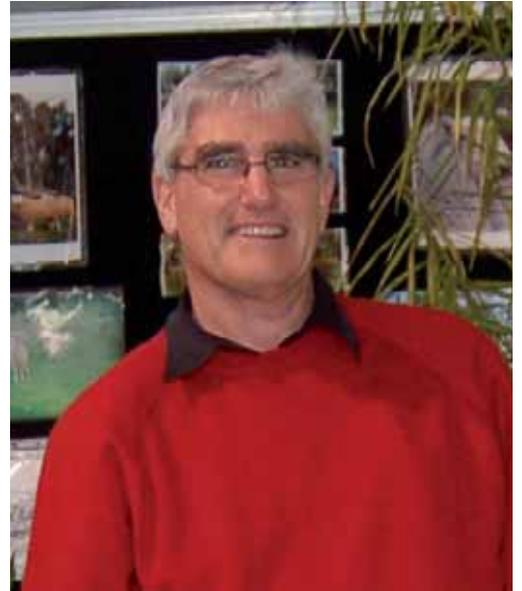

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MURRAY LONG

Well into the business end of the season and mixed reports on ram sales; some good, others not as good. The changes within the Australian sheep industry in the last few years has resulted in a stabilisation of numbers, perhaps even a slight reduction in recent times and the resulting ram sales have been a consequence of this. It would seem we have reached the point of stabilisation with regard to sheep numbers nationally and with cropping enterprises seemingly providing adequate returns (or so they claim), the current situation will not change without a dramatic change in circumstances. Despite a reduction in sheep numbers, we are still producing record lamb numbers nationally with record export volumes; a credit to all involved in the sheep industry.



The next big event for the Association is the Annual Conference which will be held at Hamilton (Victoria) in February 2014. Planning is well underway and the program looks informative and as always, a great opportunity for members to get together and have good time. One important part of the conference in Feb. will be the formulation of our Strategic Plan for the next 5 years. This will involve input from all members attending and the results of the suggestions will provide a document detailing the direction for the Association for the next 5 years. Previous strategic plans have been highly successful in maintaining the commercial focus of the Association and its members and have been largely responsible for the position we now hold in then Australian sheep industry. Get the thinking caps on and if you cannot attend the conference, send any suggestions to the office prior to the Conference to ensure your ideas are added to the document.

There will also be a big change to the manner in which any new members are elected to the committee with the introduction of a postal ballot system. This will ensure that all members whether they attend the Conference or not, have the opportunity to have a say in who they prefer to represent their views through the committee. Keep watch for the postal ballot forms that will arrive before Xmas and will need to be returned soon after to allow for determination of the committee members well before the Conference.

The extension application for the Sheep CRC will be close to decision time by the time this Newsletter reaches members with an interview process for all applicants having been conducted early in November to decide successful CRC applicants. With all that is happening within the AWSA in regard to future promotion, a successful extension bid for Sheep CRC will ensure an exciting time for our members and ensure our future as a main source of genetics in the lamb industry of the future.

It is important for us as an Association to think forward as to what we want to achieve over the next five years, with or without a Sheep CRC, to provide the genetics that will be preferred by the prime lamb industry. There is no doubt the industry will be vastly different to what we have been accustomed to with processors and lamb buyers becoming increasingly selective in the type of lambs they are sourcing.

CONTINUED PAGE 7

FEDERAL COUNCIL MATTERS

ROB MARTIN (ACTING SECRETARY)

Judge Nominations and Ballots

The Judge nominations and judge ballots for the 2014 year are now underway, some are currently being received while others are about to commence. Please return these at your earliest convenience.

Appendix Referendum

You have by now received a Referendum form for an opinion on whether the Appendix should be moved back one generation. It would be appreciated if you could indicate a YES or a No on the form and return it to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Advertising Rates

Newsletter advertising rates for members who advertise in all consecutive issues (general pages) have been reduced by the following percentages – November 15%, April 30% and August remains at the full rate. These rates to apply immediately. This decision is designed to encourage members to book regular Newsletter advertising.

Photos used in Newsletter advertisements

Members are advised that photos used in advertisements are restricted to White Suffolk breed or Appendix animals. All advertising in the AWSA Newsletter must have a White Suffolk focus but not be restricted to White Suffolk sheep only. If photographs or advertising are of extremely poor quality or taste staff will have the authority not to include the advertisement in the Newsletter.

30th Anniversary Celebrations

It is pleasing to advise that the majority of the major shows have accepted the AWSA request for feature breed status in 2015; the Associations 30th anniversary year. The celebrations will be focused on these Feature Shows. Members are encouraged to plan for the 2015 events in order that the focus on the White Suffolk breed can be highly visible.

White Suffolk Fairfax Media Liftout

Thanks to those members who have forwarded back the Liftout survey form, the response has been extremely positive, however to organise a successful commercially focused Liftout, a high level of support is required. It would be appreciated if members who have not returned the form could do so at the earliest possible opportunity.

Council Nomination Forms

Members are advised that from now on the election of Councillors will be conducted by postal vote only. Council election nomination forms were mailed to all members in the October mail out in conjunction with the Appendix Referendum and Conference package. Members who would like to stand for Council are encouraged to nominate.

Strategic Plan

A reminder to members who are not attending the 2014 National Conference that as advised in the October mail out the Association Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the 2014 Conference. If you have any

NEW MEMBERS SINCE APRIL 2013

Welcome to the following new members of the AWSA:

Flock	Name	Address	Prefix
826	Cheetham, N.	PO Box 120, Narambeen	WA 6369 Cheetara
829	Sexton D	80 Burgess Rd, Gidgegannup	WA 6083 Prideaux Farm
830	Lewis G	PO Box 43 Balmoral	VIC 3407 Shepherds Hut
831	Pether P	59 Gardyne St Bronte	NSW 2024 Omeo
832	Frohling R	"Oak Hill" Howlong Rd Burrumbuttock	NSW 2643 Hovell

FEDERAL COUNCIL MATTERS CONT

ROB MARTIN (ACTING SECRETARY)

views or opinions on the future directions for the breed and or the Association please forward them in writing to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Promotional Banners

Members are advised that the Association has investigated and obtained a quote on the production of pull up promotional banners for use at events. You will be provided with further information on the banners when available.

Transfer of Prefix Ownership.

Council has recently discussed the current rule concerning the transfer of Prefix ownership and as a result the current Bylaw will be altered to the following: "That for a Prefix to be transferred 75% of all breeding stock associated with that Prefix must be purchased". It would be appreciated if all members could take note of this alteration.

Upcoming Show Dates

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

ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW 21ST - 23RD FEB 2014
WAGIN WOOLORAMA 7TH - 8TH MAR 2014
ROYAL SYDNEY EASTER SHOW
 10 - 23RD APR 2014

Royal Canberra Show 21st – 23rd February 2014

Wagin Woolorama 7th – 8th March 2014

Royal Sydney Easter Show 10th – 23rd April 2014

From the Acting Secretary

It is anticipated that Nikki will possibly return from maternity leave on a part time basis in January 2014, so the usual prompt service of your requirements that you have been use to will resume.

As this is our last newsletter for 2013 the Secretariat wishes you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It is also worth noting that the office will be closed from 5:00pm Friday 20th December for the break and will re-open 9:00am Monday 6th January 2014.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CONTINUED

Some lamb producers are already experiencing this selection pressure and it is our responsibility as seedstock producers to provide genetics to our clients that are best suited to processors specifications.

Well done to all those members who provided an exceptionally high standard of show animals at the many shows across the country over recent months. Congratulations to those who had success but whether you featured in the ribbons or not, everyone has done their bit for the promotion of the breed and the benefits the White Suffolk breed offers. From the smallest country show to the largest Royal, all those who spent the time and effort to prepare sheep have flown the flag for the benefit of all members.

Finally I would like to wish all members a very joyous Christmas and a great 2014. The future of the White Suffolk breed has never looked better.

See you in Hamilton!

Murray Long

PROMOTION AND MARKETING UPDATE

ANDREW FRICK - CHAIR PROMOTION & MARKETING COMMITTEE

An update of some of the key promotion activities undertaken during the Spring Ram selling season.

WIN-A-RAM COMPETITION

At the time of writing the Win-a-Ram competition was nearing completion with many entries received adding some very positive comments. The competition with one Australia wide prize of \$1000 for the purchase of a White Suffolk Flock Ram was designed to gauge awareness and effectiveness of our Print Media advertising and encourage people to visit our website. The feedback will provide the committee with better insight on when and where to place our advertising to get better value from our advertising budget and how best to use other media for promotion opportunities.

eNEWSLETTER

A new initiative this year has been the production of an E-newsletter, and we have committed to a trial of 5 issues to investigate response and uptake of the idea. Sue Piggott has done a fantastic job developing the platform and loading the articles, with preliminary feedback showing a high percentage of recipients reading all the articles. We will tighten up on production times for this forum in the future and are looking to greatly expand the coverage to commercial breeders during 2014.

PRINT MEDIA TRIAL

As well as the regular schedule of print advertising the committee is pursuing some other additional forms of promotion. One option is the production of a magazine/lift out to be inserted in most major rural press publications, the lift out will target the commercial lamb producer and Members will be encouraged to take up advertising space in the publication. We have also undertaken the first steps towards developing some branded product with the potential for huge Marketing and Promotional spin-offs, but every good idea starts from small foundations, so we have initiated a small scale trial with a medium sized processor in South Australia to develop the skills and understanding of what is required for a large scale, 52 months of the year project. It is hoped to have a much more in depth report of the progress on this initiative at the Conference in February.

LAMBEX CONVENTION

Another important event happening during 2014 is the Lambex convention and the White Suffolk Board is evaluating ways that we as an Association can be involved and use this as an effective Marketing opportunity. The event will be held in Adelaide in July 2014 and Past President of our Association Alan Piggott is event Chairman.

As a Promotions committee we are always looking for good producer stories or even general interest articles with a White Suffolk theme so please contact me with any leads or ideas Andrew Frick 0407 715 123.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEW WEBMANAGER

SUE PIGGOTT - BIZBOOST - WEBMASTER

Our online Data Management system – WebManager – has recently had an overhaul and for those of you who have not already noticed – the next time you login you will see a noticeable change

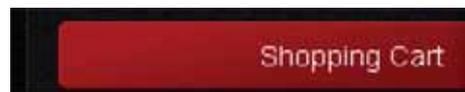
If you need help – there are some updated User Guides on the website – go to the Members Services page and click on the links.

So what's new:

- Browser Back Button - Does now work in most instances!
- Expanding Menus – giving you more options Click on a green button to see more options
- Ram Search – The links to Lookup in Lambplan are now working automatically (as long as the person registering this ram has indicated that the animal is in the SGA Animal Enquiry database.



- Red Shopping Cart button – means you have 'items' in your cart and you should proceed to the checkout to print a Tax Invoice and make a payment.



- Ram List of your Stud – rams can now be hidden or shown – so you can reduce the length of this page – hide all but the 'current' rams in use



Or use the Sort or Filter options to find a ram more quickly. See User Guide for more details



- Ownership of Rams
 - For all future transfers (cannot be defined retrospectively), this can now be more clearly defined. As you transfer a ram you can mark whether you have retained a marketing or use interest in that ram. See user guide for more details.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Sue Piggott at Bizboost
if you need help with these online forms.

e: info@bizboost.com.au
ph: (08) 85724470

2014 AWSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17TH AND 18TH *Hamilton, Victoria*

This year the 2014 National Conference is being held at the Hamilton Exhibition and Conference Centre situated at the Hamilton Showgrounds, Hamilton Victoria.

Sheep return to the conference with a "Pen of Three Ram lambs" competition on Monday evening. This event has a commercial focus with two sections, rams suitable to breed either trade and export lambs. It incorporates the Trade\$ and Export\$ Lambplan indexes as well as live judging looking at evenness, structure, market suitability, skin quality and breed type. The lambs will not be held but judged in a large ring with live comments from the judge during judging.



SPEAKERS FOR THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

RICHARD APPS -	Manager of Sheep and Lamb Research - MLA
PROFESSOR RON LENG -	Olsson's - Prelambing Ewe Nutrition
NATHAN SCOTT -	MS & A - EID Technology and Applications
ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA -	OJD MAP review update and public consultation
GRAEME ANDERSON -	DEPI Victoria - Understanding weather and climate

There will also be a choice of workshops to demonstrate the software Koolcollect, Stockbook and BreedElite .

Trade displays including a variety of products will be situated at the showgrounds during the conference.

The welcome BBQ on Sunday the 16th February will be held at the showgrounds, with the traditional Tuesday night dinner at the Hamilton Golf Club.

Hamilton is situated at the foot of the Grampians National Park in the renowned Western District of Victoria. It has many local attractions and is not far from the coast and the tourist destinations of Port Fairy and Warrnambool. A list of local studs open for inspection will be available at the conference.



PEN OF 3 RAM LAMB COMPETITION AT "BEEF EXPO" IN 2009.



If you have any questions please contact any of the following,

Steve Milne, Debbie Milne, Ian Porter, Denise Porter, Lachie McCrae, Craig Mitchell.

Look forward to a great conference and seeing you all in February!

Cheers

Steve and Debbie Milne

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW RESULTS 2013

19-21 JULY, BENDIGO

JUDGE: ANDREW DONNAN, EXHIBITORS: 20, SHEEP ENTRIES: 150



SENIOR AND GRAND CHAMPION RAM
- WINGAMIN

Novice Ram

1. McCaughy (Yanco High School)
2. Elisabeth Murdoch College
3. McCaughy (Yanco High School)

Ram under 1.5 years in the wool

1. Omad
2. Rene
3. Hayelle
4. Fairburn

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in April

1. Omad
2. Wingamin
3. Hayelle

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in May

1. Wingamin
2. Wingamin
3. Ashley Park
4. Glenarbian



SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN
& RESERVE SNR CHAMPION RAM - OMAD

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in June

1. Booloola
2. Glenarbian
3. Ashley Park
4. Wattle Park

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

1. Wingamin
2. Glenarbian
3. Hayelle
4. Wattle Park

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - OMAD

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in July

1. Rene
2. Ashley Park
3. Ashley Park

Ram under 1.5 years, shorn, born in August

1. Rene
2. Ashley Park
3. Rene

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

1. Rene
2. Ashely Park
3. Rene
4. Fairburn

Ram lamb born after 1st of April

1. Omad
2. Hayelle
3. Hayelle
4. Induro

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - RENE
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - RENE
GRAND CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN

Novice Ewe

1. McCaughy (Yanco High School)
2. Sunnydale
3. Sunnydale

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

1. Wingamin
2. Hayelle
3. Elisabeth Murdoch College

Ewe under 1.5 years in the wool

1. Rene
2. Hayelle
3. Omad

Ewe under 1.5 years, shorn, born April/May

1. Wattle Park
2. Wingamin
3. Wingamin
4. Omad

Pair of ewes under 1.5 years, shorn

1. Rene
2. Wattle Park
3. Sunnydale
4. Glenarbian

Ewe under 1.5 years, shorn, born June/July

1. Wingamin
2. Wattle Park
3. Rene
4. Booloola

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

1. Rene
2. Rene
3. Wattle Park
4. Omad

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

1. Wingamin
2. Wingamin
3. Hayelle

CHAMPION EWE - WINGAMIN
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - RENE

Group of 1 ram & 2 ewes under 1.5 years

1. Wingamin
2. Rene
3. Wattle Park

Sire's Progeny Group.

1. Wingamin
2. Rene
3. Omad

SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT - WINGAMIN
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - WINGAMIN



CHAMPION EWE - WINGAMIN

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION RESULTS 2013

5-6 AUGUST, HAMILTON

JUDGE: ALLAN PIGGOTT



SENIOR CHAMPION RAM
- WINGAMIN



GRAND CHAMPION EWE
- WINGAMIN

Novice Ram

1. Noremac
2. Sunnydale
3. Sunnydale

Ram U 1 1/2 Born April

1. Wingamin
2. Bundara Downs
3. Hayelle
4. Bundara Downs

Ram U 1 1/2 Born May

1. Glenarbian
2. Wingamin
3. Waratah
4. Wingamin

Ram U 1 1/2 Born June

1. Days
2. Seriston
3. Gemini
4. Bundara Downs

Pen of 2 Rams Apr - Jun drop

1. Bundara Downs
2. Wingamin
3. Days
4. Bundara Downs
5. Waratah

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - WINGAMIN
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - DAYS WHITEFACE

Ram U 1 1/2 Born July

1. Days
2. Somerset
3. Glengarry
4. Wingamin
5. Noremac

Ram U 1 1/2 Born August

1. Days
2. Ashley Park
3. Ramsay Park
4. Seriston
5. Days

Pen of 2 Rams Jul- Sept drop

1. Somerset
2. Fairburn
3. Days
4. Ashley Park

Ram Lamb

1. Hayelle
2. Omad
3. Hayelle

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - DAYS WHITEFACE
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - SOMERSET
GRAND CHAMPION RAM - DAYS WHITEFACE

Lamb Production Class

1. Waratah
2. Gemini
3. Bundara Downs
4. Bundara Downs

Novice Ewe

1. Sunnydale
2. Sunnydale
3. Noremac

Ewe Over 1 1/2 in lamb or in milk

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

Ewe 1 1/2 born Apr-May

1. Wingamin
2. Glenarbian
3. Omad
4. Sunnydale

Ewe 1 1/2 born Jun-Jul

1. Wingamin
2. Gemini
3. Sunnydale
4. Glenarbian

Ewe 1 1/2 born after Aug

1. Gemini
2. Glengarry
3. Gemini
4. Gemini

Pen of 2 Ewes

1. Glenarbian
2. Sunnydale
3. Glengarry
4. Ramsay Park
5. Somerset

Ewe Lamb

1. Wingamin
2. Hayelle
3. Wingamin
4. Hayelle

CHAMPION EWE - WINGAMIN
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - WINGAMIN

Sires Progeny Group:

1. Wingamin
2. Days
3. Glenarbian
4. Ashley Park
5. Fairburn

SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT - DAYS WHITEFACE



JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT - DAYS WHITEFACE

WAYS OF HANDLING OJD AND GUDAIR USE

Q & A WITH DEB LEHMANN-KANGAROO ISLAND VETERINARY CLINIC
COURTESY OF 'CLASSINGS CULLINGS'

1. A client of mine near Lake Bolac acquired OJD several years back, de-stocked for the recommended period, then restocked with fresh MAP stock yet within two years found out that the 'dreaded' had returned. His quote to me now is,"The zoning for OJD is easy, VACCINATED and NON VACCINATED and that's it!"

Your comment please? (read the response carefully here folks..great local research)

Destocking was trialled after many producers had already gone through the recommended process. 4 out of the 20 trials held nationally were on Kangaroo Island. All 4 properties did as your client near Lake Bolac did and re-stocked with sheep from MAP tested flocks. No other sheep sold from these MAP flocks developed OJD and the flocks themselves have not broken down. **(BUT!)**

All of the destock/restock flocks had OJD detected 2 years later (yr 2000/2001) by the PFC test. My belief is that the organism had not died out on the pasture/soil and the new sheep were infected on the property.

One property had 2 ewes wasting prior to lambing and on autopsy I also sampled their unborn lambs for OJD culture. Tissues from the ewes and the unborn lambs grew the OJD bacteria. This method of spread is not talked about much but I think it is an important method of spread in dry areas with harsh environments. It is most likely the reason for vaccine failure in some infected sheep flocks as the lambs are already infected by the time they are vaccinated. (NB In cattle the organism only infects offspring via the colostrum.)

2. Can you remind me what the lag time was all about in getting Gudair onto the market and subsequently 'out there' in Australia?

Gudair was made available in 2002. Disease first diagnosed on KI 1998.

3. Is there a 'live' vaccine for OJD in NZ? What does this mean?

There was a live vaccine in NZ before Gudair but I don't think it is used anymore. With a live vaccine you are introducing the organism to the property so potentially infecting clean properties. In Aus there was confusion initially with Gudair use with some people wrongly promoting the idea that the vaccine was live.

4. MN3 8 points sounds very snug and safe but due to the farm neighbour's animal health issues (ie.Johne's), other species transfer (possum etc.), waterways, my work boots etc.surely to have all stock vaccinated over time is a safer option than a fragile health test. Your comment please.

The only protection against this disease is vaccination. If your flock is tested negative to MN3 level and then you vaccinate the whole flock you have an Approved Vaccinated Flock even though the sheep were vaccinated older than 4 months of age. In the MAP program once you have an AVF you no longer need to have any testing done - just annual audits of introductions to maintain status of MN3-V.

The biggest risk to your business is detection of disease through testing. Vaccinate now and eliminate this risk. If you have a neighbour with OJD the organism has probably already contaminated your property. It is only a matter of time before it is detected by testing. Once you vaccinate, most sheep exposed to the organism will not get infected. Those that do get infected will have a delayed progression to shedding the bug in the faeces. Sell the sheep at 5yo and you are unlikely to get caught out. If there happens to be sheep already infected at the time of vaccination some may go on to become wasted and shed alot of bugs in their faeces. The best thing here is to cut the throat of any sheep that is not maintaining good body condition. With OJD this usually occurs leading up to lambing. Vaccinate NOW, become MN3-V and don't risk diagnosis by testing.

Most properties never find the source of introduction so doesn't matter how many negative PFC tests are done - this is no protection!

5. A percentage of Vaccinated stock can still shed the bacteria but over generations of vaccinating this percentage diminishes. Right or Wrong?

Right but qualified by saying ".vaccinated stock 'in a flock already infected!'"

6. The 'snobbery' of S.A. and Queensland with their stock trade restrictions appears to make sense to me. Your comment?

Yes it does make sense. We do have a much lower prevalence of disease so should endeavour to keep it that way. We must also educate our seed stock producers about vaccination in the MAP especially as sale sheep may go to higher risk areas.

7. A merino stud in Victoria who is five generation vaccinated really wants to sell rams at Classic'13. Is this stud safer than a MN3 who only has randomly picked ewes for faeces or blood culture testing with no vaccinating?

This depends on whether the Vic stud had disease nearby when vaccination started. If so there could still be some older sheep shedding bacteria although very unlikely. This flock will need to have a negative PFC 350 test to be able to bring sheep to your sale and the new PCR test gives results after 2-3 weeks (not 3months any more). If the flock was in the MAP before they started vaccinating they are an extremely low risk flock and certainly less so than the MN3 SA flock. They could enter the MAP again as a MN1-V flock with the single negative PFC test and then not have to test again for entry to SA in future years.

Another option for entry to SA is to have negative Abattoir 500 within the last 2 years.

The status of the MN3 flock really only reflects the actual situation 5 years ago. If disease was introduced back then it could be detected now or in the near future at the next PFC test.

8. Is abattoir surveillance really that effective when a young sheep could look 'clean' at slaughter yet still have the disease?

Abattoir surveillance is not sensitive as a once off for detection of disease in a flock especially if the sheep are less than 4 years old. Over time you get more assurance but once again this depends on the area around the being free and no introductions of risky sheep. It could take up to 10 years to detect OJD by this method. The on farm PFC test is much more sensitive.

9. I have suggested to traders that Kangaroo Island would be the first place to think of when buying replacement stock due to their vigilance with OJD containment rather than from other areas in snob mode (aka in denial) of any Johne's issues. Fair enough statement?

I would suggest that any replacement sheep purchased have some assurance through testing and or vaccination - the best being in MAP and vaccinating no matter where they are from (although all flocks in the MAP on Kangaroo Island have been vaccinating since 2002).

The next level of assurance from my point of view would be a closed flock that has been tested negative and has then vaccinated the whole flock and continued vaccinating lambs for many generations. Most vaccinating flocks on Kangaroo Island satisfy this criteria.

WAYS OF HANDLING OJD AND GUDAIR USE - CONT

Q & A WITH DEB LEHMANN-KANGAROO ISLAND VETERINARY CLINIC
COURTESY OF 'CLASSINGS CULLINGS'

A flock MN3 in the MAP from an area where OJD has not been diagnosed has good assurance but could be diagnosed with OJD at the next test. Flocks with an Abattoir 500 test have some assurance but not much. Tests over time will give added assurance. Untested flocks have the least assurance even if they are from an area where OJD has not been diagnosed yet.

10. It seems that an individual who has endured the years and costs of MAP and Johne's accreditation is the first to knock the vaccination of stock. I think it is the fear in realising that vaccination may rule and MN3 may become meaningless despite the \$thousands he/she has spent. Your comment please.

You could play a role in helping people in the MAP go the next step to the highest assurance possible for their clients and the least business risk for themselves by vaccinating their whole flock. The vaccine is once for the life of the sheep and the cost is cheap insurance when it means that the chance of having disease diagnosed is virtually eliminated. They should be encouraged to take this step. An added bonus is that they no longer have to pay for regular testing, just the annual MAP audit.

Little bogies like the fear of self in-oculation can be eliminated by using a Simcro Sekurus vaccinator gun especially designed to protect the user with a shroud that tents the skin and keeps the needle covered until it is pushed hard against the skin.

11. Had every lamb been vaccinated on every property in Australia right from the early 80's when the disease was detected, wouldn't we be in a better position now?

There is no way that vaccination would have been recommended or undertaken on such a broad scale. The best option would have been to vaccinate

the infected flocks and those several properties out around them to contain the disease while undertaking a testing program to determine its extent. This is what happened on Kangaroo Island.

12. If yes, then there would have been no need for the MAP program but just a Stat Dec to suggest that you have or have not vaccinated correct?

The answer was no. In Iceland in the 1950's OJD and 2 other diseases broke out in some sheep introduced from Germany. The properties were destocked for some months then stock were reintroduced. The other 2 diseases were eradicated but OJD showed up again soon. They developed a vaccine and vaccinated all sheep in the surrounding area for control of disease. A natural mountain range divided the country in two and sheep trading did not occur between the 2 areas.

It was compulsory to vaccinate in the area of infection and compulsory not to vaccinate in the other area. Abattoir surveillance has continued ever since to ensure that the disease is under control and reducing in the infected area and not showing up in the free area. Sheep are randomly blood tested to make sure that they have been vaccinated in the control area and tested to make sure they are not vaccinating in the free area. After many years of no longer seeing disease in the control area a trial on some properties was carried out to see what happened if vaccination stopped. The disease started to appear again so vaccination has remained compulsory in this control area.

Maybe we should have created 2 such areas in Australia and stopped trade between them to minimise the unnecessary use of vaccine in areas where disease is unlikely to occur.

13. What is the level of stigma associated with K.I. stock and how have the flocks recovered and how did they go about restocking?

Part 1 - I don't believe that there is any stigma associated with KI stock any more. The different zone for trade between KIs and the mainland meant that most producers selling cast for age sheep or prime lambs went straight to slaughter and store lambs went to feedlots then on to slaughter. Any that have gone to the market place have had equivalent or more points to mainland stock on the Sheep Health

Statement in use for the last 5 years. Studs like Ella Matta have been MN3-V for 10 years and have had no problems selling rams on the mainland. Education is the key to their clients understanding that buying sheep from flocks in the Market Assurance Program that are also Approved Vaccinates are the safest sheep in Australia to introduce to their properties with respect to OJD.

14. I presume there is evidence of grower denial with any poor stock on properties quickly 'taken care of' to avoid detection. Yes?

Not on KI. Destroying sheep as they become thin is an excellent way of reducing pasture contamination with the OJD bacteria. There is enough bacteria in one pellet of faeces from a wasting sheep to give an infective dose to every sheep in Australia (infective dose is 1000 bacteria). I think it was Don Lawson who got up at an industry meeting in Canberra in 2000 that I was at and suggested that OJD really started to spread in the 1980's with the advent of Dog nuts. Before that he said that any thin sheep were fed to the dogs.

We must actively promote euthanasia of thin sheep (especially ewes before lambing). It may help avoid detection but will definitely aid in reducing spread of disease and along with vaccination in an infected flock will assist in the control of OJD.

15. Is worm infestation losses and lice treatment of higher priority than the much publicised often frenzy driven reporting of OJD?

Yes - especially in the commercial flock. Stud flocks have the most to lose with a diagnosis of OJD not because of production losses but because of inability to sell high value quality sheep. As described before they can protect their enterprise by vaccinating now. Educate their clients that MAP Vaccinated sheep are the safest to buy.

16. Could there be immunity to Gudair vaccine?

No. Vaccines can be more effective though if sheep are healthy when vaccinated. The most important thing is good nutrition but especially trace element nutrition. Selenium and Vitamin B12 (Cobalt) are critical for a good immune system response to any vaccination and flocks in deficient areas should be providing these elements to ewes before lambing and to lambs at marking at 2 - 8 weeks of age. The sooner they are supplemented the healthier they will be. The upper and lower south east and Kangaroo Island are all deficient in these trace elements.

17. Give me your gut response to all of this Deb!! What should be happening in your eyes?

The most important sheep industry control strategy should be based on vaccination. Seed stock and restocker sheep should be sold as Approved Vaccinates for OJD. Even better the source flocks should be in the MAP and vaccinating with Gudair the lowest risk being MN3-V.

Producers trading sheep should purchase approved vaccinates and be vaccinating home bred sheep.

Use the Sheep Health Statement for biosecurity information pre-purchase.

WAYS OF HANDLING OJD AND GUDAIR USE - CONT

Q & A WITH DEB LEHMANN-KANGAROO ISLAND VETERINARY CLINIC
COURTESY OF 'CLASSINGS CULLINGS'

Start vaccinating with Gudair as soon as OJD is detected in your area - this will protect your enterprise and allow free trade of sheep. It could be devastating to your business to be placed under Order particularly if stock sales are a big contributor to the bottom line.

Have visible placards on pens at sales indicating MAP participation and/or Approved Vaccination. It could be as simple as "MV" for MAP and Vaccinating, "M" for MAP only and "V" for Approved Vaccinates. (The SHS

would contain more detailed description eg MN3-V, MN2-V, MN1-V, AV, MN3, MN2, MN1)

Abattoir surveillance needs to continue to detect new flocks or areas where OJD is arising to allow producers confidence that OJD is not in their flock. Education on biosecurity for OJD but also all other diseases that can have a big impact on the farm business in the short term eg lice, foot-rot, brucellosis and longer term eg worm drench resistance and OJD.

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW RESULTS 2013

21-23 SEPTEMBER, MELBOURNE

RAM under 1 1/2 years shorn untrimmed born between 1st April and 31st May, year prior to the Show.

1. Yanco Agricultural High School

RAM under 1 1/2 years shorn untrimmed born between 1st June and 31st July in the year prior to the Show.

1. I J & P R Kyle
2. Seriston Pastoral Co
3. I J & P R Kyle
4. Yanco Agricultural High School

RAM under 1 1/2 years shorn untrimmed born after 1st August in the year prior to the Show.

1. I J & P R Kyle
2. R & L Collins
3. Seriston Pastoral Co
4. R & L Collins

Pen of 2 Rams under 1 1/2 years shorn untrimmed born between 1st April and 30th June in the year prior to the Show.

1. Seriston Pastoral Co
2. Yanco Agricultural High School

Pen of 2 Rams under 1 1/2 shorn untrimmed born after 1st July in the year prior to the Show

1. I J & P R Kyle

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

Yanco Agricultural High School

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM - I J & P R KYLE
RESERVE CHAMPION RAM - I J & P R KYLE

EWE under 1 1/2 years shorn untrimmed born between 1st June and 31st July in the year prior to the Show.

1. Yanco Agricultural High School

EWE under 1 1/2 years shorn untrimmed born after 1st August in the year prior to the Show.

1. R & L Collins
2. Yanco Agricultural High School

PEN OF TWO EWES under 1 1/2 shorn untrimmed.

1. Yanco Agricultural High School

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE -
YANCO AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - R & L COLLINS

BREEDERS GROUP OF 1 RAM AND 2 EWES under 1 1/2 years, animals to be drawn from Ordinary classes and to be bred by Exhibitor.

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 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 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 Kyle
2. R & L Collins
3. Yanco Agricultural High School

GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT - I J & P R KYLE

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - I J & P R KYLE

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW RESULTS 2013

7-14 SEPTEMBER, ADELAIDE

JUDGE: ANDREW FRICK

It is always an honour to be asked to Judge at any Show and it was also a great pleasure to be asked to Judge the White Suffolk Rams at the Adelaide Royal Show this year. Comparing with past judging experiences it was great to see the depth of quality Rams on display, so much that I took extra time in selecting my number of Rams for placing, and giving more Rams the opportunity to parade in the walking race. I was looking for Rams with muscling, sound conformation and with a reference to market suitability whether that was trade or export while still portraying what I term Breed type. I found great examples and hope the Championship line ups demonstrated the style of sheep that I was looking for. The Senior Champion Ram displayed the commercial attributes I was after as well as that extra bit of class, and had a touch more length over the Reserve another class Ram with great shape and well defined hind quarter. In the junior champion competition the stand out ram and eventual champion overall was a young sheep with great growth and shape, good balance and conformation coupled with tremendous presence made him my choice for overall champion. The Reserve Junior ram won through because of his great volume and muscling particularly for a young sheep.

The ewe classes were handled by Graham Day and we combined for the groups and Supreme exhibit with that ribbon being awarded to the Champion Ewe, and outstanding young ewe.

Overall I thought there were some rams on display with potential to become great sires for the Breed. One negative note though, I do question how much bigger do we need to present Show rams, even though they make for a great spectacle in the show ring we should be mindful of our end use and keep market suitability to the forefront even in the show ring.

I congratulate the exhibitors on the sheep presented, a great display for the breed.

Andrew Frick

RAM under 1.5 years. Born during the month of April, in the year prior to the Show

1. CV & DC Shillabeer
2. Bundara Downs
3. Holmes, WH & PJ
4. RV Piggott & Son
5. Wheetelände

RAM under 1.5 years. Born during the month of May, in the year prior to the Show

1. CV & DC Shillabeer
2. Bundara Downs
3. CV & DC Shillabeer
4. Rileria
5. Mitchell, C
6. Prentice, B A & L C
7. Sasimwa

RAM under 1.5 years. Born during the month of June, in the year prior to the Show

1. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
2. Michael, A M & R A
3. Mitchell, C
4. Anden White Suffolk Stud
5. Booloola White Suffolks
6. Ferguson, AK & SV
7. Tattykeel White Suffolks
8. Bundara Downs
9. Seriston Pastoral Co

Pen of Two Rams, April - June drop.

1. Tattykeel White Suffolks
2. Ferguson, AK & SV
3. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
4. Bundara Downs
5. Spring Valley Stud
6. Prentice, B A & L C

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - DAYS WHITEFACE
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - TATTYKEEL

RAM, under 1.5 years. Born during the month of July, in the year prior to the Show

1. Tattykeel White Suffolks
2. Wheeland
3. RV Piggott & Son
4. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
5. Wiesner, JA & JR
6. Tattykeel White Suffolks
7. Ferguson, AK & SV

RAM, under 1.5 years. Born on or after 1 August, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Tattykeel White Suffolks
2. Anden White Suffolk Stud
3. Somerset
4. Wheeland
5. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
6. Seriston Pastoral Co
7. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd

Pen of Two Rams, July - September drop.

1. RV Piggott & Son
2. Wheeland
3. Somerset
4. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd

RAM LAMB. Dropped since 1 April, of the current year.

1. CV & DC Shillabeer
2. Ferguson, AK & SV
3. Riler
4. RV Piggott & Son

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

1. RV Piggott & Son
2. CV & DC Shillabeer
3. CV & DC Shillabeer
4. Ramsay Park
5. RV Piggott & Son

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - TATTYKEEL
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - WHEELANDE
GRAND CHAMPION RAM - TATTYKEEL

Pen of Three Rams under 1.5 years.

1. CV & DC Shillabeer
2. Tattykeel White Suffolks
3. Bundara Downs
4. Somerset
5. Wheeland

Lamb Production Class.

1. Michael, A M & R A
2. CV & DC Shillabeer
3. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
4. Newbold Stud
5. Koonawarra
6. Spring Valley Stud

Ram Lamb Performance Class.

1. Riler
2. CV & DC Shillabeer
3. RV Piggott & Son

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW RESULTS 2013 CONT

7-14 SEPTEMBER, ADELAIDE

JUDGE: ANDREW FRICK

EWE over 1.5 years with lamb at foot. Closely and evenly shorn, with standard combs, on or after 15 July, of the current year, untrimmed.

1. Koonawarra
2. CV & DC Shillabeer
3. Windy Hill

EWE under 1.5 years. Born between 1 April and 31 May, in the year prior to the Show.

1. RV Piggott & Son
2. CV & DC Shillabeer
3. Ferguson, AK & SV
4. Ferguson, AK & SV
5. Ramsay Park

EWE under 1.5 years. Born between 1 June and 31 July, in the year prior to the Show.

1. CV & DC Shillabeer
2. RV Piggott & Son
3. Koonawarra
4. Ramsay Park
5. Somerset
6. Ramsay Park

EWE under 1.5 years. Born after 1 August, in the year prior to the Show.

1. Wheeland
2. Ramsay Park
3. Wheeland
4. Sasimwa

Pen of Two Ewes under 1.5 years.

1. Koonawarra
2. RV Piggott & Son
3. Glenarbian
4. Somerset

EWE LAMB. Dropped since 1 April, current year.

1. RV Piggott & Son
2. CV & DC Shillabeer
3. RV Piggott & Son
4. Windy Hill
5. Riler

Ewe Lamb Performance Class.

1. Riler
2. RV Piggott & Son
3. CV & DC Shillabeer

CHAMPION EWE - CV & DC SHILLABEER
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - RV PIGGOT & SON

Breeders' Group CV & DC Shillabeer

1. RV Piggott & Son
2. Wheeland
3. Ferguson, AK & SV

Sire's Progeny Group.

1. Tattykeel White Suffolks
2. Michael, A M & R A
3. Bundara Downs
4. Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
5. CV & DC Shillabeer
6. RV Piggott & Son

SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT
- CV & DC SHILLABEER

BALLARAT SHEEP & ALPACA SHOW RESULTS 2013

28 JULY, BALLARAT

White Suffolk Ram under 1.5 yrs.

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

White Suffolk Ram under 1.5 years, shorn.

1. Laani, Ceres - S Leigh
2. Boolooloa White Suffolks - S & A Baker
3. Boolooloa White Suffolks - S & A Baker

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM - LAANI CERES
RESERVE CHAMPION RAM - BOOLOOLA

White Suffolk Ewe under 1.5 years, shorn.

1. Boolooloa White Suffolks - S & A Baker
2. Deppeler White Suffolks - D Deppeler
3. Laani - S Leigh

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE - BOOLOOLA
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - DEPPERLER



SHANE BAKER BOOLOOLA WHITE SUFFOLKS, HOLDING THE CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE

BE AWARE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

BY MURRAY LONG

It seemingly started with the debate over mulesing and has been fuelled more recently by the isolated instances regarding issues within the live sheep trade. Animal welfare is something we all need to be aware of as it will become an increasing consideration for all sheep producers across the industry. Recent decisions by Coles to ensure all their home brand eggs are from non-caged birds and branding their pork products as sow stall free is in response to an increasingly awareness and sensitivity of consumer sentiment on the issue of animal welfare. Although the issue is often clouded by confusion between organic labelling and what actually constitutes free range or high levels of wellbeing, there is recent increasing concerns over animal welfare in regard to the production of all animal food products.

It would be easy to simply disregard this increasing consumer concern as the manipulation by groups of radicle activists beating up falsehoods. The recent unlawful invasion of a piggery in NSW where cameras were hidden in an attempt to discredit the operators backfired on the activists and didn't do their cause any favours but there are some serious discussions being conducted across all livestock industries and authorities to address the issue of Animal welfare. The perception of the Australian lamb industry has long been one of "Clean and Green" and this image

has served our export credentials well and allowed us to operate in markets without the perception of crowded feedlots and unhealthy livestock. Even within our domestic markets, consumers are becoming increasingly aware of the conditions and welfare considerations under which their food is produced.

So what does the issue of animal welfare consider? Animal Health Australia list 5 freedoms relating to animal welfare;

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst
2. Freedom from Discomfort
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviours
5. Freedom from Fear and Distress

There is the assumption that if an animal is growing well and at the peak of production potential, then all is well with welfare; not always the case! Animal welfare, as per the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) definition, is *"how an animal is coping with the condition in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear,*

and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment. Protecting an animal's welfare means providing for its physical and mental needs"

Animal wellbeing is often referred to in the same sentence as animal welfare but according to the definition by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) it is slightly different to welfare requirements; the definition reads a state of wellbeing as "an animal's present state with regard to its relationship with all aspects of its environment, both internal and external. It implies a positive mental state, successful biological function, positive experiences and freedom from adverse conditions."

A recent review of animal welfare standards and guidelines within the Australia sheep industry has been conducted and is open for public comment. There is some ambiguity between the legal implications of Standards compared to Guidelines and the draft document is yet to be finalised but will inevitably involve a tightening of standards across the industry.

To view the document visit:
www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au

The main focus to date within the sheep industry apart from the mulesing debate, has been in relation to transport and slaughter standards but with increasing consumer awareness, what is visible "from the road" could potentially be a concern for all sheep producers. The big public items for other livestock industries in terms of factory farming have predominately concentrated on battery cages and farrowing stalls but the visual images relating to mulesing, tail docking and earmarking will build awareness of the practices within the sheep industry and ultimately could impact the image our industry currently portrays. Issues such as lamb and sheep mortality will become important issues for sheep producers and as we push for higher fertility, we

need to be aware of the effect it has on mortality and adjust management practices accordingly. There is plenty of research that indicates media attention relating to animal welfare issues has a small negative impact, but nonetheless an impact on demand.

So what do we need to be aware of to minimise any impact of the management practices we use in our operation? Firstly be aware of the requirements and standards set by the authorities. Ignorance of what is required will be no defence against bad animal welfare practice. Common sense indicates good animal welfare practice leads to higher production. There is room for genetic selection in relation to animal welfare; more placid animals should be less stressed and therefore under the guidelines as set out by the NHMRC would indicate a better state of wellbeing.

There is no doubt all livestock industries will increasingly become more accountable for the management practices they employ to make their operations more efficient and profitable. Retailers will be more selective in the products they distribute, especially if they perceive a marketing advantage based on public opinion. The sheep industry will not be spared their attention so be aware of the standards expected and make every effort to ensure that the welfare and wellbeing of stock is at a high level. The high quality piggery in NSW had no idea someone invaded their sheds and placed cameras to spy on their operation. Thankfully they were a highly compliant operation with no breach of set standards of practise; other than the breach of bio security bought about by those activists breaking in and placing the cameras. Always consider someone is watching the manner in which you care for your livestock and sleep easy knowing your welfare and wellbeing strategies are acceptable according to the standards and guidelines laid out by relevant authorities.



ROYAL PERTH SHOW RESULTS 2013

28 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER, PERTH

JUDGE: PETER BUTTON



GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE
- SASIMWA

Congratulations to all studs that showed at the Perth Royal this year, the sheep were indeed a credit to you. Many thanks must go to our judge Peter Button, who brought a great deal of expertise to the show ring. The atmosphere in the shed was amazing and the comradery showed through amongst the members. The White Suffolks are really hitting there straps in WA and while showing sheep is not everyones cup of tea it is a great way to show case the breed which inturn passes the benefits on to all breeders.

Once again many thanks to everyone that contributed to promoting our wonderful breed, and we wish you well for the coming year.

Heather Dowdell

President WA Banch

RAM. 2 years and over, shorn.

1. 'KIARA', Lockridge Senior High School
2. 'KIARA', Lockridge Senior High School
3. 'BRIMFIELD', M Whyte



CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM
- IVESTON

RAM. Under 1½ years, Autumn born before 31 May, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn.

1. 'BRIMFIELD', M Whyte
2. 'SASIMWA', G & K Cole
3. 'IVESTON', GR & DJ Bingham
4. 'BRIMFIELD', M Whyte

RAM. Under 1½ years, Winter born on or after 1 June, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn.

1. 'MATILDA DOWNS', RW & GA Buswell
2. 'KOHAT', G, S, R & C Hyde
3. 'RIDGE-TOP', DM Carter
4. 'MATILDA DOWNS', RW & GA Buswell

RAM. Under 1½ years, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn, and to be Objectively Measured.

1. 'IVESTON', GR & DJ Bingham
2. 'SASIMWA', G & K Cole
3. ANNAGHDOWNS', KM & VJ O'Neill
4. 'STOCKDALE', LJ & JK Fairclough



CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK LAMB
-RIDGE-TOP

PAIR OF RAMS. Under 1½ years, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn.

1. 'IVESTON'; GR & DJ Bingham
2. 'SASIMWA'; G & K Cole
3. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter

RAM LAMB. Autumn born on or after 1 April and before 31 May in the year of competition, shorn.

1. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte
2. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter
3. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter
4. 'IVESTON'; GR & DJ Bingham

RAM LAMB. Winter born on or after 1 June in the year of competition, shorn.

1. 'IVESTON'; GR & DJ Bingham
2. 'KOHAT'; G, S, R & C Hyde
3. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte
4. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte



CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK GROUP OF
THREE RAMS - MATILDA DOWNS

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM - IVESTON
RESERVE CHAMPION RAM - MATILDA DOWNS
CHAMPION LAMB - RIDGE-TOP

EWE. 2 years and over, shorn.

1. 'KIARA'; Lockridge Senior High School
2. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter
3. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte

EWE. Under 1½ years, Autumn born before 31 May, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn.

1. 'SASIMWA'; G & K Cole
2. 'KIARA'; Lockridge Senior High School
3. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter

EWE. Under 1½ years, Winter born on or after 1 June, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn.

1. 'SASIMWA'; G & K Cole
2. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter
3. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte

ROYAL PERTH SHOW RESULTS 2013 CONT

28 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER, PERTH

JUDGE: PETER BUTTON

PAIR OF EWES. Under 1½ years, not to show more than two permanent teeth, shorn.

1. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter
2. 'KIARA'; Lockridge Senior High School
3. 'ANNAGHDOWNS'; KM & VJ O'Neill

EWELAMB. Autumn born on or after 1 April and before 31 May in year of competition, shorn.

1. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter
2. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte
3. 'STOCKDALE'; LJ & JK Fairclough
4. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter

EWELAMB. Winter born on or after 1 June in the year of competition, shorn.

1. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte
2. 'STOCKDALE'; LJ & JK Fairclough
3. 'KOHAT'; G, S, R & C Hyde
4. 'STOCKDALE'; LJ & JK Fairclough

GROUP OF A RAM AND TWO EWES. To be drawn from the previous under 1½ years, shorn Classes.

1. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte
2. 'SASIMWA'; G & K Cole
3. 'RIDGE-TOP'; DM Carter

GROUP OF THREE WHITE SUFFOLK RAMS. To be drawn from the previous under 1½ years, shorn Classes, and bred by Exhibitor.

1. 'MATILDA DOWNS'; RW & GA Buswell
2. 'IVESTON'; GR & DJ Bingham
3. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte

PROGENY GROUP OF THREE. To be drawn from previous Classes, can be any sex or age by the same sire.

1. 'SASIMWA'; G & K Cole
2. 'BRIMFIELD'; M Whyte
3. 'KIARA'; Lockridge Senior High School

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWEL - SASIMWA
RESERVE CHAMPION EWEL - RIDGE-TOP

SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT - SASIMWA

OLD FARMER

An old farmer was walking down the path to the pond when he spotted a bullfrog.
He reached down and grabbed the frog and started to put him in his pocket when the bullfrog said,
"Kiss me on the lips and I will turn into a beautiful farmers wife."
Again the old farmer started to put the frog in his pocket.
The frog asked, "Didn't you hear what I said?"
The farmer looked at the frog and said, "At my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

THE X FACTOR – GENETIC FAT

CURRENT LITERATURE REVIEW
BY MURRAY LONG

If there is one aspect of seedstock breeding over the past 10-15 years that has been consistent, it is the conscious aim to breed genetically leaner animals, largely in response to consumer health concerns. However in recent years, the price we have paid for perhaps going too far in this direction is becoming clear as we discover more about the positive correlations that genetic fat has on many areas of sheep performance. We are not referring simply to fat laid down due to additional feeding; genetic fat or “bred on” fat relates to the differences in genetic capacity of an individual to lay down higher levels of fat compared to another animal. While extreme levels of fat have a negative impact on carcase value in relation to carcase yield and additional costs of trimming and lower Lean Meat Yield (LMY), the value of higher levels of genetic fat in breeding programs is being realised and found to have positive consequences across a number of areas.

Recent research has shown that an extra 1mm of fat (YFat) can have significant impacts on management and profitability. The value of higher condition scores in relation to both conception rates and lamb survival is well known but requires feeding to control condition scores and not all animals respond equally. The value of higher genetic fat levels, especially in the Merino ewe could result in significant savings in feed costs and management.

So what are the benefits of higher genetic fat?

At Lambex 2012, Andrew Thompson from Murdoch University stated that positive selection for fat was like getting a genetic insurance policy resulting in more robust ewes that were able to better handle limited feed conditions with reduced weight loss under feed limiting conditions. Ewes with higher levels of genetic fat produced lambs with higher levels of survivability with more lambs to weaning. Dr Thompson said “the arguments for fat included improved energy storage, ability to cope with tough seasons, animal welfare, reproduction and taste and flavour.”



Dr Thompson also found that 1mm (YFat) of additional fat resulted in 18% more lambs born with a higher chance of survival to weaning, in addition to the decrease in the risk of ewe mortality due to maintenance of a higher condition score. Analysis of the results from sheep CRC has found a relatively strong correlation between fat (YFat) and lamb survival. The higher levels of genetic fat also resulted in slightly higher birth weights and 15 % higher survival of multiple births. These benefits relate to the levels of genetic fat inherent on the ewe side so what about the impact of using sires with higher levels of genetic fat. Simply using sires that are genetically fatter increased lamb survival by around 5%.

Analysis conducted by Ferguson et.al showed that the effect of additional genetic fat produced an additional 14% and 24.5% of lambs per mm of YFat over the 2 years of the study. This translated to a 2% increase in profitability for a wool enterprise per mm YFat up to a 25% increase in profit for lamb enterprise. There was no significant discount on lamb carcasses due to only small variation of fat thickness.

Findings reported by SRS Media found a 20% increase in lamb mortality when using sires with low levels of Fat and Muscle. The finding also found lamb birth weights were less affected in the ewes with higher levels of genetic fat when feed become limiting.

Another research project conducted by Filmer and Adams during the period from 1992 -98 found a positive correlation in Merinos between wool staple strength and lamb survival. So how does this relate to genetic fat? We now know that there is a very good positive correlation between genetic fat and staple strength so what they were also measuring was the effect of not only staple strength but also genetic fat levels on lamb survival. They found a difference of 30% in lamb mortality between the different groups based solely on staple strength. While staple strength is positively correlated to genetic fat levels, breeding for increased fleece weight will reduce genetic fat levels.

The benefits for higher levels of genetic fat in the Merino industry is obvious, but the benefits are not restricted to just the Merino. The same benefits apply across all breeds. Higher fat ASBV's have been linked with higher fertility and linked to ewes getting into lamb more consistently, or conversely leaner sheep are more likely to have a greater percentage of barren individuals, especially when feed conditions are not favourable. The ability of animals to buffer against weight loss when feed becomes limiting is a major advantage across a whole range of areas relating to management and profitability.

Some of the first research conducted on feed efficiency a few years ago (2006/07) found a positive correlation between the ASBV for fat and feed efficiency across a wide range of sire lines. This was contrary to the general thinking at the time which hypothesised that leaner animals should be more efficient but this had not been verified. It has now been shown that the positive correlation between genetic fat and feed efficiency is real indicating a win/win situation for managing sheep body condition and the cost of feeding to maintain that condition.

The new area where genetic fat is found to have advantages is in relation to Meat eating Quality (MEQ). Butchers have always told us that fat is essential for succulent, great tasting meat but the industry decided to breed against it in response to growing consumer demand for leaner meat that was assumed to be healthier. What we have seen subsequently is the breeding toward lower MEQ to

the point where we have some sires in the industry with unacceptable MEQ. While muscling plays a role in this trend, genetically fatter sheep generally have higher MEQ characteristics, especially Intra Muscular Fat levels which is the main driver of MEQ.

Obviously the sheep industry (especially the terminal breeds) has to weigh up the consumer demands for healthier lamb associated with lower levels of fat but this is being offset by the fact that continually breeding toward these goals has resulted in lower MEQ. It becomes a balance between the two aims and sourcing individuals that lie outside the general correlations between leanness and MEQ. Even allowing for this, there is still the significant advantages that are gained by selecting animals that have higher levels of genetic fat which lead to higher levels of lamb survival, more lambs to weaning, less weight losses in ewes, higher feed efficiency, better fertility and fecundity, higher staple strength and lower CV in wool. All these advantages result in higher levels of profitability and easier management and most will be possible when using sires with higher levels of genetic fat.

There is no doubt given the new understanding of the role genetic fat plays in management of sheep and profitability that it could be the X Factor that explains many secrets as to why some sheep perform better under limiting conditions than others.

BENDIGO ELITE WHITE SUFFOLK SHOW RESULTS 2013

14–16 SEPTEMBER, BENDIGO
 JUDGE: ANDREW KRIEG



**JUNIOR CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE
 - ASHBANK**

The Bendigo Elite White Suffolk Show & Sale was held in the great new Regional Events Centre at the Bendigo Showgrounds.

An impressive line up of over 300 White Suffolks were on display from 37 exhibitors from Vic, NSW, SA and TAS.

Saturday evening a dinner was enjoyed at Bendigo Pottery by around 86 people and a sponsored BBQ lunch was well received on Sunday.

The Schools Competition and Junior Judging and Handling were held Sunday and well supported.

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

1. Sunnydale - Weidemann Pastoral Co
2. Sunnydale - Weidemann Pastoral Co
3. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
4. St Pauls - St. Pauls College

WS2 : Ewe, over 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed with lamb at foot

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Windy Hill - Michelle Smart
3. Killara - Elisabeth Murdoch College
4. Hayelle- HJ & MA Whittlesea

WS3 : Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in April the year prior to the Show

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
3. Windy Hill - Michelle Smart
4. Induro - G Treweek

WS4 : Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in May the year prior to the Show

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
2. Sunnydale - Weidemann Pastoral Co
3. Rene - D. I. & S. Mitchell
4. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson

MONDAY SALE

EWES: 14 OFFERED
 7 SOLD TO \$3000, AVERAGE \$942

RAMS: 48 OFFERED
 20 SOLD TO \$12,500, AVERAGE \$3375



JUNIOR CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM
- ASHBANK

WS5 : Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in June the year prior to the Show

1. Sunnydale - Weidemann Pastoral Co
2. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
3. Deppeler Suffolks - Doug Deppeler
4. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson

WS6 : Pair of Ewes, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in April, May, or June the year prior to the Show

1. Gemini - Craig Mitchell
2. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
3. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
4. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson



SENIOR CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM -
PENRISE

WS7 : Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, shorn untrimmed, born in July the year prior to the Show

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
2. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
3. Rene - D. I. & S. Mitchell
4. Somerset - Somerset White Suffolks

WS8 : Ewe, under 1 1/2 years, shorn untrimmed, born in August the year prior to the Show

1. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
2. Supreme - S & E Cameron
3. Booloola - S & A Baker
4. Rene - D. I. & S. Mitchell

SENIOR CHAMPION EWE - ASHBANK
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION EWE - SUNNYDALE

BENDIGO ELITE WHITE SUFFOLK SHOW RESULTS 2013 CONT

14–16 SEPTEMBER, BENDIGO
 JUDGE: ANDREW KRIEG

WS9 : Pair of Ewes, under 1 1/2 years, shorn untrimmed, born in July, August or September the year prior to the Show

1. Somerset - Somerset White Suffolks
2. Wattle Park - J & M Jamieson
3. Rene - D. I. & S. Mitchell
4. Induro - G Treweek

WS10 : Ewe Lamb, in the wool, born after 1st April the year of the Show

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Windy Hill - Michelle Smart
3. Killara - Elisabeth Murdoch College
4. Hayelle- HJ & MA Whittlesea

WS11 : Ewe Lamb, shorn, untrimmed, born after 1st April the year of the Show

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
3. Windy Hill - Michelle Smart
4. Induro - G Treweek

JUNIOR CHAMPION EWE - ASHBANK
 RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION EWE - SOMERSET
 GRAND CHAMPION EWE - ASHBANK

WS12 : Novice Ram All entries to compete in the ordinary classes

1. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
2. Killara - Elisabeth Murdoch College
3. Supreme - S & E Cameron
4. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College

WS13 : Ram, over 1 1/2 years, bred by the exhibitor, machine shorn, untrimmed

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. St. Pauls - St. Pauls College
3. Adalinda - AR & GC Gilpin

WS14 : Ram, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in April the year prior to the Show. Showing no more than 4 teeth

1. Bundara Downs - Greg Funke
2. Rene - D. I. & S. Mitchell
3. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
4. Bundara Downs - Greg Funke

WS15 : Ram, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in May the year prior to the Show.

1. Premier - Premier
2. Kurralea - BA & LC Prentice
3. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
4. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons

WS16 : Ram, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in June the year prior to the Show.

1. Penrise - K & D Moore
2. Sunnybanks - PP & KF Day
3. Booloola - S & A Baker
4. Bundara Downs - Greg Funke



WS17 : Pair of Rams, under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in April, May or June the year prior to the Show. Showing no more than 4 teeth

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
2. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
3. Penrise - K & D Moore
4. Waratah - SJ & DJ Milne

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - PENRISE
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - ASHBANK

WS18 : Ram under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in July the year prior to the Show

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
2. Ashley Park - IJ & PR Kyle
3. Noremac - Dean Cameron
4. Penrise - K & D Moore

WS19 : Ram under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in August the year prior to the Show

1. Sunnysbanks - PP & KF Day
2. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
3. Gemini - Craig Mitchell
4. Tattykeel - Tattykeel

WS20 : Pair of Rams under 1 1/2 years, shorn, untrimmed born in July, August, September the year prior to the Show

1. Tattykeel - Tattykeel
2. Ashley Park - IJ & PR Kyle
3. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
4. Rene - D. I. & S. Mitchell

WS21 : Ram Lamb, in the wool born after 1st April the year of the Show

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Wandin - Dennis Duffy
3. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
4. Induro - G Treweek

WS22 : Ram Lamb, machine shorn within 21 days untrimmed, born after 1st April the year of the Show

1. Induro - G Treweek
2. Omad - Damien Hawker
3. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea

WS23 : Stockscan Performance Class, Ram under 1 1/2 years, machine shorn within 21 days and not less than 14 days prior to judging

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
3. Duenclin - GD GB & CK Huxtable
4. Warburn - A & M Dissegna

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - ASHBANK
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - TATTYKEEL
GRAND CHAMPION RAM - ASHBANK

WS24 : Breeders Group - 1 Ram & 2 Ewes to be drawn from ordinary classes

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
2. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
3. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
4. Sunnysdale - Weidemann Pastoral Co

BENDIGO ELITE WHITE SUFFOLK SHOW RESULTS 2013 CONT

14–16 SEPTEMBER, BENDIGO
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WS21 : Ram Lamb, in the wool born after 1st April the year of the Show

1. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
2. Wandin - Dennis Duffy
3. Hayelle - HJ & MA Whittlesea
4. Induro - G Treweek

WS25 : Sires Progeny Group - comprising of 3 sheep either sex to be drawn from ordinary classes

1. Ashbank - EC & JE Dixon & Sons
2. Penrise - K & D Moore
3. Warburn - A & M Dissegna
4. Ashley Park – JJ & PR Kyle

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR- ASHBANK
 SUPREME EXHIBIT - ASHBANK

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YOUTH AT BENDIGO ELITE SHOW 2013

14–16 SEPTEMBER, BENDIGO
 JUDGE: ANDREW KRIEG

The Bendigo Elite Show committee is dedicated to encouraging youth to participate in the Prime Lamb industry and for the second year held their youth and schools competition. This is a great way to promote White Suffolks to the next generation. The program consists of three sections.

The Schools Show Class- Students show their schools ewes and rams against other schools sheep and win points, towards the Bendigo Elite Show Schools Shield.

Schools Ewe Class

1. St Pauls College
2. St Pauls
3. St Pauls
4. Elizabeth Murdock College

Schools Ram Class

1. St Pauls
2. Elizabeth Murdock
3. St Pauls
4. St Pauls

THE SCHOOLS SHIELD COMPETITION WINNER
 - ST PAULS COLLEGE -

Junior Handler Competition- Students are judged on their attire, sheep handling ability and attention to the judge's directions. There were 24 competitors in this class and they all conducted themselves in a very professional manner, making it a very difficult decision.

Junior Handler

1. Katelyn Donney
2. Rhianna Jamieson
3. Brayden Percy
4. Chenoa Weitman

Highly Commended

Chloe Mitchell
 Brenden Fielding

Junior Judging- Students place 4 sheep in order of preference. This is then compared to the Senior Judge. Selected students are asked to explain why they have placed the sheep in their order.

Junior Judging

1. Rhianna Jamieson
2. John Cox
3. Katelyn Donney
4. Hamish McCrae

Highly Commended

Brayden Percy
 Carla Jolly

Congratulations to all the students- they were a credit to themselves and their schools.

Thankyou to Andrew Krieg, Craig Mitchell, Shane Baker and Julie Wiesner for helping organize the program.