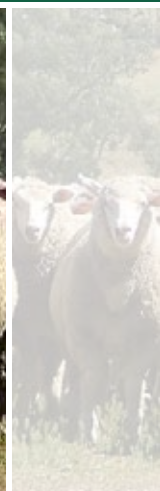




November 2020



AUSTRALIAN  
**WHITE SUFFOLK**  
ASSOCIATION





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### COVER PHOTO CREDITS:

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**15**  
MAR

April Issue

**30**  
JUN

August Issue

**15**  
OCT

November Issue

### ADVERTISING RATES

as of August 2017

	members
back cover	\$660.00
inside cover page	\$495.00
full inside page	\$330.00
half page	\$220.00
centre spread	\$990.00

Advertising in the AWSA Newsletter is available to all members with content to have a White Suffolk focus. Corporate rates for sheep industry related groups are available on request to the AWSA.

### DISCLAIMER

*Members are advised that advertisements, information and opinions printed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the association or its members.*



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## from the president

What a year 2020 has delivered to us.

COVID-19 has put one very big spanner in the works for our breed. Shows across the country cancelling and ram sales having to look at new ways of selling and promoting their events. Federal Council has had to change the direction that we had put in place to market our breed and I am extremely proud of the way Nikki and the team have worked on this.

We have ramped up the social media promotions with digital adverts, videos etc through our Facebook and website plus rural press outlets have been used as well. Feature stories on our breed and stories from around the country from clients using White Suffolks have been used with great success. Its very pleasing to hear positive feedback from within the industry that what we are doing is being seen and spoken about.

The three elite ram sales in Adelaide, Western Australia and Bendigo had to change a lot of their planning due to COVID-19 with Bendigo forced to move to an online sale only and the other two sales interfaced with AuctionsPlus. The committees of these sales must be congratulated on the way they organised the changes. Increased clearance rates and great results across all three sales was pleasing to see.

With fantastic rainfall across the country and commercial livestock in high demand, there has been increased interest in rams and ewes. The pleasing thing is that consistently the clearance rate and averages of the White Suffolk breed have led the way against our major competitors. Congratulations to all our members.

Normally this time of the year we are starting to organise our national conference but unfortunately we have decided to cancel the 2021 conference in NSW due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 restrictions in relation to travel. The 2021 AGM will still go ahead, most likely via Zoom and we are currently looking at ways of having our annual Federal Council meeting also. Election of the Federal Council will go ahead as normal via the digital election format that was used last year with great success. I do ask that members consider putting their hand up to represent the breed on Federal Council. New faces and new ideas in promoting the breed within the industry are always welcome.

Its very pleasing to see many new studs starting up across the country but unfortunately we have seen a couple of studs disperse this year. Thank you to them for their involvement in our great breed.

I think everyone would agree that the start of a new year can't come quick enough. It has been a challenging year and I hope that next year our White Suffolk family can get back to something close to normal. I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a fantastic 2021.



*Anthony Hurst*  
President





**SEMEN  
AVAILABLE**

**Wakeleigh Wizard 190754**

sire: Booloola 170093

BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD	TCP	LEQ
0.13	11.29	18.44	-0.09	2.81	148.34	139.33

**Wakeleigh White Suffolks would like to congratulate the following studs for purchasing rams this year -  
Boonie Doon, Pinnacle, Somerset & Vanguard**

**Follow us on Facebook for further updates throughout the year.**

**Kylie Wake**

**Ph: 0428 508 995**

**E: kyliewake18@gmail.com**



**/Wakeleigh.WhiteSuffolks.941/**



# secretary's report

Members should be commended and proud of the way they have handled the significant challenges that COVID-19 delivered for 2020. I have seen some great initiatives implemented to provide a way for others to view stud stock that would often be displayed at shows and field days throughout the year and to give virtual access to stud sales. There has been good exposure for individual studs, the breed and stud stock on social media and online sale platforms, and the great clearance rates and sale averages are a reward for all your hard work.

Unfortunately, there is continued uncertainty around 2021 events – I honestly hope that by the time the shows roll around that there will be the opportunity for members to attend in a physical capacity. Social networking and the comradery between breeders at White Suffolk events has always been important and something I have certainly missed this year!

As you will see in this newsletter the Federal Council have been forced to cancel the 2021 National Conference which was to be held in Albury, NSW in February. This is the first time there will be no physical conference and AGM from what I can remember, and possibly since they all began back in the Dookie days.

We are at the pointy end of the year with Federal Council nominations to open shortly. This will be done electronically – please keep an eye on your emails for the announcement.

I would like to make special mention to the members that assisted with our promotions and marketing this year. There are a few of you that constantly provide useful feedback, ideas, editorial leads and photographs and I am greatly appreciative of this.

## Christmas Break

The AWSA Office will be closed for the Christmas break from Friday 18th December will re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Bring on 2021!



*Nikki Ward*  
Secretariat

## new members

### SINCE AUGUST 2020

Welcome to the following new members of the AWSA:

Flock	Name	Town	State	Stud Prefix
955	BW Barrows	Borden	WA	Yaminga
956	A & J Murray	Lovely Banks	VIC	Jedam Estate
957	K M Johnston	Quairading	WA	Merna
958	Wagga Wagga Christian College	Wagga Wagga	NSW	Walls
959	TSD Duffield	Hamley Bridge	SA	Strathfield Genetics
960	H & J Brookes	Oakbank	SA	Gum Tree Gully





# Federal Council Matters

Courtesy of Federal Council

October 2020

## **CANCELLED: 2021 National Conference**

Federal Council have made the unfortunate but necessary decision to cancel the 2021 National Conference in Albury, NSW due to COVID-19. The decision has been made now in fairness to the venue, caterer, organisers and members.

Discussions are occurring on the staging of the 2021 AGM, it is likely that it will occur via Zoom. More information will be sent out to members once available.

## **Federal Council Nominations & Elections**

Nominations for 2021 Federal Council will be sent out to all members this month. Six positions will be available for appointment in the 2021 Election with the election to be conducted through a secure online ballot portal in December / January.

All members are welcome and encouraged to consider nominating for Federal Council.

To be eligible to stand all nominees must be a current financial member of the Association and must be nominated by another current financial member.

An overview of Federal Councillor duties is included below:

- Represent the Association and its members;
- Be part of a Federal Council that manages the affairs of the Association, including corporate affairs, secretarial and financial matters;
- Make recommendations and decisions that are in the best interest of the Association and its members;
- Attend two face-to-face Federal Council meetings per year (July & February). Additional zoom / teleconference meetings may be scheduled if required.
- Liaise with the President, Secretary and Federal Councillors regularly.
- Be willing to actively assist on designated subcommittees – eg. Promotions and Marketing, Strategic Planning, Finance, Technical.

If you would like any further information, please contact any Federal Councillor or the President or Secretary.

## **New Guidelines for Stud Dispersals**

Federal Council recently adopted the following Stud Dispersal guidelines. These guidelines have been included in the Bylaws of the Association and are printed in the 2020 Flock Book.

- a. No member shall advertise any sale of White Suffolk sheep as a dispersal sale unless the whole flock is to be dispersed within eighteen (18) months of the first advertised dispersal sale date (auction or private treaty).
- b. A member dispersing their stud shall undertake the responsibility to carry out all registrations and transfers that apply to the Association, and to supply the purchaser(s) with the relevant pedigree information of registered stock.
- c. In the event of a member selling his complete flock a purchased shall have no right to the previous owners Stud Prefix unless they have purchased at least 75% of the entire breeding flock. The previous owner must provide written consent to the purchaser to retain the Stud Prefix which must be presented for approval by the Federal Council.
- d. In the event of a member selling his complete flock, the Flock Number remains the property of the AWSA and may be retained with the Stud Prefix where 75% of the entire breeding flock is purchased. The previous owner must provide written consent for the purchaser to retain the flock number which must be presented for approval by the Federal Council.
- e. Any member who advertises and holds a complete dispersal shall be unable to again register a White Suffolk stud for a period of five (5) years or such other period of time as the Federal Council shall deem fit. Should a member wish to re-register their Stud it is unlikely the original Flock Number and Stud Prefix would be allowed, this to be determined by the Federal Council at that time.



## Registrations & Transfers

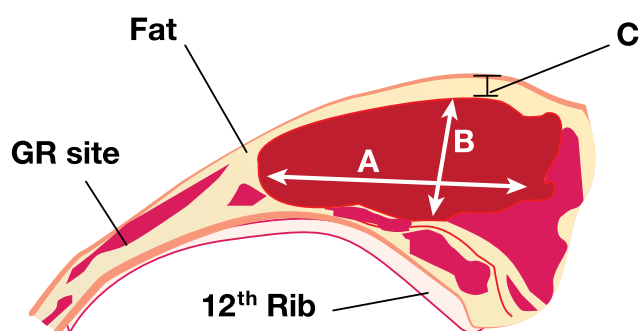
All members are encouraged to process their ram registrations and transfers through WebManager within 60 days of sale. It is preferred that registrations and transfers are completed prior to March to assist purchasing studs with the completion of their Annual Return.

## Brucellosis Accreditation & Annual Returns

A reminder to all members with expiring Brucellosis Accreditation to ensure their accreditation is updated prior to the 2021 Annual Return process in April. As per last year members will need to upload or provide a copy of their Brucellosis Certificate when completing their Annual Return. Those with current accreditation will not need to re-submit an accreditation certificate with their Annual Return.



# Could you be missing out?



Information or scanning  
bookings contact:

Julie Davey

Ph: 03 5452 2438

Fax: 03 5452 1785

Mob: 0427 522 438

Email: [stockscan@live.com](mailto:stockscan@live.com)

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# Promotions & Marketing

Courtesy of Peter Angus

November 2020

## Online Stud Advertising

Due to COVID-19, no major shows have been held since March, and attendances at interstate on-property and multi-vendor sales were impacted upon, so this year members have been creative in promoting their White Suffolks.

Certainly, the number of videos and photographs shared by members on social media and stud websites had a massive uptake compared to normal. The increased usage of online selling platforms like AuctionsPlus and Elite Livestock Auctions resulted in rams and ewes selling Australia wide to stud and commercial clients.

No doubt some of the initiatives from this year will be successfully implemented into the future by members.

## Print Advertising

The Association's print advertising campaign through Australian Community Media began in August, appearing in the prime lamb feature issues and during the traditional ram selling season.

The strip advertisement design was updated to complement the TV campaign and our breed's promotion on social media, the website and through the eNews.

A major theme for this year focussed on the use of White Suffolk sires as a 'perfect match' for Merino ewes to produce maternal first cross ewes.

White Suffolk and commercial breeders have utilised the benefits of marketing White Suffolk x Merino ewes as an efficient and productive maternal ewe with excellent mothering and carcase attributes showcasing the breed's versatility.

Story leads about commercial producers are always appreciated and certainly necessary to promote how White Suffolk genetics are performing across Australia.

Thank you to those breeders who contributed contact details and photographs during 2020.

## Digital Advertising

For the second year running we applied a digital advertising campaign in Southern NSW, VIC and SA on each state's rural media website. This year we ran a revolving advert with 3 slides that complemented our print advertising design. The response from the advert so far has been double that of last year which is very pleasing.

In WA, Tasmania and Northern NSW we ran a digital Local Target Display based on member postcodes in those states/areas. This type of campaign targets sheep breeders within a radius of member postcodes, who are searching for key words that the Association determined. It provides a more direct promotion of the breed and we are looking forward to reviewing the campaign results.

Taking on board feedback from the 2019 member survey, we increased our digital exposure by introducing advertising on the Sheep Central website and in their email newsletters, and also on the AuctionsPlus website. Both of these platforms were cost effective and provided some surprising results and feedback.

The Promotions Sub-committee will review the digital advertising results prior to its next meeting in February and use the feedback to make any necessary changes for 2021.

## TV Ad Campaign

The revamped AWSA TV Ad was screened across rural Australia through WIN TV during the ram selling season from September until November 2020. Members can view the TV advert on the AWSA website homepage or Facebook page.

*Find Us....*



<b>Facebook:</b>	@whitesuffolks
<b>Instagram:</b>	@whitesuffolks
<b>Twitter:</b>	@whitesuffolk
<b>Tag in your posts:</b>	#whitesuffolks





## Radio Advertising

Radio advertising was successfully added to our Promotions campaign in 2020 with the advert currently running across the 2WEB network (September to November). The 15-second script is included below for your interest and was written to complement the 2020 promotions campaign.

*"Are you a prime lamb producer looking for high fertility and lambing ease? Wanting to achieve consistent, early maturing lambs with great eating quality? White Suffolks are the perfect choice to boost your prime lamb production. For a breeder near you visit [www.whitesuffolk.com.au](http://www.whitesuffolk.com.au)."*

## Win A Ram Competition - Winners Announced

The 2020 Win A Ram Competition was drawn live on the AWSA Facebook page on 16 October. The draw has been saved to our Facebook page if you wish to view it.

This year we increased the prize pool from one voucher to two \$1500 vouchers. The competition was advertised on our TV advert, in some print advertising and on social media.

A total of 172 eligible entries were received. Thank you to all members that promoted the competition at their sales and to their clients.

Congratulations to **Tim Holmes** and **Andrew Quayle** who each won a \$1500 voucher to use towards the purchase of a White Suffolk ram from a registered AWSA stud.



# SPOTTED!

A bumper sticker going home with a trailer load of White Suffolks!

Well done Marleigh White Suffolks on getting the stickers out there and helping us stamp our mark around the country.

Make sure you send us a photo or tag us in the socials showing where you or your clients have used our bumper sticker too!



*Pictured: The O'Meehan family - Myles (left), daughters Annabelle, Maggie, Lilly, wife Emily and son Max at Caralinga Farms, Borden*

## Strong praise for White Suffolk-Merinos

Courtesy of Jessica Whyte, Farm Weekly

A White Suffolk-Merino crossbred prime lamb works best for the O'Meehan family and its sheep enterprise at Caralinga Farms, Borden.

Myles O'Meehan is the fourth generation to run his family's original property, which has been in the family for nearly 114 years.

The O'Meehan family includes Myles, wife Emily and children Maggie, Lilly, Annabelle and Max.

His father Phillip is still actively working on the farm, as well as full-time employee Piet Van Zyl.

With the recent addition of another property four years ago, the O'Meehans run a flock of about 2500 breeding ewes on 4000 arable hectares.

Prior to purchasing the additional property, the family was trading sheep during the summer months, but since the purchase of some extra land they started buying in ewes.

Of that land, 3000ha is dedicated to their cropping of wheat, barley and canola, with this year being the first year the family hasn't seeded any lupins.

When comparing the sides of the business in terms of performance, Mr O'Meehan considers his sheep to be the equivalent of a lupin crop in the rotation.

He said the sheep well and truly outperformed a lupin crop and felt they get a better weed control and nitrogen fix with lucerne and vetch compared to lupins.

It has only been in the past four to five years they have started breeding their own prime lambs, producing a White Suffolk-Merino lamb.

Each year the O'Meehans purchase one mob of Merino ewes, having bought in 720 ewes last year, with the next lot of ewes due in October.

The operation has two joinings, with a small mob of ewes being mated in October and the rest being joined in February for a five to six-week period.

The majority of the White Suffolk rams are sourced from the Hyde family's Kohat stud, Ongerup, with a few rams purchased from the Barrows family, Borden.

For extra sheep feed, the O'Meehans seed pasture paddocks including lucerne and chicory, along with some vetch, barley and Balansa clover.



***Pictured right: The O'Meehans run a flock of about 2500 breeding ewes on 4000 arable hectares.***

Their lucerne and chicory pastures paddocks are put in for a four to five-year rotation before being put back into crop.

Over the years, Mr O'Meehan said they have tried other sheep breeds such as Prime SAMMs and Poll Dorsets, but while they performed well, he said the White Suffolks performed better.

He likes White Suffolk crossbred lambs because they can run larger number of sheep and the lambs have great growth rates so that they can sell into early markets, with their earliest lamb being sold to the abattoir within six months.

"They're good prime lambs," Mr O'Meehan said.

The majority of lambs are sold directly to WAMMCO at 50 to 55kg liveweight for a dressed weight average of 22-24kg.

Before being sold, all the lambs are weighed on-farm and the O'Meehans have their own truck which they use to transport the lambs to the abattoir.

Shearing is in June and they cut an average of 90 bales annually, including the crossbreds wool.

Mr O'Meehan said their micron varied due to ewes being bought in, but said their wool was usually around 21-22 micron.

"Our main focus is on prime lambs," he said.

When supplement feeding to fill the feed gap, the O'Meehans use lick feeders and this year, due to a lack of rainfall, they put their ewes into confinement feeding for six weeks.

"We have only just stopped feeding three weeks ago," Mr O'Meehan said.

"It's probably the longest we've had to feed."

Mr O'Meehan said the past season was an average one, but they received just enough rainfall at the right times.

They didn't receive much rain this year until August which turned the season around.

"It was really dry, but we've had a fantastic August," he said.



"Water was becoming a serious issue with three quarters of our dams being dry, but we were lucky to receive a great rain at the start of August and get some good run off into clean dams."

When culling their flock, the O'Meehans sell the older ewes that lamb in March and dry ewes.

All their maidens are pregnancy tested each year and the ewes are sold after they've had their fifth lamb.

Mr O'Meehan said the prices for sheep had been outstanding and hoped they would remain high.

"We averaged \$170 last year, so we can't complain about that," he said.

Recent market prices encouraged the O'Meehans to build a new shearing shed 15 months ago.

"With the prices for both meat and wool where they have been, our sheep have done really well," Mr O'Meehan said.

As a testament to the quality of lambs, the O'Meehans produce, they won the 2018/19 WAMMCO producer of the year award, which they described as a nice surprise.

They won the large crossbred supplier section with 2624 White Suffolk-Merino lambs averaging 22.93kg, that gained 85.79 points.

Looking to the future, the O'Meehans are considering planting RM4 vetch and barley early to help fill feed gaps, especially during seeding.



# What will the spring lamb breed breakdown be?

Courtesy of Farm Online

With a bumper spring lamb crop predicted to start coming through physical and online saleyards, what is the breakdown of breeds expected to be?

The AuctionsPlus Market Insights team has analysed data of lambs traded through the platform between 2015 and 2020 to uncover key trends in the percentage of breeds being traded against total lamb throughput, while comparing year-on-year growth.

AuctionsPlus market analyst Emma Fessey said Merino lambs had been clear ringleaders of online lamb listings between 2015-2020.

However, Ms Fessey said it was evident that their dominance was being diffused through the increasing popularity of first and second-cross breeds, which had continued to gain traction over recent years.

"The traditional first-cross ewe breeding and paternal dominance of the Border Leicester and Merino is being challenged, with Border Leicester/Merino lambs seeing a 4 per cent decrease in total throughput listings since 2015 and Merino lambs seeing a 12pc decrease in overall throughput figures," she said.

"When this is compared with year-on-year growth however, first-cross Border Leicester lambs see a large increase in 2016 and 2017, with slight growth reductions in 2018 and 2019, whereas Merino lambs have seen ongoing year-on-year growth since 2015 despite their reduced total throughput percentage."

She said the changing composition of the Australian lamb flock as a result of ewes being joined with meat breeds depicted how producers, many of who were emerging from previous seasons of relentless drought, were focusing on breeding lambs for meat production to yield a higher turnover.

"This is a fundamental and potentially short-term shift from the traditional focus of replacing breeding stock and lambs for wool production to focusing on increased cash flow with the goal of cashing in on strong prime and store lamb prices due to limited supply," she said.

While there would always be a market for Merino and first-cross ewes, Ms Fessey said it was evident many

producers were looking to other breeds as there was strong potential for prime lambs in the store market.

"There is growing momentum of the emerging Australian White and White Suffolk-sired breeds as inroads to the prime lamb breeding industry, particularly seen in Australian White/Dorper listings which have increased from just shy of 500 head in 2015 to over 11,000 in 2019," she said.

"Additionally, notable exponential year-on-year growth in both Australian White and White Suffolk-sired lambs is evident, particularly between 2016 and 2017 where strong seasonal conditions amplified the amount of these lambs seen online.

"With a 180 degree flip in seasons from 2019, it will be interesting to see what 2020 will bring for first and second-cross lamb listings."

She said White Suffolk-sired lambs had seen continual overall growth since 2015, with total lamb throughput increasing 2-3pc and large year-on-year growth seen in 2016 and 2017, with listings slightly back in 2018/19 due to tough seasonal conditions.

For the 2020 year-to-date, the top purchasing regions for White Suffolks are spread across two states which include the NSW Central West which purchased 14,789 head, followed by south-west Victoria, the NSW Riverina, South-West Slopes and Planes and northern Victoria, respectively.

Ms Fessey said Merino lamb purchasing regions had remained relatively consistent between 2015-2020, however challenging seasonal conditions across most of the country and particularly in areas such as the NSW Central West in previous years had impacted this.

"Purchasing numbers significantly decline as producers enact drought management procedures such as destocking and holding onto key breeding stock," she said.

"The 2020 year-to-date shows exciting signs of stock returning to these key purchasing regions and it will be interesting to observe how the store lamb season evolves over the coming months."



# Warburn

A Special thank you to  
everyone who inspected  
our stock and invested in  
Warburn genetics



**Top price ram 190129 sold for \$20,000 to Tim Jorgensen “Mertex”**

**190170 sold for \$13,000 to Charles Rowett “North Ulandi”**

**190207 sold for \$7,000 to Mark Yates “Kubura”**

**190253 sold for \$5,500 to Finlay Macdonald “Fairburn”**

**190629 sold for \$5,500 to Andrew Davidson “Clermont”**

**18 Stud rams went to registered stud breeders with an Average \$5,611**

**138 flock rams sold to \$3,500 and Average \$1,840**



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## Member in the News: White Suffolks allow Charles to branch out

Courtesy of Claire Harris, The Stock Journal

Stud sires, show rings and sales have been a large part of Charles Rowett's upbringing, and the 22-year-old from Marrabel is all too keen to continue his involvement in SA's thriving sheep industry.

Having been heavily involved in the Ulandi Park Poll Dorset stud - run by his parents Clayton and Andrea Rowett - from a young age, Charles said stud life was always something he wanted to be a part of, rather than a venture he was pressured into continuing.

"It's something I am really passionate about, and something I have always really loved doing," he said.

This year marks the 40th year of Poll Dorset breeding for Ulandi Park, and Charles said the stud's focus had remained consistent across the decades.

"Nothing much has changed with what we're breeding, we still have a stud side focus, as well as the commercial side, aiming for early-maturing, clean, meaty, thick, easy-lambing rams," he said.

Looking back on his own involvement in the stud, Charles said 2009 was a standout year and one he will always remember fondly.

"That year, we had five different champion rams in three different shows, at Adelaide, Gawler and Melbourne. Those champion rams went on to win interbreed competitions as well," he said.

In 2014, Charles started his own Poll Dorset stud, North Ulandi. The stud was founded off the back of 15 ewes Charles bought from his parents, and semen from a sire at Felix Rams, Greenethorpe, NSW, using money from the school entrepreneur fund at Westminster College, where he was a year 11 student at the time.

"The ram from there had a low birthweight with big muscle, which I wanted to use to breed commercially-focused rams. The ram fitted all the requirements I was after," Charles said.

Success for North Ulandi was achieved early on in the piece, with a ram lamb and ewe lamb bred from the Greenethorpe genetics both winning their classes at the Royal Adelaide Show in 2014. The ram lamb still holds the record for heaviest ram lamb at Adelaide, weighing 91 kilograms at just six months old.

"That purchase (of the Greenethorpe semen) was well worth it, one of the later drop rams was also named reserve junior champion ram that same year," Charles said.



In 2016, after two years of breeding his own Poll Dorsets, Charles decided to change his direction, shifting away from a Poll Dorset focus and instead turning North Ulandi into a White Suffolk stud.

"I wasn't really achieving a new client base for North Ulandi, or dragging any new clients to the sale, and as good as it was with the Poll Dorsets, I was doing the same as what Mum and Dad had always done - I was ready to branch out," Charles said.

"It was a big discussion, but in the end I thought I'd get a White Suffolk ram and put him over the North Ulandi Poll Dorset ewes for the foundation of it, for the first cross, and I bred on from there."

The initial White Suffolk ram, DG150406, was sourced from Detpa Grove, Jeparit, Vic, in 2016, bought by Charles for \$13,500. Other significant purchases have included a \$7000 ram from Wingamin, Karoonda, in 2018, and a \$10,000 sire from Detpa Grove last year.

North Ulandi now has 80 White Suffolk breeding ewes, while Ulandi Park has 500 Poll Dorset stud ewes, and despite being just a few years into the White Suffolk venture, Charles is consistently selling between 50 and 100 rams to commercial breeders each year.

He has attracted good interest from local breeders, as well as pastoralists further north, and is pleased to see returning buyers each year.

"Most people keep their cards pretty close to their chest in terms of feedback, but I always think if they come back and buy again the next year, that's a really good sign," he said.

No sales have been made to other White Suffolk studs yet, but Charles hopes appearances in the show ring next year and beyond will help build his stud's profile.

He said guidance and assistance from stock agents, his parents and fellow breeders had been invaluable when starting his own venture.

"A good thing about the sheep world is everyone helps each other out, if you ever need to know something, you just ring a neighbour or another breeder and they will help out, no worries at all."

Charles' focus with the White Suffolks was largely the same as the Poll Dorset breeding aims.

"I still look after them the same way, still care for them and do all the same things. I still want low birthweight, heavily muscled sheep for the commercial side of things," he said.

"People these days, the younger generation, are getting tied up in numbers. I think phenotype and capability are still more important than what a computer says is good."

While Charles also helps with his family's cropping program, and has an interest in breeding bucking bulls, his number one focus is sheep.

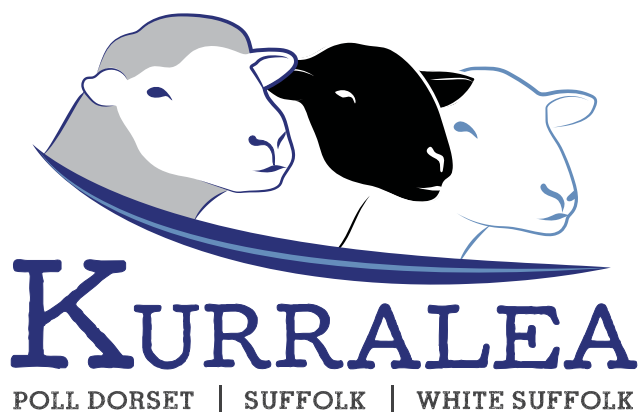
"At the moment, times are good in the sheep industry, and I don't see what else you'd rather be doing," he said.

## Member News - Hudson Peter Mitchell



Rene Stud welcomed its newest team member on 16 August when Hudson Peter Mitchell was born at 10:30pm, weighing 7lb 9oz.

Congratulations to Scott, Brooke, Lachlan, Liv and Aariah, and grandparents Doug and Irene.



Continuing to produce a unique  
& balanced blend of elite  
performance and structural  
excellence

*A special thankyou to everyone  
who inspected our sheep in 2020  
and invested in Kurralea genetics at  
our annual sale.*

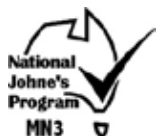


## KURRALEA 190009 - TOP PRICED WHITE SUFFOLK RAM

Sold for \$20,000 to The Janmac Studs, Goroke, VIC

Overall Sale Result: 306 Rams sold to an average of \$2020

**Semen available from our top group of sires at Kurralea.  
Enquiries also welcome for stud ewes.**



Ben & Lucy Prentice, 'Kurralea', Arian Park, NSW  
Ben: 0429 814 549 Lucy: 0409 544 080 Kim: (02) 6975 2606  
Email: [lucycrentice@gmail.com](mailto:lucycrentice@gmail.com)



[www.kurralea.com](http://www.kurralea.com)



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## The power of DNA parentage testing

Courtesy of Neogen



In today's seedstock industry nothing is more important than knowing your stocks' parentage – without it, you're missing out on crucial information that will enhance the accuracy of your stud's breeding values and accelerate the rate of genetic gain in your flock.

NEOGEN's DNA test for parentage can quickly and accurately provide a full pedigree, linking a lamb to its dam and/or sire, and saving you time and labour in the process.

By accurately assigning pedigree the accuracy of Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) is improved, and this in turn can help you drive genetic improvements in your flock through better ram and ewe selection.

In the absence of accurate parentage, information on individual animal breeding values can only be based off the animal's performance records as measured by the breeder during its lifetime.

The reliability of this information in predicting breeding performance is enhanced by combining it with data from relatives, including parents, siblings and progeny.

The power of knowing an animal's sire allows paternal half siblings to also be used in the individual animal's breeding value evaluation, while correct identification of an animal's dam is essential for measuring traits around weaning time and accounting for the animal's pre-weaning environment.

Accurate knowledge of parentage not only enhances your own breeding program, but advances the breed's reference population information as well. Sire identification allows linkage to occur across flocks and drop years, allowing genetic trends to be observed and objective comparisons to be made between flocks.

Traditionally sheep breeders have determined parentage via single sire matings and mothering up, which Sheep CRC research found had average error rates of about 5% in sire or dam assignment.

Using the most accurate form of parentage assignment of DNA testing increases accuracy of selection with the flow-on benefits of increasing genetic gain across the flock by 1-2%.

Along with accurate parentage assignment, DNA parentage testing can relieve some management constraints from multi-sire lambing paddocks.

Combined, correct parentage information can provide an increase in ASBV accuracy of up to 35% in terminal sheep breeds.

- DNA parentage testing is available as a stand-alone product or part of the Sheep Genomic test with NEOGEN. Visit [sheepdna.com.au](http://sheepdna.com.au) or contact your Neogen Territory Manager to start testing today.

# Kingscote flock bounces back after fires

Courtesy of Ruth Schwager, Stock Journal



Kangaroo Island lamb producers Andrew and Bec Bennett are breeding fast-growing lambs and sought-after replacement ewes in their commercial operation near Kingscote.

White Suffolk rams are used as terminal sires in their commercial operation, joined to more than 3000 crossbred SAMM/Multimeat ewes, and they are allowing the Bennetts to sell lambs off grass, with minimal inputs.

Pastures are predominantly clover and ryegrass and the entire property is fertilised and sprayed every year, Mr Bennett said.

"A lot of people don't use chemicals but I spray my whole property each year for broadleaf weeds so the sheep are not eating capeweed."

Lambs have no trouble hitting on-hook specifications, with the Bennetts aiming for a carcase weight of 24 kilograms to 28kg.

"We lamb down in mid-June and they're gone by the third week in November," he said.

As the Bennetts also run two stud enterprises, Bark Hut White Suffolks and Composites, the commercial operation needs to be as simple as possible.

"Our goal is to get rid of lambs as quickly as possible, straight off pasture," Mr Bennett said.

"The bulk of the lambs have no trouble finishing off grass and we lock in a third of our drop over the hook.

"The ewe lambs are mated a month later, so anything out of them and any of the late lambs from the older ewes go as stores."

There's also regular demand for the ewe portion as replacement ewes.

"Using White Suffolks gives us the flexibility to sell ewe lambs to restockers, instead of just being a terminal cross," Mr Bennett said.

"We have a couple of regular buyers who have bought the crossbred ewes for a long time and they love the cross, and because of our health status, they're quite confident in buying from us."

The flock's fertility has been increasing through the years, but this year's scanning has been exceptional, given the difficult start to the year, in which fire affected 90 per cent of the property, burning all shelter belts and 26 kilometres of fencing.

"This year we had 140pc at marking, a month after lambing, which was great, because we were worried, coming out of the fires, what the result would be," Mr Bennett said.

"We knew the fire was coming so we did some backburns to protect the sheep and had the whole lot yarded up.

"We assumed that with the stress we'd lose lambs but we came out of that with no side effects to lambing percentages."

Pasture is coming back, as the fire was so quick that it didn't burn deep into the soil, Mr Bennett said.

"We've had to replace all our fencing and we've fed out a lot of hay, but we didn't confinement feed, and we're pretty happy we didn't because any hiccup can be magnified.

"We just propped all the fences up with droppers and spread the sheep out, then spent whatever we could on feed to look after them."





# DEPTA GROVE

WHITE SUFFOLK

## DESIGNER GENERATIONS WELL-BALANCED, IMPECCABLY BRED SHEEP

**LOT 28  
STUD RAM  
SOLD FOR  
\$23,000**



Sired by Ella Matta170300 & out of an elite Depta Grove ewe Lot 28, 190113 boasted figures of 12.12 Wwt, 19.10Pwt 2.85Pemd with a top end TCP of 161.

## 2020 SPRING SALE NEWS

A sincere thanks to all buyers, underbidders & those who continue to support our program.

- SOLD 247/250 offered
- All 73 ewes sold to a top of \$2800, average of \$1402.
- Stud Rams - all 30 stud rams selling to a high of \$23,000, average of \$6783.
- 143 of the 146 flock rams sold to \$2900 for an average of \$1831.

### STUD EWES -SALE TOPPING RESULTS

- Lot 1, 190226 - \$2400: Aaron Picker, Crookwell, NSW
- Lot 4, 190094 - \$2,200: Banquet White Suffolks, Mortlake, VIC
- Lot 7, 190221 - \$2,600: Aaron Picker, Crookwell, NSW
- Lot 8, 190045 - \$2,200: WJ & EM Milroy, Pipers River, TAS
- Lot 11, 190002 - \$2,400: Chris Squiers, Quairading, WA
- Lot 12, 190089 - \$2,600: Banquet White Suffolks, Mortlake, VIC
- Lot 26, 190144 - \$2,800: Banquet White Suffolks, Mortlake, VIC

Thank you to all successful bidders & stud ewe volume buyers - Noremac White Suffolk, Weidemann Pastoral, Hannaton Merinos, AC & PM McDonald & North Ulandi.

### STUD RAMS - SALE HIGHLIGHTS

- Lot 78, 190113 - \$23,000: Roger Wilkinson & Family, Camborn White Suffolks, Pooncarie, NSW.
- Lot 80, 190480 - \$10,000: Nick Waldow, Old Ashrose Merino Stud, Hallett, SA
- Lot 82, 190023 - \$10,000: BJ & ST Rogers, Wood Wood, VIC
- Lot 83, 190509 - \$10,000: AC & PM McDonald, Dadswell Bridge
- Lot 84, 190223 - \$10,000: Mark Williams & Family, Lillimur, VIC
- Lot 86, 190064 - \$12,000: Mark Williams & Family, Lillimur, VIC
- Lot 87, 190486 - \$10,000: RJ & LJ Mitchell, Lockington, VIC

**APRIL  
2021**

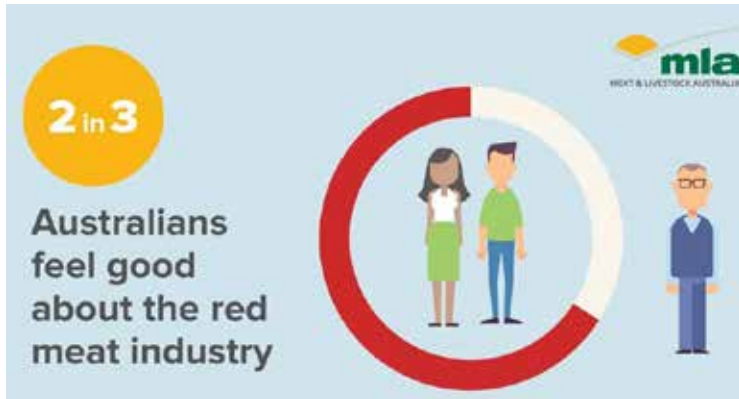
## BI-ANNUAL MATED EWE SALE

PREPARATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR THE UPCOMING MATED EWE SALE IN APRIL - WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2021.



# Red meat perceptions improving

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia



Perceptions of the red meat industry are improving, as is knowledge of the industry among consumers in metropolitan Australia, according to Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) latest consumer sentiment research.

Conducted annually since 2010 by strategic consultancy firm Pollinate on behalf of MLA, the research measures and tracks consumer sentiment in the community towards the Australian red meat industry.

The research is used to inform the industry's community engagement strategy addressing community concerns, and benchmark the impact of MLA's programs on building community trust in the beef and lamb industry.

MLA Managing Director, Jason Strong, said this year's consumer insights reflected a growing acknowledgement of cattle and sheep producers and the work of the industry among metropolitan consumers.

"Despite an environmentally, socially and economically challenging year, perceptions of the red meat industry are improving - 67 per cent of consumers feel 'good' or 'very good' about the Australian beef industry, and 62pc feel 'good' or 'very good' about the Australian sheep industry," Mr Strong said.

"Consumers are hearing more positive messages about the industry, particularly in relation to industry standards and the positive impact on the Australian economy.

"Within this is a real acknowledgement that producers do a good job and are widely respected."

He said it is very encouraging for the industry, particularly in a year where a number of significant events have impacted the red meat industry across Australia including drought, bushfires and the global COVID-19 pandemic.

"Overall red meat consumption has remained stable. Most red meat eaters have not reduced their consumption, nor are they planning to do so in future, with 62pc of consumers eating about the same amount of red meat compared to a year ago," Mr Strong said.

"The number of consumers in metropolitan Australia who claim to be vegetarian has remained stable since 2016, at 7pc. Interestingly, 39pc of claimed vegetarians still eat meat."

Mr Strong said perceived industry knowledge has increased, with around one in three consumers feeling they have a 'good knowledge and understanding' of the Australian beef and lamb industries.

"However, consumers are less informed about the specifics, highlighting the need for the industry to continue to increase awareness and engagement with community and consumers," he said.

"The research shows that consumers turn to a wide range of information sources, with the internet, industry bodies and health professionals, still important sources of information about the industry."

While one in three consumers use the internet to find information about Australian red meat in relation to its environmental impact and animal welfare credentials, this year has seen consumers increasingly turning to supermarkets and butchers as sources of information about the industry.

"Given strong consumer patronage of supermarkets and butchers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not surprising we are seeing these channels become increasingly important sources of information for consumers," Mr Strong said.

"The research significantly informs the community engagement and marketing activities that MLA undertakes on behalf of the red meat industry, explaining our production systems and demonstrating that our producers are ethical and responsible custodians of livestock, land and natural resources."





**Waratah 190323**

Sire Ella Matta 170300

Dam Waratah 170585

**Semen available Waratah 190323 \$40 + GST per ewe dose**

Lambplan analysis 1/10/2020	Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	Pwec	D%	LMY	IMF	SF5	NLW	TCP	LEQ
<b>190323</b>	0.61	11.9	19.41	+0.72	3.1	-51	3.1	2.8	+0.03	-4.6	8.0	167	171



Waratah 190279 Lot 4

## Congratulations

Shane and Jodie Foster "Boonaroo White Suffolks" on the purchase of Waratah 190279 for \$8000 and Waratah 190314 for \$7800 via Auctions Plus at the Waratah Annual Sale.

**Congratulations** also to Adam and Michelle Lehman "Glentanna White Suffolks" who purchased Waratah 190417 for \$6200 and Michael and Julie Osborne "Ryevue" who purchased Waratah 190263 for \$5800.

**Steve and Debbie Milne Branhholme Vic**

Ph 03 55786327, Steve 0428 786327 Debbie 0407 724066 Email [sjdmilne@bigpond.com](mailto:sjdmilne@bigpond.com)

**[www.waratahwhites.com.au](http://www.waratahwhites.com.au)**

# Elite Sale Wrap Up

## New WA White Suffolk record at WA Elite Sale

A new \$29,250 WA state record top-price for a White Suffolk ram was achieved at the WA Elite White Suffolk Sale held at Williams Showground in August.

The ram was offered by Ida Vale Stud, Tamesha Gardner and Andrew Greenup, from Kojunup, WA and purchased by Booloolo, Charinga and Induro studs in partnership.

Overall, White Suffolk rams achieved a 46 percent clearance and averaged \$8023 with the White Suffolk ewes achieving a 90 percent clearance and averaging \$733.



**Pictured above:** Top priced ram in the Elite White Suffolk Online Sale, Lot 35 from Ramsay Park, selling for \$10,000 to Bundara Downs & Yonga Downs

## Elite Online Sale achieves good support & prices

The Elite White Suffolk & Suffolk Online Sale held on 30 August sold to a top of \$10,000 and averaged \$4194.

Held for the first time on AuctionsPlus due to COVID-19 restrictions, the sale offered 89 lots and achieved a clearance of 48 percent, or 43 lots.

A further nine lots were sold immediately after the close of the online bidding.

Sale top was achieved by Ramsay Park Lot 35 selling for \$10,000, purchased by a partnership of Bundara Downs and Yonga Downs studs.

**Pictured right:** Elders Laryn Gogel, Deb, Caitlin and Clive Shillabeer, Wingamin White Suffolks, Karoonda, Nutrien's Gordon Wood, with the \$19,000 ram. Photo courtesy Stock Journal



**Pictured above:** With the new \$29,250 WA State record top-priced White Suffolk ram offered by the Ida Vale stud, Kojunup, at the WA Elite White Suffolk, Suffolk and Poll Dorset Sale were Peter Wharton (left), Elders Kojunup, Andrew Greenup, Tamesha Gardner, Lexi and Sophie Greenup and Di Gardner, Ida Vale stud and Roy Addis, Nutrien Livestock Breeding, who purchased the ram on behalf of an Eastern State's syndicate of the Booloolo, Charinga and Induro White Suffolk studs.  
Photo courtesy Farm Weekly

## Adelaide Elite Stud Sheep Sale reaches \$19,000 top

38 White Suffolk rams and 5 ewes were offered at the 2020 Adelaide Elite Stud Sheep Sale held at the Adelaide Showground in September. The Sale was interfaced with AuctionsPlus, with 22 rams selling on the day to a top of \$19,000 and averaging \$6284.

The \$19,000 White Suffolk ram was offered by Clive & Deb Shillabeer, Wingamin stud, and bought via AuctionsPlus by Detpa Grove stud.





# Updates coming to the new-look Sheep Genetics search site

Courtesy of James Taylor, Sheep Genetics



Since the release of Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) new-look Sheep Genetics search site in August 2020, the team have been working on further enhancements to the platform.

Initial changes to the website included:

- load times are three times faster than the old site;
- more targeted search functionality;
- easier navigation;
- seamless integration with direct referral sites such as AuctionsPlus;
- accessible on any device.

Below is a list of planned features and upgrades, and a timeline of when you can expect to see them rolled out. Developments are continuous and feedback is always welcome at [info@sheepgenetics.org.au](mailto:info@sheepgenetics.org.au). Feedback received to date has informed the below list of future developments. Items have been prioritised based on expected development time and impact on site users.

## Phase 1: short-term updates

The following features were implemented on 10 October:

- faster loading times when exporting results to Excel;
- update to email and/or website links in listed sale and semen catalogues;
- fix to duplicate dam IDs appearing on pen cards;
- sale catalogues will no longer move to the 'past sales' section early;
- fix to the 'semen available' filter;
- fix to the 'load more' function in searches and catalogues;
- improved logo sizing on pen cards;
- fix to search with multiple ASBV filters;
- fix to the search time-out for individual IDs;
- fix to pen card creation time-out for large catalogues;
- fix to caching issue when searching for individual animals using 16-digit IDs and flock names.

Other updates that will be implemented by the end of October include:

- delete saved search functionality;
- search time-out messages.

## PHASE 2: medium-term enhancements

The following features are expected to be implemented within the next six months:

- customised ASBVs on sale and semen catalogues;
- customise ASBVs button for mobile;
- ability to sort catalogues by lot number;
- ability to view semen catalogues on mobile devices;
- implementation of an MLP filter and tags for sires used in the project;
- ability to rename saved searches;
- export button available when not logged in;
- error validation of catalogue uploads;
- ability to add multiple flock codes to a search;
- new information sheet generated with pen cards;
- improved flagging of animals for sale or with semen available.

## PHASE 3: long-term enhancements

The following features are expected to be implemented over the next one to two years.

- printable and customisable percentile band table;
- ability to view and export more traits and animals on a single page;
- ability to export the individual animal page and the pedigree as a PDF;
- ability to export searches as a PDF;
- ability to view and export sire and dam pedigree in a search;
- ability to view 16-digit ID in a search;
- ability to create multi-vendor sale catalogues;
- ability to export searches to email and social media;
- further on-boarding information on mobile devices.

## Free membership continues

You will not have to pay to get involved in Sheep Genetics.

MLA is operating the Accelerated Adoption Initiative which waives many of its fees. This will operate until November 2021. You can read [more about it online](#).



# DAYS WHITEFACE

Poll Herefords | White Suffolks  
Maternal Composites



**Industry Leading Whiteface Genetics**



Lot 16 sold to Paxton Stud for \$18,000

## 2020 Annual On-Property Sale Results

13 White Suffolk Stud Rams to **\$18,000** & averaged **\$5,513**

138 White Suffolk Flock Rams to **\$3,200** & averaged **\$2,086**

**Thankyou to all!**

The support for our 2020 Ram Sale was overwhelming.



Lachy & Lou Day : 0428 521 630, Graham : (08) 8752 2554

**[www.dayswhiteface.com.au](http://www.dayswhiteface.com.au)**





## White Suffolks play a central role in maternal self-replacing flock

By Kim Woods

While the majority of producers use White Suffolk in terminal programs, a Victorian family is capitalising on the maternal traits in their self-replacing ewe flock.

Martin and Robyn Miles, and daughter Holly, dovetail 1400 White Suffolk cross ewes with 90 Angus cows and cropping across 1214ha at Dinyarrak, North Serviceton, Victoria.

The property, Box Farm, is located in a 450mm rainfall zone and has black flats with rising loam and some sand.

The family were traditionally Merino breeders but introduced a crossbred lamb sideline to replace live export wethers on the back of falling wool prices.

Poll Dorset, White Suffolk and Prime SAMM rams were trialled across the Merino ewes.

The family settled on sourcing White Suffolk and White Suffolk maternal composite rams, with a production focus of soft handling, 22-23 micron weaner wool and 25-26 microns in the adult ewes.

The moderate framed White Suffolk cross ewes are bred for lambing ease, milk and fertility, plus their clean breech has meant no mulesing for more than a decade.

They are joined to rams at three per cent for six to eight weeks to lamb in either autumn (April/May) or spring (August/September) to spread the workload and income.

"We now breed from ewes that are at least half White Suffolk and we put White Suffolk rams back over the composite ewes – they are rippers, such good mothers," Mrs Miles said.

"We are considering joining the three-quarter White Suffolk ewes to Poll Merino rams to give us a line of 50 per cent content ewes with nice wool.

"The 50 and 75 per cent White Suffolk ewes are the best mothers – they will stand their ground when you walk up to them.

"They accept motherless lambs so well and are robust - we love them.

"They have a lot of twins and do keep an eye on them as well.

"Last year our unscanned four-year-old ewes lambed at 156 per cent while our maiden ewes are usually 100 per cent lambing.

"This year, those same ewes have marked 130 per cent – it is not unusual to get 160 + per cent without scanning the mob."

Suffolk rams were also joined to one mob of the White Suffolk cross ewes, resulting in a high number of multiple births, and the maiden ewes lambing at 130 per cent.

"The ewes are fantastic milkers, don't run to fat and pour themselves into their lambs," Mrs Miles said.

Maiden ewes are classed on structure, moderate frame, body length, clean breech and points, and then into wool and carcase types (with the wool types on average 4.5 microns finer).

Composite ewes are joined to Days Whiteface White Suffolk rams selected by Holly on birthweight, growth and eye muscle depth.



Pre-lambing, the ewes are shorn and fed trailed grain or barley ad-lib if needed, otherwise they receive hay until the autumn break.

“We ensure they have access to mineral blocks, and are vaccinated and drenched,” Mrs Miles said.

“We aim to keep them on a rising plane of nutrition and lamb them in body score 3-3.5.

“Post-lambing, the ewes are kept in paddocks with shelter and we are alert to any lambing troubles to increase lamb survival – we don’t leave the ewes to sort themselves out.

“There is no fox baiting as we have revegetated areas to encourage birdlife, however we do control vermin by other means.”

The family shear half the ewe flock in February and the other half in May, with 22 micron lamb’s wool bringing 1200c/kg clean last year.

The lambs are finished on a snail medic, clover, ryegrass and native pasture.

The majority of autumn lambs are sold as suckers at 12 to 14 weeks, with this year’s lambs averaging 56kg liveweight and returning \$217 through Naracoorte saleyards.

“As soon as they hit the ground, they mature into a beautiful trade lamb so quickly,” Mrs Miles said.

The family sold August/September 2018 drop March shorn White Suffolk cross ewes averaging 60.3 kg liveweight to a private buyer in June.

The ewes had a daily average weight gain of 100 grams off clover and ryegrass based pastures, and had been joined to Suffolk rams.

They had soft handling crossbred wool of 25-26 micron.

The buyer was so impressed with the ewes, she also bought 150 White Suffolk composite lambs and plans to take advantage of early puberty and join them early.

“A nice fat score three or four White Suffolk cross carcass is not too fat and has a clean flavor with a good sized eye muscle, a good shaped leg, some marbling and is tender,” Mrs Miles said.

“The breed needs to promote the maternal traits more – to us they are 100 per cent better than a traditional first cross ewe with a great temperament, robustness and feed efficiency.

“We would recommend a Merino/White Suffolk or a White Suffolk x White Suffolk/Merino ewe any day over any other breed.”





**ASHMORE**  
WHITE SUFFOLKS  
Genetics that Perform

## ASHMORE 2020 RAM SALE RESULTS



Ashmore 190016 TCP 164

- ◆ 190016 by 170986 - \$23,000 to Bundara Downs, Booloolo, Charinga
- ◆ 190196 by 170986 - \$13,200 to Sunnydale
- ◆ 190625 by 170986 - \$9,500 to Shirlee Downs
- ◆ 190218 by EM 170300 - \$8,200 to Yanta
- ◆ 190108 by 160627 - \$3,000 to Mertex
- ◆ 190326 by WB173980 - \$3,000 to Shirlee Downs
  
- ◆ 189 rams averaged \$2020
- ◆ 18 Ashmore 170986 sons averaged \$3,950
- ◆ Ashmore would like to thank all purchasers and underbidders

## ASHMORE SEMEN SIREs

See web for photos

*Exceptional LAMBPLAN ASBVs without compromising structure*

TAG	SIRE	Prg: Flks	BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD	PWEC	IMF	SF5	TCP
15-0340	Ash 080179	495:4	0.58	12.0	18.5	-0.1	2.0	-62	-0.2	-6.4	166
16-0433	Som 130153	186:6	0.16	10.7	18.0	0.1	4.2	-25	-0.8	2.0	163
16-0627	G Pk 120367	267:8	0.26	12.3	19.5	0.1	2.9	-5	-0.3	4.6	150
17-0273	Leith 120015	257:1	0.21	9.9	16.4	0.1	3.6	-20	0.0	1.8	153
17-0526	Anden 140025	292:5	0.05	10.3	15.8	-0.2	3.5	-18	-0.1	1.9	148
17-0986	Ash 170011	701:13	0.53	11.9	18.3	0.3	3.4	-16	-0.2	-2.9	165



## Processing restrictions ease but wool demand remains low

Courtesy of Rural Bank



Sheep and lamb markets can operate with greater certainty after restrictions on Victorian processors eased at the end of September while the wool market continues to be affected by COVID-19, according to Rural Bank's October Insights Update.

As the industry approaches its peak supply period, the improvement of processing capacity to 90 per cent in regional Victoria and 80 per cent in Melbourne, along with the relatively tight supply of sheep should allow for enough capacity to process the spring flush of lambs.

Lamb supply is expected to continue its upward trajectory with a further 14 per cent increase in eastern states weekly slaughter expected by December to reach a peak in-line with the five-year average and 1.5 per cent above the 2019 peak level. A year-on-year increase in supply is achievable based on increased lambing and survival rates compared to last year. Sheep slaughter is expected to follow the typical seasonal pattern and trend higher, however a low national flock and producer intentions to retain breeding stock could keep slaughter rates up to 40 per cent lower year-on-year.

The Eastern States Lamb Indicator (ESTLI) increased by 30 per cent in September and early October, a welcome correction following a 32.1 per cent decline between June and August. Despite the recent rally, the ESTLI is one per cent lower year-on-year, which is expected to continue due to lower consumer demand, particularly in food-service channels.

The Australian wool market is also facing weaker demand in the coming months, as buyers have satisfied near term commitments and are looking to firm up business before securing additional volumes.

The number of bales on offer in September was also 27 per cent below the five-year average, a reminder that destocking during the recent drought is still impacting Australian wool production.

Looking at price, increases will depend on consumer confidence returning in economies such as Europe and the United States, however any improvement in price will be stifled by a rise in supply as producers look to offload on-farm storages of wool carried over from last season. Heading into the US election, the US dollar will likely experience volatility in the coming month due to the election as well as uncertainty around COVID-19 and trade.

Chinese demand continues to underpin Australian wool process, as the Chinese economy is recovering from COVID-19 more quickly than its European and American counterparts. For sheep and lamb, export demand remains uncertain, although there have been positive signs for lamb exports in recent months. These include volumes to the United States trending higher year-on-year between June and September and the recovery of volumes to the Middle East since July.





# SUCCESSION PLAN WITH A **SMITHSTON RAM**

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# New webpage to provide tips for transporting livestock

Courtesy of Stock & Land

A new checklist is set to help farmers prepare and plan their trips when transporting livestock.

The Agriculture Victoria checklist relates to the transport of cattle, sheep or goats and the rules and regulations which need be followed.

"The new 'Transporting livestock responsibilities and recommendations' webpage provides everything farmers need to be across from market expectations to curfews, animals being fit to load, planning the journey and getting the paperwork right," Agriculture Victoria technical specialist Kirstie Anderson said.

"If you're selling livestock, either for slaughter over the hooks, to the saleyard or in a private sale, it's important to consider whether the stock meet your customer's requirements."

"Meeting market specifications can lead to higher prices compared to selling stock that is outside the specifications and can help to create a good relationship with your supply chain," Ms Anderson said.

The checklist includes links to resources relating to market specifications such as age or dentition, weight, fat or condition scores, withholding periods, Livestock Production Assurance (LPA), Meat Standards Australia (MSA) or other quality assurance program information.

Producers, stock agents and transporters can access curfew advice and information as well as links to MSA handling requirements and standards to better understand specific supply chains.

"The page provides a checklist of everything you need to be ready for market, to plan your journey and to get the paperwork right," Ms Anderson said.



The page has links to Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, including the handy and easy to use booklet 'Is the animal fit to load?'.

"Good preparation can ensure better animal welfare, minimize transport-related losses and can support better eating quality outcomes," Ms Anderson said.

"We've included reminders about 'spelling periods' for livestock if a journey is going to take longer than the maximum time allowed, as well as maximum times off feed and water to help producers put their best plan forward."

Below is the information found on the "Transporting livestock responsibilities and recommendations" webpage on the Agriculture Victoria website ([www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au)).

## Transporting livestock responsibilities and recommendations

Are you planning to transport cattle, sheep, or goats?

Make sure you're well prepared with these top tips for transporting livestock.

### Are they ready to go?

Before loading your livestock, it's important to make sure they're ready to go. Ask yourself these three questions:

1. Are they likely to meet your market's expectations?
2. Have they been curfewed appropriately?
3. Are they fit to load?



## Meeting market specifications

If you are selling livestock, either for slaughter over the hooks, to the saleyard or in a private sale, it's important to consider whether the stock meet your customer's requirements. These might include:

- weight
- fat or condition scores
- withholding periods
- Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)
- Meat Standards Australia (MSA) or other quality assurance program information
- dentition or age of the sheep.

Meeting market specifications can lead to higher prices compared to selling stock that is outside the specifications and can help to create a good relationship with your supply chain.

## Curfewing livestock

Curfewing livestock means holding them off feed for a certain period prior to transport and slaughter. An appropriate curfew period helps ensure that livestock are 'empty' for transport, which means that the livestock are cleaner during and after transport. Reducing faecal contamination during transport improves animal welfare, minimises pollution risks for the transporters and significantly improves food safety at processing.

Curfew times often depend on your supply chain's requirements. For example, lambs being consigned for slaughter with MSA must be curfewed for a minimum of 12 hours, up to a maximum of 48 hours prior to slaughter. This means that you should consider time in transport and lairage when calculating how long to curfew sheep before leaving your property.

Processor and supply chain curfew requirements vary. Producers, stock agents and transporters should contact processors to understand curfew requirements for that supply chain.

## Animals fit to load

As a consignor, it is your responsibility to ensure animals are fit to load and fit for the intended journey before they are loaded.

Make sure you are familiar with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines (the 'Standards') – you can find these at [www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au).

The Standards are also summarised in a handy, easy to use booklet 'Is the animal fit to load?' which can be accessed on the MLA website. The booklet also includes helpful checklists and examples.

## Planning the journey

Preparing for the journey your livestock will be taking is an important step. Good preparation can ensure better animal welfare, minimize transport-related losses and can support better eating quality outcomes.

Make sure you have a good plan for the journey, by considering the following three factors:

### 1. **Maximum times off feed and water**

While specific curfew periods are often requested by a processor or supply chain, it's important to know what the maximum legal limits are for time off water for your livestock. Keep these limits in mind when curfewing and preparing your stock for transport, especially if there is some uncertainty about how far they are going to travel or what the conditions may be en route.

### 2. **Spelling**

If the journey is likely to take longer than the maximum time allowed off water, the livestock must be spelled. This means that the stock should be unloaded, allowed access to water and space to lie down. If the maximum time off water is reached, they must be spelled for a minimum of 36 hours. Livestock must be inspected for fitness for the remainder of the journey before reloading.

### 3. **Extra considerations**

For some classes of livestock, special transport conditions apply. For example, very young animals and animals in late pregnancy should not be transported unless very stringent welfare conditions are met (read more about special transport conditions at [www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au)). Separating livestock into pens based on species, liveweight, class, horn size/status and wool length is also good practice.

## Get the paperwork right

Make sure you have the right paperwork, correctly filled in and signed. Some of the consignment paperwork, such as LPA National Vendor Declarations, are legal documents and must be signed by the person consigning the livestock. Make sure you know what documents are required, how to fill them in and have them completed prior to transporting the livestock.

*There are many reasons to consider our genetics*

# ELLA MATTA

*Flock No. 1 - Parndana Kangaroo Island, SA*

**Find out why Ella Matta is Number 1 for more than its flock number**

**- Outstanding high performance genetics that breed on!**

**Annual ram sale results - 200 rams sold to \$10,400 & averaged \$2337**

**★ 13 rams went to studs/ram breeding flocks & averaged \$5130 ★**



**Ella Matta 190092 ET:** Sold to the Sunnysdale stud, Rupanyup, Vic for \$10,400.

Bwt 0.16 Wwt 11.9 Pwwt 19.5 Pfat 0.1 Pemd 3.5 Pwec -40.2

LMY 3.9 IMF 0.01 SHEARF5 -1.9 LEQ 169.8 TCP 167.1

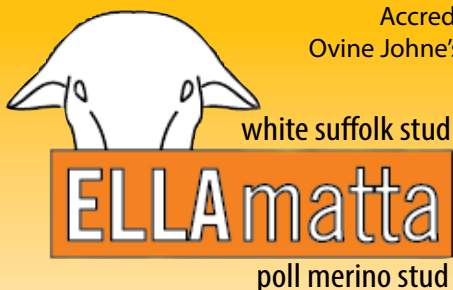
*Sunnysdale also purchased EM 190277 ET for \$4400. Also sold EM 190004 to Detpa Grove (\$3600), EM 190333Tw (AI) to Lennox Farm (\$6000), EM 190094 ET (\$6000) & EM 190158 ET (\$5600) to Glenfinnan studs.*

**★ Thank you to all bidders on our rams ★**

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**Enquiries always welcome**

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**Andrew: 0427 596 108**

**Jamie: 0427 361 830**

**Email: [ellamatta@bigpond.com](mailto:ellamatta@bigpond.com)**

**website: [www.ellamatta.com](http://www.ellamatta.com)**



## New Semen Sires of Note

# ELLA MATTA

Flock No. 1 - Parndana Kangaroo Island, SA



### ◀ Ella Matta 190088 ET (retained)

By EM170300 (\$15,500)  
out of full sister to EM 180100 (Milestone, \$29,000)

**An outstanding pedigree  
with performance figures to match**

Bwt 0.18 Wwt 11.5 Pwwt 18.7 Pfat 0.1  
Pemd 3.9 Pwec -42 LMY 4.3 IMF -0.1  
SHEARF5 -1.7 LEQ 168.1 TCP 167.0

**Packages: 30 doses @ \$50/dose  
50 plus doses @ \$40/dose**

### Ella Matta 190030 ET (retained) ▶

By Woolumbool 173980 out of EM 150301

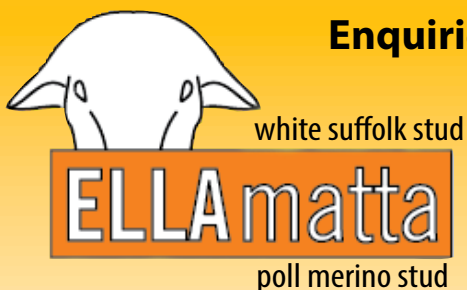
#### **Power & Performance**

Bwt 0.29 Wwt 13.1 Pwwt 21.5 Pfat 0.5  
Pemd 3.9 Pwec -31 LMY 4.0 IMF 0.0  
SHEARF5 -1.3 LEQ 171.7 TCP 170.0

**Packages: 30 doses @ \$50/dose  
50 plus doses @ \$40/dose**



**Enquiries on these two, or any of our top sires welcome**



**Ella Matta Pastoral**

Andrew: 0427 596 108 Jamie: 0427 361 830

Email: [ellamatta@bigpond.com](mailto:ellamatta@bigpond.com)

**website: [www.ellamatta.com](http://www.ellamatta.com)**

# COVID-19's biosecurity lessons for the livestock industry

Courtesy of Joely Mitchell, Stock & Land

There are a lot of lessons the Australian livestock industry can take from the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's according to Animal Health Australia biosecurity extension manager Emily Buddle, who was presenting at AgriWebb's recent Sheep Innovation Day.

Ms Buddle said COVID-19 had sent shockwaves throughout the globe, and an emergency animal disease outbreak could result in similar repercussions for the livestock industry.

She said there were three practices producers should employ to prevent their risk of an outbreak, which would in turn support the entire supply chain.

Those were prepare, monitor and respond.

She said prevention was always better than cure which was why the first step - preparation - was so important.

She said Australia's federal and state governments had worked tirelessly to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

This included enforcing strict border measures, ensuring people were social distancing, maintaining good hygiene and wearing masks.

She said livestock producers needed to implement preventative measures like this on their own farms to reduce their risk of an animal disease outbreak.

"Throughout COVID-19, everything we have been asked to do has been related to biosecurity, whether it's washing our hands or maintaining physical distance," she said.

"Livestock biosecurity is just as important as it underpins our productivity, maintains market access, gives consumers confidence and protects our natural environment."

She said producers should take accountability for their properties and do their best to protect them.

"Much like Australia closing its borders and states closing their borders, livestock producers should consider the fences surrounding their property their border," she said.

"Ensure your sheep can't go walkabouts to the neighbours' place and vice-versa."

Producers should also use all of the relevant documentation to minimise their risk of an outbreak - like a National Sheep Health Declaration.

"These are designed to provide the purchaser with the history of the animals; it's always handy to have these when you're integrating new animals onto your farm," she said.

She said just like how human travellers had to go through a 14-day quarantine to reduce the risk of potentially spreading COVID-19, producers should do the same with their sheep.

"Keeping animals from old animals for a recommended 28 days will allow those new animals to be monitored for any signs of disease and to treat if necessary, before passing it onto the rest of your flock," she said.

Ms Buddle said you should also be frequently monitoring your livestock.

"Test for conditions that may be prevalent in your region, even if your livestock don't show any symptoms," she said.

"Just like how much testing's been done for COVID-19."

She said despite every biosecurity prevention and monitoring measure you do, the threat of a disease outbreak was always looming.

So you needed to ensure you were prepared to respond in a timely manner.

"Most of Australia recognises COVID-19 as very serious and have rallied to contain the spread," she said.

"If there's a disease outbreak, everyone is responsible for ensuring the disease is controlled, maintained or eradicated.

"If you see any signs or symptoms that are serious or unusual, contact your vet or the emergency animal disease hotline straight away."

She said there were still going to be "bad eggs" - just like there were in COVID-19, with people hiding in trucks to cross the border illegally.

"The same thing happens at international borders, with people not declaring animal or plant materials," she said.

She said every producer should have a biosecurity plan.

"Just like in COVID-19, where to welcome back staff and customers, businesses need a COVID-safe plan, biosecurity plans are essential in reducing and minimising the risk of disease," she said.



# How do I get genomics on my animals?

Courtesy of James Taylor, Sheep Genetics



Genotyping services are now provided by multiple companies. So, you will benefit from more options and competition in the market. Previously, the genotyping service was administrated by SheepDNA, part of the Sheep CRC. Since the closure of the Sheep CRC, MLA has taken over coordinating genomic services.

These are the current genotype providers that are ready to go:

A central database has been set up. This is managed on by MLA on behalf of you – sheep breeders. All of the genotype providers that have signed up to licence agreements will give and take results from this central database. This gives you the flexibility to change genotype providers and still use previous results. It also helps to keep a minimum standard so that quality is consistent.

If you have any more questions about genotyping contact Sheep Genetics or the genotype providers.

Company	Contact	Parentage only	Parentage and genomics	Flock profile	Marker test
Concierge Genetics	James Preuss 0408 392 888 <a href="mailto:info@conciergegenetics.com.au">info@conciergegenetics.com.au</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intertek	Tania Pfeiffer 0459 855 862 <a href="mailto:tania.pfeiffer@intertek.com">tania.pfeiffer@intertek.com</a>	✓			
NEOGEN	Melanie Dowling, 07 37362134 <a href="mailto:naa-sheep@neogen.com">naa-sheep@neogen.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weatherbys	Bill Burgess 0424 004 622 <a href="mailto:bburgess@weatherbys.com.au">bburgess@weatherbys.com.au</a>		✓	✓	✓
XYTOVET	Jason Ledger 0417 938 067 <a href="mailto:jason@xytovet.com.au">jason@xytovet.com.au</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓



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**2017 - 2020 DROP EWES**

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY**

If you want plenty of lambs, 20 of these ewes lambbed triplets in the first lambing of 70 ewes!

The Stud was commenced in 1988, and has been a member of Lambplan since inception. **MN3V & Brucellosis Accredited #109.**



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**Shelby Howard:** 0432 341 394

**Millswyn** White Suffolk Stud

Flock : 113

**Helen Morgan**

**Phone:** 03 58 288 269 **Mobile:** 0499 898 037

**Email:** millswyn@bigpond.com

## Who are we and what can we do for you.

We are a company run by dedicated breeders from many different sheep breeds of whom understand the Prime Lamb Industry. Stockscan has developed equipment and software in conjunction with leading industry professionals that provide practical computerised information, with reports and solutions that enhance on farm livestock practices.

Our Services include Stud Ram and Ewe eye muscle scanning, Flock Ram EMA Scanning, Data Processing and Reporting.

## The benefits of getting under the skin.

**Scanning Measurements:** (An Ultra sonic rib muscle scanning in live sheep).

Scanning for performance traits in animals has become a significant on-farm measuring tool for over 10 years within the stud industry. Scanners assess sheep at around 8 to 12 months of age for weight, Eye Muscle Width (A), Eye Muscle Depth (B) and Fat measurement (C), which allows us to calculate the Eye Muscle Area (EMA). Eye Muscle Area (EMA) to weight (LW) ratio is also calculated.

## Meat Index

The meat index formula is based on the Eye Muscle Width, Depth and Fat measurements. A higher weighting is given to width (A) because it is more heritable while eye muscle depth (B) is influenced by environment factors. Fat (C) is penalized slightly. The resulting number is then adjusted for the age of the sheep, so the index is what the sheep's index would have been at eight months of age. The index is a way that a group of young sheep with different live weights, eye muscle dimensions and fat depth can be compared from within a breeder's own flock. The index is not a figure that should be used to compare with other breeder's flocks.



*Photo courtesy of Yonga Downs*

## Why Scan?

Stockscan's technology can assist you to accurately identify flock performance animals in many ways.

By identification through scanning on-farm for conformation of superior flock ewes and better performing flock rams you will:

- Increase your returns on terminal lambs and replacement ewe's lambs
- Correctly identify replacement ewes based on known conformation data
- Obtain economic gains through higher meat productivity per hectare of pasture
- Selectively combine known productive traits of both ram and ewe, by measuring their progeny through scanning

Australian Stockscan Services P/L client base continues to grow with breeders seeing the importance of measuring Eye Muscle Depth, Width and Fat and most importantly being able to give Total Eye Muscle Area Measurement.

Client feedback has indicated that Stockscan is user friendly, cost efficient and gives accurate informative results. Our data is being very well received by the end users of both Stud and Commercial Prime Lamb Producers of Australia.

Our aim is to provide breeders with measurements that are directly beneficial to the Prime Lamb Industry.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

For all enquires please contact us:



**Julie Davey**

**Ph:** 03 5452 2438

**M :** 0427 522 438

**P:** PO Box 365 Kerang Vic 3579

**E:** [stockscan@live.com](mailto:stockscan@live.com)





## Tips on passing a farm audit

Courtesy of Joely Mitchell

Around 3000 farm audits are conducted every year to ensure producers are abiding by the requirements of the red meat industry's quality assurance schemes.

### So how can you be sure that your farm ticks all of the relevant boxes?

Kathleen Allan is the communication and adoption manager of Integrity Systems, the company that manages Australia's three key on-farm assurance and traceability programs - Livestock Production Assurance (LPA), LPA National Vendor Declarations (LPA NVDs) and the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

Ms Allan said these programs were essential in ensuring the country's red meat industry was fully traceable and providing product that was safe to eat.

"The Australian red meat industry is a \$28 billion industry that employs 40,000 people across 80,000 businesses and delivers product to 100 different global markets," she said.

"Transparent and rigorous record-keeping is essential in protecting our industry prosperity, market access and competitive advantage.

"Regardless of where you are in the supply chain, everybody has a role to play to ensure we stand by what we sell."

She said the LPA system provided on-farm assurance, covering farm management, food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity risks.

"It demonstrates the professionalism of our industry and is the tick of approval from producer to consumer," she said.

LPA NVDs are a crucial part of the records LPA-accredited producers must complete and keep to prove they have done their bit.

She said the NLIS system enhanced the ability to monitor livestock and was all about identification and traceability.

"It tracks the locations of every animal throughout its life," she said.

"It's mandatory for all producers but is underpinned by state and territory regulations."

She said these schemes were the only way traceability could be managed at a truly national level.

"For an industry that exports the majority of its product overseas, this is really important," she said.

"Our international consumers don't care what state the product comes from, they want to know that it came from team Australia and that we have a national program in place."

Ms Allan said her biggest tip to producers filling out an LPA NVD was to be clear, correct and complete.

"This means when answering questions on the NVD, you check your records when it comes to the treatments your animals may have received," she said.

"There's a range of questions asking whether animals have been treated with HGP's (hormone growth promotants) or scabby mouth for sheep, or whether they have consumed any restricted animal materials.

"For all of these questions, if in doubt, tick 'yes'.

"And make sure to always either tick 'yes' or 'no', not both of them."

She said the LPA program was voluntary and there were 190,000 participants in it currently.

"Being part of it, producers need to do several things like keep their details up to date online, maintain their accreditation by doing online learning and assessments, and renewing it every three years," she said.

While there was work involved, she said being accredited gave you more options to market your livestock.

She said when you were signing the document, you were declaring you met the seven LPA requirements.

The first was that you had conducted a property risk assessment, which ensured you were minimising the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that were unacceptably contaminated with persistent chemicals or physical requirements.

"Make sure you complete a risk assessment and a map and update the risk assessment when changes occur on your farm, for example after the bushfires," she said.

The second was that you were using safe and responsible animal treatments.

"As a producer, it is your responsibility to ensure that animal treatments are administered in a safe and responsible manner and that it minimises the risk of chemical residues and physical hazards," she said.

"Document and file all animal treatment details, complete a chemical user course, note when the equipment used for livestock treatment is cleaned, and note animals exposed to physical contaminants, like broken needles."

You also had to minimise your exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable contamination and guarantee livestock were not fed animal products.

"Keep records of all agricultural chemical treatments and map or list treated or contaminated sites," she said.

"Have a management system that identifies livestock that may have become contaminated."

She said you needed to ensure your livestock were fit for transport, minimising the risk of stress and contamination.

"Record transport details and only select animals that are fit for travel," she said.

"Inspect vehicles prior to transport and observe pre-consignment curfews."

Producers also needed to ensure traceability requirements, with respect to treatments or exposure to food safety hazards being fulfilled for all livestock movements.

"Record all purchases and keep copies of LPA NVDs," she said.

Three years ago, a biosecurity element was added to the LPA NVD, which required producers to develop and maintain a documented farm biosecurity plan.

"There are many templates available but it's important to know that managing biosecurity risks is not a one-size-fits-all approach, it's very dependent on your risk appetite," she said.

The last requirement was animal welfare, and ensuring the handling of livestock was consistent with the requirements in the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines.

"Have a copy of the standards and guidelines accessible as a reference and ensure the staff involved in animal husbandry are familiar and trained with the contents," she said.

Ms Allan said if you were chosen to be audited, "don't panic".

"All LPA-accredited producers, irrespective of the number of livestock they run, may be audited," she said.

"If you're selected, you will receive an LPA audit advice pack (which includes a checklist) and will then be contacted by an auditor to agree on a mutually-suitable time."

On the day, she said the auditor would go through your records and take a tour of your facilities, looking at where you stored your chemicals, for example.

If an issue was identified, there were three categories it could fall into - minor, major and critical.

She said critical issues could be something like your sheep found licking an old battery, and that could result in your accreditation being suspended until it was resolved.

But Ms Allan said it was important to remember that audits were about identifying areas for practical on-farm improvement.



EST.  1993

# MAROOOLA

WHITE SUFFOLK STUD

## Paddock Born and Bred for Performance

### Maroola 194828 "Lockdown"

Half share sold to Anthony, Suzanne and Cameron Ferguson, Anna Villa Stud.

Semen available - minimum 30 doses @ \$50.00 per dose.

Please contact Peter (0408 826 009) or Anthony (0417 759 958)



Eartag	Sire	DOB	BWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	TCP	LEQ
M 194828	ST 170147 tw	3-6-19	0.4	10.5	16.8	0.3	4.1	155.6	145.5

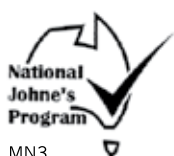
## 2020 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW ELITE STUD RAM SALE RESULTS



Thanks to Mark and Jeff Baldock  
for purchasing M 195030  
for \$3000.



Thanks to Rohan and Leroy Hull,  
Kattata Well, for purchasing  
M 195055 for \$5000.



Contact Peter Angus to select your rams:

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# **FARRER**

## **WHITE SUFFOLKS**

Est. 1984 Flock No. 0139

**Thank you and congratulations to "Gemini" and "Bundara Downs"  
White Suffolks for purchasing Farrer 190001 for \$14,500**



Farrer students William Ticehurst, Hayden Moore, Hugh Shadwell with Farrer 190001.

### **Annual Sale Success**

Rams to \$14,500 Averaged \$2282 and Total Clearance

### **Thanks to the following studs...**

"Maryland"

"Kyanga"

"Glen Gray"

"Smithston, KIS & Kurralea"

"Baringa, Premier & Seriston"

"Berkley"

"Pioneer"

"Wilsons Creek"

"Ryefield"

"Induro"

"Valma"

"Ashley Park"

"Abelene Park"

"Richmond Park"

"Summit Park"

**Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, 585 Calala Lane Tamworth 2340 NSW**

Darren Smith School (02) 67648660 darren.smith80@det.nsw.edu.au

Mobile 0413911182





# FARRER

## WHITE SUFFOLKS

### PRODUCT OF DISTINCTION

## 2020/2021 SEMEN SIRES

### FARRER 180273



### FARRER 180273

HrF (22311)

SIRE: FARRER 170015

SOD: FELIX 151140

- Low birth weight and outstanding growth
- Excellent muscle and extra fat coverage
- Selected as a Superwhites® ram in Series 24
- Progeny Farrer 190200 sold to \$5200 to “Berkley”
- Farrer Retains 100% Semen Marketing Rights
- LEQ (top 1%)

BWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	PWEC
0.09	11.4	17.8	1.0	4.1	-31
91%	90%	89%	88%	90%	75%

LMY	IMF	SF5	LEQ
3.46	-0.08	0.39	160.0
77%	60%	57%	61%

### FARRER 190111



### FARRER 190111

HrF (21798)

SIRE: FELIX 170761

SOD: FARRER 160077

- Stylish ram with outstanding growth
- Excellent worm resistance and shear force
- Selected as a Superwhites® ram in Series 25
- Sold for \$5800 to “Ashley Park”
- Farrer Retains 100% Semen Marketing Rights
- LEQ (top 1%)

BWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	PWEC
0.48	12.3	20.4	-0.2	2.8	-59
69%	68%	69%	68%	70%	58%

LMY	IMF	SF5	LEQ
3.26	-0.06	-3.56	168.7
61%	55%	51%	50%

### MN3 STATUS

### Ovine Brucellosis Acc: NW82/40

Semen Available FARRER 160068 (162.6) Sons have sold for \$29000 - Ella Matta 180100  
FARRER 160067 (163.3) FARRER 180178 (162.1)

FARRER 170015 (162.8) Sons have sold for \$10000 - Ramsay Park 199256

Semen stored at Apiam Genetic Services, Dubbo, Semen: \$40 / ewe dose + GST (min.15 doses)

Lambplan Data Run: 1/10/2020

<https://farreragri.h.schools.nsw.gov.au/agriculture-at-farrer/whitesuffolk.html>

# White Suffolk Youth News

Courtesy of Nikki Reynolds (The Rural) and Emma Finemore

From practical tasks including lamb marking through to picturesque trail rides to the Murray River the students at St Paul's, Walla, NSW have been enjoying their agricultural program.

The students have continued to embrace rural learning despite the coronavirus constraints and have participated in some of the virtual competitions that have been offered due to the absence of shows because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An important part of their agricultural program is the management and running of the St Pauls White Suffolk Stud.

Emma Finemore, Livestock Team Manager at St Pauls College, shares photos and an insight into student involvement with their White Suffolk stud and Show Team.



**Above:** Some of the St Pauls College Show Team. Top: Maddie McRae, Emmilee Reid. Bottom: Piper Williams, Emma Finemore (Show Team Manager), Clarissa Peasley & Lachlan Routley.

*The St Paul's College Walla Walla White Suffolk Stud currently has 12 White Suffolk ewes, we have also been show prepping 11 rams from Hovell Stud.*

*The students help with all aspects of the stud husbandry, including weighing, feeding, supplementing, lamb marking, weaning, halter breaking the show stock, shearing and all things show prep.*

*The Show Team is currently comprised of 20 students ranging from year 7 to year 12. Every second Thursday students in years 7 to 10 meet in the last two lessons of the day to work with the Stud and do appropriate show preparations.*

*The Show Team allows students to consider the theory and planning as well as hands on tasks, financial factors, EBVS, stud plans and all things stock related.*

*Being a part of the St Paul's College Show Team allows students to develop industry skills, punctuality, responsibility, communication, presentation, and respect.*

*It also provides an avenue for students to put life skills into real scenarios and develop themselves as young agricultural enthusiasts.*

*Hard work, teamwork and persistence are key elements to our team, the students are extremely supportive of one another, helping each other develop skills in a positive environment promoting personal and team growth.*

We look forward to seeing the St Pauls College Show Team and the result of their hard work around the shows in 2021.



**Pictured:** Isabelle McRae, 15, holding her ram after shearing.



**Pictured:** Piper Williams, 15 with her ram after shearing



**Pictured:** Charles Morton, 16, with his ram from Hovell Stud



# Showing off White Suffolk History

Carrying on from our August Newsletter we're looking back at the Champions of Hamilton Sheepvention, Royal Adelaide Show, Royal Melbourne Show and Perth Royal Show with a few additional shows in Launceston Royal, Hobart Royal and the Bendigo Elite White Suffolk Show making an appearance for some years.

Due to a lack of records there are a few photos and results missing. If you have any of those missing in your files then please send them to the Secretary so we can include them in our historical records.

## 2005

### Hamilton Sheepvention

**Judge:** Jim Prentice, Kurralea, NSW

**CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT**  
**RESERVE CHAMPION RAM**  
**CHAMPION EWE**  
**RESERVE CHAMPION EWE**

DJ & MJ Pipkorn, 'Detpa Grove', VIC  
CV & DC Shillabeer, 'Wingamin', SA  
DJ & MJ Pipkorn, 'Detpa Grove', VIC  
D, I & S Mitchell, 'Rene', NSW



2005 Sheepvention lineup

### Royal Adelaide Show

**Judge:** Andrew Frick, Gypsum Hill, SA



#### CHAMPION RAM

DJ, MJ Pipkorn, 'Detpa Grove', VIC  
*This ram went on to win Champion Short Wool Ram and Supreme Champion British & Australasian Breeds Ram in the Interbreed*



#### CHAMPION EWE

DJ, MJ Pipkorn, 'Detpa Grove', VIC  
*This ewe went on to win Reserve Champion Short Wool Ewe in the Interbreed*



Andrew Michael congratulating Ralph Speirs who retired as White Suffolk Chief Steward at the 2005 Royal Adelaide Show

### Perth Royal

**Judge:** Greg Harris, WA



#### CHAMPION RAM

P Nalder, 'Navlin Park', WA  
*(stud now retired)*



#### CHAMPION EWE

R Addis, 'Ashbourne', WA  
*(now owned by S & C Kerin)*

### Melbourne Royal

**Judge:** Andrew Donnan, 'Anden', VIC

#### CHAMPION RAM

BA & LC Prentice, 'Kurralea', NSW  
*- No photo available*

#### CHAMPION EWE

G, R, L & M Collins, 'Merribrook', VIC  
*- No photo available*



## White Suffolk-Cross lifts growth

Courtesy of Kylie Nicholls, Stock & Land

Quality White Suffolk sires are a perfect match for Merino ewes in the Hasell family's first and second-cross prime lamb enterprise at Dunkeld.

Wayne and Jane Hasell, their children Chloe and Sam, and his fiancé Sinaed Finck, decided to diversify their ultrafine wool operation about 15 years ago in an effort to increase farm productivity.

They currently join 1800 medium Merino ewes to White Suffolk rams and 2000 Merino/White Suffolk-cross ewes which are mated to Poll Dorset sires, which are run alongside the family's self-replacing flock of 1000 Merino ewes on their 650-hectare property, Myonagh.

The Hasells also carry out contract lamb marking and other sheep husbandry operations in the western district while Sam owns a contract crutching business.

"We used to run all superfine/ultrafine Merinos averaging 14.5 to 15.5 micron but decided to diversify because we just weren't getting the returns per hectare," Mr Hasell said.

"We classed out some of our plainer, bigger-framed Merino ewes and did some research on what breed would be the best cross and decided to go for White Suffolks."

According to Mr Hasell, the White Suffolk-cross has delivered a range of benefits to their crossbreeding program including ease of lambing, fast growth rates and improved carcase quality.

"The first-cross ewes are such a vigorous and tough breeding ewe. Their resilience and capacity to carry on and bounce back after some of our leaner seasons is a huge part of their appeal," Mr Hasell said.

"They hold their condition very well and as maidens they are one of the best mothers we've had.

"The Merino/White Suffolk-cross is also not as large as a traditional first-cross ewe which allows us to run higher stocking rates which equates to more lambs on the ground and more productivity on the farm."

"In the past, prime lambs made up about 10 per cent of our income and wool was 90pc but now it's the other way round."

The Hasells have been sourcing White Suffolk rams from Dean and Mandy Cameron's Noremac stud near Balmoral, selecting high-performing sires that will complement their Merino ewes.

Mr Hasell likes to use a combination of visual assessment and Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) with a focus on ease of lambing, structure and growth and carcase traits.

"I prefer to select my rams visually, looking for a plainer type with open points, good bone structure and good feet," he said.

"We'll also look pretty closely at their genetics as there are certain sire lines we like to use from Noremac which maintain the sheep type we are trying to breed.

"We use the ASBVs as a final guide to our selection looking at low birth weight for ease of lambing, growth rates and eye muscle depth."

All the ewes are joined in December for six weeks to start lambing from May onwards.

With ewe body weight a key driver of fertility, Mr Hasell aims to have all the ewes in condition score three or more prior to joining.

Although pregnancy scanning is carried out, the Hasells don't separate the single and twin-bearing ewes, preferring to maintain small mob sizes of less than 200 ewes for ease of management.





**Pictured:** Sam and Wayne Hasell, Myonagh, Dunkeld, have been using White Suffolk sires over their Merino ewes for the past 15 years and continue to be pleased with the cross.

This year, both the Merino/White Suffolk-cross ewes and the Merinos joined to White Suffolk rams achieved lamb marking rates of 130pc.

"We find as long as the Merino ewes are in good condition there isn't much difference between their lambing percentages and the first-cross ewes, they lamb very well," Mr Hasell said.

"This year has been a great year, scanning and lamb marking rates have been very high throughout our area."

The Hasells aim to turn off the second-cross lambs and as many of the first-cross wether lambs as possible, as suckers. A carcass weight of 24kg is targeted with the majority of lambs going over the hooks to supply the domestic supermarket trade.

"We start selling them from November onwards and depending on the available feed will try to get most of the lambs off by Christmas," Mr Hasell said.

Lambs that haven't reached sale weight will be weaned, shorn and placed into a small on-farm feedlot for about eight weeks. They are supplemented with barley and lupins fed in lick feeders and ad lib hay for roughage.

"Traditionally the first-cross wether lamb portion has probably been viewed as a by-product but the Merino/White Suffolk-cross has performed very well for us."

"Their growth rates are comparable to the second-cross lambs.

"We generally find about 60pc of the first-cross lambs will go as suckers while the remaining 40pc go into the feedlot to be finished and sold in February and March."

The replacement first-cross ewe lambs are weaned and will graze better quality pasture paddocks in small mobs until they are grown out ready for joining in the following December.

"We look for a nice structure, good clean feet, plenty of good bone on them and preferably with a nice clean breech and open points," Mr Hasell said.

"We want them to be condition score three at joining and well-grown."

A flexible grazing rotation is employed and the Hasells have split paddocks into smaller sizes for improved pasture utilisation.





# Showing off White Suffolk History

## Royal Adelaide Show

Judge: Dale Moore, 'Penrise', TAS



### GRAND & JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM

AJ & JJ Donnan, 'Anden', VIC

*This ram went on to win Supreme Champion Interbreed Ram*



### SENIOR CHAMPION RAM

S, RL & GJ Funke, 'Bundara Downs', SA

# 2010

## Perth Royal

Judge: David Pipkorn, 'Detpa Grove', VIC



### CHAMPION EWE

AM & SM Piggott, 'Illoura', SA



### RESERVE CHAMPION EWE

AM & SM Piggott, 'Illoura', SA



### CHAMPION RAM

MP & J Klante, 'Wesswood', WA  
(stud now retired)

## Hamilton Sheepvention

Judge: Ian Gilmore, 'Baringa', NSW



### SENIOR CHAMPION RAM

CV & DC Shillabeer, 'Wingamin', SA



### JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT

Mitchell Family, 'Gemini', VIC



### CHAMPION EWE

P Nalder, 'Nalvin Park', WA  
(stud now retired)

### CHAMPION EWE

AJ & RF Smith, 'Belladonna', VIC - no photo available



## Melbourne Royal

### SUPREME EXHIBIT & CHAMPION RAM

SA Keen, 'Spring Valley', TAS  
(stud now retired)

### CHAMPION EWE

G, R, L & M Collins, 'Merribrook', VIC  
- no photo available



### CHAMPION LAMB

DM Carter, 'Ridge Top', WA



# Why you need to genotype with purpose

Courtesy of James Taylor, Sheep Genetics



Genotyping is taking off with sheep breeders. Record numbers of genotype submissions have been received by Sheep Genetics this year. The graph below shows the increase in genotypes in the last five years.

Your flock could really benefit from the clever use of some genotyping. The benefit of genotyping is that it enables breeders to improve or maintain traits that are hard to measure. In the case of White Suffolks, these traits are eating quality and carcass yield. These traits can improve alongside the traditional growth, muscle and fat traits. Use genomics to identify these animals that are great for growth and eating quality.

Here are some guidelines to make sure that you get the biggest return from your genotype investment in genotyping:

## **Take samples early to allow enough time to receive results.**

Allow time for TSUs (tissue sampling unit) to arrive, taking samples, postage to the lab (very slow this year) and processing times. This will make sure you have the result back in time to make useful decisions.

## **For terminal lambs, take genotypes at marking or weaning.**

You want the result back in time to select ram lambs to join at 7 months old.



## **Sample the top portion of rams.**

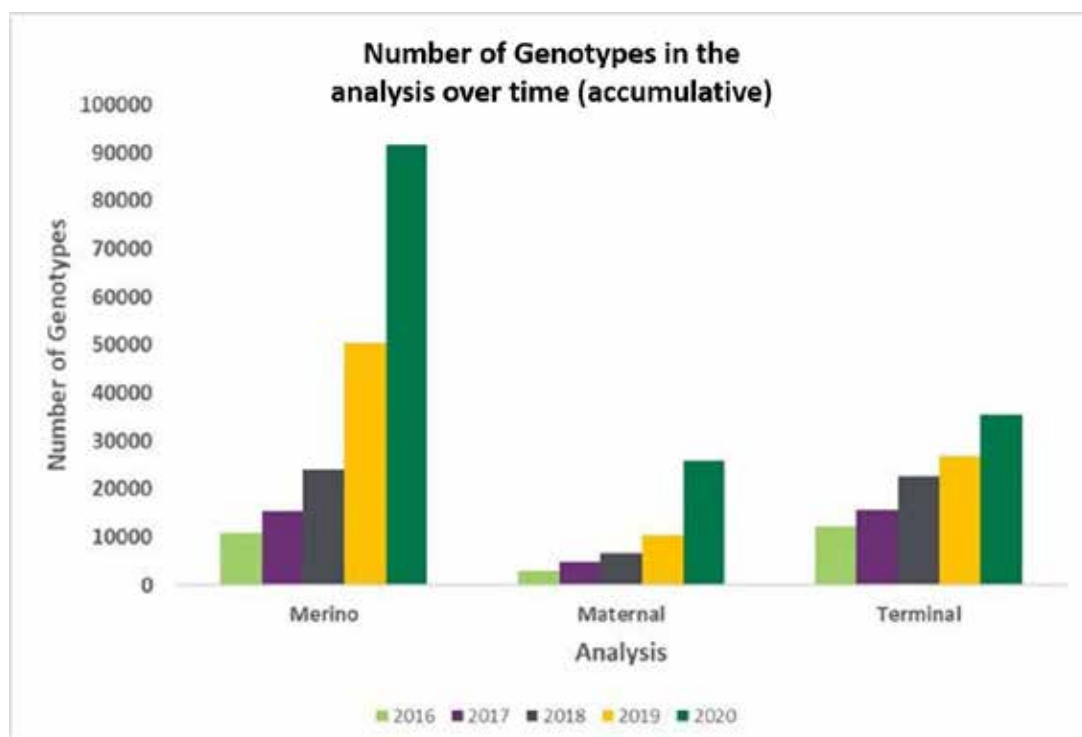
The great news is you can cut some corners with genomic selection – there is no need to do the whole mob. Focus on sampling the top 30% of male progeny on index in a terminal breed. Doing less than 30% of male progeny rapidly diminishes the benefits to genetic gain.

## **Use the genomically enhanced breeding values.**

The genomics test will draw upon relationships to other animals in the reference population. You will see breeding values change and accuracies increase for unmeasured traits as a result of the genomics results. This makes it easier to identify animals that are better across traits that are unmeasured or unfavourably correlated.

## **Join ram lambs.**

Mating ram lambs as seven-month-olds will reduce the generation length in your flock. Genotyping will provide you with information that will empower your mating decisions to use those rams earlier. Get those top young rams to work for you!



# Showing off White Suffolk History

## 2015

### Royal Adelaide Show

**Judge:** Rams: Geoff Gale, 'Galaxy Park', SA  
Ewes: Ros Funke, 'Bundara Downs', SA



**GRAND & JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM**  
L McCrae, 'Somerset', VIC



**SENIOR CHAMPION RAM**  
CV & DC Shillabeer, 'Wingamin', SA



**CHAMPION EWE & SUPREME EXHIBIT**  
RE & IE Neill, 'Wheetelande', SA  
(stud now retired)

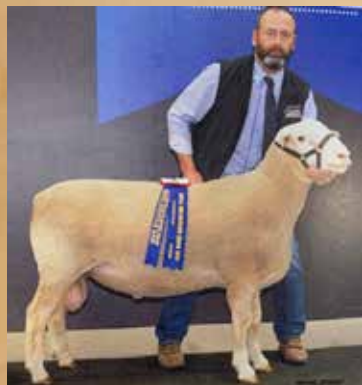
*This ewe went on to win Supreme Champion Prime Lamb & Maternal Breeds Ewe - this was the last ever show appearance for Wheetelande before the stud's dispersal.*



**JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM**  
CV & DC Shillabeer, 'Wingamin', SA

### Melbourne Royal

**Judge:** Kevin Moore, 'Penrise', TAS



**CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT**  
LJ & LM Day, 'Days Whiteface', SA

**CHAMPION EWE**  
D & L Deppeler, 'Deppeler' VIC  
- no photo available



**CHAMPION EWE & SUPREME EXHIBIT**  
T & B Jorgensen, 'Mertex', VIC  
*This ewe went on to win Supreme Interbreed Short Wool Ewe*



## Elite White Suffolk Show (Bendigo)

**Judge:** Graeme Collins, 'Merribrook', VIC



**CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT**  
D, I & S Mitchell, 'Rene', NSW



**SENIOR & GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
P Day, 'Sunnybanks', TAS

## Perth Royal

**Judge:** Allan Piggott, 'Illoura', SA



**CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME EXHIBIT**  
Kiara College, 'Kiara', WA

## Hobart Royal

**Judge:** Andrew Michael, 'Leahcim', SA



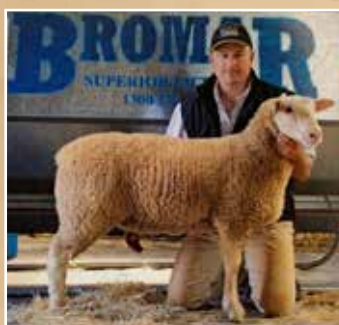
*Who can't forget the clean sweep in the Interbreed for White Suffolks at the 2015 Royal Hobart Show.*



**CHAMPION EWE**  
M Whyte & G Cremasco, 'Brimfield', WA  
*The ewe went on to win the Interbreed Champion Ewe*



**CHAMPION RAM & SUPREME INTERBREED RAM**  
K & D Moore, 'Penrise', TAS  
(stud now retired)



**CHAMPION EWE & SUPREME EXHIBIT & SUPREME INTERBREED EWE**  
P Day, 'Sunnybanks', TAS



**CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK GROUP & INTERBREED CHAMPION GROUP**  
CFH Badcock, 'Fairbank', TAS

## Royal Launceston Show

**Judge:** Brayden Gilmore, 'Premier', NSW

**CHAMPION RAM & INTERBREED CHAMPION RAM**  
**CHAMPION EWE & INTERBREED CHAMPION EWE**  
**INTERBREED CHAMPION GROUP**

P Day, 'Sunnybanks', TAS  
P Day, 'Sunnybanks', TAS  
P Day, 'Sunnybanks', TAS

- no photo available  
- no photo available  
- no photo available



# SHEEPTRAX - A new website where you can check your local sheep drench resistance status

Courtesy of Zoetis

Dr Matthew Playford from Dawbuts, Australia's leading veterinary parasitology laboratory in Camden NSW, has been involved in developing the ground-breaking website, **SheepTRAX** ([sheeptrax.com.au](http://sheeptrax.com.au)) in conjunction with Zoetis.

As well as conducting research for industry bodies and pharmaceutical companies, the Dawbuts laboratory conducts monitoring and drench resistance studies for over 2,000 livestock farmers across Australia.



Dr. Playford said "Being able to present the results of hundreds of drench tests in a publicly-accessible database gives us a great sense of achievement. We have received strong signals from groups such as livestock veterinarians, WormBoss users and rural retail stores that this resource is badly needed. Now it is finally being delivered."

Using an effective sheep drench to control your worms is key to a productive sheep flock. However, research shows that most sheep properties in Australia have resistant worms to one or more sheep drenches- 96% to white (BZ) drenches, 96% to clear (LEV) drenches and 87% to Ivermectin (ML) drenches<sup>1</sup>.

This means that resistance to many of the active ingredients in sheep drenches in Australia is very common. Resistance is classified as efficacy less than 95% (% reduction in worms). Drench resistance is a genetic trait of the worms themselves and is either created on your own farm or introduced when purchasing sheep (ewes, weaner lambs or rams). Even stray sheep may be the source of drench resistant worms.

When choosing a drench to use on your farm, WormBoss recommends 3 principles<sup>2</sup>:

- Use the most effective drench for your property;
- Use an effective combination of two or more drench groups;
- Use short-acting treatments and restrict the use of persistent products for specific purposes and high worm-risk times of year.

## What is SheepTRAX?



**SheepTRAX** is designed to assist Australian sheep producers by showing the prevalence and geographical distribution of drench resistance. The data within SheepTRAX has been gathered from hundreds of on-farm drench resistance tests, also known as faecal egg count resistance tests (FECRT), across all sheep producing areas in Australia. Sheep producers can use this data and website to:

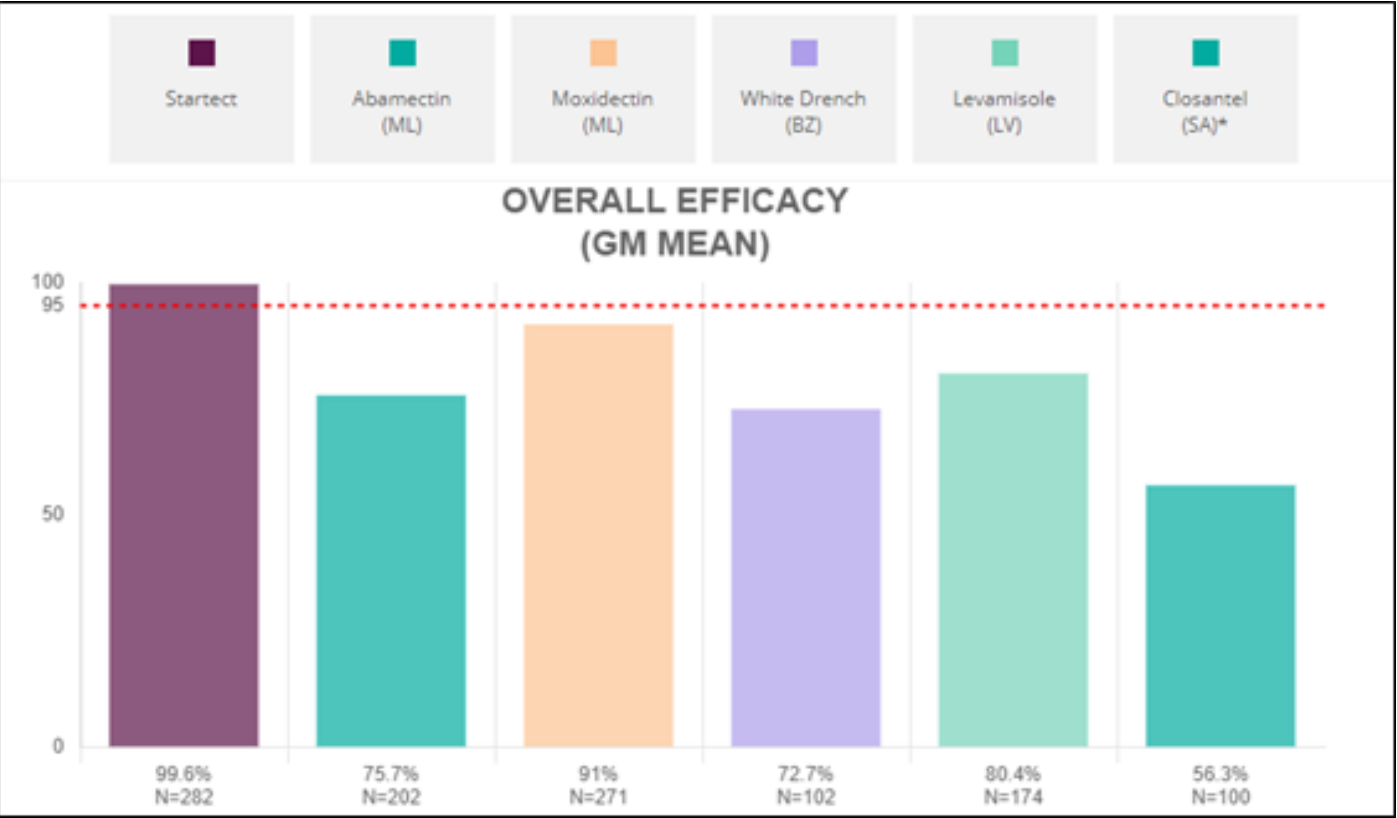
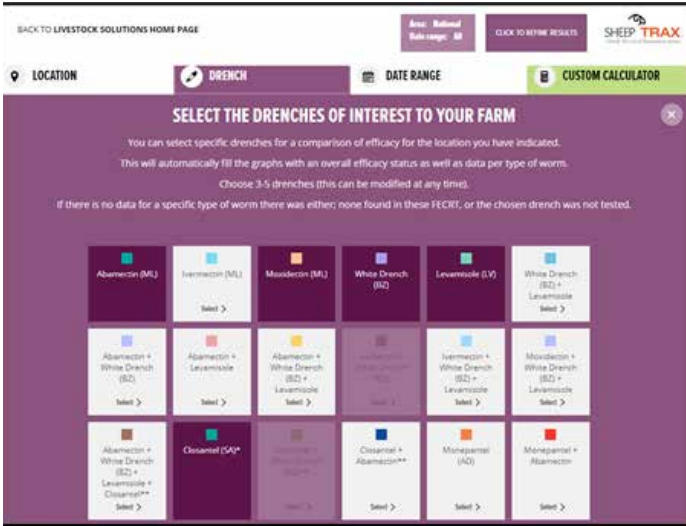
- Improve knowledge of drench resistance;
- Assist in making an informed decision of what drenches to use;
- Assist in understanding the likelihood of resistance worms in purchased sheep.



**SheepTRAX** aims to help put evidence behind your drench selection, and therefore help maximise your return from your drench investment.

**SheepTRAX** shows the efficacy (from FECRTs) of over 25 drenches in easy to view comparative graphs, with up to 5 drenches selected at any one time. The graphs show the ‘overall’ efficacy for the drenches selected as well as the results for the key gastrointestinal worm species;

- Barber’s pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*);
- Black scour worm (*Trichostrongylus* spp.);
- Brown stomach worm (*Teladorsagia circumcincta*);
- All other species.



The farmer or rural store is able to view the FECRT data at a national, state or regional level. FECRT data sets with a higher number of samples e.g. 100, have a higher reliability than smaller numbers e.g. 5.

Resistance status of farms varies, even between neighbouring properties. **SheepTRAX** does not predict the drench resistance found on your property or within a specific mob of sheep. It is designed to provide awareness of the severity of sheep drench resistance in every sheep region across Australia.

It is recommended that every farm undertakes their own FECRT every 2-5 years to monitor the drench resistance status, or at least perform regular Drench Checks. This can be achieved easily by taking samples (direct from

the sheep, or fresh samples off the ground) 14 days after a drench has been given. When this is then compared with the worm egg count on the day of drenching, vital information about how well the drench has worked can be calculated. Dung samples should be submitted to a ParaBoss FEC QA- accredited parasitology lab, or analysed by a FECPAKG2 machine, which is in use in many stores and veterinary clinics across Australia.

Just a reminder as producers are stocking their farms after the drought, that all new sheep should be given a Quarantine drench to avoid bringing in resistant worms. A Quarantine drench contains 4 actives, with one of the actives being from a new drench class, which is given before or upon arrival on-farm e.g. Startect followed immediately by a Levamisole and BZ combination<sup>3</sup>.



To check out the new **SheepTRAX** website and review the local drench resistance in your area, visit [sheeptrax.com.au](http://sheeptrax.com.au) on the Livestock Solutions website.

1. Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. <http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/news/articles/drench-resistance/national-drench-resistance-should-you-be-concerned.php>
2. Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. <http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/tests-tools/management-tools/drenches/drench-rotation-versus-combinations-to-combat-drench-resistance.php>
3. Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. <http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/news/articles/drenches/quarantine-drenching-getting-it-right.php>

After drenching, keep all animals in a confined area with good access to feed (hay) and water for 24 hours prior to entering the paddock. It is recommended that the confinement area be fully tilled or spelled for at least 6 months before reuse.



# SHEEPTRAX™

Check the Local Drench Resistance status

Be INFORMED and know the **drench resistance** in **your area**

**SheepTRAX** provides the largest drench resistance database and flexibility to compare over 25 drenches by region across Australia.

zoetis

Check out [SheepTRAX.com.au](http://SheepTRAX.com.au)



USE YOUR SMART-PHONE CAMERA TO SCAN, CLICK THE LINK & CHECK YOUR LOCAL DRENCH RESISTANCE STATUS



**STARTECT™**  
AUSTRALIAN OVERALL EFFICACY  
**99.6%**

Over 280 Australia-wide FECRT field trials<sup>1</sup>



1. Overall efficacy - GM, Data on file, Zoetis.





# “CANS OF KNOWLEDGE” SYNDICATE

For leading sires in the meat sheep industry look no further than:

Eartag	Name	BWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	TCP	LEQ
Aylesbury Farm 188262	Boomer	0.3	11.4	19.4	0.5	2.4	150.2	144.7
Fairburn 180567	Finn	0.5	11.8	17.2	-0.5	2.1	144.6	136.1

Semen available - \$50.00 per dose

2020 progeny of both sires have been weaned and are showing excellent potential for 2021 – watch this space.



Ram lamb sired by Boomer



Ewe lamb sired by Finn



Ram lamb sired by Finn

Thank you to the studs who purchased our genetics at the 2020 stud sales

For more details contact:



**Aylesbury Farm**  
Andrew & Deb Krieg  
Mb 0409 169 693



**Maroola**  
Peter Angus  
Mb 0408 826 009

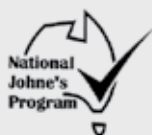


**Somerset**  
Lachie McCrae  
Mb 0418 540 790



**Wakeleigh**  
Kylie Wake  
Mb 0428 508 995

Accredited Ovine Brucellosis Free Status



# BARINGA

Ian: 0427 363 566  
Brayden: 0409 363 524  
Lochie: 0419 363 523



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