

Cashmore Nudies

Easy Care, No Shearing,
No Crutching, No flies,
Minimum drenching



Do XB Sheep need Wool?

Cashmore Park understands that farming systems are continually changing and that our role is to position animals at the forefront of change and supply products that meet our customers financial and management needs.

The segment of the prime lamb industry currently using XB ewes producing greater than 30 micron wool is being challenged with declining prices and increasing wool harvesting costs.

XB wool values when graphed against the \$US have fallen for the last 50 years and wool harvesting labour costs in Australia have risen.

Current 2009 contract shearing rates are \$5.35 per head with crutching \$1 per head.

This means that many southern XB ewe flocks shearing once and crutching twice have a \$7.35 per head cost per ewe, just for wool harvesting.

These flocks are currently cutting 4.2 kg of 35 micron wool valued at \$1.65 net. In effect they are close to harvesting wool and being left a bill to do so.

Numerous other costs relating to “wool associated operations” are also a burden to profits.

Cashmore Nudies Breeding Aim

Our long term aims are to:-

- Remove wool until no shearing and crutching is required.
- Have fast growth rates
- High lambing percentages to 180%
- No drenching
- Make sound profits in the paddock and satisfy customer needs with good eating experiences.



Nudie ram lambs Jan 2008

Background

In 2003 Cashmore Park purchased 500 Wiltshire Horn X BLM ewes and Dorper X Coolalee ewes. These were initially mated to Wiltshire Horn rams and recently to Wiltipoll rams as they became available.

Foundation ewes were run hard with culling for poor constitution and signs of worms removed, bad feet structure and dags culled. In fly waves the mob was not checked. The aim was to produce a sound, easy care southern sheep.



Mixed age seedstock ewes

In 2006 the best 200 ewes were selected from the 1000 strong commercial flock and performance recording started. In 2008 these ewes commenced running with the Maternal and Terminal seedstock in a single management group. To our knowledge this approach is not followed by any other seedstock operations. What immediately becomes apparent is that farmers run their sheep type at a weight and visual condition that is acceptable to them, ie poor doing, less hardy sheep just get fed more. In our case there is nowhere to hide for a poor doing animal and it is soon culled. This approach is rapidly telling us which Nudies are up to scratch.

During this process, culling for temperament as measured by “ewe flight distance” while tagging stud lambs at birth, has reduced the incidence of wild and poor mothers. Shedding is to the stage of no crutching or shearing required. Selection of polled rams is reducing the incidence of horns with most ewes now polled.

New Genes needed.

Artificial insemination with top White Dorper genetics has added some diversity.

Also a number of ewes have been mated to top maternal and terminal rams to “harvest” desirable genes from these heavily performance recorded flocks. Half bred ewes are then backcrossed to Nudie rams.

This approach will take some time but is delivering very good outcomes.

We see the Wiltshire’s and Dorpers supplying non-shearing genes, terminals, growth and carcass traits and maternals, fertility, milk, mothering and parasite resistance.

This is producing a strong, sound composite sheep with genetic diversity across economic traits.

Moulting / Shedding

This takes place from September to December and starts under the neck and belly, then sides and lastly the back. Sheep are bare over summer then quickly regrow short fleeces from late March onwards depending on the onset of cool weather. (Somewhat like a horse growing and losing a winter coat each year).



Jan 2009

Variation is found between time of wool shedding with some early and some quite late. Also individual animals vary from year to year and those in better condition moult easiest. Basically the wool needs to be shed before fly problems arise via body or breech strike.

We feel that as long as the sheep are free of wool husbandry practices some wool unshed is not a problem. Incomplete shedders or turtle backs generally carry only 1 to 2 kg of wool. This gives them some protection during winter and summer from the elements. Also new born lambs may have a better birth coat for survival and slaughter lamb skins some pelt value.

At this stage we are needing all the profitable genes from our other breed types. It appears that gradually removing wool to three-quarter and seven-eighth crosses may be enough.



Turtle Backs

Wool Type

There is some thought that the hairy type sheep may be a contamination issue for processors removing skins on the kill floor. Also these types may have heavily discounted skin values. Our aim is for a wool shedding sheep so the hairy and black spot types are culled.

Growth Rates

Lambs are not as fast growing as our top terminal and maternals genetics with Carcass plus indexes of 120 to 130 in the Terminal sire data set.

Lambing percentages

Adult mixed age commercial ewes have marked 143% lambs to ewes joined on three occasions with no husbandry and very low ewe losses. Recently two mobs have marked 125% on other properties.

Ewe lambs have been mated each year with results similar to the maternal composites.

Pregnancy scan data

Recently we analysed 7000 pregnancy scans from all seedstock ewes collected in the past 5 years. The Nudie scanning rates have been similar or slightly above the Performance Maternal stud ewes which is somewhat of a surprise.

| Pregnancy Scan Rates | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Drop | 2 Year Average |
| 2003 | 168 |
| 2004 | 171 |
| 2005 | 173 |
| 2006 | 151 |
| 2007 | 125 |

Parasites

Any ewes or rams showing signs of Barbers Pole worm are culled. Ram and ewe lambs at Post weaning stage, 225 days are allowed to run up a worm burden in excess of 250 eggs per gram. This is often 600 to 2000 in reality. Individual worm egg counts, WEC are taken and EBV,s calculated. Very few other Wiltipoll or Dorper breeders are selecting this way with some very good low worm egg count sheep now appearing.

Sheep Physical Structure.

Pre mating each year all seedstock ewes are run over the melwire in the shed and any sheep, regardless of performance, ugly or with poor feet structure are removed.

Flock structure systems.

Self replacing with 50% joined to Nudie rams. We retain ewe lambs, cull old and unproductive ewes. Market Nudie wether lambs in June at 10 months old after regrowing an autumn fleece with a full skin value. Mate old, ugly and less quality young sheep to tight wool non shedding terminal sires.

Meatworks Processor Satisfaction.

In 2008 Cashmore Park and a client both received a call from a Meatworks that had purchased Nudie lambs and was looking to secure extra supply for the following year. These wether lambs had very good shape and fat cover for a particular retail market.

Two drafts of 2009 Nudie wether lambs are currently being followed through meat works to access their carcass merits.

Demand.

We have been receiving continuing interest in purchase of ewes to start commercial flocks.



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