

Spring Valley White Suffolk Rams

White Suffolks are known for their visual traits of fine fronts for lambing ease and clean points to assist with grass seed problems. But when it comes to LAMBPLAN Breeding Values (or growth rates and finishing ability) it is no longer about different breeds being best suited to different types of ewes. Research shows that there can be as much difference within a breed as there is between breeds.

ASBVs allow you to evaluate a ram's genetic potential for a range of traits that directly impact on the profitability of your lamb and sheep production business.

We are producing two main lines of rams & will have progeny by these rams in our sale on 24th November 2010

Line A:

Emphasis is on maximising growth = earliest turn off of lambs at your selected weights.

This line are suited to the **XBred ewe** or **larger framed merino ewes**. The progeny from this cross would give you the option of selling lambs as 18-22kg or keeping them on to 24+kgs.

- These rams have high growth/moderate birth weight ASBVs. Rams with higher post-weaning weight ASBVs will produce lambs with faster growth rates and will have greater carcass weights at given ages.

18-22kg - as new season lambs from first-cross ewes are usually fatter, rams should have average to below average ASBVs for fat (PFAT) and positive ASBV for muscle (PEMD).
24+kgs – Getting 2-3 fat score lambs can be a challenge at this weight. Sires with negative ASBVs for fat will produce leaner lambs. Selecting sires with a higher growth rate and negative ASBVs for fat will produce higher yielding lambs.

Note: animals with higher EMD ASBVs tend to have higher FAT ASBVs. Therefore pressure placed on EMD ASBVs will depend on WT and FAT ASBV figures.

Line B:

Emphasis is on live lambs, then growth.

This line is best suited to **Saxon Merino ewes** or **maiden ewes**.

These rams ASBVs show not quite as high growth as the rams in line A but they have lower birth weights which can be a priority for breeders with smaller framed ewes. These rams also have higher ASBVs for fat and muscle which assists with finishing.

(In general, ASBVs for fat do not need to be as low as for crossbred ewes. However it is important that you look at your feedback sheets as there is significant variation in the genes for fatness and growth amongst Merino ewes. In general Merinos ewes may also be slightly poorer muscled so a little more emphasis on muscling should occur.)

<u>XBred Ewe</u>	18-22kg CWT lambs	<u>PWWT</u> 6+	<u>PFAT</u> <-0.5	<u>PEMD</u> >0
	24kg CWT lambs	8+	<-0.8	>0
<u>Merino ewe</u>	18-22kg CWT lambs	<u>PWWT</u> 6+	<u>PFAT</u> <0	<u>PEMD</u> >0
	24kg CWT	8+	<-0.6	>0.2

At our annual on-property sale this year we will display our recommendations on which line each ram fits. It is in our interest to help you and we will supply as much information as possible. We are also more than happy to give assistance so please feel free to ask. It will also be a good opportunity to talk to other lamb producers and find out what works for them.