that means selling lambs at 25 kilograms carcass weight to the supermarket trade,” Angus said.

“We could run half the number of ewes and have our names in the paper but that just does not work for us financially.”



Some of the Poll Dorset-cross lambs being weaned on Angus Knight's farm near Junee, NSW. Picture Karen Wilson.



Poll Dorset-cross lambs at weaning at Junee, NSW. Picture Karen Wilson.

Pastures for Profit

Top genetics is a key part of a profitable prime lamb enterprise but maximising the potential of those genetics comes down to pastures.

Nicole Frost is the co-principal of Peak Pasture and Livestock, and is convinced there is much that can be done to make sure the investment in top-quality genetics is realised.

Based in Ensay, Victoria, Ms Frost graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga and has teamed that with a graduate certificate in business to work with clients in her role as a dedicated pasture agronomist.

And living on a sheep and beef farm, Ms Frost uses her backyard to practice what she preaches.

She said grazing businesses needed to understand that they are in the business of growing grass.

"All graziers should consider themselves grass-farmers first, and sheep are the tools that convert that grass into dollars," Ms Frost said.

"This is an important distinction because how much pasture we can produce sets the ceiling on our stocking rate and ultimately, how many kilos of lamb, wool or mutton we can produce.

"Grass is the cheapest way to feed stock and it should be the first port of call.

"Certainly I have clients who have feedlots as part of their farm system but for those who can, growing grass, and considering not only volume but quality, can be very profitable."

There is no one-size-fits-all, nor a silver bullet, when it comes to maximising grass production, yet tweaks can be made to ensure each class of stock is getting the right quality of feed to suit their stage of growth or role in the production system.

"Preferably you would have a pasture suited to each class of stock, with high protein for young growing stock and high

energy pastures for pregnant stock, but there's a balance in that too," Ms Frost said.

"It's important to ensure diets are balanced and appropriate for the production stage of the animal. For example: if animals are consuming protein well in excess of their requirements, they can actually begin to lose weight because of the energy requirement to excrete the excess protein. So what may have started as a diet that provided enough energy for growth, is now insufficient.

"My advice is to look at the farm as a whole system.

"You might have high production areas like river flats that can cope with a pasture mix of red clover, chicory and Italian ryegrass, and that may be a perfect weaning paddock.

"But it could also be a good choice for lambing down twin-bearing ewes who need that kind of nutrition.

"If you have lighter country with a lot of roughage, that is perfect for dry animals.

"It's about knowing what class of stock needs what quality of pasture and being able to match those paddocks to feed demand."

Ms Frost's work as a pasture agronomist is more than just organising a soil test, and she looks at the farming system to work out which pastures are best for the operation.

The first step in determining your pasture mix is to select a grass species that suits the climate, soil type, rainfall and topography. The grass is a base, and added to that is a legume, again which fits the criteria, and then a herb like chicory or plantain. Working with an agronomist who understands your enterprise and the local conditions, to help you select the most appropriate species and develop a program to optimise establishment, is a key step for success, Ms Frost said.

If she had to nominate a favourite, it's chicory, given its hardiness as well as the ability to produce weight gains of more than 350 grams/day for lambs.



Lamb profitability can be boosted through high quality pastures.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

"You can't beat chicory in terms of finishing lambs, and I am a big chicory fan," Ms Frost said.

In terms of return on investment, she said establishing high-performing perennial pastures can deliver excellent returns if done carefully.

"It is not cheap to establish permanent pasture, so we must give them every chance of success to reduce the risk of failure and generate a positive return through an increase in stocking rate," she said.

Back of the envelope numbers for establishing a pasture in her area confirmed just how reasonable the cost was.

There's a caveat in that these are ball park figures, Ms Frost said, but were indicative of the kind of outlay and returns from planting the right pastures.

In her area, she calculated it costs about \$1330/hectare to sow a perennial pasture, which included pre and post emergent herbicide applications, seed, contractors and fertilisers.

If that pasture was then to generate eight tonnes/hectare of dry matter, the cost comes back to just over 16c/kilogram of dry matter in the first year. If this pasture averaged around 11 megajoules of metabolisable energy per kilogram of dry matter, that would equate to about 1.5 cents per megajoule of energy.

The results are even more impressive in the second year of production and successive years, with costs of \$200/hectare to maintain the pasture (fertiliser and herbicides) against a dry matter production of 12 tonnes, reducing the cost to less than 2c per kilogram of dry matter, or 0.02c per megajoule of energy.

Pasture longevity can range from around five years for ryegrass, up to 15 to 20 years for phalaris or cocksfoot-based stands.

"Locally, we are seeing producers quite easily double their stocking rates relative to the local industry average, through increased fertiliser use and better rotation grazing systems," Ms Frost said.

"Once we start adding pasture improvement, many are stocking three times the average rate on their better country, as an average across the year."

Ms Frost said equal emphasis should be given to genetics and pastures in a lamb production system, as one without the other was not maximising the potential of the farm system.



Good quality pastures can make the most of the genetic potential of lambs.



Peak Pasture and Livestock's Nicole Frost is keen to see pastures improve.



A multispecies pasture.

Combined LAMBPLAN, Percentile Bands and Data Quality

What Poll Dorset Breeders Need to Know This Sale Season

As Poll Dorset breeders prepare for the 2026 ram sale season, there are several important updates from Sheep Genetics worth understanding. Combined LAMBPLAN, increased emphasis on percentile bands, and a continued focus on data quality are all designed to help breeders and commercial producers make more informed selection decisions.

Combined LAMBPLAN: Preparing for the future

The 1st of July analysis saw the release of indexes for the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis, marking the last significant milestone and the second last trait module release for the rollout of this industry-leading evaluation. Many Poll Dorset breeders will already be familiar with Combined LAMBPLAN following the information released by Sheep Genetics over the past 12 months.

For this year's sales, Sheep Genetics recommends continuing to use the current Terminal ASBVs and indexes as the primary source of information for ram selection and sale catalogues. However, breeders may wish to start sharing Combined LAMBPLAN results with clients to build understanding ahead of future releases and the eventual transition to a single evaluation.

Combined LAMBPLAN has been developed to create a single, future-focused evaluation for Maternal and Terminal breeds, improving connectedness across the industry and providing the foundation for new tools, indexes and commercial genomic applications. Key benefits include:

- Direct comparison of genetic merit across Maternal and Terminal breeds (excluding Merinos and Dohnes)
- Increased accuracy of breeding values across traits and breeds
- A platform for future developments including commercial genetic selection tools

For Poll Dorset breeders, Combined LAMBPLAN reinforces the breed's role as a leading Terminal sire breed. To see all enhancements made for the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis, please scan the QR code

Data Quality Continues to Matter

High-quality data remains the foundation of reliable ASBVs and is a strong indicator of a flock's rate of genetic gain over time. Ahead of sale season, breeders should take the opportunity to:

- Review any genomic pedigree inconsistencies
- Check your exclusions
- Make sure all data is submitted
- Submit data at least 1-2 months before cataloguing to allow for time to fix any errors
- Check Data Quality Score (DQS) report

Studs that consistently collect and submit high quality data provide greater accuracy of ASBVs and therefore can make greater rates of genetic gain. Strong data quality also supports ongoing genetic gain across the Poll Dorset breed and the wider sheep industry.

Ensuring long term genetic gain

As ram sale season approaches, one of the most valuable exercises for both stud and commercial producers is to revisit their breeding objective before making selection and purchasing decisions. A breeding objective defines the traits that are most important to the profitability and efficiency of an enterprise and provides the framework for finding rams which will improve the productivity of your sheep breeding business.

For Poll Dorset stud breeders, this means understanding the needs of commercial clients and ensuring selection decisions are aligned with the production systems they service. For commercial producers, having a clear objective helps identify which traits will deliver the greatest impact on business performance, whether that be growth, carcass merit, eating quality or overall profitability.

When reviewing sale catalogues and pen cards, breeders and buyers should:

- Focus on ASBVs and indexes that align with their breeding objective
- Compare an animal's ASBVs against the current percentile bands
- Consider the overall balance of traits rather than chasing a single measurement
- Remember that long-term genetic gain is achieved through consistent selection towards clearly defined goal

This is particularly important given the introduction of Combined LAMBPLAN. One of the key messages for breeders and ram buyers is that the breeding values may change, but an animal's relative ranking may remain similar. As a result of enhancements to the evaluation, some ASBV values will look different to previous reports, making percentile bands more important than ever as a benchmarking tool.

Percentile bands show where an animal ranks within the wider industry population for a particular trait and provide a simple way to benchmark genetic merit. Animals ranking in the top 20%, 10% and 5% are highlighted on the Sheep Genetics search site and on pen cards, helping breeders and buyers quickly identify genetic strengths.

Poll Dorset breeders have been leaders in objective measurement and genetic improvement for many years. Combined LAMBPLAN represents the next chapter in that journey, providing a more accurate genetic analysis for future innovation and genetic selection tools. The fundamentals, however, remain unchanged:

- Record quality data
- Understand your breeding objective
- Use ASBVs alongside percentile bands
- Continue selecting for long-term profitability

Marnie Hodge
Senior Development Officer at Sheep Genetics
mhodge@mla.com.au
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Why every ram team needs a pre-joining health check

Pre-joining ram examinations are vitally important because they help us control the things we can control before joining starts.

There are three main reasons we recommend them.

Firstly, we want to make sure we have enough sound, fertile rams to do the job.

Secondly, we want to identify diseases that affect fertility, particularly ovine brucellosis, before they impact scanning results.

Thirdly, by carrying out examinations early, producers have enough time to replace any rams that don't pass the examination.

At For Flocks Sake, we think about pre-joining ram examinations as the equivalent of a pre-season fitness test for professional athletes.

When you think about it, a Poll Dorset ram is responsible for driving the cash flow of a sheep business through reproductive success. With that in mind, we can't afford preventable failures.

One of our core values is "control the controllables."

We can't control the weather or the season, but we can control the condition of the players taking the field.

Professional sporting teams don't send players onto the field without medical and fitness testing because there's too much riding on the result. By carrying out pre-joining ram examinations, we're simply making sure our best athletes are fit, healthy and ready to perform when joining begins.

Timing matters

We recommend scheduling pre-joining ram examinations around 10 to 12 weeks before joining.

This gives producers enough time to treat any problems, allow rams to recover and, if necessary, purchase replacement rams.

The timing is important because sperm production takes around six weeks. Any stress during that period—such as illness, shearing, vaccination or foot problems—can affect semen quality. By carrying out examinations well before joining, rams have time to complete a healthy sperm cycle before they go out with the ewes.

What are we looking for?

Our examination focuses on four key areas.

Teeth - Can we trust this ram to maintain condition throughout joining? Every year we're surprised by how many broken mouths we find.

Toes - Foot problems are common but are often easily managed if they're identified early. Trimming feet and treating



ANIMAL HEALTH

foot abscesses before joining gives rams time to recover before they're expected to work.

Testicles - This is probably the most important part of the examination. The testicles are the ram's factory. We assess their tone because it gives us an indication of sperm production. Testicles that are too soft or too hard can both indicate problems.

Tackle - We also assess the penis and sheath where possible. Injuries, infections or abnormalities in this area can prevent successful mating even if everything else appears normal. While it can be more difficult to examine in commercial situations, checking for obvious issues can help identify rams that may struggle to serve ewes effectively.

One of the diseases we're looking for is ovine brucellosis. This bacteria lives in the testicles, damages fertility and can dramatically reduce conception rates.

Unfortunately, by the time producers discover there's a problem through poor scanning results, it's already too late.

The good news is that ovine brucellosis can often be detected through physical examination and confirmed with a blood test.

Who should perform pre-joining examinations?

We believe producers can create a lot of value by regularly looking at their own ram team.

Checking mouths, feet and general soundness doesn't require a veterinary degree.

However, comprehensive pre-joining examinations are best carried out by veterinarians experienced in sheep reproduction. If abnormalities are detected they can collect blood samples, investigate diseases such as ovine brucellosis and provide management advice immediately.

Pre-Joining Ram Exams



Protecting one of your biggest investments

Looking after your ram team isn't just about fertility—it's about economics.

As rams remain productive for longer, their annual cost to the business decreases. Less ram wastage means producers can continue investing in better genetics rather than replacing rams because of preventable problems.

When you think about the value of a ram team, it's often equivalent to having a new ute sitting in the paddock.

We regularly service our vehicles to prevent breakdowns.

Our ram teams deserve exactly the same attention.

By carrying out pre-joining ram examinations, we're simply making sure our best athletes are fit, healthy and ready to perform when joining begins.

Article courtesy of Dr Tim Gole, For Flocks Sake.

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Watch for pneumonia

Sheep pneumonia continues to challenge producers across southern Australia, but MLA-funded research including minimising stress and managing environmental factors where possible.

Led by Dr Steve Cotton of Dynamic Ag and Dr Joan Lloyd from Joan Lloyd Consulting, the project aims to better understand the disease's prevalence, potential risk factors and strategies to minimise its impact.

Dr Cotton said initial research findings were shared last year but further sampling and analysis indicates the disease remains common, with prevalence varying depending on the season or year.

"In 2024, around 22 per cent of tested sheep were positive for the sheep pneumonia pathogen *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*," Dr Cotton said.

"More recent testing suggests prevalence has declined, with only 14.8% of animals testing positive in 2025."

He noted this reduction may reflect improved seasonal conditions and reduced nutritional stress in some regions. While occurrences vary between properties, the research confirms the bacteria continues to be widely present in west Victorian sheep populations.

The study sampled 750 ewes and wethers each year between 2024–25 and found significant variations within individual flocks. Pneumonia impacted between 7–93 per cent of sheep in the affected flocks involved in the study. Importantly, the study found no clear links between pneumonia and breed, sex or geographic region.

Dr Cotton said early data suggested higher rates of infection in composite sheep, but this may be related to management factors such as joining ewe lambs at a younger age or more intensive feeding systems rather than breed itself.

The research also supports previous findings that infection can be widespread within a flock, with some animals acting as chronic carriers that spread the bacteria to lambs soon after birth.

One of the strongest patterns emerging from the research is the link between stress and the development of pneumonia. According to Dr Cotton, the number of times lambs are handled after weaning appears to increase the likelihood of infection, with the stress caused by normal on-farm activities such as mustering, yarding, shearing or drenching possibly allowing the bacteria to proliferate.

Environmental conditions can also play a role. Sudden changes in temperature, poor seasonal conditions or nutritional constraints may reduce feed intake and increase stress levels in animals.

"These bacteria are often present in sheep populations, but stress events can allow them to multiply and lead to respiratory disease," Dr Cotton said.

Dusty conditions can also irritate the respiratory tract and make animals more susceptible to infection.

The clinical signs of pneumonia can be subtle. Adult sheep may show coughing, wheezing, runny eyes or nose, laboured breathing after exertion, or reduced performance.

In lambs, signs such as coughing, nasal discharge, difficulty suckling and, occasionally, swollen knee joints can appear from one to two months of age. However, in some cases, the disease may remain subclinical and be attributed to slower-than-expected growth rates.

While treatment options remain limited, several management strategies can help reduce the risk of outbreaks.

These include minimising unnecessary yarding events, maintaining adequate nutrition and water supply (including ensuring clean trough water where possible), and avoiding overcrowding in feedlots or containment areas.

Monitoring lamb growth rates can also help identify animals that may be affected, and slower-growing lambs may require closer inspection or management adjustments.

Antibiotic therapy is currently the most common treatment when infection is detected, but researchers are continuing to investigate longer-term strategies to reduce reliance on antibiotics.

The current project is focused primarily on understanding the prevalence and risk factors associated with sheep pneumonia. As more data becomes available, the findings are expected to help inform future research and management strategies for producers.

Article courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia

Eight ways to reduce the risk of pneumonia in your flock

Producers can reduce the likelihood and impact of sheep pneumonia by focusing on practical management steps that minimise stress and support animal health.

1. Minimise unnecessary handling

Limit the number of times lambs are mustered or yarded after weaning where possible, and combine management tasks (e.g. weighing, drenching or drafting) to reduce handling events.

2. Manage stress around key husbandry events

Be mindful of stress during procedures such as weaning, shearing, crutching and transport (preparation for transport is critical), particularly during challenging seasonal conditions.

3. Maintain good nutrition and water supply

Ensure sheep have access to adequate feed and clean water, especially during periods of drought, poor pasture growth or high nutritional demand.

4. Avoid overcrowding

Follow recommended stocking densities in containment areas, feedlots or yards to reduce stress and disease transmission.

5. Monitor lamb growth rates

Identify lambs that are growing more slowly than expected, as reduced growth can be an early sign of respiratory disease.

6. Watch for early clinical signs

Look for coughing, wheezing, nasal discharge, runny eyes or laboured breathing, particularly in lambs from one to two months of age.

7. Seek veterinary advice early

If pneumonia is suspected, contact your veterinarian promptly to confirm diagnosis and discuss treatment options.

8. Review flock biosecurity

Consider the health status of purchased animals and monitor new stock to reduce the risk of introducing respiratory pathogens into the flock.



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ICMJ Wagga Wagga

The Australian Poll Dorset Association once again was a major sponsor for the National Intercollegiate Meat Judging held in Wagga Wagga. There were more than 160 competitors from 10 universities and industry, including international teams from Japan and the United States.

ICMJ is seen as a major career building opportunity, and our involvement opens up their knowledge of the greater sheep industry, the role of Poll Dorset genetics in building greater capacity for lamb production, and the future opportunities that exist for the participants now and into the future.

This year we showcased the Poll Dorset breed by running a Ram Selection Workshop, focusing on balancing visual and performance traits. Students were allocated a business scenario, then worked their way through a catalogue to select the appropriate genetics for the breeding objectives.

The day ended with a mock auction, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Thanks must go to Joe Scott and Isabelle Roberts for running the workshop, demonstrating that ram selection is critically important for a successful production system and profitable marketing outcomes. Ridgehaven supplied Poll Dorset young ewes to display and this was appreciated.

The ADPA also had the opportunity to speak at the Careers Expo, where more than 50 red meat industry businesses were

in attendance. This highlighted how Poll Dorsets provide value beyond our farm gates, the importance of the lamb industry to the economic stability of agriculture, and how choosing the sheep meat industry for your career is a good idea!

Georgina Greene was one of the participants in the 2026 ICMJ program and is currently studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, majoring in Mixed Farm Business at Charles Sturt University.

She said she took part in ICMJ as a way to source more opportunities to understand the red meat industry, learn from industry professionals and connect with peers across different universities.

But she said she didn't fully grasp the impact this experience would have before stepping into the conference.

"Being able to connect with students who would be moving into the agricultural industry within the next few years was one of the most valuable aspects of the conference and has given me lifelong friendships that I will be able to reconnect with throughout my career," Ms Greene said.

"During the conference, we learnt a great deal about the lamb industry.

"Most importantly, we learnt the value of genetics and Australian Sheep Breeding Values selection methods.

"Clara Bradford from MLA delved into the importance of using ASBVs to select sires and evaluate breeding flocks, aligning breeders' goals and objectives with measurable traits and enabling clear assessment of a flock's genetic value and allowing producers to assess where they need to improve their flock's genetics to better meet lamb carcass targets such as carcass weight, fat depth and IMF."

Ms Greene said the practical session with Isabelle Roberts on the selection of sires was an excellent way to assess the physical characteristics of meat breed sheep.

"It gave us the skills to use when assessing sires at ram sales in the future, as these are characteristics that play a role in the physical ability for a sire to stand up to its environment," she said.

"Assessing structure allowed us to determine a sire's suitability for an enterprise, particularly when looking at; leg and foot structure to assess sire longevity; and shoulder structure to assess lambing ease for ewes.

"This assessment of phenotypes also gave us a visual representation of the sire's ability to display its genetic potential, and understand the effects environment and management can have on the physical features displayed on the day of a sale."

Ms Greene said when she graduates from CSU in October 2026, she was looking for a career that will allow her to work in the livestock industry and give the opportunity to explore how she will be able to incorporate her interests in genetics, production and business.

"As I have mentioned to numerous people in the past, I am not setting my sights on one particular career," she said.

"I am looking for the opportunity to learn as much as I can and learn from the best people. "ICMJ has been an incredible opportunity that has opened many doors and provided insight into industries I didn't fully understand and I cannot express enough how valuable the experience has been and will continue to be when I take part in the 2026 Brisbane Industry Tour as the CSU Coaches Pick for 2026."



ICMJ participants were given advice on selecting genetics by Isabelle Roberts from Ridgehaven, Cudal, NSW.



ICMJ participant Georgina Greene from Charles Sturt University.



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Studying the breed

There could be few more enthusiastic about the future of sheep than Elliot Bangert.

The 20-year-old is keen to make the most of any opportunities he can in his pursuit to follow a career in agriculture and alongside that, his burgeoning Poll Dorset stud, Mizpah, registered in 2022 as flock number 4663.

Elliot grew up on a small farm in Borenore, near Orange, NSW, and almost fell into sheep breeding when he bought some commercial Poll Dorset ewes.

"I was interested in genetics and wanted to know more about sheep and that progressed into buying Poll Dorsets with pedigrees and it grew from there," Elliot said.

He runs his small flock on his parent's small property, and ever the optimist, Elliot said this was acting to his advantage in developing his stud.

"It makes you focus on quality, because we can only run a set number of ewes, it means they have to be good to stay and there is always pressure on them," Elliot said.

While he started his stud when he was at school, and was able to have a heavy involvement while working locally on a sheep property for two years, his plans faced a crossroad earlier this year when he began studying a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England at Armidale, many hours drive from his home base.

Yet in the end, the choice to continue his stud was easy, he said.

"I have received so much support from Poll Dorset breeders in terms of genetics and advice and they gave that commitment to me, so I did not want to throw all that away," Elliot said.

It also aligns with his goal of working in the sheep industry in some capacity after he completes his study.

Elliot sees a strong future for Poll Dorsets, and said there was good reason they were the most popular terminal sire in Australia.

"It may have been by chance that I got into them but I see the breed playing a strong role in the prime lamb industry going forward," he said.

His gap years, which involved time working in a sheep feedlot, has also given him exposure to a range of breeds, and he's been impressed by the way Poll Dorsets have performed compared to other breeds both being fed intensively but also in the paddock.

He is also excited about the Australian prime lamb industry and the opportunities still to be grasped.

"The future of the Australian lamb industry is bright, with so many largely untapped markets globally like the United States who are yet to experience our lamb," Elliot said.

And if prices stay strong, he sees more farmers considering including prime lambs in their enterprise mix.

But Poll Dorsets need to not lose sight of what they are good at - growth rates and muscle - but at the same time, being able to embrace eating quality.

Elliot's flock is bred for strong Australian Sheep Breeding Values, but he never loses his emphasis on physical correctness and raw data.

He was able to use those skills when he took the chance to be the associate judge at the NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra in June.

It was his first time judging.

"You have to start somewhere and it was an honour to be an associate judge at one of the biggest Poll Dorset events," Elliot said.

"When you get to know the process of judging, you can take back those skills and use them within your own flock.

"Everyone wants to breed perfect sheep, half the challenge is working out what that perfect sheep looks like and the other half is trying to achieve it."



Elliot Bangert in action at the NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra, NSW.



NSW Dorset championship judge George Carter and associate judge Elliot Bangert.

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South Australian Youth Expo

The Adelaide region of the Australian Poll Dorset Association sponsored eight entrants to attend the SA Sheep Expo in April. The expo is an educational forum for participants aged 12 to 23 to learn about the sheep industry.

The first two days of the event featured workshops led by industry experts, covering topics such as animal assessment, selecting and purchasing rams, artificial breeding and semen health, sheep genetics, marketing sheep through photography and videography, and career pathways in agriculture.

On the third day, participants competed in a handlers' competition with a sheep allocated to them to care for throughout the event. Senior participants were paired with junior participants to provide mentorship and support. Throughout the event, participants were assessed on their handling skills, presentation, attitude, junior judging, assignments, and pen cleanliness.

One of the participants was 15-year-old Maggie McLachlan, whose family run the Newbold Poll Dorset stud at Gawler, South Australia, which is the Number 1 flock in the stud book. Maggie won the champion junior handler at the event. In her own words, here's what she got out of participating:

Why did you go to the SA Sheep Expo and how many expos have you attended?

This was my first SA Sheep Expo. I went because I wanted to expand my knowledge about sheep and meet other people my age who are interested in sheep.

What did you learn at the sheep expo, aside from competing and showing sheep?

The sheep expo this year focused on rams. We learnt about how to look after rams, genetics, artificial insemination and a guide to buying rams using Lambplan data. We also learnt about the range of different jobs in the sheep industry.

Where do you see the future of the lamb industry?

I am excited about what my generation will bring to the future of the lamb industry. Technology is transforming the industry already and will continue to thrive with all of the young minds a part of it.

How do you see Poll Dorsets fitting into this?

I see Poll Dorsets continuing to lead the lamb industry using data and new technologies to improve the quality of lambs going to market.

What are your career plans or is it too early to say?

I plan to continue to work on my family's Poll Dorset stud, Newbold.

Why would you encourage others to become involved in the sheep industry and in events like this?

Events like the sheep expo not only open young minds to what the sheep industry is all about but also to meeting other people with the same interests. It is also interesting to talk to others and see how they fit into the sheep industry.

What did it mean to you to win your award? Is this the best you have ever done.

So far I feel that this is the best award I have won throughout my time showing sheep, though there are many years to go. This is also one of the best opportunities I have had to show my skills in handling sheep as I normally am very focused on the sheep itself when I show sheep at shows like the Royal Adelaide Show.



Emi Hughes and Lachlan Grossman (back second and third from left) with the entrants who won a bursary to attend the SA Sheep Expo, Elizabeth Karanfilovska, Peakhurst, NSW, Erin Altus, Bordertown, Charli Torcasio, Mornington, Victoria.

Boys to the Bush

By Adam DeMamiel, Co-Founder & CEO - Boys to the Bush

Back in February, Adam Gaydon, Location Manager for Dubbo, had the opportunity to speak at the Poll Dorset National Conference.

It was a great chance to spend time with like-minded people who understand a concept we are so deeply committed to at Boys to the Bush.

Good farms help grow good people.

For those who may not be familiar with our work, Boys to the Bush supports vulnerable and disengaged young boys through early intervention and prevention programs.

We work alongside those who may be struggling at school, disconnected from their community, or facing challenges at home. Through our individualised 1:1 MENToring programs, camps and school engagement programs, we help young lads build resilience, confidence, connection and a sense of purpose.

Boys to the Bush and farming go hand in hand. There are so many similarities between what happens on a farm and what we're trying to achieve.

At the heart of it, we're raising young boys to possess the qualities you'd find in any good farmer. Strong, respectful, hardworking, and community minded.

Before starting Boys to the Bush, I was a high school teacher. I saw first-hand the difference that getting young blokes out of the classroom could make. Put a boy on a farm, around animals, or alongside good adults doing meaningful work, and something often changes. They learn focus. They learn responsibility. They learn that hard work matters and that doing a job properly is something to be proud of.

That's where Boys to the Bush began. Our early camps were primarily run on farms for disengaged young lads, and that's something we continue today. Since 2017, we've focused on prevention and early intervention strategies for vulnerable



youth, helping them before their challenges become lifelong problems.

Over that time, we have impacted more than 10,000 lives through a range of programs, including 1:1 MENToring, camps and school engagement programs.

What many people don't see is just how connected our work is to the farming communities. Across all of our sheds, local farmers regularly open their gates, share their time and provide opportunities for boys to learn, contribute and feel part of something bigger than themselves. Quite simply, we wouldn't have grown as an organisation without the support of farmers and rural communities.

The reality is that many of the young men we work with are looking for purpose, connection and positive role models. Farms provide all three. Whether it's helping repair a fence,





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feeding livestock, lending a hand around the property or simply having a conversation while getting a job done, these experiences leave a lasting impact.

At Boys to the Bush, we're not trying to do anything complicated. We're simply trying to help boys become good young men.

There are plenty of ways the Poll Dorset community can help. We're always looking for farms to partner with across our programs.

Our school engagement programs take students out one day a week over five weeks to reconnect them with their communities.

Our holiday and pathways programs give young people opportunities to experience farming, fishing and working with animals.

Our MENToring program often brings mentors and young lads together on farms, helping out with practical jobs while building trusted relationships.

We're also incredibly grateful for donations. Our programs are highly individualised because every young person's circumstances are different. That approach takes resources, and community support remains our largest source of funding. Every donation helps us reach more disconnected boys and provide support for longer when it's needed most.

If you'd like to support Boys to the Bush through a farm partnership, donation or community collaboration, we'd love to hear from you. For all enquiries, partnership conversations and more, email: info@boystothebush.org.au



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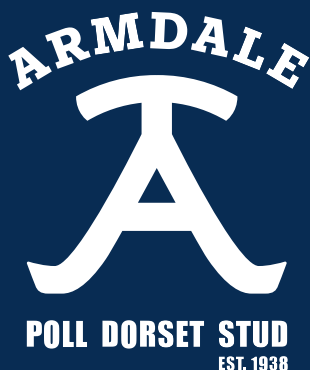
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1.Toribio, J; Bush, R; Windsor, P. (2004). A Study of the Biological and Economic Impact of OJD in affected Sheep Flocks in NSW. OJD.023, MLA Limited.

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Board member focus: Charlotte Cain

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

I joined the Australian Poll Dorset board in February this year. I've always had a passion for the Poll Dorset breed, having grown up around the breed. After becoming involved at a regional level, I wanted to take the next step to contribute to our breed. Joining the board has given me the opportunity to represent younger breeders, bring a fresh perspective, and help shape the future of the breed. I'm passionate about encouraging more young people to become involved in Poll Dorsets and the sheep industry as a whole. At the same time, I'm incredibly fortunate to work alongside and learn from many highly respected and experienced breeders.

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

The future of the Poll Dorset breed is extremely positive. With the lamb industry experiencing record highs, sheep numbers relatively low, and many producers now looking to rebuild their flocks, there has never been a better opportunity for the breed to showcase its strengths. Poll Dorsets have long been recognised for their early maturity, rapid growth and ability to consistently produce high quality prime lambs. As producers focus on profitability and efficiency, these traits become even more valuable. Whether it's turning off trade lambs at a

younger age or producing lambs suited to the export markets, the Poll Dorset continues to meet the demands of modern commercial production.

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

One of the greatest strengths of Poll Dorset breeders has been their ability to adapt to changing market demands while remaining true to the core attributes of the breed. While Poll Dorset lambs have always been renowned for their early maturity and excellent carcass quality, breeders have also developed sheep with greater growth potential and improved capacity to perform in feedlots. This has opened further opportunities to supply both domestic and export markets, giving commercial producers greater flexibility to target a range of market specifications.

How does the breed make sure it stays relevant with the industry and how does it make sure that it is the first choice for prime lamb breeders?

The key is never losing sight of what commercial producers are paid for, consistency, growth, carcass quality and efficiency. Poll Dorset breeders have always focused on producing rams that deliver those outcomes year after year. Early maturity remains one of the breed's defining strengths, but alongside that we've continued to improve growth rates, structural soundness, muscle, fertility and overall performance. If we can consistently produce high performing animals that are profitable for commercial producers, there is every reason for Poll Dorsets to remain Australia's leading terminal sire.





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Tag	Sire	WWT	PWWT	PEMD	PFAT	IMF	SF5	LEQ	TCP
250204	Gooramma 230131	12.9	20.2	2.5	-0.8	-0.1	-0.5	168	168.8
250148	Felix 231129	14.6	21.7	3.9	0.6	0.1	1.3	169.2	169.6
250149	Felix 231129	13.7	20.5	4.8	0.9	-0.5	3.4	158.4	165.5
250192	Bruan 230577	12.7	18.5	3	0.1	-0.3	1.6	155.7	157.6
250437	Derrynock 200074	12.2	18.8	2.8	-0.5	-0.6	3.4	153.1	160.4

Full Stud Ram list at newboldstuds.com

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The brave new world of MSA for lamb

A world-first Meat Standards Australia index for sheep meat has arrived, with at least one Australian lamb processor already preparing to share the model with producers.

Gundagai Meat Processors is creating a model drawn from its feedback systems, the audience at LambEx heard in Adelaide.

The 1400 delegates also heard that industry-wide MSA grading – the world's first cut-based predictive eating quality sheep meat model – will be modelled using data from the AMPC-led Carcass Showcase.

The world's largest carcass comparison involved more than 5300 sheep sourced from five states, comprising 69 total entries from 52 producers. carcasses were graded for intramuscular fat (IMF) and lean meat yield (LMY) at three Australian processing plants.

Gundagai Meat Processors was one of the participating abattoirs, as was JBS Bordertown and WAMMCO in Western Australia.

Using MEQ probes and Murdoch University's microwave measurement system – both of them accredited – the benchmarking exercise offered practical, objective carcass feedback from commercial lambs.

Analysis of the showcase entries revealed that only five producers produced animals that were above-average in LMY and eating quality.

The MSA Sheepmeat Index is a weighted average of the eating quality (for the most common cooking type) of all cuts from the carcass. It represents the overall eating quality of the carcass and is a single number producers can use to benchmark performance.

The MSA sheep model established an index average of 54.45. Any entrants to the carcass showcase scoring more than 55.76 would be classified as being within the top 10 per cent according to MLA's Meat Standards Australia program manager Dave Packer.

All entrants would be receiving a flock profile "to benchmark how they are performing," he said. All lambs have been genomically tested and the data will be fed into validated eating-quality sheep breeding values.

Meat & Livestock Australia's MSA program manager David Packer said that the model will be shared across the industry.

"It's what we're commercialising right now," he said.

IMF has a positive impact on eating quality, while LMY has a slight negative impact. Both emerged as the major determinants and both are influenced by genetics and nutrition.

The IMF percentage was measured at the eye muscle at the intersection of the rack and the loin and ranged between 1 and 8.9 per cent with an average of 4.03 per cent.

LMY is the measure of the lean red meat of the carcass, as opposed to fat or bone and ranged between 44.1 per cent and 73.3 per cent, with an average of 57.5 per cent.

"We need to get higher yields and eating quality at the same rate as they're both have a primary role in carcass value," Mr Packer said.

"To give you an example of how yield determines carcass value is a 30kg carcass with, let's say a 10 per cent variation on either side of yield.

"On that 30kg carcass across a day's kill or a week's kill, that's 3kg either side.

"That's 6kg variation that processor's seen in what they're putting in that box at the end of the day, within just a 30kg band.

"So it's very important for carcass value. That's why we're measuring more and more as part of not just lamb, but it's coming into the beef industry as well."

Among the index findings has been that breed has no effect.

"It doesn't matter what breed; you'll always get good and bad animals," he said.

There was also no relationship found between the index and HSCW. Export animals were found to be in the lower levels of eating quality while the lighter domestic animal returned better results – a likely result of genetic expression, Mr Packer said.

There is no relationship between the MSA Sheepmeat Index and HSCW, meaning that regardless of weight at slaughter, there was a variation in eating quality. This means some animals can express genetics for eating quality regardless of weight at slaughter.

Finishing systems also had no effect, he added, although "you get consistency out of feed lots and you get sustainability of supply".

"We can't always chase IMF," Mr Packer said. "Yes, it's important but we need to think about other traits in breeding and management."

Genetics matched with the right nutrition were the key, he said, making ram selection important – as was balancing genetic traits for the best outcome.

"Do your research before you go to those ram sales," he said. "Don't get caught up in price fights for the biggest and prettiest ram, although it might be structurally sound."

He advised buyers to use consultants and other resources "to support your decisions, because everything you're buying in now is going to have influence for 10-plus years in your flocks".

Article courtesy of Sue Webster, Sheep Central



Poll Dorsets star at LambEx

It's the biggest lamb gathering in the Southern Hemisphere and Poll Dorsets were part of the huge gathering for LambEx in Adelaide, South Australia.

Emi Hughes from Bernalta Poll Dorsets at Sampson Flat, South Australia, helped to organise the Poll Dorset stand at the event and said it had been a more than worthwhile exercise.

"We showcased a large backdrop featuring a Poll Dorset ram, alongside brochures highlighting the breed's benefits for lamb producers," Ms Hughes said.

"Visitors could also take home stickers, stubby holders and pens and thanks must go to Isabelle Roberts for supplying additional promotional material and brochure holders."

Ms Hughes said there had been a steady stream of visitors throughout the event, which was helped by the site's location which was right beside the main exhibition hall stage.

"It was great to catch up with Poll Dorset breeders from across Australia and overseas, as well as commercial producers using Poll Dorset genetics in their operations," Ms Hughes said.

"The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many people sharing their experiences and highlighting the value Poll Dorsets bring to their enterprises."

Ms Hughes said having a strong presence at events like LambEx reinforced the Poll Dorset's position as a premier terminal sire breed.

"LambEx brings together every part of the sheep industry, from producers to researchers, processors and government representatives," she said.

"It's a unique opportunity to showcase the breed to this audience, strengthen relationships and engage in meaningful discussions in person."

Ms Hughes, who is vice-president of the Australian Poll Dorset Association Adelaide region and Lachlan Grossman, from Koonawarra Poll Dorset Stud, Angaston, South Australia, who is president of the Adelaide region, manned the stand and said it was a rewarding experience.

"As President and Vice President of the Adelaide Region of the APDA, we're grateful for the opportunity to have represented the breed at LambEx," Ms Hughes said.

"Young breeders in these roles reflect the strong culture of mentorship and further support within the Poll Dorset community."

Ms Hughes said brochures were a great conversation starter, while the stickers, stubby holders and pens were popular with visitors and helped promote the Poll Dorset breed.

She said she would thoroughly recommend that Poll Dorsets are part of events like this.

"LambEx is a busy three-day event, balancing time on the exhibition stand with attending plenary sessions and networking opportunities," she said.

"However, the connections made, knowledge gained and exposure for the Poll Dorset breed make it a worthwhile event, and one we'd recommend attending in the future."



Emi Hughes from Bernalta Poll Dorset stud at Sampson Flat, SA and Lachlan Grossman, Koonawarra Poll Dorset stud, Angaston SA at LambEx.

Dubbo Show Prime Lamb hoof and hook competition

Poll Dorsets dominated this year's Dubbo Show Prime Lamb hoof and hook competition taking the lion's share of awards.

In a dominant display for the breed, Poll Dorset-sired lambs were awarded first place in both the trade and export weight classes and second in the heavy export weights on the hoof, champion sucker entry, champion pen on the hoof and then went on to win champion and reserve champion awards on the hook as well as champion pens of trade, export and heavy export lambs on the hook.

In the trade lamb section, Gooramma Poll Dorsets from Galong, NSW, won the best pen on the hook, backing up their win on the hoof, with their lambs scoring 91.2 points. It was enough to earn them reserve champion pen of lambs overall.

In the export section, Ridgehaven Poll Dorsets at Cudal, NSW, won the best pen of export lambs, scoring 84.7 points.

And in the heavy export class, it was the winning team from Suntop Pastoral at Wellington, NSW, that not only took out the champion on the hook for this section but the overall champion hook pen with an impressive score of 92.8 points.

Suntop Pastoral runs a small breeding operation buying merino ewes and breeding Poll Dorset cross lambs.

Owner Jim White said flock numbers varied between 500 - 1000 ewes depending on the season and other enterprises. While the operation is mostly livestock, there is also some cropping mainly for hay and grain to use within their own program. Alongside the commercial sheep, Suntop also runs a Shorthorn stud and have recently established a small Poll Dorset stud.

Rams are sourced from the Williams family of Ashburnia Poll Dorsets at Orange, NSW, as well as from Rory Ryan of Gillmore Poll Dorsets in previous years.

"Last year, we were lucky enough to purchase a selection of ewes and a stud ram from Ashburnia as well as a handful of ewes out of the Ridgehaven ram sale," Mr White said.

"These have been the foundation of our Suntop Poll Dorset Stud."

Mr White said he always selected rams based on their phenotype, looking for depth, length and width.

"We select rams with enough growth and leg to get our lambs out to heavy export weights, but making sure they are well proportioned so you have the sucker option of sale if the season permits," he said.

"Raw data is also a great tool that I use both in the sheep and cattle game to really see what an individual animal is doing when comparing him to his contemporary group."

The champion pen of lambs were May - June 2025-drop and had been fed a ration of wheat, lupins and a buffer pellet

They had been fed in a feedlot, built earlier in 2026 as a way to add value to the program when necessary. Most lambs are sold over the hooks.

The 10 lambs for the competition were selected by Mr White and his partner Grace from a line of about 350, and were chosen for shape, length and depth. Closer to the show, the entries were selected by weight and evenness.

Their commercial operation has focused on a heavier animal in recent years.

"Our lambs have finished on a grain ration either in the feedlot or on lucerne based pastures," Mr White said.

"If the season has had an early break, there is a possibility of suckers however most of the time our lambs have been shorn and grown out."

Mr White said while the win was rewarding, there were greater benefits to entering the competition.

"The kill data on the lambs is what's most important to us, although winning the competition is a humbling achievement," he said.

"Knowing that our ram selection, conditions and finishing rations are all working together to create some great results is what matters most in the real world and tying it all back to the overall profitability of the enterprise."

Mr White said he was very grateful to be able to be a part of such a well run event like the Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof and Hook Competition.

"The committee and all the sponsors do an amazing job all while raising a considerable amount of funds for various charities each year," he said.

This year, the auction of price lambs generated \$115,000, bringing the total over the past 11 years to \$476,000 which is donated to local charities.

For the record the Suntop lambs posted the following results:

- liveweight - 69.8 kilograms
- dressed weight - 37.9 kilograms
- Eye muscle area - 26.9
- dressing percentage - 54 per cent
- intramuscular fat - 8.2



Jim White, Suntop Pastoral, Wellington, with his winning pen of lambs at the Dubbo Hoof and Hook Competition.

Australian Sheep and Wool Show

A NSW Poll Dorset stud has scooped the pool in the section, taking out the grand champion ram, ewe and supreme champion ribbons at this year's Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo.

Armdale Poll Dorset stud, Marrar, NSW, has been breeding sheep for 88 years, originally as a Dorset Horn operation.

The stud is now run by Sam and Maddy Armstrong, focusing on true-to-type, sound rams, with structural correctness and doing ability.

Mr Armstrong said the 158-kilogram, April 2025-drop ram that won supreme exhibit would be kept in the stud's breeding program, most likely as an artificial insemination sire.

"The judge said the ram had beautiful sire appeal, as well as being full of meat in the right areas," he said.

"He had a really good carcass shape and paraded really well."

He said their champion ewe had similar traits.

"She was a very dominant ewe, but at the same time, very feminine," he said.

"She actually still has her lamb's teeth, so she is holding together very well."

The stud was recently awarded reserve champion ewe and ram at the NSW Dorset Championships in June.

Mr Armstrong credited favourable weather conditions in helping their flock quickly recover from dry conditions earlier in the year.

"The season's been very good our way, with quite a mild winter and a lot of early autumn rain, which was welcome preparation for the show," he said.

"We're ticking on quite well, we stick to our plan, and we have a good system in place."

Judge Tania King, Shellal Poll Dorsets, Hawkesdale said both the ram and ewe were "my type of sheep".

"They had the muscling, they had the growth," she said.

"The ram was a clear winner when he came out in his class.

"All day, you are looking for the champion ram.

"He's a tremendous ram, with great muscling, good spring of rib and true Dorset type.

"We wish we all had those types of rams in our own paddocks."

She said the line-up of Poll Dorsets was strong.

"I think the quality of the Poll Dorsets was amazing, there was not a lot in the first, second, third and even fourth choice of rams or ewes," she said.

"It might only be a little thing in your first four, but that little thing can mean a place."

The Armstrongs Poll Dorset ram then went on to represent the breed to take the champion in the interbreed competition.

Mr Armstrong said he was thrilled to win the top ribbon in the interbreed competition.

"This is his first year showing at Bendigo," Mr Armstrong said.

"We're very proud, it's good to be rewarded for years and years of genetics."

He said they had high hopes for their champion ram.

"We knew he was a special ram so we hoped he would get a look in and the judges did a good job," he said.

"The Poll Dorsets are just the superior breed, in my opinion.

"They have a beautiful carcass and yield.

"They're the number one sire for a reason."

The Armstrong family will welcome a new edition in September, the same month they will hold their annual stud sale.

Judge Will Milroy, Pipers Rest, Tas, said the judges found it hard to crown a winner.

Mr Milroy said the Poll Dorset ram was ultimately selected for his "sheer balance and strength of spine".

"He has a very good topline," he said.

"He's a fantastic Dorset type and has a well-filled hindquarter."

Article courtesy of Stock and Land.



Maddy and Sam Armstrong, Armdale Poll Dorset stud, Marrar, NSW, with the supreme exhibit, a ram. Picture by Andrew Miller, Stock and Land.



Judge Tania King, Hawkesdale, and Armdale Poll Dorset stud co-principal Sam Armstrong, Marrar, NSW, and the champion Poll Dorset ewe. Picture by Andrew Miller, Stock and Land.

NSW Dorset Championships

A ram in its first showing scooped the pool at the NSW Dorset Championships in Cowra in June.

The Gilmore family's Tattykeel Poll Dorset stud from Oberon, NSW, had a stellar outing, not only winning supreme exhibit but grand champion ewe in the lineup of 180 sheep.

Graham Gilmore said the grand champion ram which went on to be supreme exhibit, was tag 250085. It had initially won the scanned class, posting figures of 116mm for muscle width, 61mm for muscle depth, a fat depth of 10mm and an eye muscle area of 54.49 square centimetres, with a body weight of 150kg at 14 months old.

The ram was sired by a Tattykeel ram which was champion at the Dubbo Show in 2024, which Mr Gilmore said was sold at the stud's annual sale after being used within their own operation.



James Gilmore from Tattykeel, Oberon, NSW, with the champion ewe and Sam Armstrong, Armdale, Marrar, NSW, with the reserve champion ewe at the NSW Dorset Championships.



Supreme exhibit at the NSW Dorset Championships went to Tattykeel. With the ram are James Gilmore, Tattykeel, Oberon, judges George Carter and Elliot Bangert and Mark Liebich from Bromar Engineering.

AROUND THE SHOWS

"This was the ram's first show and he was 150kg with a big eye muscle, a lot of length, nice tight wool and overall a very balanced sheep," Mr Gilmore said.

"This is the Tattykeel type we are trying to breed, which as the judge said, goes into an industry where terminal rams are joined to a lot of different types (breeds) of ewes now.

"That ram covers most of these ewes and the main thing is terminal sheep have to have meat on it, and if it does not have meat, then it's not a meat sheep."

Mr Gilmore said the ram was typical of the type of sheep they were trying to breed, rams with deep bodies with progeny that would finish on grass

"We focus on grass finishing and I know there is a big push for grain finishing," he said.

"Grain finish does not give you many options, it's grain or nothing, and when grass grows, you don't want to have to feed them grain.

"So our idea is to breed sheep to finish on grass."

Tattykeel also focussed on wool, despite its low value.

"We need to be careful to keep the right wool on our sheep as tight downs wool is massive in the industry," Mr Gilmore said.

"We don't want to have to shear lambs, want to be able to sell lambs without shearing, and if you have tight dense wool, the chances are you will be able to sell most of your lambs without shearing.

"Shearing is another \$10 cost and the tighter the skin, the more suckers you should get off."

The Cowra Tattykeel team included 14 rams and nine ewes and Mr Gilmore said it was to show the depth of breeding in the stud, not just they could produce one good sheep.

"We don't just look at the individual but the evenness of the team because if you don't breed an even type of ram, how do you breed an every line of lambs and an even carcass?" he said.



Sam Armstrong, Armdale, Marrar, NSW, with the reserve senior champion ram, and Garry Gilmore, Tattykeel, Oberon, NSW, with the senior champion ram at the NSW Dorset Championships.

"We line breed our sheep, we select on visual assessment and while this was the first time this (supreme exhibit) ram was scanned, you didn't have to tell me he was one of the best muscled rams we have.

"But the others are all pretty similar and there is not much difference and when you breed to type and line breed, it leads to consistency.

"People ask why we are so successful and our theory is if it's not broken, don't fix it.

"You need to evolve with the times and as lamb weights have got heavier, our rams have got heavier, but we haven't changed the type."

Mr Gilmore said the Cowra win capped off their showing season, winning grand champion ram at three shows with three different rams.

"We are in a position where we may not have even shown our best ram," he said.

"We bring sheep here not just to show the judge but to show everyone in the industry."

Reserve champion ram went to Sam Armstrong, Armdale, Marrar, NSW, Armdale 250134, a ram sired by "Elvis" Armdale Park 220200.



Five-year-old Della Gilmore from Tattykeel at Oberon holds a ewe for judging at the NSW Dorset Championships.



Waiting for a class at the NSW Dorset Championships.

AROUND THE SHOWS

In other ram awards, the junior champion ram went to Gererdan, Gooloogong, with ram 250009, while the reserve also went to Gererdan with ram 25184.

The winning intermediate ram sash was awarded to the Closeup stud, Finley, tag number 71, while the reserve intermediate ram was won by Tattykeel 250243.

The grand champion ewe award went to Tattykeel with ewe 250104, drawn out of the winning shorn pairs class, while the reserve champion ewe sash went to Armdale, with ewe 250022 which shared the same sire as the reserve champion ram.

Tattykeel won the most successful exhibitor.

Judge George Carter, the current president of the Australia Poll Dorset Association, said he had last judged at the NSW championships more than 30 years ago, and the breed had come a long way in that time.

"The quality in the classes was deep and if you got a sixth or seventh in a class, it was still something to be proud of," Mr Carter said.

He described the ram which won supreme exhibit as a powerful sire that would contribute to the breed's progress.

The NSW Dorset championships also provided the opportunity to hand out awards, which included:

NSW Dorset Championships distinguished service awards to Ged Farrar and Graham Traves

NSW Hall of Fame to Barbara Johnston, Lauderdale, Wagga Wagga, and Ruth Klingner, Ridgehaven stud, Cudal

NSW Junior encouragement award to Charlotte Cooper

NSW Member of the year Jamie-Lee Scott, Valley Vista, Coolac



Gordon Close, Closeup Poll Dorset stud, Finley, NSW, with the intermediate champion Poll Dorset ram at the NSW Dorset Championships.



Winners of distinguished service awards at the NSW Dorset Championships were Ged Farrar from Cowra and Graham Traves from Canowindra.



Ribbons waiting for the winners at the NSW Dorset Championships.



NSW Dorset Championships member of the year Jamie Lee Scott with Roger Traves and Mark Liebich.



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NSW Sheep Show

It was a clean sweep in the NSW Sheep Show interbreed, with one exhibitor claiming the supreme group, ram and ewe, as well as supreme animal.

But while they have extended a more than a decade-long winning streak at the judging at Dubbo on Saturday, May 22, the exhibitors say they don't take it for granted.

Oberon stud Tattykeel claimed the supreme exhibit of the show, winning the Sandra Wilson-Tink Memorial Trophy, continuing a streak with their Poll Dorsets going back to 2017.

It was the ram who came up tops this time, Tattykeel 250055, an embryo transfer son of Tattykeel 080217 and dam Tattykeel 230025.

Earlier that day, the ram had already claimed champion Poll Dorset ram and then supreme Poll Dorset exhibit, before also being judged interbreed short wool champion.

In the judging for the supreme, it was up against another Tattykeel Poll Dorset, Tattykeel 250104, which was sashed champion Poll Dorset ewe, interbreed short wool champion ewe and interbreed champion ewe.

Completing the trifecta, Tattykeel also claimed the short wool interbreed group, before winning the interbreed group, with their ram and two ewes.

Tattykeel's James Gilmore said winning was an "awesome" feeling and it was "never easy".

"There are a lot of terrific sheep and a lot of studs across different breeds," he said.

"It's the biggest sheep show in NSW with some strong competition."

Article courtesy of Elizabeth Anderson, The Land



James and Hudson Gilmore, Tattykeel, with judge James Corcoran snr and the champion Poll Dorset ram and supreme Poll Dorset exhibit at the NSW Sheep Show. Picture by Elizabeth Anderson, The Land.

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Hamilton Sheepvention

Two states shared the honours at the Poll Dorset judging at Sheepvention at Hamilton in August.

And those chosen as broad ribbon winners went on to place in interbreed shortwool awards later in the event.

A ram entered by the Mitchell family's Rene stud at Culcairn, NSW, scooped the pool taking out senior then grand champion and ultimately supreme exhibit.

Rene 25-126 was one of seven sheep the stud brought down, and was sired by a ram the Mitchells bought for \$26,000 from the Springwaters stud at Boorowa, NSW.

"We named the ram Silver Lining when we bought him, and it turned out there was a silver lining to buying him," Scott Mitchell said.

"Silver Lining also sired the winning group of three rams by one sire so he's been good for us."

Rene 25-126 was drawn from the class for a pair of shorn rams under 1-½ years, was May-2025 drop, weighed 129.5 kilograms and had raw data including 60cm eye muscle depth, which Scott said he had not been able to achieve before in such a young sire.

It was the ram's first showing.

"We really like this ram for his good bone and his true Dorset type," Scott said.



Doug and Scott Mitchell, Rene, Culcairn, NSW, with the supreme Poll Dorset exhibit at Sheepvention, Rene 25-126.

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AROUND THE SHOWS

Judge Sam Armstrong from Armdale Poll Dorsets at Marrar, NSW, said the winner “was a good, long ram with a lot of width about him and he was smooth as well”.

The ram then went on to be judged second in the shortwool interbreed competition, as well as being part of the team of three rams which won its class and then took second place in the interbreed groups.

Scott said they had decided to offer the ram at the Australasian Show and Sale in Bendigo next month.

“We will keep 100 doses of semen from him that we can use within the stud but we have two other rams quite like him, so it’s good to be able to offer a quality ram at the national fixture,” he said.

The grand champion ewe was won by the Shellal Poll Dorset stud at Hawkesdale, in a stellar return to showing by Tania King.

Shellal has not shown for about six years and Ms King said she knew she had to return with a quality team if she entered events again.

That proved to be the case when her ewe, Shellal 250164, took the ultimate ewe honours and still had its lambs teeth being a June/July 2025-drop, with its dam sired by Shellal 200081.

The sire of the ewe was Bundara Downs 205582, which Shellal used in an AI program over 30 ewes, one of which went on to take the grand champion sash.

The ewe then went on to take second place in the short wool interbreed judging.

Judge Mr Armstrong said the ewe was a good type of Poll Dorset, with good body depth, shape and muscling.

“She is still a young ewe and still fresh so there is room for to improve further again,” he said.

The ewe had raw data measurements of 52cm for eye muscle area, a fat depth of 20mm and weighed 96 kilograms.

Ms King said the mood in the judging shed was overwhelmingly positive with plenty of interest in Poll Dorset sheep and the lamb industry as a whole.

“I think people are beginning to see the profit in prime lambs and reassess,” she said.

Not only did Shellal win grand champion ewe but were the most successful exhibitor in the lamb classes.

It was the first time Mr Armstrong had judged an open competition after beginning his associate judging back in 2008, and he said the experience was very enjoyable.

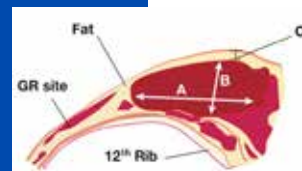
“I think the lineup of sheep across the board was really good, with structural correctness and potential,” he said.

“It’s such a positive time to be in the industry and exhibitors should be commended for the way they presented their sheep.

“I wanted to be clear in my judging and explain my reasons for the placings and the type I was looking for as everyone made a big effort to get their sheep to the event.”



Sheepvention Poll Dorset judge Sam Armstrong, with major sponsor Chemvet representative Antoinette Grenfell, Chelsea Wilkinson and Tania King, Shellal, Hawkesdale, Victoria, with the grand champion ewe Shellal 250164.



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Time for change

A full clearance at a flock dispersal sale ended a more than 50-year history of a Poll Dorset stud in Otago. Southern Rural Life reporter Shawn McAvinue talks to Cairnlea co-owner Sam Stevens about his reasons for selling the stud flock.

"We are ready for a change."

Poll Dorset breeder Sam Stevens says a change to what remains unknown for him and his wife Deb.

The couple are selling their 240ha farm, a mix of irrigated flats and downs, developed dry land hill and a little bit of undeveloped hill country, in Poolburn, about 10km east of Omakau, in the heart of Central Otago.

About 250 two-tooth and mixed-age Poll Dorset ewes, 85 Poll Dorset ram lambs, 30 Poll Dorset cross ram lambs and 30 Poll Dorset cross ewe lambs sold at an on-farm sale earlier this year.

"It was 50 years of breeding gone in one afternoon," Mr Stevens said.

The average price was \$608 per sheep.

None of their three children, Josh, 22, Harry, 20, and Lucy, 17, signalled a desire to go farming.

Another reason for selling the stud was it being in good heart and a buoyant sheep market.

"We are getting out while the going is good," Mr Stevens said.

The emotions were mixed at the sale but the time was right to try something else while they were healthy enough to make a change.

The sale of stock gave them greater flexibility on when they could hand it over to a new owner.

"It is a little bit scary not having your own capital stock on the place but it gives us that option to get off when we can."

Beef cattle had been bought to fatten and they were considering buying some fine-wool lambs to winter on a lucerne crop.

The plan was to trade sheep and beef until the farm sells.

Mr Stevens was leasing Halter collars for the beef herd to wear from late May.

The collars would improve feed utilisation and get cattle to heavier weights sooner.

Virtual fencing would allow him to graze cattle in paddocks without damaging water races.

Mr Stevens, a full-time teacher at Maniototo Area School for 19 years, had no plans to return to teaching.

Mrs Stevens teaches at Poolburn School.

Maybe the next chapter in his career would include facilitation work which he enjoyed.

He hoped his agricultural and teaching skills would help him secure facilitation work in Central Otago.

He facilitates the Teviot Valley Discussion Group and would remain the chairman of the Ida Valley Catchment Group.

"I'm pretty passionate about that. It is a great initiative."

He was a member of the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Central South Island Farmer Council and the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Environment Reference Group.

When the farm sells, he plans to leave the council but stay on as a group member.

"I enjoy the policy side."

He believed farmers would continue to face many interesting challenges, such as Resource Management Act reforms and freshwater farm plans.

"I find it interesting to be able to give feedback on that process and how it will affect us as farmers."

Once the farm sold, he hoped his past farming experience would help him remain relevant.

Mr Stevens was raised on a sheep and beef farm in Five Rivers, Northern Southland and his parents were now selling the family farm.



Cairnlea co-owner Sam Stevens and the last of his Poll Dorset flock, which all sold at a dispersal sale on-farm in Poolburn.

ACROSS THE DITCH

"Nothing lasts forever," Mr Stevens said.

He thanked his father-in-law George Paterson for breeding Poll Dorsets with good longevity and constitution.

Mr Paterson founded the Poll Dorset stud Armidale in 1972, after buying 10 ewes, bred by T.P.Lowe and Co, near Ashburton.

The stud name was changed to Cairnlea in 1974 and run by Mr Paterson in Omakau and Middlemarch up to 2000.

The Stevens bought their farm in Poolburn in 2003 and the stud flock was transferred to Mr Paterson and Mr and Mrs Stevens in 2004.

The flock was moved to solely the Stevens in 2006.

Poll Dorset sheep thrived on the farm because they liked hot and dry conditions.

"They do perform better when it is hard and dry tucker."

The stud had targeted breeding "a natural sheep".

Poll Dorset ram semen was imported from Australia to increase eye muscle and intramuscular fat in the Cairnlea flock from 2020.

He was hoping by targeting eating quality traits that when meat companies started paying premiums, his clients would benefit.

"We are trying to be ahead of the curve."

He shorn the sheep himself to save money.

"It is hard yakka and I'm not going to miss it."

Most of the Poll Dorset stud flock was sold to farmers in Otago including James Peddie, of Macraes Flat.

Mr Stevens was "stoked" the Peddie family had bought the sheep and plan to register a stud.

Mr Peddie said he bought about 60 mixed-age Poll Dorset ewes and about 30 Poll Dorset ewe lambs.

He and his wife Abby and five children, four daughters and a son, run a sheep and beef farm at their Longdale properties, which they leased from Oceana Gold.

As they leased land, they invested in genetics to improve their livestock, Mr Peddie said.

Neighbours had already expressed interest in buying rams from their new stud, he said.

Mr Peddie and his father had bought Poll Dorset rams from Cairnlea for years to use as a terminal sire across their halfbred ewes.

"We've had a good run with them. They can prime off mum at 19kg or you can grow them out to 22kg easily if you have the feed."

He registered a horned Hereford stud, Highlay, a couple of years ago.

"We like the horned Herefords, they are a bit bonier, a bit tougher than the polled."

The studs were being established, as their children had shown an interest in farming, Mr Peddie said.

"We are doing it for them. I've got a few farmers among my five."



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India: the sleeping sheepmeat market

Meat and Livestock Australia has secured a \$250,000 grant through the Australian Government's Centre for Australia-India Relations Maitri Grants Program to accelerate the development of India's sheepmeat market and create new commercial opportunities for Australian sheepmeat producers.

The funding will support MLA's India-Australia Red Meat Innovation and Excellence Program, a three-year initiative designed to strengthen Australia's position in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing consumer markets by improving retail capability, building industry partnerships and increasing awareness of Australian sheepmeat among Indian businesses and consumers.

India's growing middle class, rising disposable incomes and expanding modern retail sector present significant long-term opportunities for Australian sheepmeat exports. Exports to India have continued to build momentum in 2026, with 128.53 tonnes of Australian sheepmeat exported to the market so far this year.

Through the program, MLA will work with leading retailers, wholesalers and foodservice operators across key cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kochi to showcase world-leading Australian red meat expertise, strengthen retail capability and support category growth.

MLA General Manager International Markets Andrew Cox said the grant would help position the Australian sheepmeat industry to take advantage of emerging opportunities in a market with enormous future potential.

"India represents a long-term growth opportunity for Australian lamb and mutton, and this funding provides an important platform to strengthen industry capability, foster deeper commercial relationships and support sustainable market development," Mr Cox said.

The program will provide technical support to Indian retail partners, establish best-practice centres of excellence for meat retailing and deliver training through MLA's Aussie Meat Academy.

It will also develop a network of industry ambassadors to champion Australian red meat knowledge and skills throughout the market.

"The India-Australia Red Meat Innovation and Excellence Program will bring together Australian and Indian industry experts to share knowledge, exchange ideas and showcase world-leading practices in red meat retailing, merchandising and consumer engagement," Mr Cox said.

"Through collaboration with retail, wholesale and foodservice partners, we aim to build lasting industry connections that create value for businesses in both countries while increasing awareness and understanding of Australia's high-quality sheepmeat products."

Austrade Trade and Investment Commissioner, South Asia, Todd Miller, said the initiative would help strengthen Australia's presence in India's rapidly evolving retail sector.

"Austrade is delighted to support MLA in its strategy to increase awareness of Australian lamb in India," Mr Miller said.

"The Aussie Meat Academy provides training on premium Australian sheepmeat, its various cuts, retail display and presentation to butchers, store managers and floor staff."

"This retail training will strengthen Australia's footprint across the retail supply chain and deliver the best cuts of premium Australian lamb to customers across India."

Centre for Australia-India Relations chief executive officer Ryan Neelam said initiatives such as MLA's program were helping create lasting economic benefits for both nations.

"By supporting initiatives across technology, business, education and cultural sectors, we're not just strengthening diplomatic ties, we're building the foundations for partnerships that create real, lasting benefits for people in both countries," Mr Neelam said.

Mr Neelam said people-to-people and business-to-business connections remained central to the Australia-India relationship.

"People-to-people connections are at the heart of what makes this relationship endure," he said.

"Maitri celebrates the shared stories, ideas and creative exchange that bring Australia and India closer together."

Mr Cox said the investment would support MLA's broader strategy of building demand for Australian sheepmeat in emerging international markets.

MLA regional manager Valeska said the most commonly consumed dish in India that used lamb and mutton was briyani.

"Others include different types of curries, soup dishes, roast dishes (tandoori) as well as use in high-end restaurants, where western cuisine uses lamb and mutton in grills, as well as lamb cutlets and lamb racks," Valeska said.

"Kebabs and koftas would also have lamb or mutton filling and Indians utilise all parts of the carcass."

Valeska said India presented long-term growth opportunities for Australian sheepmeat.

"While it is currently a relatively small export market, the fundamentals are compelling," she said.

"India's consumption of sheepmeat and goatmeat is the second largest in the world (projected at around 2.6 million tonnes, source: GIRA).

"Most of India's sheepmeat is locally sourced, with only around 750 tonnes imported last year (the majority from Australia with some from New Zealand).

"India has a rapidly growing economy, a rising middle class, urbanisation and rapidly-evolving modern retail and foodservice segments.

"The number of affluent households is forecast to more than double from around 2.3 million in 2026 to over five million by 2030 and there is a growing appreciation for premium, safe imported products including Australian sheepmeat."

Valeska said Australian sheepmeat was offered mainly in high end hotels and restaurants. But she said there were opportunities to increase the penetration in modern trade and retail channels.

"In the past few years, MLA through Australian government funding has been able to deliver targeted trade promotion and trade education activities to raise the profile of Australian sheepmeat," she said.

"This is continuing with the Centre for Australia India Relations grant."



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Annual Production Sale

Thursday 8th October, 1pm

Exciting young sires include



Photo July 2026 – A group of rams selected for display at Sheepvention!

id	wwt	pwt	pfat	pemd	TCP	gL	SF	IMF	Sire
250003	12.1	18.7	0.4	3.7	163.7	-0.6	0.2	-0.1	G 115
250017	10.5	15.9	0.4	3.5	160.0	0.2	-2.0	0.4	G 115
250101	11.4	17.8	-0.5	3.1	164.9	-2.1	0.6	-0.1	IV 31
250133	12.3	19.3	0.1	3.8	162.9	0.6	3.5	-0.5	IV 31
250377	12.8	20.3	-0.5	3.7	168.7	-1.0	2.6	-0.7	D 849
250803	13.3	19.6	-0.5	3.3	164.9	-1.0	4.4	-0.9	IV 25
250890	11.6	18.0	-0.3	2.8	157.5	0.5	0.9	-0.4	A 448
250962	10.5	16.2	-0.2	5.6	171.1	0.6	1.5	-0.6	J 339
250975	11.4	16.8	-0.3	3.8	153.5	-1.7	6.0	-1.0	D 833

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Sheep producer intentions survey

Improving sheepmeat and wool market conditions are helping restore confidence across Australia's sheep industry, with the latest Sheep Producers Intentions Survey, conducted by Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation, showing producers are increasingly focused on retaining stock and rebuilding flock numbers.

Following improved seasonal conditions driven by widespread rainfall across southern Australia, sheep producers are increasingly looking to retain and rebuild flocks, supported by historically strong sheepmeat prices, strengthening wool markets and a tighter national sheep supply.

MLA senior market information analyst Emiliano Diaz said the May 2026 survey captured a notable change in industry confidence.

"What is particularly significant is that we are seeing confidence improve while many producers are still operating under difficult seasonal conditions," Mr Diaz said.

"Twelve months ago, many sheep producers were focused on managing risk, reducing flock numbers and preserving cash flow.

"This year, the outlook is fundamentally different. Producers are increasingly looking at opportunities to retain stock, rebuild breeding capacity and position themselves for future production."

Confidence in sheepmeat remains exceptionally strong, with 86 per cent of producers reporting a positive outlook and net sentiment reaching +84.

Importantly, confidence was consistent across states and flock sizes, suggesting optimism is being driven by industry-wide conditions rather than isolated regional factors.

Mr Diaz said the breadth of confidence across the sector was particularly encouraging.

"Strong sheepmeat prices and tighter national supply are continuing to provide producers with confidence in the outlook for the industry," Mr Diaz said.

"What stands out in this survey is that confidence is not confined to one region or one production system. Producers across the country are seeing positive market signals and responding accordingly."

The survey also reveals a marked change in flock management intentions.

Last year, producers were considerably more likely to be planning breeding ewe reductions than expansions. In the latest survey, that trend has reversed, with 37 per cent intending to increase breeding ewe numbers and only 28 per cent expecting to reduce them.

This shift is one of the clearest indicators that producers have moved from a defensive position to a longer-term production mindset.

"Breeding ewes are the engine room of the national flock, so intentions around ewe retention provide a strong signal about future industry expectations," Mr Diaz said.

However, producers remain acutely aware of the challenges facing the sector.

Weather and seasonal conditions continue to be the most important factors shaping decision-making, while feed availability, input costs and labour availability remain major concerns.

Producers also identified government policy, global economic uncertainty and geopolitical developments as emerging influences on their businesses.

The May 2026 Sheep Producers Intentions Survey gathered responses from 1,517 sheep producers across Australia and is conducted jointly by MLA and Australian Wool Innovation to inform national wool and sheepmeat production forecasts and provide insight into producer sentiment and flock intentions.

Article courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia.



Emiliano Diaz from Meat and Livestock Australia



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Offering 10 rams at the
Australasian show and sale



**The photos got your attention.
The data seals the deal.**

Tag	Sire	BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD	IMF	ASRF5	LMY	TCP	EQ
FP250201	Gooramma 230115	0.49	12.23	19.06	0.47	4.2	-0.14	1.17	3.7	165.61	162.61
FP250221	Gooramma 230115	0.34	9.6	14.73	-0.96	4.5	-0.15	-1.09	4.49	169.96	168.65
FP250234	Gooramma 230115	0.54	12.11	18.96	-0.85	3.81	-0.05	-0.97	4.41	173.07	172
FP250254	Gooramma 230115	0.50	13.23	19.82	-0.22	4.79	-0.49	0.93	4.65	176.44	172.41
FP250255	Gooramma 230115	0.47	12.24	17.85	-0.70	3.12	0.01	-0.56	3.51	166.2	167.23

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Great Genetics Deserve Great Data

By **Daniel Roe, Shearwell.**

Poll Dorset breeders have spent decades improving genetics. Faster growth, better carcass traits, improved fertility and increased efficiency have all been achieved through disciplined recording and selection.

But there's another question worth asking.

How much more value could commercial clients unlock from those genetics if they measured the performance of every animal?

A major MLA-funded study looking at the long-term value of electronic identification has highlighted just how profitable data-driven management can be. The report modelled a range of breeding and management strategies over five years and found producers achieved an average return of \$4.12 for every dollar invested in collecting and using eID data.

More importantly, it demonstrated that the biggest gains didn't come from simply owning electronic tags; they came from making better breeding decisions.

For seedstock producers, that's an important distinction.

Seedstock producers invest enormous amounts of time recording performance, selecting replacements and identifying elite animals. ASBVs give commercial producers confidence they're buying genetics that have been objectively measured.

The next step is ensuring those genetics are being measured once they leave the stud.

Imagine a commercial client who can identify every ewe that consistently weans a lamb, every female that scans dry twice, and every bloodline that continually outperforms the flock average. Those producers aren't just buying better rams—they're multiplying the value of those genetics through better management decisions.

The MLA modelling showed that simply pregnancy scanning ewes and removing animals that scanned dry twice generated one of the highest returns on investment in the entire study, returning \$5.81 for every dollar invested. Further gains were achieved by selecting replacements from the most productive females and identifying higher-performing bloodlines.

These are decisions that become significantly easier when moving away from flock-based management to individual management (eIDs).

For Poll Dorset breeders, this presents a real opportunity.

Commercial producers are increasingly looking beyond visual appraisal. They want measurable performance, repeatable outcomes and genetics that can be backed up with objective data collected in their own flocks.

Seedstock producers who encourage clients to capture individual animal performance are helping those producers get the maximum return from every ram they purchase.

That's how we see eID.

It isn't simply about compliance or electronic tags. It's about giving producers the confidence to make better breeding decisions year after year.

Because the best genetics in the world can only reach their full potential when they're matched with accurate information.

As more Australian producers begin using eID beyond its compliance role, the connection between seedstock genetics and commercial performance will only become stronger. For Poll Dorset breeders, that's good news. Better data means commercial clients can clearly measure the value of genetic improvement—and when producers can measure it, they're far more likely to invest in it again.

After all, great genetics start in the stud flock, but their real value is proven in commercial paddocks.

This article references findings from the MLA-funded report *Maximising the Value of Existing Technology for Sheep Producers* by Hamish Dickson (2019).



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Start Early, Select Better

How Genomic Testing Is Changing the Game for Poll Dorset Ram Lambs

When Poll Dorset breeders gathered at the 2026 Annual Conference, one message cut through the buzz of discussion, coffee cups, and catch-ups: the future of ram selection is starting earlier than ever before.

Today's Poll Dorset industry is evolving fast. Breeders are balancing traditional visual appraisal with the growing demand for measurable performance - growth, muscling, reproduction, eating quality, and market compliance. And in a landscape where sire choice shapes a flock for a decade or more, the ability to identify superior genetics early is no longer a luxury. It's becoming a competitive edge.

At the heart of this shift is genomic testing.

Closing the Gap Between What You See and What You Need to Know

Walk through any mob of ram lambs and you'll see promise - good shape, sound structure, plenty of type. But as any breeder knows, the traits that make the real difference to profitability often can't be picked on looks alone.

This gap between what's visible and what truly matters is exactly what genomic testing aims to close.

At the conference, Dr Greg Sawyer, Senior Sheep Genomics Specialist with Neogen, put it simply: "Genomic testing gives breeders access to information they've never had at this early stage. It's about reducing guesswork and increasing confidence, from day one."

For a trait-driven breed like the Poll Dorset, where growth rate and carcass merit underpin commercial performance, that early insight is pure gold.

Why Testing Ram Lambs Is Gaining Momentum

Stud breeders are embracing genomic testing for one core reason: it allows earlier and more accurate ranking of young stock.

Rather than waiting for weaning weights, post-weaning data, or progeny results, genomic testing provides a reliable indication of genetic merit when lambs are only weeks old.

For studs, that means:

- Picking out the future sires while they're still on creep feed
- Saving feed and labour on animals unlikely to make the sale team
- Presenting buyers with a level of assurance no eyeball can match
- For commercial producers, it translates to:
- Higher trust in the rams they select
- Greater predictability in performance
- Lower risk of poor genetics entering their ewe base

Dr Sawyer noted: "If you can identify the top 20 per cent early, you can invest your time and feed where it counts. That drives both genetic gain and commercial efficiency."

Accuracy That Accelerates Progress

The power of genomic testing lies not just in the test itself, but in how it strengthens Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs).

Genomics boosts accuracy for young animals that haven't yet produced measurable data. Once performance and pedigree information become available, the genomic data remains part of the animal's lifetime record, sharpening the precision of ASBVs as the animal matures.

This layered approach means breeders aren't just selecting better, they're selecting smarter and sooner, accelerating progress across traits like:

- growth
- muscling
- reproduction
- carcass composition

Evidence from leading Australian resource flocks, such as Bowan Park under the stewardship of Isabelle Roberts, continues to highlight the measurable improvement made when genomically proven sires are used consistently.

The Business Case Is Hard to Ignore

Ram breeding isn't just about genetics, it's about economics. With Poll Dorset rams often selling between \$1500-\$2000-plus, making the wrong call on a young sire isn't just disappointing. It's expensive.

Early genomic testing gives studs and buyers an advantage by allowing them to:

- Identify under-performers before feeding them for months
- Increase buyer confidence through data-backed sale catalogues
- Build a reputation for reliability and performance
- Focus resources on the animals that will drive profit

As Neogen emphasised at the conference, sire decisions made today will shape flock performance well into the 2030s and beyond.

In an industry where margins matter, that kind of foresight is worth real money.

Technology That Fits the Farmgate

The practical side of genomics has also improved dramatically. Neogen's Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU), for example, is now a familiar tool in many sheds, quick, clean, and easy to use at tagging.

It provides:

- a high-quality DNA sample
- accurate parentage verification
- lifetime traceability
- integration into existing workflows

Importantly, it doesn't add labour or complexity—something producers appreciate during busy lambing periods.

From Lamb to Legacy

Perhaps the most compelling reason to test ram lambs is this: genetic gain compounds over generations.

Choosing the right sire today has a ripple effect that shapes the direction of your flock for years to come. Growth, fertility, muscling, eating quality, every trait improves faster and more consistently when selection starts with good information, early.

Genomic testing doesn't replace good stockmanship. It strengthens it.

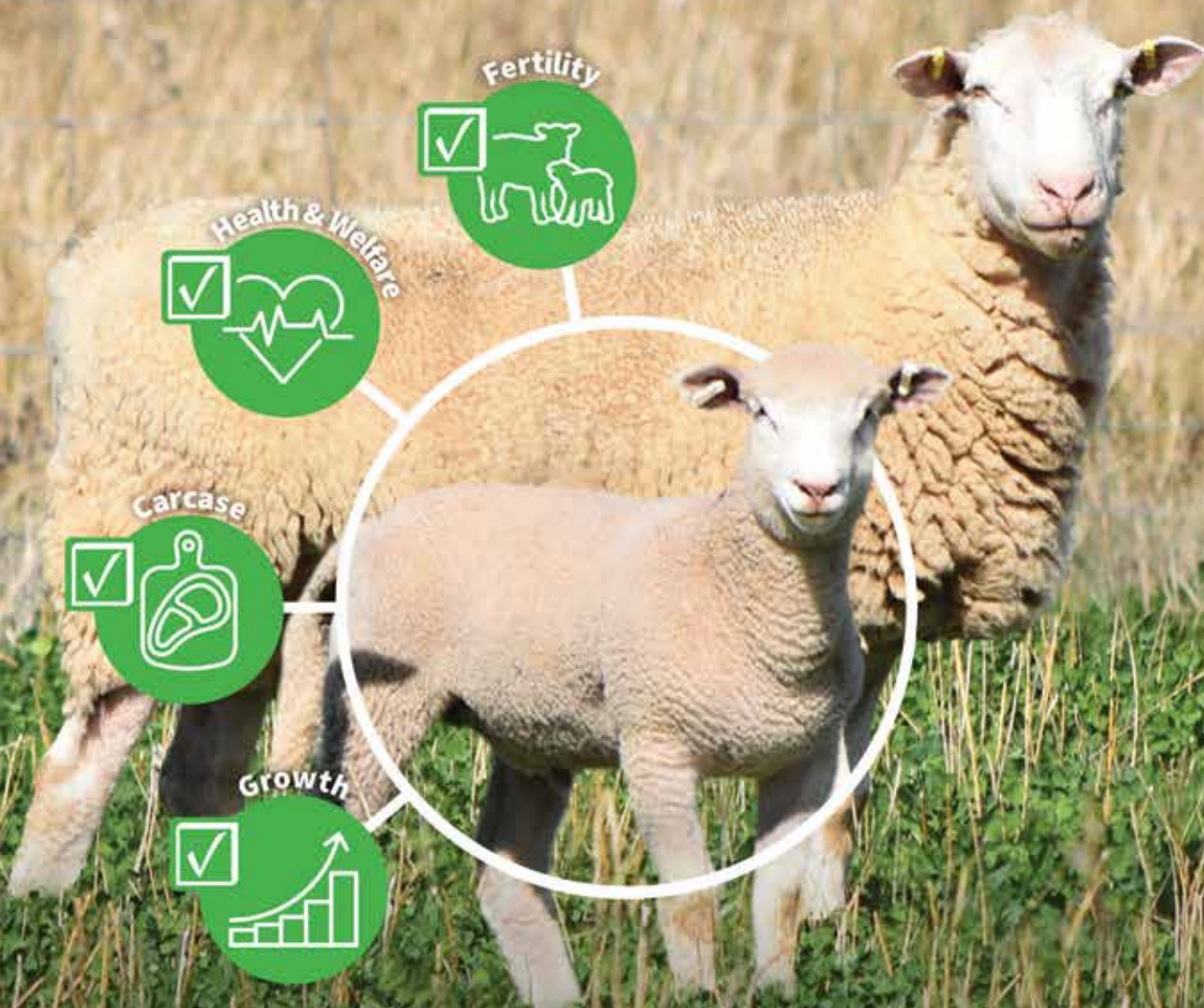
A New Starting Point for Poll Dorset Breeding

As the Poll Dorset industry moves toward more data-driven breeding decisions, genomic testing is emerging as one of the most powerful tools available to studs and commercial producers alike.

It reduces risk. It improves the accuracy of selection decisions. It supports faster rates of genetic gain. And most importantly, it helps breeders identify superior genetics earlier, most influential stage of a ram's life.

For a breed built on performance, productivity and reliability, starting early is no longer simply an advantage. It is rapidly becoming the new standard.

Adding a **genomic test** to your decision is like knowing...



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SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	DATE
Bowan Park Research Flock Open Day	NSW	Friday, August 28th, 2026
Avondale	NSW	Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026
Cranbrook	NSW	Thursday, September 3rd, 2026
Rowallan	NSW	Friday, September 4th, 2026
Marocara	NSW	Tuesday, September 8th, 2026
Tipperary	WA	Tuesday, September 8th, 2026
Dursley	NSW	Wednesday, September 9th, 2026
Ridgehaven	NSW	Thursday, September 10th, 2026
Narranmore	NSW	Friday, September 11th, 2026
Ashbank	NSW	Wednesday, September 16th, 2026
Coledale	VIC	Thursday, September 17th, 2026
Wunnamurra	NSW	Thursday, September 17th, 2026
Armdale	NSW	Friday, September 18th, 2026
Bundara Downs	SA	Friday, September 18th, 2026
Gooramma	NSW	Friday, September 18th, 2026
Majella	VIC	Friday, September 18th, 2026
Shirlee Downs	WA	Friday, September 18th, 2026
Mallee Park	VIC	Monday, September 21st, 2026
Abelene Park	NSW	Thursday, September 24th, 2026
Ulandi Park	SA	Thursday, September 24th, 2026
Armdale Park	NSW	Friday, September 25th, 2026
Newbold	SA	Friday, September 25th, 2026
Saber	NSW	Friday, September 25th, 2026
Ilfracombe	VIC	Monday, September 28th, 2026
Geejay	VIC	Tuesday, September 29th, 2026
Kentish Downs	NSW	Tuesday, September 29th, 2026
Kurralea	NSW	Tuesday, September 29th, 2026
Tattykeel	NSW	Wednesday, September 30th, 2026
Warburn	NSW	Wednesday, September 30th, 2026
Yentrac (Tatura)	VIC	Wednesday, September 30th, 2026
Chrome	SA	Thursday, October 1st, 2026
Mullinger Park	SA	Thursday, October 1st, 2026
Derby Downs	VIC	Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Estjam	VIC	Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Springwaters	NSW	Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Valley Vista	NSW	Friday, October 2nd, 2026

SALE DATES

STUD	STATE	DATE
Ivadene	VIC	Tuesday, October 6th, 2026
Glenore	VIC	Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
Janmac	VIC	Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
Kismet	NSW	Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
Woolumbool	SA	Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
Moora Hills	VIC	Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
Derrynock	VIC	Thursday, October 8th, 2026
Pembroke	VIC	Thursday, October 8th, 2026
Barwon	NSW	Friday, October 9th, 2026
Brurob	VIC	Friday, October 9th, 2026
Leween	WA	Friday, October 9th, 2026
Sunnybank's and Faraday Park	TAS	Friday, October 9th, 2026
Rene	NSW	Friday, October 9th, 2026
Maccelslie Park	TAS	Sunday, October 11th, 2026
Mulgundawa	SA	Monday, October 12th, 2026
Shellal	VIC	Tuesday, October 13th, 2026
Kenlorne	SA	Tuesday, October 13th, 2026
Englewood Park	VIC	Wednesday, October 14th, 2026
Tellarup	WA	Wednesday, October 14th, 2026
Konongwootong	VIC	Thursday, October 15th, 2026
Stokes Bay Genetics	SA	Friday, October 16th, 2026
Bruan	VIC	Monday, October 19th, 2026
Jews harp	VIC	Tuesday, October 20th, 2026
Roebourne	TAS	Tuesday, October 20th, 2026
Pinora	VIC	Wednesday, October 21st, 2026
LSK	VIC	Friday, October 23rd, 2026
Wattle Ridge	TAS	Friday, October 23rd, 2026
Ashcharmoo	NSW	Saturday, October 24th, 2026
Fairbank	TAS	Thursday, November 5th, 2026
Hillden	NSW	Friday, November 6th, 2026
Pinewalla	NSW	Monday, November 9th, 2026
Andbo	NSW	Friday, November 13th, 2026
Melton Vale	TAS	Tuesday, November 17th, 2026
Bo Bar	NSW	Thursday, November 19th, 2026
Luana	NSW	Saturday, November 28th, 2026
Valma	TAS	Thursday, December 3rd, 2026

Tasmanian Poll Dorsets Mainland buyers, take note

**500+
Rams**

We may sit at the bottom of Australia, but our Poll Dorset genetics are right up the top.

For breeders looking for structure, growth, muscle and rams that can stand comfortably beside the best on the mainland, Tasmania is well worth a closer look.

Our Poll Dorset sales bring together proven performance, quality bloodlines and the kind of genetics that can make the trip home feel very worthwhile.

Come for a day or make a weekend of it, inspect the sheep, meet the breeders, and enjoy a little Tasmanian hospitality while you are here.

At worst, you'll have an excuse for good food, excellent wine / spirits, and scenery the mainland might prefer we did not mention.

At best, you'll head home with genetics strong enough to have the neighbours asking exactly where you found them.



Worth crossing the Strait for.

Sale Dates / Contacts

Fairbank - 5/11/2026
Chris Badcock 0438 775 285

Sunnybanks and Faraday Park - 9/11/2026
Paul Day 0407 811 125

Maccelslie Park - 11/11/2026
Kevin Baker 0400 951 117

Rodbourne - 20/11/2026
Narelle and Brendan Webberley 0409 681 244

Wattle Ridge - 23/11/2026
Paul Catterall 0427 807 747

Valma - 3/12/2026
Andrew McLauchlan 0428 577 243

Capelands
Nigel Wade 0417 391 914

Killara
Julian Iles 0402 053 612

Lyndowns
Ellen Muskee 0438 651 036

Laurella
Trevor Hookway 0418 128 915

Rangeview
Will Milroy 0438 332 185

Roselands
Sharon Heazlewood 0417 592 291

ADVERTISING RATES

ADVERTISING RATES

(INCLUDES FULL COLOUR) ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

	Members	Commercial
Back cover	\$826	\$1023
Inside front or back cover	\$661	\$826
Double page spread	\$978	\$1223
Centre spread	\$1042	\$1302
Full page	\$543	\$679
Half page	\$394	\$493
Quarter page	\$241	\$301

SERVICE FEES

ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

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

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

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

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

Supplied photographs: When sending photographs electronically for advertising or editorial use, they need to be at least 1MB in file size and high resolution; and attached as a jpeg file.

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

ADVERT SPECIFICATIONS

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

ADVERTISING BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Unit 1/6 Merino Court, East Bendigo, 3550

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

ADVERTISING COPY & MATERIAL

All advertising and service rates are subject to change.

Issue	Advertising material	Date posted
May	Closes April 7	April 28
September	Closes July 31	August 16
December	Closes November 6	November 27

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



Ivadene Poll Dorsets

Tuesday 6 October
Benalla, Vic

2026 RAM SALES

Some of our Stud Rams, to be exhibited at Bendigo Australasian & For Sale at Ivadene, Benalla.

Tag	BWt	WWt	PWWt	PFat	PEMD	LMY	IMF	SHRF5	TCP
250009	0.49	14.1	22.7	1.4	4.1	3.3	-0.20	0.7	169.6
250039	0.57	11.5	17.9	-0.3	4.8	5.1	-0.90	2.9	165.1
250088	0.42	14.3	21.9	2.0	4.5	2.8	0.13	1.1	166.2
250094	0.57	13.4	21.0	0.1	3.9	4.2	-0.34	1.1	170.1
250147	0.51	14.0	21.7	1.2	5.5	4.4	-0.46	2.8	173.6
250153	0.52	15.4	23.3	1.5	3.3	2.7	0.12	1.0	165.9
250203	0.28	12.2	18.0	-0.8	3.6	5.4	-0.91	5.9	159.3
250358	0.30	11.7	17.0	-0.3	4.3	5.3	-1.05	4.8	162.8



LSK Studs

Friday 23 October
Hexham, Vic



AuctionsPlus



Lambplan ASBV

Lachie & Soph Kelly: 0428 898 230

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