

NOVEMBER 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JULIE WIESNER

Welcome to the November edition of the AWSA newsletter.

By now most ram sales will have concluded. There have been some excellent stud ram sales, although clearance rates for flock rams have varied, possibly a result of the dry season, decreased prices paid for prime lambs and good grain prices. This is an ideal time for stud producers to focus on the quality of their rams, rather than quantity, and continue promoting the advantages of White Suffolks – lambing ease, clean points, good growth and muscling.

“Expose your ewe\$ to White \$uffolk rams and reap the reward\$”.

In the show ring, White Suffolks have again been very successful. Congratulations to all exhibitors for their time and effort to present such an attractive line-up of sheep. As a breed, we need to continue to take every opportunity to promote White Suffolks, to ensure the future progression and success of the breed.

The first Bendigo Elite Show and Sale was a great accomplishment. Congratulations to the committee, who have worked very hard over the last few years and succeeded in running a very successful event even in a smaller shed. Next year will be in the new “Big” shed and I’m sure will be even bigger and better.

There have been some excellent editorials in agricultural publications this spring, showing many successful commercial producers using White Suffolks. If any members have good client stories please let us know. Good commercial editorials are paramount to accompany advertising in these publications.

The 2013 AWSA conference will be held in Cowra in central NSW. I urge members to attend the conference, particularly those in NSW, as it is a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other breeders, and discuss information relevant to both the breed and the prime lamb industry.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Regards Julie Wiesner



Photo courtesy of Ian Turner

FEDERAL COUNCIL & SECRETARY'S REPORT

NIKKI WARD

Vice President position

Murray Long has now been appointed to fill the Vice President position until the next AGM in February 2013.

Corporate Newsletter Advertising

We have now changed the terminology for "Non Member" advertising rates to "Corporate" to avoid confusion.

The Corporate category is open to livestock and associated industries wishing to advertise in the AWSA newsletter. Rates are listed in the front of each newsletter.

Sale Reporting

Provision is now available for members to place a brief stud sale report in the AWSA newsletter. The following requirements must be met and reports must be submitted in the correct format required. A proforma can be downloaded from the AWSA website or available from the Secretary.

Requirements for sale reports:

- Only available to members who have advertised in the AWSA newsletter within the past 12 months.
- 100-word sale summary only
- Must include information for stud ram or ewes sales only.
- The summary cannot include photographs
- Must be submitted in the appropriate format.

Consideration will be given to larger stud dispersal reports/editorial, these will be accepted at the editor's discretion.

Sale results can continue to be submitted and viewed on to the AWSA website via the "Sale Results 2012" link on the home page.

Photos used in Newsletter advertisements

As per the notification in the August newsletter, photos used in advertisements are restricted to White Suffolk breed photos only. White Suffolks contained in any photo used must exhibit White Suffolk breed type (see White Suffolk breed aims outlined in the Flock Book). Advertisements will be vetted and those not meeting this requirement will be requested to make any alteration(s) to suit.

Registration of Any Other Breed (AOB) Sires – New Ram Processing Fee

The use of AOB sires within a members flock is restricted to sheep that have a pedigree and are registerable with the recognized breed society, or, by application to and approval by AWSA Council, sheep with a verified full pedigree. AOB sires must be submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in WebManager and cannot be completed online by the member.

A Ram Processing Fee of \$20 plus GST now applies for the registration of AOB sires. Submission and payments can be made via the Ram Processing Form (available to download from the AWSA website or from the Secretary). A copy of the pedigree (with minimum sire, dam and sire of dam information) must also be supplied.

Purchase of White Suffolk Ewes

Members are reminded that ewes may only be sold as White Suffolk ewes if a full pedigree can be supplied by the vendor.

In situations where only the sire can be identified as a registered White Suffolk, the ewe can only be entered in the system as an Appendix White Suffolk.

Annual Return & Flock Book

All members should have received a copy of the 2012 Annual Flock Register in the post. Many thanks to those that completed their Annual Return within the timeframe required, and to those that utilised WebManager this year. It is great to see more and more members giving it a go and working through the online process.

Federal Council reiterates the responsibility and importance of members completing their Annual Return, registration and transfer information in full and within the appropriate timeframe. It is important to maintain the integrity of the data presented in the annual Flock Book and your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated. Penalties have been applied for the first time this year and will continue in future years to those that have not completed the return in a satisfactory manner. It is not the Secretary's task to chase information from you.

We have highlighted the information members are required to return at this time:

- Contact details & stud details (if any changes have been made in the past 12 months)
- TOTAL EWE NUMBERS at 30th March.
- Any RAM REGISTRATIONS of rams you have bred and used in your stud, or rams that you plan to transfer to other studs.
- Any RAM TRANSFERS of rams you have sold to other studs.
- All RAMS USED in your stud for the year – including those that you used in previous years.

If rams don't appear in your list it means they have not been transferred to you, or registered by you. It is important that you chase the vendor to complete the transfer, or register any missing rams of your own.

Late fees will continue to apply for Annual Returns submitted after 15th May, and data submitted after 31st May will not be printed in the flock book. Any questions or assistance regarding your flock book entry or Annual Return can be directed to the Secretary on (08) 8210 5231.

Can't find a member in the Flock Book?

A reminder that members who became financial after the data download may not appear in the Flock Book. For this reason, we encourage you to utilise the online member search facility should you not be able to locate a stud or member. The online member search is a useful tool that will provide you with the most up-to-date information and member lists.

Judge Nominations and Ballots

The judge nomination and ballot process is soon to begin for most of the major shows. Exhibitors over the past two years at each Show will be entitled to nominate and vote. Please keep an eye out for nomination and ballot forms in the post and via email.

Direct Deposit payment facility now available

Members now have the option to receive payments via direct deposit into their bank account, rather than via cheque. Please contact the Secretary to advise of your bank account details if this is your preferred method of payment. Cheque payments will continue to be distributed to those who do not elect the direct deposit method.

Upcoming Show Dates

I encourage members to support the White Suffolk breed at the following upcoming major shows across the states.

- Royal Canberra Show 22nd – 24th February
- Wagin Woolarama 8th – 9th March
- Royal Sydney Easter Show 21st March – 3rd April

From the Secretary

Congratulations to all members on their successes around the shows and sales this season.

This is already our last newsletter for 2012 (where has the year gone!!) which means it is time for me to wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It is also worth noting that the office will be closed from 5:00pm Friday 21st December for the break and will re-open 9:00am Monday 7th January 2013.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE AUGUST 2012

Welcome to the following new members of the AWSA:

Flock #	Prefix	Name	Location
808	LYNPARK	Ian & Carol Button	Bochara, VIC
809	LIMESTONE	Paul Righetti	Yandoit, VIC
810	THE ROCKS	Fergus & Nikki Lyons	Yass, NSW
811	POLLAMBI	Arthur & Joan Gates	Armidale, NSW
812	J MEISTER	Judith & Steven Komp	Holmen, Wisconsin USA

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW RESULTS 2012

20-22 JULY, BENDIGO

JUDGE: GRAHAM GILMORE, EXHIBITORS: 20, SHEEP ENTRIES: 140

Novice Ram

1. McCaughy (Yanco High School)
2. Roslynmead West
3. McCaughy (Yanco High School)

Ram under 1.5 years in the wool

1. Warburn
2. Omad
3. Hayelle

Ram under 1.5 years shorn, born in April

1. Wingamin
2. Omad
3. Wingamin
4. Wingamin

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in May

1. Wingamin
2. Ashley Park
3. McCaughy (Yanco High School)
4. Belladonna

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in June

1. Rene
2. Aylesbury Farm
3. Fairburn
4. Fairburn

Senior pair of rams under 1.5 years, shorn, born April/May/June

1. Wingamin
2. Warburn
3. Hayelle

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in July

1. Fairburn
2. Merribrook
3. Adalinda
4. Wattle Park

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in August

1. Merribrook
2. Wattle Park
3. Rene

Junior pair of rams under 1.5, shorn, born after July 1st

1. Fairburn
2. Rene

Ram lamb born after 1st of April

1. Wingamin



SENIOR CHAMPION RAM & RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN STUD. HELD BY CLIVE & CAITLIN SHILLABEER



JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM & RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - FINLAY MACDONALD'S FAIRBURN STUD

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - FAIRBURN
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - FAIRBURN
GRAND CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN

Novice Ewe

1. Roslynmead West
2. McCaughy (Yanco High School)
3. McCaughy (Yanco High School)

Ewe over 1.5 years, shorn, visibly in lamb or with lamb at foot

1. Wingamin
2. Hayelle
3. McCaughy (Yanco High School)

Ewe under 1.5 years in the wool

1. Rene
2. Mertex
3. Rene
4. Fairburn

Ewe under 1.5 years, shorn, born April/May

1. Rene
2. Warburn
3. Wingamin
4. Wingamin

Pair of ewes under 1.5 years, shorn

1. Warburn
2. Rene
3. Induro
4. Booloola

Ewe under 1.5 years, shorn, born June/July

1. Rene
2. Fairburn
3. Fairburn
4. Warburn

Ewe under 1.5 years, shorn, born after 1st of August

1. Wingamin
2. Rene
3. Roslynmead West

Ewe lamb born after 1st of April

1. Hayelle
2. Omad

CHAMPION EWE - RENE
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - WINGAMIN

Group of 1 ram & 2 ewes under 1.5 years

1. Wingamin
2. Rene
3. Warburn

Sires progeny group

1. Wingamin
2. Rene
3. Wattle Park

SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT - WINGAMIN
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - WINGAMIN



SUPREME EXHIBIT - WINGAMIN
STUD & JUDGE GRAHAM GILMORE



CHAMPION EWE - RENE
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - WINGAMIN



CHAMPION EWE - RENE STUD
DOUG, IRENE & SCOTT MITCHELL

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION RESULTS 2012

6 - 7 AUGUST, HAMILTON

JUDGE: ANDREW MCLAUCHLAN, WHITEMORE TASMANIA

301. NOVICE RAM, under 1½ years, shorn

1. Sunnydale
2. Sunnydale
3. Sunnydale

302. RAM, under 1½ years, shorn – born in April

1. Wingamin
2. Omad
3. Burwood
4. Bundara Downs
5. Burwood
6. Hayelle

303. RAM, under 1½ years, shorn – born in May

1. Wingamin
2. Ramsay Park
3. Gemini
4. Ramsay Park
5. Westleigh
6. Illoura
7. Aylesbury Farm

304. RAM, under 1½ years, shorn – born in June

1. Days
2. Glengarry
3. Glenarbian
4. Days
5. Gemini
6. Glengarry
7. Seriston

305. PEN OF TWO RAMS, under 1½ years, shorn, April to June drop

1. Wingamin
2. Days
3. Gemini
4. Days
5. Bundara Downs
6. Glenarbian
7. Adalinda

Senior Champion Ram - Wingamin
Reserve Senior Champion Ram - Wingamin

306. RAM, under 1½ years, shorn – born in July

1. Burwood
2. Seriston
3. Wingamin
4. Gemini
5. Fairburn
6. Illoura
7. Days

307. RAM, under 1½ years, shorn – born on or after 1st August

1. Days
2. Gemini
3. Sunnydale
4. Burwood
5. Seriston

PEN OF TWO RAMS, under 1½ years, shorn, July to Sept drop

1. Somerset
2. Sunnydale
3. Duenclin
4. Wattle Park

309. RAM LAMB, born on or after 1st April of current year

1. Wingamin
2. Glenarbian
3. Hayelle
4. Windy Hill

Junior Champion Ram - Days
Reserve Junior Champion Ram - Burwood
Grand Champion Ram - Wingamin

LAMB PRODUCTION CLASS

1. Days
2. Wingamin
3. Illoura
4. Waratah

311. NOVICE EWE, under 1½ years, shorn

1. Sunnydale
2. Sunnydale
3. Sunnydale

312. EWE, over 1½ years, shorn, in lamb or in milk

1. Wingamin
2. Windy Hill

313. EWE, under 1½ years, shorn, born on or between April 1st & May 31st

1. Wingamin
2. Glenarbian
3. Wingamin
4. Illoura
5. Mertex

314. EWE, under 1½ years, shorn, born on or between June 1st & July 31st

1. Somerset
2. Glenarbian
3. Glenarbian
4. Wattle park
5. Sunnydale

315. EWE, under 1½ years, shorn, born on or after August 1st

1. Wingamin
2. Wattle Park
3. Illoura
4. Glengarry

316. PEN OF TWO EWES, under 1½ years, shorn

1. Wattle park
2. Sunnydale
3. Duenclyn
4. Glenarbian

317. EWE LAMB, born since 1st April of current year

1. Duenclyn
2. Glenarbian
3. Omad
4. Hayelle

Champion Ewe - Wingamin
Reserve Champion Ewe - Somerset
Supreme Exhibit - Wingamin

318. SIRES PROGENY GROUP, 3 sheep under 1½ years, sired by one sire

1. Wingamin
2. Days
3. Glenarbian
4. Gemini
5. Duenclyn
6. Somerset

319. GROUP, 1 Ram, 2 ewes, any age, from existing classes

1. Wingamin
2. Glengarry
3. Wattle Park
4. Glenarbian
5. Illoura

Most Successful Exhibitor - Wingamin

SEE PHOTOS OVER PAGE

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION PHOTOS 2012

6 - 7 AUGUST, HAMILTON
JUDGE: ANDREW MCLAUCHLAN, WHITEMORE TASMANIA



FIRST IN THE INTERBREED
LAMB PRODUCTION CLASS
- DAYS



GRAND CHAMPION RAM -
WINGAMIN



JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - DAYS
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM -
BURWOOD STUD



INTERBREED SHORT WOOL CHAMPION - WINGAMIN

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW RESULTS 2012

22 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER, MELBOURNE

RAM under 1 1/2 years born April May.

1. I J & P R & R J Kyle
2. Yanco Agricultural High School
3. I J & P R & R J Kyle

RAM under 1 1/2 years born June July.

1. I J & P R & R J Kyle
2. I J & P R & R J Kyle

Pen of 2 Rams under 1 1/2 years.

1. I J & P R & R J Kyle
2. A E Day & Sons

LAMB PRODUCTION CLASS, TWO RAMS UNDER 1 1/2, SHORN.

1. A E Day & Sons

EWE under 1 1/2 years born April May.

1. Yanco Agricultural High School
2. Yanco Agricultural High School

BREEDERS GROUP OF 1 RAM AND 2 EWES under 1 1/2 years.

1. Yanco Agricultural High School

SIRE'S PROGENY GROUP, to consist of 3 sheep, under 1 1/2 years, to be sired by one nominated sire.

1. I J & P R & R J Kyle

SIRE'S PROGENY GROUP - To consist of 3 sheep, any age, including lambs of any sex and any wool length

1. I J & P R & R J Kyle

BREEDER'S GROUP TO CONSIST OF 3 SHEEP, ANY AGE, INCLUDING LAMBS OF ANY SEX AND ANY WOOL LENGTH

1. I J & P R & R J Kyle

CHAMPION RAM - I J & P R & R J Kyle
SUPREME CHAMPION - I J & P R & R J Kyle

LUCERNE AND CONCEPTION – HELP OR HINDER?

(A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE)
MURRAY LONG

The recent good seasons has seen Lucerne stands rejuvenated and once again supplying unequalled quality feed during the summer months. It has also raised the question of what effect grazing Lucerne during joining has on conception rates with some very low conception rates being reported in recent seasons when ewes were joined on predominant Lucerne pasture. We have suspected and warned breeders that the higher protein levels present in Lucerne seems to interfere with the embryo implant process in the uterus, especially in conjunction with artificial breeding programs but what else could be affecting conception. The fertility problems caused by many species of clover containing oestrogen-mimicking compounds are well known however in Lucerne, concentrations of phyto-oestrogens are affected by environment and the presence of stress and disease resulting in plenty of contradictory information that continually confuses producers. Do not confuse the 'Clover Disease' effect on reproduction with that caused by Lucerne.

Lucerne produces coumestrol, a phyto-oestrogenic compound that is known to influence the number of multiple ovulations in sheep and other ruminant species. The highest concentration of this compound is found in Lucerne at the budding stage when environment and nutrition can have significant effects on the growth of the plant. Other stress factors such as pest and disease are also shown to increase coumestrol production in Lucerne, with the plant containing minimal coumestrol unless affected by foliar disease, aphids or fungal pathogens. The ability of Lucerne to resist these outside stresses is affected by humidity, age of the stand, nutrition and temperature and consequently all these can have an effect on the levels of coumestrol in the Lucerne plant.

That is about where the agreement stops in relation to the effect of Lucerne on fertility; little wonder there



is much confusion on this topic. Many countries have conducted research on this topic with results ranging from high ovulation rates to markedly decreasing ovulation or halting oestrus altogether. It is possible however that low concentrations of coumestrol in sheep grazing on lucerne have deleterious effects without any visible clinical signs. The trials in many cases however are conducted on fresh lucerne pasture with no mention or evidence of any stress factors involved and conversely several of the studies use pelleted Lucerne or Lucerne hay which could increase the concentration of any coumestrol present. The extreme finding in one study conducted in Spain indicated almost half of the ewes fed a Lucerne based diet showed anatomical changes within the reproductive tract that were permanent if exposure to coumestrol was prolonged. This study also showed smaller ovaries from ewe lambs fed on Lucerne silage however no subsequent difference in ovarian activity was observed.

Research conducted in NZ found a negative linear relationship between coumestrol content of pelleted lucerne and the number of ewes with multiple ovulations; feeding a Lucerne pellet diet just 7 days prior to ovulation reduced multiple ovulations markedly. Multiple ovulations were reduced from an average 40.8% to just 4.1% when ewes were fed a diet containing 100ppm of coumestrol. Removing the feed subsequently showed no lasting effects. Further studies have shown that this depression of ovulation rate can be overcome by injection with PMSG indicating a cancelling of any influence on ovulation in an AI program, also suggesting that coumestrol interferes with the release of FSH from the Pituitary gland. A group of ewes fed pellets containing no coumestrol, increased average ovulation rate from 1.43 to 1.83 following an injection of 750iu PMSG whereas ewes on pellets containing 100ppm coumestrol increased ovulation from 0.98 to 1.53 following the same level of injection with PMSG. There is evidence that high levels of coumestrol actually affect the incidence of oestrus, therefore halting it altogether.

These findings tend to confuse producers who use short term 'flushing' on Lucerne prior to joining where research consistently indicates increased ovulation rates when this practice is carried out. However you may suspect that Lucerne carrying a fungal infection or under stress from pathogens would contain some

levels of coumestrol and would therefore fail to achieve the same flushing effect as a fresh healthy stand; the fact that normal oestrus potential returns the following cycle after the cause is removed, would tend to indicate that flushing ewes on Lucerne containing coumestrol would still achieve some of the benefit of increasing ovulation rates but how much potential is lost? However a trial where ewes were flushed and joined for 35 days on Lucerne containing no levels of coumestrol, significant increases in ovulation rate were observed with a 6% increase in ovulation rate per 1 kg body weight gain during flushing. Despite this increase in ovulation rate there were no differences in lambing performance with higher levels of embryonic loss and barren ewes in the ewes flushed and joined on Lucerne. Lesson here is flush and then remove from Lucerne during joining.

Let's hope we get enough rain to have to manage any problems with Lucerne!

The level of fecundity in the flock will also influence the effect caused by Lucerne. Ewes with potentially higher ovulation rates are more sensitive to coumestrol. Levels as high as 1000ppm were required to significantly reduce ovulation rates in some single lamb bearing Merino flocks.

A further study showed more evidence indicating a significant degree of embryonic loss when ewes that were scanned as carrying twins were left on Lucerne pasture, with 55% of the ewes losing one of the twins they were carrying. We have long thought that Lucerne or high protein diets have an effect causing embryonic loss. In all the studies where rams were tested, there was no effect on semen quality when rams were fed Lucerne with varying levels on coumestrol.



So how do you ensure reproduction is not affected by levels of coumestrol in Lucerne stands? The easy answer is keeping them off Lucerne during joining and if there is stress in the Lucerne stand, don't flush with that Lucerne. There is no doubt that Lucerne under stress produces coumestrol and this will affect ovulation rate and incidence and result in poor conception. Even without coumestrol, the higher levels of protein in Lucerne will potentially cause problems during joining but will result in higher conceptions if used for flushing only. Poor nutrition, insect attack and leaf fungal infections on Lucerne seems to be the greatest contributor leading to high levels of phyto-oestrogens so if pasture is heavily diseased or nutritionally run down, join ewes away from these stands and after mating, given a few weeks, they can be moved back to the Lucerne. The effect can be diluted by having a grass/Lucerne mix which has been shown to reduce the effect of the phyto-oestrogen. The jury will continue to be out on this one but it does seem from the literature that it is not the Lucerne itself that is the problem but the health status of the Lucerne stand in relation to disease, growth stage, fungal and insect attack and nutrition that causes the Lucerne to generate the problem.

One other area related to medics that research has shown to significantly reduce fertility is a problem caused by a fungus (*Fusarium* spp.) that produces an oestrogenic compound, Zearalenone, which significantly causes reproductive problems. It has been found in badly stored grain and medic pastures and is preserved once the pasture is made into hay or silage or can be produced by mould associated with mouldy fodder. Sheep are very sensitive to Zearalenone with only 1mg/day before mating reducing ovulation rates by 20%. Many fertility problems in commercial flocks, especially in Victoria, are now being investigated in relation to this fungus after ruling out clover oestrogens. A vaccine is may become available to counter the effect of Zearalenone.

Let's hope we get enough rain to have to manage any problems with Lucerne!

References: DPI Victoria Note Number AG0737, Dept Ag WA Farmnote 41/2005, NZ Journal of Ag Res 22 (1979) 411-416, IBERS Legumes and Fertility Review 2011/8, Proc NZ Soc Animal Prod. Vol 40, pp44-49, J Animal Sc. 1995, 73, 1509-1515

SPREADING THE RISK AT WILLIAMS

BY TRINITY EDWARDS

31 AUGUST 2012

MARKET flexibility has been the key to the Schulz family running a successful mixed farming enterprise on 2428 hectares in the Williams district. Wayne and Beth Schulz together with their sons Simon and his wife Nat, and Roger, crop 1100ha on their Murreena property as well as running 4500 Merino ewes and 100 Angus-Simmental cross cows.

The property was established 45 years ago by Wayne's parents Ern and Ida and for a long time always had Merinos on it.

"We are not locked into one fixed market but choose to sell our wool and livestock to whoever is willing to pay the most at the end of the day," Roger said.

But over the last 12 years the family has introduced White Suffolk sires to the mix and today mate 2000 older ewes to the White Suffolks to produce prime lambs.

With the four enterprises, the Schulz family strongly believes in market flexibility.

"We are not locked into one fixed market but choose to sell our wool and livestock to whoever is willing to pay the most at the end of the day," Roger said.

Every two to three years the family purchased their elite sires from the Bingham family's Iveston White Suffolk stud, Williams and their Merino rams from the Norrish family's Angenup Merino stud, Kojonup and Toorackie Merino stud, Williams.

The Schulz family currently breed their own rams but believe in infusing new genetics into their Merino and prime lamb flock every couple of years.

Wayne said they had 30 purebred White Suffolk ewes, which are mated to the Iveston rams, to produce replacement ewes and ram lambs which are joined to the older, four to five-year-old Merino ewes for prime lamb production.

"We find it more cost effective to breed our own rams," Wayne said.

"We selected the White Suffolk rams which have good body length and are not too broad in the shoulders and head."

Like their purebred White Suffolk flock, the family also has a nucleus Merino flock of 140 ewes from which they select their nucleus replacements and ram lambs.

All the rams are joined to the Merino ewes in December at two per cent for a six to seven week period.

"Our ewes begin to lamb late May, early June and are put on lick feeders using our own barley and oats to maintain their weight and keep up their nutritional intake," Wayne said.

"Each season we hope to get the season break so the ewes are lambing down on green feed."

The Schulz family made the move to prime lamb breeding a number of years ago when Merino lambs were hard to sell, there was an over-supply of wool and wool taxes were through the roof.

They initially trialled another breed but turned to the White Suffolk rams as they found the lambs were being born much easier.

"Depending on the season they can be a reasonable size but often they come out easily as they have small heads and shoulders," Wayne said.

With last year's spring rains the family's lambing percentages have risen with the Merino flock averaging 100pc and the prime lamb flock averaging 110pc.

"On a usual year we average 100pc in the prime lamb flock and 90pc in the Merino but this year was slightly better," Simon said.

"All ewes were in good condition when mated, which also made a difference."

The family pregnancy scans all their Merino maiden ewes to detect for wet and dries.

Last year they scanned 90pc in lamb and the dries were sold straight away and given no second chances.

The Merino lambs and prime lambs are weaned at 12 to 14 weeks with the prime lambs sold on the domestic or live export market at five to six months at 38 to 40kg liveweight.

"I believe this season the lamb market will be down 20pc because more lambs will become available to processors who will then be able to dictate the price again."

Simon said some were straight off mum but most went later on.

"Half were sent to the abattoirs and the others went on the boats this season and we averaged \$90 a head for them," he said.

"This was one of the top averages we have achieved but we would really like more."

Wayne believes the so-called industry gurus who have gone to industry information days to tell producers they must increase the State's flock number, is cutting the long-term sheep and wool producers' throats.

"With the State's flock numbers starting to slowly increase again we have already seen the market price for our lambs and wool begin to slip away," he said.

"I believe this season the lamb market will be down 20pc because more lambs will become available to processors who will then be able to dictate the price again."

When it comes to selling their Merino wethers the Schulz family often hold onto them until they reach 12 months depending on the season.

The main shearing is in January and like their lambs the family sells their wool on-farm to whoever offers the most money.

Last year they averaged 960c/kg for their wool with the flock averaging 20 micron.

"We shear our purebred White Suffolk flock twice a year," Roger said.

"We like to look after our elite ewes and keep them in top condition."

The Schulz family have been breeding Merinos along with beef cattle for a number of years and currently grainfed their crossbred calves in a feedlot until 12 months when they are then sold through the abattoirs.

"Again we sell to whoever is willing to pay the best for them as this way we can sell when and where we like and hopefully get the average market price or better," Roger said.



Williams producer Wayne Schulz (left), with his sons Roger and Simon, crop 1100 hectares on their Murreena property as well as running 4500 Merino ewes of which 2000 older ewes are mated to White Suffolk rams to produce prime lambs.

WHITE SUFFOLKS LAMBS A "MONEY SPINNER"

LOUISE PREECE

STOCK & LAND 14 SEPTEMBER 2012

JOYCE McConnell acknowledges the dollar value that White Suffolks have added to her diverse farming operation.

The primary producer runs three properties scattered throughout southern NSW at Hay and Deniliquin, juggling a wool, prime lamb, cattle and cropping enterprise.

In the years when wool or Merino wether prices plummeted, she says her White Suffolk-cross lambs had been a blessing.

"They've been an excellent money spinner," she said.

Traditionally, Mrs McConnell joined all her Merino ewes to Merino sires to cash in on a lucrative wool market.

But 15 years ago, that all changed when the wool price crashed.

"I was forced to look at alternatives," she said.

After doing her research, it seemed White Suffolks suited her operation the best.

Even so, the decision to produce prime lambs has been extremely profitable.

"They are easy lambing and out on our northern country, we wanted lambs without wool on their face," she said.

"They are a cleaner type of sheep and that's good, because we do get some seed problems."

Today, Mrs McConnell runs 8000 Merino ewes, out of which 1000 are joined to White Suffolk rams.

"I had been putting about 2000-3000 Merinos with the White Suffolks, but we are trying to build up ewe numbers," she said.

Even so, the decision to produce prime lambs has been extremely profitable.

Mrs McConnell purchases White Suffolks rams from Max Treweek, Laurisdale, Wakool, NSW, for their solid frames and performance rates.

"They've acclimatised really well to this area," she said.

The White Suffolk joining is carried out in October for a March lambing, while the Merinos are put through an AI program in November.

"March suits us, because we can get the lambs going early and we've got the option to sell them if needed," she said.

"If we've got water available, we can also get the pastures up and going."

At Deniliquin, Mrs McConnell has the option to irrigate and in the past two years a total of 202 hectares of lucerne, chicory, plantain and clovers has been sown for grazing.

She says the lambs have been thriving on the pasture blend, adding that it provides an ideal feed source under dry conditions.

"It (the pasture mix) is expensive to set up, but well worth it," she said.

More than 600ha of cereal crops are grown as well, including Wedgetail wheat that is used for grazing livestock and sheep.

Normally, the White Suffolk-cross lambs are kept on their mothers until they are sold, but this year a dry winter forced Mrs McConnell to change her routine.

"We had to wean the lambs six weeks ago, because of the feed situation," she said.

The lambs were finished on the pasture blend, with 238 sold at six months of age through the Deniliquin saleyards recently.

The draft fetched a top of \$117 a head.

"The lamb market had come back a bit, but that day it jumped up about \$10-\$12," she said.

"We were pretty happy with that, because they were good quality lambs."

Earlier in the year though, Mrs McConnell admitted to an apprehensive outlook on lamb prices.

"We had seen lamb prices drop dramatically earlier on, and I wanted to look at other avenues to sell them," she said.

She settled on a \$5/kg contract with Coles for a portion of her lambs, which provided some certainty in the face of a volatile market.

Those particular lambs were finished on saltbush country at Hay and were trucked off in August.

Mrs McConnell reveals she was more than happy with the price.

"That's a jolly good price," she said.

"We were way in front, because the market hadn't gone up then, but it's probably comparable now."

Looking back at the results, she admits she would definitely contemplate a forward contract again if similar circumstances arose.

"It was attractive, because we were looking at \$4.20/kg through the yards," she said.

At the moment, any income from prime lambs is welcome.

"The wool job is pitiful," she said.

"It's back to where it was in 2008 and it's hurting us."

Merino wether prices have taken a dive too.

"Wethers are fetching about \$50-\$70," Mrs McConnell said.

"Last January we got \$117 for ours, so we are looking at a huge drop."

Normally, the Merino wethers are offloaded in January, but it will come down to the season, with her

Deniliquin properties experiencing one of the driest winters in a long time.

"We've had an inch since March," she said.

However, the Hay property had the opposite problem, with severe flooding earlier in the year that put much of the country under water.

"We trucked out 18 B-double loads of cattle and sheep, and they've been on agistment ever since," she said.

The option to join more Merino ewes to White Suffolk is an attractive one.

Facing lower margins in wethers and wool this year, Mrs McConnell says her enterprise is at a crossroads again.

The option to join more Merino ewes to White Suffolk is an attractive one.

"It is a good option to have and it will certainly be something to consider if things keep going the way they have been," she said.



Prime lamb producer Joyce McConnell with her White Suffolk-Merino lambs that fetched \$117 at Deniliquin, NSW, recently.

GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR AI PROGRAM

MURRAY LONG

With the increasing number of high performance sires appearing within the White Suffolk breed and the use of DNA to identify new and significant traits, the opportunities to improve the value of your stud genetics using Artificial Insemination (AI) has never been greater. However recent years has seen a transition from a run of very dry years to recent times when too much rain was often the problem. Despite the obvious problems of getting sheep, especially ewes, through the drought years, many AI centres reported clients with improved AI conception rates during the prolonged drought. Now that we have returned to better seasons, conception rates have dropped significantly in some instances. The only difference between these years is the condition score of the ewes at time of insemination and it is well known that overfat ewes usually don't produce good results when compared to leaner sheep. The rule of thumb is condition score somewhere between 2.5 and 3.5 however in the process of AI, nothing is certain.

The 2009 Annual White Suffolk Conference held at Albury provided an opportunity for a forum on member's experiences with AI and provided plenty of suggestions as to how to improve conception rates and the clear message is that what works for one stud, doesn't produce the same result in another and 2 years rarely produce the same result for the same course of action. The details of this forum have been compiled and are available for members to download from the AWSA website. It is perhaps a good time to revisit some of the information gained from that forum in light of some reported low conception rates in recent years. Since 2009 the wider use of CIDR's has grown to the point where it is often difficult to purchase sponges and while this should not affect conception rates, be aware of the slightly different timing for CIDR use. However, perhaps one of the most important pieces of advice to come from the Albury Conference was;

"General consensus is that the ultimate success of your AI breeding program will be determined, not by how you organize the ewes immediately before and during the AI process, but in the well thought-out planning well before the AI date. Factors such as ewe nutrition, stress of ewes and isolation from any ram influence all seem to have significant impacts on conception rates. Ensure that your AI program is well organized and all preparations are made well in advance as last minute adjustments produce some variable results"

The drought years provided good control over the condition score of ewes, provided you had access to some level of supplementary feed, while recent years have provided a virtual smorgasbord of feed post weaning with the main difficulty trying to keep condition off ewes and maintaining them on a rising plane of nutrition leading up to and past the AI process. The 'norm' has been condition score 5 all the way through and generally fatter ewes stress easier when moved and subsequently produce some disappointing conception rates, not to mention the stress on handlers lifting them into cradles. With better seasons comes the prospect of higher quality feed and elevated levels of protein. The message in regard to protein was very clear from the forum at Albury and still applies today;

"What to feed the ewes before and after an AI program will also invoke much discussion amongst breeders.



Generally though, an elevated level of protein in the diet seems to be associated with lower conception rates. Many breeders flush ewes with protein supplementation just prior to joining to increase the number of potential embryos released and this tends to have no negative effect on conception rate while also increasing the number of lambs born. Well conditioned sheep tend not to respond to flushing whereas lower conditioned sheep will respond well. However prolonged supplementation of protein, either side of your AI program generally has a negative effect on conception to the point where some very low levels will be achieved. It appears that very high protein diets are associated with reduced levels of progesterone, (hormone required for pregnancy) causing reduced embryo quality and increased embryonic death early in the pregnancy. Diets high in legume, particularly lush new growth, but hay as well, might also contain phytoestrogens (plant estrogens) that can affect sperm and ovulation, resulting in reduced fertilisation and increased embryonic death. Many breeding centres will recommend using only low quality cereal hay as the best choice for ewes in an artificial breeding program. Obviously for reasons of minimum disturbance, ewes running in a paddock that delivers all their nutritional requirements is the best option but as most AI programs are carried out during the summer months when natural feed is often of lower quality or nonexistent, some form of additional feeding is often required. This period of summer also gives rise to the possibility of a good flush of lucerne if it happens to rain; however do not be tempted to rush your recently inseminated ewes onto this high protein pasture as the possibility of reducing your conception rate is very high."



Timing of semen collection also plays an important role in the collection of good quality semen and once again, planning is essential to ensure good success.

Semen quality is another area that can be variable and while all AI centres have standards that are considered acceptable, two batches of semen with the same visual quality will not necessarily produce the same conception rate. The past 2 years have produced some unusual summer conditions and most of us would have heard reports from ram clients relating to natural joining failures due to largely unknown factors. The one common factor however is rainfall and temperature and the past season has produced a significant number of ewes failing to conceive naturally during the very wet months when high numbers of mosquitoes and rams walking through sodden paddocks (foot infections) were to blame for lowering the quality of sperm. This problem also translates into lower quality semen from rams when they enter the AI centre for collection. Once again the suggestion to come from the forum was;

"Timing of semen collection also plays an important role in the collection of good quality semen and once again, planning is essential to ensure good success. Collection during the cooler months will almost certainly result in more consistent levels of high quality semen when compared to collection during summer. Not only does this tend to coincide with a time when the sire is unlikely to be mating ewes in either the paddock or yards, the AI centres are usually not as busy conducting AI programs during these months."

Not much has changed over recent years in the manner in which AI is conducted but there is no doubt results have been more variable with many studs considering it not economical to conduct an AI program. While the purchase of a physical ram solves the problem of uneconomical conception rates, it does reduce the choice of potential industry sires that could give higher genetic gains so it is important to analyse the manner in which you conduct your AI program, not just immediately before and after the visit from your vet, but in the months leading up to and following the procedure.

Continued over page

GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR AI PROGRAM CONT

MURRAY LONG

There is no doubt stress is one of the principal reasons for AI failure as echoed by the forum in Albury;

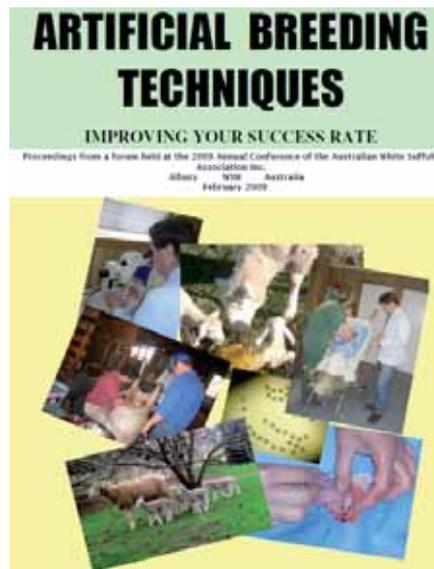
“Any measures that can reduce stress levels in the ewes will result in higher conception rates. This applies to all operations preceding and following AI. Ensure all management aspects such as crutching, drenching and ewe selection are carried out well in advance of the AI program. Once the sponges/CIDR's have been inserted return the ewes to the same paddock preferably with the same feeding regime, retain this practice for all subsequent procedures including sponge removal and the actual AI operation. When pulling sponges/ CIDR's, allocate the ewes to their sires by marking them at this stage to avoid any further disruption than is necessary once the ewes begin to cycle. The use of dogs to work the ewes at any stage either side of the AI process should be avoided. Ewes should be returned to their paddock immediately following the AI procedure, even if the air temperature is high, as any movement the following day is likely to be more uncomfortable for the ewe and result in heightened risk of lower conception rates. Steer clear of any change to their feeding regime at this stage, or at any stage around the timing of your AI program, and if possible avoid disturbing the ewes for at least the first 2 weeks post AI. The introduction of the backup ram should be around 12 days following AI and the ram should be taken to the paddock, not by bringing the ewes to the yard and then returning them with the ram included.”

For further information on all aspects regarding an AI program, always consult your AI centre or veterinarian and follow their advice. After all if their work fails and you have followed their instructions you can start looking for other problems. The most common comment at time of AI is, “these ewes are too fat” but

the range of conceptions across this comment ranges from complete failure to high success rates so there is no absolute certainty when it comes to Artificial Insemination.

There are however some practices that will ensure your program every chance of success across most years. Perhaps re visit the proceedings from the Albury forum and refresh your ideas with those that were compiled from the Conference.

Good Luck!



For further information on all aspects regarding an AI program, always consult your AI centre or veterinarian and follow their advice.

SALE REPORT BUNDARA RAMS IN DEMAND

SALE REPORT

Prime lamb producers paid an average of \$830 for 239 rams including 186 White Suffolks at the 16th annual Bundara Downs sale at Western Flat, SA.

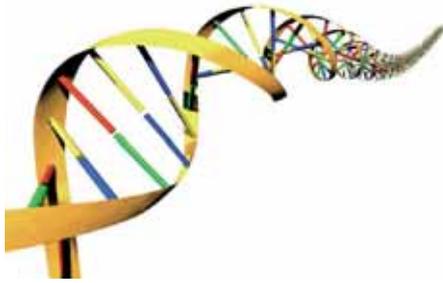
Buyers appreciated the consistent quality creating a strong clearance despite seasonal and industry challenges.

The fact that all lots had at least one Lambplan and/or Index Value above the terminal breeds' average contributed to the strong demand according to stud co-principal Steve Funke.

The Royal Flying Doctors Service was again the recipient of proceeds from one lot at \$1400 bringing the total donated to this cause to \$13,750.

DNA TESTING GAINING MOMENTUM

MURRAY LONG



The recent Pilot program and the response to the offering of 1000 blood cards was met with very high demand from both breeders who have participated in the previous programs and first time users of the technology. Previous Pilot programs had seen good interest with 300 sires tested in Pilot 1 and 800 of the 1000 available taken up in Pilot 2. The 1000 cards available for Pilot 3 took less than 2 weeks to be allocated and a further 500 made available went in just 2 days.

As members would have noticed, there was also an opportunity to submit expressions of interest for a large scale Genotyping project with around 15 groups submitting an Expression of Interest who will attend a Genomics workshop early in October to evaluate these submissions. The SuperWhite group are one of those involved in this workshop. Around 1500 blood cards are allocated for this program with successful groups allocated between 200-400 cards to evaluate the commercial benefits of this technology on a larger scale.

The 1000 cards available for Pilot 3 took less than 2 weeks to be allocated and a further 500 made available went in just 2 days.

All current DNA testing is being carried out using the 50K SNP chip and is very close to being available at a commercial level. The next step in the development of DNA testing will be the use of a smaller 7-10K SNP test which is in the pre commercialisation stage and should be available within the next 6 months. It potentially will form part of the large scale Genotyping project for those groups who miss the initial selection as a result of discussions in early October.

DNA testing is currently only available for use by those breeders using Lambplan as the ultimate aim is to express the values relating to eating quality and any new traits as ASBV's. There is much discussion happening at the moment relating to the availability and potential future use and cost of this technology to all participants in the sheep industry and a recent MLA round table discussion involving representatives from both sheep and beef interests addressed this issue and discussions are ongoing.

Recently there was also an opportunity to make use of a cheap (\$17) DNA parentage test that was made available alongside the Pilot Program 3 offer. Uptake was also good in relation to this project and provides an opportunity to determine parentage from syndicate joined mobs or suspect pedigree errors and is reportedly accurate enough to distinguish between closely related sires. Early validation trials have shown this test to be 98%-100% accurate when both sires and dams were DNA tested across highly related ET progeny involving fathers, brothers and sons as the sires used. This test will become an important commercially available tool for seedstock producers, especially useful in the Merino industry. Wouldn't it be great if one DNA test could give parentage, all phenotypic traits plus MEQ, Polled/Horn and any other new traits all from one blood card test? Keep watch, it may not be out of the question and in fact is on the agenda. The long term aim is to develop DNA as a cost effective tool for use in a wide range of areas across ram breeding flocks.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

There is potential to use DNA as a determinant of breed composition which will allow determination of precise breed percentages in composite flocks. Does this have implications for our Appendix system within the White Suffolk breed?

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW RESULTS 2012

7-15 SEPTEMBER, ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOWGROUNDS
JUDGE CRAIG MITCHELL- RAMS, JUDGE ANDREW DONNAN - EWES

1001 - YOUNG HANDLER COMPETITION

1. Hayes, Taylah
2. Whittlesea, Alice
3. Pratt, William

223 - Ram under 1½ years. Born during the month of April, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Pfeiffer, C & N
2. Pfeiffer, I G & J O
3. Shillabeer, CV & DC
4. Wheeland
5. Anden White Suffolk Stud
6. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
7. Kurralea

224 - Ram under 1½ years. Born during the month of May, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Shillabeer, CV & DC
2. Ramsay Park
3. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
4. Tattykeel White Suffolks
5. Kyle, I J & P R & R J
6. Shillabeer, CV & DC
7. Ramsay Park
8. Westleigh White Suffolk
9. Bundara Downs

225 - Ram, under 1½ years. Born during the month of June, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
2. Glenarbian
3. Seriston
4. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
5. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
6. Tattykeel White Suffolks
7. Aylesbury Farm
8. Waratah White Suffolks
9. Spring Valley

226 - Pen of Two Rams, April - June drop.

1. Shillabeer, CV & DC
2. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
3. Pfeiffer, I G & J O
4. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
5. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
6. Fairburn
7. Ramsay Park
8. Shillabeer, CV & DC

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - Shillabeer
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - Pfeiffer



SENIOR CHAMPION RAM -
WINGAMIN



RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION
RAM - TAPTON



JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM -
TATTYKEEL

227 - Ram, under 1½ years. Born July.

1. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
2. Anden White Suffolk Stud
3. Tattykeel White Suffolks
4. Pfeiffer, I G & J O
5. Seriston
6. Spring Valley
7. Westleigh White Suffolk
8. Fairburn

228 - Ram under 1½ years. Born August.

1. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
2. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
3. Seriston
4. Tattykeel White Suffolks
5. Anden White Suffolk Stud
6. Piggott & Son, R V
7. Tattykeel White Suffolks
8. Somerset
9. Pfeiffer, I G & J O

229 - Pen of Two Rams, July - September drop.

1. Tattykeel White Suffolks
2. Tattykeel White Suffolks
3. Michael, A M & R A
4. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd

230 - Ram Lamb. Dropped since 1 April, of the current year.

1. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
2. Grossman Family Koonawarra
3. Piggott & Son, R V
4. Shillabeer, CV & DC
5. Wheeland

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - Tattykeel White Suffolks
 RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - Days Whiteface
 GRAND CHAMPION RAM - Shillabeer, CV & DC

231 - Pen of Three Rams under 1½ years.

1. Tattykeel White Suffolks
2. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
3. Shillabeer, CV & DC
4. Pfeiffer, I G & J O
5. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J
6. Ramsay Park

232 - Lamb Production Class.

1. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
2. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
3. Shillabeer, CV & DC
4. Ashmore White Suffolks
5. Piggott & Son, R V



RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION
RAM - DAYS



CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE -
WINGAMIN



SUPREME ALL BREEDS GROUP -
WINGAMIN

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW RESULTS 2012 CONT

7-15 SEPTEMBER, ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOWGROUNDS
JUDGE CRAIG MITCHELL- RAMS, JUDGE ANDREW DONNAN - EWES

233 - Ram Lamb Performance Class.

1. Wheeland
2. Wheeland
3. Shillabeer, CV & DC
4. Grossman Family Koonawarra

234 - Ewe over 1½ years with lamb at foot.

1. Piggott & Son, R V
2. Grossman Family Koonawarra
3. Windy Hill

235 - Ewe under 1½ years. Born between 1 April and 31 May, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Shillabeer, CV & DC
2. Shillabeer, CV & DC
3. Piggott & Son, R V
4. Piggott & Son, R V
5. Glenarbian
6. Huxtable & Sons, GD & GB

236 - Ewe under 1½ years. Born between 1 June and 31 July, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Shillabeer, CV & DC
2. Somerset
3. Wheeland
4. Glenarbian

237 - Ewe, under 1½ years. Born after 1 August, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Glenarbian
2. Piggott & Son, R V
3. Shillabeer, CV & DC
4. Somerset
5. Wiesner, JA & JR

238 - Pen of Two Ewes under 1½ years.

1. Glenarbian
2. Huxtable & Sons, GD & GB
3. Somerset
4. Ramsay Park

239 - Ewe Lamb. Dropped since 1 April, current year.

1. Piggott & Son, R V
2. Wheeland
3. Whittlesea, HJ & MA
4. Shillabeer, CV & DC

240 - Ewe Lamb Performance Class.

1. Piggott & Son, R V
2. Wheeland
3. Wheeland

CHAMPION EWE - Shillabeer
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - Somerset
SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT - Shillabeer

241 - Breeders' Group

1. Shillabeer, CV & DC Glenarbian
2. Ramsay Park
3. Somerset

242 - Sire's Progeny Group.

1. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
2. Tattykeel White Suffolks
3. Shillabeer, CV & DC
4. Ferguson & Sons, D S & C J

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - Shillabeer



SUPREME PRIME LAMB MATERNAL BREEDS RAM & EWE - WINGAMIN

BALLARAT SHEEP & ALPACA SHOW RESULTS 2012

29 JULY, BALLARAT

235c White Suffolk Ram under 1.5 yrs

1. Ashley Park - I & P Kyle
2. Fairburn - D J & F MacDonald

235d White Suffolk Ram under 1.5 yrs shorn

1. Ashley Park - I & P Kyle
2. Fairburn - D J & F MacDonald
3. Fairburn - D J & F MacDonald

235h White Suffolk Ewe under 1.5 yrs

1. Mertex - B H & T Jorgensen
2. Fairburn - D J & F MacDonald

235i White Suffolk Ewe under 1.5 yrs (shorn)

1. Boolooloa White Suffolks - S & A Baker
2. Boolooloa White Suffolks - S & A Baker
3. GeeJay - G K & J Davey

235j White Suffolk Ewe lamb (born after 1/4/11)

1. GeeJay - G K & J Davey

Champion & Res Champion White Suffolk Ram

1. Ashley Park - I & P Kyle
2. Ashley Park - I & P Kyle

Champion & Res Champion White Suffolk Ewe

1. Mertex - B H & T Jorgensen
2. Boolooloa White Suffolks - S & A Baker



MR B JORGENSEN WITH THE CHAMPION
WHITE SUFFOLK EWE - MERTEX

ONLY A FARM KID...

When you're from the country, your perception is a little bit different.

A Queensland farmer drove to a neighbours' farmhouse in his Holden ute, and knocked at the door.

A boy, about 9, opened the door.

"Is your Dad or your mum home?" said the farmer.

"No, they went to town."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"No, he went with Mum and Dad."

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, and mumbling to himself.

"I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give dad a message."

"Well," said the farmer uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter Susie pregnant".

The boy thought for a moment...

"You would have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges \$500 for the bull and \$50 for the pig, but I don't know how much he charges for Howard."

EXTRACTS FROM ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA REGARDING THE NEW OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wool Producers Australia and Sheepmeat Council of Australia have reached a decision on the future approach to the management of Ovine Johne's disease post June 2012. The plan will be a five year national plan, with a transition phase beginning 1 July 2012, and full implementation to begin on 1 January 2013.

The current arrangements including prevalence areas and the ABC scheme will be in place until then. Regional biosecurity plans can be submitted from 1 July.

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

The program will no longer use the existing High, Medium and Low Prevalence Areas. All areas will default to Control Areas unless local and regional groups successfully apply for Protected Area status. Those regions that are currently Low Prevalence Areas and managing their OJD risk are well placed to attain protected status under the revised arrangements.

How the new areas will work?

Protected Area:

To earn the classification of 'Protected Area' areas must demonstrate that the prevalence of OJD is low and they are actively preventing and controlling the ongoing risk of infection, either by regulatory control or by producers establishing an audited regional biosecurity plan.

Control Area:

A Control Area is one where the disease is well established or where there is no regional approach to preventing OJD.

Disease control and prevention in these areas will be the responsibility of individual producers, and extension messages will encourage producers to:

- undertake vaccination (when sheep are 16 weeks or younger) of all sheep which will be kept past 12 months of age
- enter into the SheepMAP as a means of demonstrating individual farm biosecurity and high assurance
- develop Property Disease Management Plans (PDMP) for infected flocks
- use abattoir surveillance information to evaluate the effectiveness of control programs

- provide a Sheep Health Statement with each lot sold and seek a Sheep Health Statement for each lot purchased as evidence of the level of risk that is being purchased (noting that industry will seek national mandating of the SHS)
- access advice on management options, including flock testing, flock profiling and grazing management.

Movement controls

Movement requirements between and within regions will be developed by a technical advisory group comprising state OJD Coordinators and national industry representatives for consideration by the relevant state Chief Veterinary Officer. Movement requirements between states have a regulatory basis and can only be determined by jurisdictions. However the national sheep industries will strongly advocate for uniform entry requirements for all Protected Areas nationally.

The requirements mean sheep entering a Protected Area must be:

- from a SheepMAP flock which has been tested in the last two years; or
- from a non-SheepMAP flock which has tested negative to abattoir testing or faecal culture and has not introduced sheep from a lower assurance level in the past five (5) years; or
- Terminal tag lambs –lambs that will be sold for slaughter before they cut their first permanent teeth.

For further information visit www.ojd.com.au

Below are a list of contacts should you have any concerns regarding these changes:

Sheepmeat Council of Australia:

Kathleen Ferme (Senior Policy officer-Animal Health&Welfare) 0262695610

State OJD Contacts

NSW- Dr Rob Barwell 0269381654

VIC - Dr Robert Suter 0392174109

SA - Dr Peter Nosworthy 0887629140

WA - Dr Anna Erickson 0898810211

TAS - Dr Rowena Bell 0363592148

QLD - Dr Lawrence Gavey 0746881303

WINTER LAMB WRAP-UP: MLA

MLA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2012

THIS winter, national lamb supply at markets reported by MLA's NLRS decreased 2 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Most eastern parts of the country received average rainfall leading up to and throughout winter, however, drier conditions were experienced throughout the Mallee region of SA, Victoria and most parts of WA.

As is to be expected throughout winter, the cold conditions affected lamb quality, while restocker interest slowly tapered off due to pastures becoming dormant.

State trends – In NSW, total winter turnoff was 1 per cent lower, while SA throughput decreased 11% compared with the same period last year.

Victorian lamb throughput during winter lifted 4% year-on-year. Patchy falls throughout Victoria were experienced in July and this impacted quality, joinings and lambing percentages. An increase in light lamb turn-off was noted during winter and when compared with the same period last year more than doubled.

The dry conditions throughout most of the year in WA have resulted in a season that hangs in the balance. Total lamb turn-off was 20pc lower compared with the same period last year. A stronger focus on rebuilding the flock, coupled with a solid focus on cropping activities has contributed to the decline.

Lamb category contribution to total yardings – Light lambs made up 28pc of the total lambs yarded throughout winter, being a slightly higher figure than winter last year. Trade weight lambs across the country this winter accounted for 34pc of total yardings, however, during the same period last year, trade lambs accounted for 41pc of the total winter yarding. Heavy and export weight lambs were well represented throughout June as producers took advantage of solid prices to offload old lambs.

Towards the end of July, and during August, there has been a week-by-week fall in the number of heavy lambs offered, with only limited numbers weighing in over 30kg cwt.

Trade and heavy lamb prices this winter have fluctuated around current levels. However, during the winter months, young lamb numbers have gained momentum, with demand favouring the younger lines over the old lamb drafts.



This winter, national lamb supply at markets reported by MLA's NLRS decreased 2 per cent compared with the same period last year.



WHITE SUFFOLKS

Simply Better Lamb

www.whitesuffolk.com.au

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BENDIGO ELITE WHITE SUFFOLK SHOW RESULTS 2012

15 – 17 SEPTEMBER, BENDIGO
JUDGE DAVID PIPKORN

The inaugural Bendigo Elite White Suffolk Show & Sale was a successful weekend with 30 exhibitors showing over 220 White Suffolks. Judging on Saturday saw many great line ups of rams and ewes judged by well known breeder David Pipkorn of Detpa Grove White Suffolk Stud. This was viewed by a very good crowd throughout the day. Saturday evening a dinner was enjoyed by 60 people at the Bendigo RSL. This was an enjoyable evening for sponsors and exhibitors which included an auction of sponsored items which was well supported. Sunday was an opportunity to peruse sale and show sheep with a BBQ lunch supplied for all exhibitors and sponsors which was enjoyed by all. A Schools Competition and Junior Judging and handling competition were held also with around 20 students participating. This gave them more opportunity to show their sheep and learn some great tips on handling and judging sheep from David Pipkorn. The sale held on Monday was well attended with 53 registered buyers with the top priced ram making \$7500 and another five rams achieving close to this price also with a sale average of \$3558. The ewes topped at \$1500 averaging \$785.

Thanks to our sponsors - Stock & Land, Pfizer, The Land, Bromar Engineering, City of Greater Bendigo, Best Environmental Technologies, Doug's Mobile Welding, Genstock Reproductive Technology, Performance Feeds and all supporter sponsors and class sponsors.

A great atmosphere was enjoyed by all throughout the weekend and the committee would like to thank all who attended and helped over the weekend to make it the success it was and look forward to it being bigger and better next year in the new exhibition building.

RESULTS

Saturday 15th September

WS1: Novice Ram - All entries to compete in the ordinary classes.

1. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
 2. Supreme - S & E Cameron
 3. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
 4. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
 5. McCaughley - Yanco Ag High School
 6. McCaughley - Yanco Ag High School
- HC McCaughley - Yanco Ag High School

WS2: Ram, under 1 1/2 years, born April.

1. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
 2. Omad - Damien Hawker
 3. Kurralea - B & L Prentice
 4. Kurralea - B & L Prentice
 5. Duenclin - GD GB & CK Huxtable
 6. Induro - G Treweek
- HC Induro - G Treweek
HC Warburn - A Dissegna
C Hayelle - H & M Whittlesea

WS3: Ram, under 1 1/2 years, born May.

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
 2. Kurralea - B & L Prentice
 3. Warburn - A. Dissegna
 4. Kurralea - B & L Prentice
 5. Belladonna - A & R Smith
 6. Gemini - C & R Mitchell
- HC Belladonna - A & R Smith
HC Warburn - A. Dissegna
C Windy Hill - M Smart
C Gemini - C & R Mitchell

WS4: Ram, under 1 1/2 years, born June.

1. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
 2. Gemini - C & R Mitchell
 3. Warburn - A Dissegna
 4. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
 5. Spring Valley - RA & SA Keen
 6. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
- HC Gemini - C & R Mitchell
HC Penrise - K & D Moore
C Gemini - C & R Mitchell
C Glengarry - JA & JR Wiesner
C Deppeler - D Deppeler

WS5: Pair of Rams, under 1 1/2 years, no more than 4 teeth.

1. Gemini - C & R Mitchell
2. Adalinda - A & G Gilpin
3. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
4. Penrise - K & D Moore
5. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
6. Kurralea - B & L Prentice

WS9: Ram Lamb, in the wool born after 1st April the year of the Show.

1. Induro - G Treweek
2. Hayelle - H & M Whittlesea
3. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
4. Adalinda - A & G Gilpin
5. Kookaburra Park - A Adams
6. Kookaburra Park - A Adams

Senior Champion Ram - Ashbank
Reserve Senior Champion Ram - Rene

Junior Champion Ram Ashbank
Reserve Junior Champion Ram - Kurralea
Grand Champion Ram - Ashbank

WS6: Ram under 1 1/2 years, shorn, born July.

1. Kurralea - B & L Prentice
 2. Spring Valley - RA & SA Keen
 3. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
 4. Penrise - K & D Moore
 5. Glengarry - JA & JR Wiesner
 6. Gemini - C & R Mitchell
- HC Warburn - A. Dissegna
HC Merribrook - R & L Collins
C Induro - G Treweek
C Merribrook - R & L Collins

WS10: Novice Ewe - All entries to compete in the ordinary classes.

1. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
2. McCaughley - Yanco Ag High School
3. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College

WS7: Ram under 1 1/2 years, born August.

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
 2. Warburn - A. Dissegna
 3. Sunnybanks - PP & KF Day
 4. Spring Valley - RA & SA Keen
 5. Pinewalla - K Weir
 6. Sunnybanks - PP & KF Day
- HC Gemini - C & R Mitchell
C Supreme - S & E Cameron

WS11: Ewe, over 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed with lamb at foot.

1. Windy Hill - M Smart
2. Hayelle - H & M Whittlesea

WS12: Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, born April.

1. Duenclyn - GD GB & CK Huxtable
2. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
3. Windy Hill - M Smart
4. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
5. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
6. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson

WS8: Pair of Rams under 1 1/2 years.

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
2. Penrise - Mr. K & D Moore
3. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
4. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
5. Spring Valley - RA & SA Keen
6. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson

WS13 : Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, born May.

1. McCaughley - Yanco Ag High School
2. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
3. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
4. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
5. Induro - G Treweek
6. Merton - BN & HF Stanford

BENDIGO ELITE WHITE SUFFOLK SHOW RESULTS 2012 CONT

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WS14: Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, born June.

1. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
2. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
3. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
4. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
5. Boolooloa - S & A Baker
6. Glengarry - JA & JR Wiesner

WS15: Pair of Ewes, under 1 1/2 years,.

1. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
2. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
3. Induro - G Treweek
4. Fairburn - F MacDonald

Senior Champion Ewe - Somerset
Reserve Senior Champion Ewe - Wattle Park

WS16: Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, born July.

1. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
2. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
3. Glengarry - JA & JR Wiesner
4. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
5. Merribrook - R & L Collins
6. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College

WS17: Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, born August.

1. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
2. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
3. Merribrook - R & L Collins
4. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
5. Glengarry - JA & JR Wiesner
6. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae

WS18: Pair of Ewes, under 1 1/2 years.

1. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
2. Fairburn - F MacDonald
3. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
4. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College

WS19: Ewe Lamb, in the wool, born after 1st April the year of the Show.

1. Windy Hill - M Smart
2. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
3. Hayelle - H & M Whittlesea
4. Kookaburra Park - A Adams

Junior Champion Ewe - Rene
Reserve Junior Champion Ewe - Rene
Grand Champion Ewe - Somerset

WS20: Breeders Group - 1 Ram & 2 Ewes to be drawn from ordinary classes.

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon
2. Rene - D. I. S. & J. Mitchell
3. Somerset - L.H. & K.L. McCrae
4. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
5. Induro - G Treweek

Most Successful Exhibitor - Rene
Supreme Exhibit - Ashbank

SCHOOL'S COMPETITION & JUNIOR JUDGING

Sunday 16th September

Congratulations to both schools attending the Bendigo Elite White Suffolk Show & Sale. They presented a quality line up of sheep and the way the students participated and conducted themselves was a credit to them.

Schools Competition- Judged by Craig Mitchell

Ewe Class

1. St Pauls College
2. St Pauls College
3. St Pauls College
4. Yanco Agricultural High School
5. St Pauls College
6. Yanco Agricultural High School
7. Yanco Agricultural High School

Ram Class

1. Yanco Agricultural High School
2. St Pauls College
3. Yanco Agricultural High School
4. St Pauls College
5. St Pauls College
6. St Pauls College
7. Yanco Agricultural High School

The Bendigo Elite White Suffolk Show Schools Shield was won by St Pauls College.

Junior Judging – Judged by David Pipkorn

1. Andrew Haenig – Yanco
2. Ryan Van Gmert – Yanco
3. Steven Butler – Yanco
4. Rhianna Jamieson – St Pauls

Junior Handler Competition- Judged by David Pipkorn

1. Ryan Van Gmert Yanco
2. Celene Jamieson St Pauls
3. Daniel Singe St Pauls
4. Andrew Haenig Yanco
5. Aiden Rueck Yanco
6. Sam Barnes Yanco
7. Steven Butler Yanco
8. Molly Cornish Tasmania



MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER SALE RESULTS:

RAMS

Offered 45 rams

Sold 17 rams

Top Price \$7500 Average \$3558

Top priced ram sold by 'Rene'

EWES

Offered 13

Sold 7

Top price \$1500 Average \$785

Top priced ewe sold by 'Wattle Park'



BENDIGO ELITE WHITE SUFFOLK SHOW PHOTOS 2012

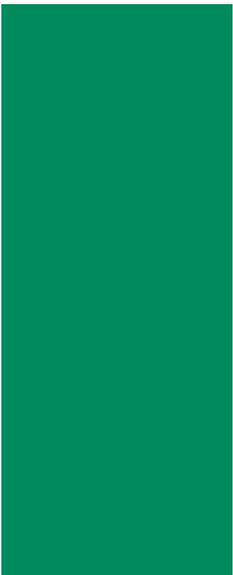
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SUPREME EXHIBIT - ASHBANK



SENIOR CHAMPION - SOMERSET & RESERVE
SENIOR CHAMPION - WATTLE PARK



GRAND CHAMPION EWE -
SOMERSET



JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - ASHBANK &
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION - KURRALEA



SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - ASHBANK &
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - RENE

