

Adelaide Royal Show – the biggest showing of White Suffolks in Australia

They may be relatively new to showing, but Rob & Sally Keens, 'Spring Valley' stud, in its 3rd year showing at Adelaide Royal performed very well in a quality line up of over 430 White Suffolk entries. "It was the sort of year you were happy to make the cut in each class, let alone receive a ribbon, said Sally, along with many of the other exhibitors. In the single June class of over 40 entries their ram 93-10 received the 6th place ribbon. "As a lamb he stood out & we already have progeny by him, so we obviously think quite a bit of him. He created a bit of interest at the show and although we are retaining the ram we have collected and sold some semen in him." 93 with 9-10 paired up later in the day for the Lamb Production Class. "This is a really interesting and more commercially relevant class to the normal classes" said Sally.

The rams must be suitable to produce lambs with a minimum HSCW of 22kg, fat score 2-3 at 6 months of age. These lambs would be suitable for the export market or taken on by finishers to deliver carcass weights of 24kg+, fat score 2-4 at 8 months of age. Points are allocated for Lambplan ASBVs-growth, fat, muscle. Structural soundness – mobility, feet legs etc. Fertility-scrotal circumference and testicular firmness. Skin. Market suitability-maturity pattern, carcass attributes and to a slightly lesser degree breed type.

Sally explained that it is the first time they have entered the class so it was all new to them "there are three main sections to this class – one person measures with a tape the length, testicles, and hind quarter width compared to front. Lambplan figures are taken into account, so it is not simply how well the ram is doing on the day. The next day a number of different judges (experts) score each ram on the other attributes required such as skin, structure etc. We were really pleased to do so well in this class. I think it indicates we are on the right track for our commercial lamb clients."

Spring Valley's pair of rams 93 and 9 were placed 3rd in this big class. The winning pair from this class later went on to win the Interbreed Lamb Production Class. Spring Valley 9-10 is being offered for sale on Wednesday 21st September as part of the Valma & Rannoch Poll Dorset Sale at Tarcutta, NSW. For the first time 'Spring Valley' offered & sold one stud ram in the Adelaide Elite Ram sale and will be offering 4 stud rams in the family's sale at Tarcutta. Their annual flock ram sale will be held at home, Bracknell, Tasmania, Wednesday 23rd November where a further 80 flock rams will be offered.



100093 & 100009 in June single class line up.



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