

A word from Clients... Creese Northeast, TAS

The Tasmanian Performance Composite

Creese North East combines a number of properties, which incorporate 1000 hectares of centre pivots and 6000 hectares of dry land in a 750 mm rainfall zone in the northeast of Tasmania. The enterprise consists of grass seed production, poppies, potatoes, onions, canola seed, vealer and of course prime lambs.

Creese North East has been breeding crossbred lambs for a number of years. We have typically put Border Leicester rams over "cast for age" merino ewes (bought relatively cheaply). We have also purchased 1st cross ewes and joined these to Coopworth rams.

Recognising the importance of good maternal traits in a prime lamb operation we made a strategic decision to move away from a merino base to a self-replacing maternal composite. The next problem we faced was "What is a composite?"

After a visit to James & Luci Peddie from Peshurst VIC, we were impressed with the Cashmore Park bloodline and their obvious mothering and fertility capabilities. As a result, we decided to base our composite flock on Cashmore Park genetics. We have purchased 2400 ewes from Victoria and secured another 1000 for delivery in 2007. We also purchased a good selection of rams at the 2006 Cashmore Park ram sale.

These are the base for building up our performance maternal composite flock. Our aim is to eventually have a flock of 20,000 prime lamb ewes with Cashmore Park genetics becoming increasingly involved. "We are looking forward to supplying a large line of purpose bred lambs to industry in the near future."

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Calendar of Events

June 13 th - 14 th	Grassland Society of Southern Australia Annual Conference – Murray Bridge SA
July 3 rd	Violet Town Field Day
July 10 th - 11 th	Southern Sheep School – Glenormiston
July 17 th	Performance Maternal Breeder Seminar - Mt. Gambier
Aug 6 th & 7 th	Sheepvention
Oct 11 th Thurs.	Open Day at Cashmore Park
Oct 26 th Fri.	Cashmore Park/Oaklea Genetics Annual Ram Sale – Hamilton



Coprice Feedmills

My name is Graham Sudholz, I work as a territory manager for Coprice feeds at Tongala. I'm married to Polly with three beautiful teenage daughters, Kristi, Jessica and Amy. We farm at a lovely little place in Northern Victoria called Kotupna (halfway between Echuca and Shepparton) Our farm is a mixed irrigation farm, running sheep, cattle, cropping and lucernes.

One of my passions is the sheep industry, which I have been involved in all of my life. I have been working at Coprice feeds for ten years.

Almost everyone receiving this newsletter will have seen some dramatic changes in their feed and water situation over the last couple of months.

One issue that will be of major concern to people in the next few months will be the lack of available fibre for their livestock with little or no roughage left in the paddocks. Fibre is something that is not talked about much in the sheep industry but is critical in creating good rumen function and the prevention of acidosis.

With the dramatic change in seasons which has seen a lot of sheep going from containment areas or paddocks with little or no feed onto short green feed, the transition period is important. A rumen takes approximately fourteen days to adjust to a new ration so taking sheep out of a containment area and onto green feed may cause digestive upsets and even see sheep going backwards for a short period of time. If possible keep providing the same grain and roughage they had been receiving prior to the break in the season for at least two weeks.

A lot of time and money has been spent on maintaining stock over the drought and it is important that animal health issues are not overlooked. Make sure your drench and vaccine programs are up to date, there is no point feeding animals only to find they are not maintaining or gaining weight because of a large parasite or worm burden.

Over the past 10 years at Coprice my interest in intensive feeding of sheep has developed. Having been involved with the dairy industry and visited overseas farms with intense feeding systems and housed animals, I became convinced that the sheep industry had a lot of potential for feedlotting.

At Coprice our business had traditionally been 98% dairy, but approximately six years ago we saw a need (and an opportunity) to develop a lamb feedlot ration and shortly after that, a ration for feedlotting beef cattle. Today our business has changed quiet markedly.

The Sudholz Farm became the trial farm for these new feeds. It has been an interesting time. Developments over the past six years have given farmers far more options with their finishing and marketing options for their stock. We have traditionally marketed our stock over the hooks with some of the major benefits being the feedback on your animals and the premiums obtainable for high meat yield animals. In 2006 Sudholz Farm produced the lambs that won the RAS Victoria prime lamb carcass competition. These lambs were out of composite bred ewes sired by poll Dorset and White Suffolk rams. These lambs returned us a premium of \$4.53 per head.

A consignment of Cashmore Park feeder lambs were finished on pasture and Coprice pellets in lick feeders. These lambs had high meat yields of 56% (dress wt.) and were very suitable export carcasses. If you'd like to talk to me about any of the issues raised above, call me at Coprice Feeds, Tongala, VIC, Ph 1800 683 673, Mob 0427183437.

Graham Sudholz, Territory Manager



LAMB, The Sheep Industry's "Great White Hope"

XB sheep now make up 14% of the national flock as farmers look for better returns on their investment ~ a concept that is driving Cashmore Park/Oaklea to supply performance maternals that meet industry demands.

Investment in livestock industries will hinge on the ability to find productivity gains and effectively use our resources and environment. The drought and the financial climate that has come with it, is forcing many producers to become very cash flow savvy and putting their long-term positions in agriculture under close scrutiny.

The last ten years has seen the overseas demand for our lamb grow beyond what the best pundits could have imagined. This, in the initial stages has been great for cash flow for struggling wool and beef producers.

We are now seeing a significant re-evaluation of Australian agriculture by investors. People are looking for a return on investment long term, not just when the wool market is high or steers are making eight hundred dollars. This return on investment attitude is driving our lamb industry as a whole, and is also driving Cashmore/Oaklea to come up with products that enhance what we are about. (*numbers, how many you've got and how fast they grow*)

Performance Maternals and our self-replacing concept have never been better positioned in terms of the market and having product to sell. Best of luck finding 1stX ewes that can do what the lamb industry of the future requires. Change is upon us and we at Cashmore/Oaklea can see a strong and stand alone lamb industry just around the corner. (*The last 5 years has seen XB sheep move from 9% to 14% of the national flock!*)



The results achieved from performance maternals are the reason that XB sheep now make up 14% of the national flock. Make sure your flock provides you with the returns you deserve on your investment!



Every joined ewe is scanned and the flock drafted according to their pregnancy status ~ ensuring that ewes receive appropriate care to maximise weaning percentages.

To provide better data collection from the flock we have purchased a new Tru-Test XR 3000. It has a triple ID feature, which we require now that we have amalgamated the three stud flocks into a single large, but manageable entity.

New Technology Improves Productivity

The incredible pace of progress in IT and data storage/ collection should not be overlooked by the sheep industry

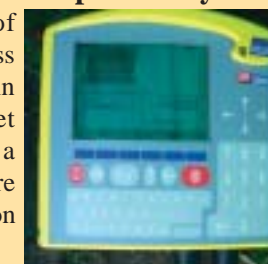
Following from our application of 2500 EID (electronic identification) tags to spring 2006 lambs, we have now applied EID to all adult ewes. Already we have used them to collect adult weights, stock take pre joining and assist with mating allocations.

The collection of weights and ID's is far less taxing, particularly later in the day as operators get tired and has resulted in a higher accuracy and more streamlined data collection system.

We have begun using it further at pregnancy scanning to collect pregnancy status, which has a positive correlation with NLW.

The next use of EID will be to track ram inventories in commercial flocks and provide advice on grading up and positioning the genes in them to target markets better.

In summary, EID has proved a strategic and valuable investment already for Cashmore Park.



Also in this issue...

Capital Livestock and Their Value
New Appointment at Cashmore park
Introducing Performance Maternals
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Web Site Update

Surplus stock, future stock for sale and wanted stock.

Due to increasing enquiry for wanted and sale stock, our website now has a new section. It features stock currently for sale, stock available for future sale and wanted stock.

All users of Cashmore Park/Oaklea sheep are able to use this section. To expose your livestock to a larger pool of potential purchasers, please contact Jamie with details and we can list your stock..

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