

Cashmore Park

Prime Lamb Genes



Newsletter April 2006

EWE & FEEDER LAMB SALES

November saw a number of Cashmore Park / Oaklea blood breeding females offered to the market from ourselves and a number of clients via the AuctionsPlus system. This method of sale was chosen to give fair opportunity to all interested parties. Mostly ewe lambs, these made from \$65 to \$100 depending on weight and joining potential. Forty seven bidders from 3 states logged on and sheep sold according.

Also at this time a number of 4 deck and B Double loads of store / feeder lambs were offered suitable for backgrounders and specialist finishers. These were mostly from SW Victoria, Hamilton and NE Victoria, Violet Town. A new initiative with these sales, is to make available on the assessment, the EBV's of the rams that sired them. Buyers are actively seeking information on growth, fat and muscle genetics of feeder lambs so as to target specific market outcomes. A number of Cashmore Park ram users sold lambs this way, some to repeat buyers and we are following lambs through to slaughter to receive feedback. If you intend to offer lambs this way in 2006 please keep track of which rams were in which mob.

We have continual interest for replacement ewes and feeder lambs from breeders, processors, feedlotter and finishers so if you require information on potential lamb market opportunities contact our web site or myself direct.



August / September 2005: Drop commercial Cashmore Twiner ewe hoggets born as twins and triplets running in 9 paddock rotation on light sands.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 14th-15th** Grasslands Society of Southern Australia Annual Conference – Warrnambool
- July 4th – 6th** Southern Sheep School – Glenormiston
- July mid** Coopworth AGM
- Aug/Sept** Cashmore Park lambing season
- Oct. 12th Thurs.** Cashmore Park Open Day
- Oct. 27th Fri.** Cashmore Park/Oaklea Annual Ram Sale – Hamilton

NEW GENES ON THE BLOCK

The up and coming 2005 drop of lambs were sired by 24 rams with some new entrants showing promise. Thirteen ram lambs, two Romney AI and three Coopworth AI sires plus some high accuracy older sires have kept inbreeding to 2 % and increased ASBV's while maintaining a good spread within traits.

Sires Oaklea 040301 and Coopworth AI Coryston 010613 lead the way in worm resistance with minus 60 % below breed average being exceptional .

A good CP 020899 cross PD Jolma 203 son, 041472 now tops the National Coopworth list on 149 index with well balanced traits. A number of rams now range between plus 20 to 29 % for number of



August / September 2005: Poll Dorset drop ram lambs grazing pasja & turnip fodder crop

lambs weaned, A KEY PROFIT DRIVER IN LAMB PRODUCTION SYSTEMS. The AI Romney ram Tresco 020360 is a high growth rate animal and indications from New Zealand are that he carries the Wishart fertility gene. If so his daughters should pregnancy scan in June about 20 % more lambs than the base seedstock ewe lambs. This gene seems to improve embryo survival with many ewes retaining 89 to 95% of those shed, whereas "normal ewes retain about 80 % . I'm looking forward to scanning in May to see if we have another avenue in lifting fertility. This family is also being investigated for 'cold tolerance genes', ie lambs that can handle being born on a bad night. Indications from NZ are that these genes can have a significant impact on lamb survival in the first few hours after birth.

SGA, SHEEP GENETICS AUSTRALIA



On the 18th Oct. '05 Australian sheep farmers gained access to a new data base which amalgamated all previous lamb and wool data bases. Launched in Adelaide by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Peter McGauran, it was attended by a wide ranging group of lamb and wool industry producers, seedstock breeders and service providers.

Developed jointly between Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and industry, its charter is to provide breeding values from data supplied by breeders.

With 2.5 million animals recorded it is the largest of its kind in the world and a powerful tool to assist genetic change in the national sheep flock. In the lead up to the launch I was involved in reviewing the Breeders QA manual as a number of technical issues arose. Seedstock breeders have been involved with ongoing Lambplan developments since its birth in 1990 and this latest phase is really a progression of that process. Software changes, index updates and extra trait reporting are just a few of many improvements which have led to more accurate EBV's being reported. These are now known as ASBV's; Australian Sheep Breeding Values. From a seedstock breeder's perspective there has been little disruption during this transition allowing Cashmore Park to concentrate on breeding direction and producing market required gene packages. We are looking forward to increased rates of genetic gain and the benefits they bring to all in lamb production systems. Please note: New logo which can only be used by breeders using the lambplan system.



A FEW THOUGHTS ON FAT

The previous 12 months have been difficult for lamb producers to hit market specifications in many areas of southern Australia. The late break in June '05 meant that many ewes were down in condition with subsequent lower lambing and marking percentages followed by a below average spring, leading to lower weaning and kill weights. With a lift in domestic target specifications to 20 kg dressed weight, producers found themselves weighing lambs 2-3 kg heavier to make the cut off. Unfortunately some disappointments occurred when lambs dressed (live to dead %) lower than expected. The comment that comes back is usually, "the rams are too lean"! But have they changed much?

According to the ASBV's we have many terminal sires now in use that would be minus 1 mm fat, remembering that 5 mm makes up a fat score. As a percentage this is 4 % less than 10 years ago. In the last few years we have moved from fat scanning at yearling, ie 12 months of age to post weaning, 225 days of age. Growth has increased so that top rams are plus 10 kg heavier at post weaning. So our faster growing sheep are being killed at a slightly younger age and have not had time to finish.

What to do.....

- 1 Set some targets for your lambs in terms of weight and fat.
- 2 Document the weight and fat levels of the last lot of lambs sold sired by known ASBV rams.
- 3 Purchase rams with improved ASBV's and mate / manage lambs separately to document the change.
- 4 Talk with your ram breeder before you buy, remembering that the highest index may not be the best for you.
- 5 Remember that underfed lambs don't have the opportunity to lay down fat so improved feeding will help!

HAMILTON RAM SALE RESULTS '05

A summary of the ram sale and some explanation will help to better understand why there has been strong demand for the rams offered. On the last Friday in October 2005 we auctioned 159 rams for the following result.

MATERNAL SIRES

Account: Oaklea

30 MATERNALS

average Coopworth \$ index 131

average price \$2093

average \$69 per index point

Account: Oaklea/Cashmore Park

19 MATERNALS/embryo transfers

average Coopworth \$ index 128 average price \$2074 average \$75 per index point

Account: Cashmore Park

60 Cashmore Twinner MATERNALS

average Coopworth \$ index 127

average price \$1718

average \$63 per index point

Top price \$3100 to Simon Ross, North Gums Partnership, Penhurst. Used in a self replacing maternal lamb flock, this ram will be used twice per year in autumn and spring to get maximum lamb numbers from him, he is the top 2% percentile band (275 rams from 2750 born nationally) for fertility, growth and Coopworth \$ Index.

TERMINAL SIRES

Account: Cashmore Park 50 Poll Dorsets and Terminal Composites

Average carcass plus index 176

Average price \$842

Average \$11 per index point

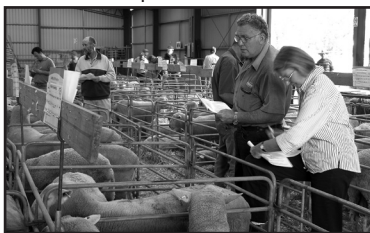
Top rams to Fay Buckley, Mingbool, SA \$1600 twice, 190 and 199 carcass plus index, used in a 10,000 head lamb breeding operation targeting domestic and export weight lambs.



Landmark Agent Rob Claffey receiving bids.

The sale featured purpose bred sires, many with hard to find extensive performance data or a new angle involved in their genetic make up. Specialist producers were looking for high numbers of lambs weaned, fast early growth and low faecal egg count rams. Many of these were in the top 10% percentile band

available nationally with a number of elite individuals in the top 2%. Added to this we have been incorporating some "pink nose" genes to open up the seasonal breeding window for lamb production in northern areas. Clients needing to join in January were very active at the sale on these rams. Each year we get asked for specific information and recently adult ewe weight has been topical so ASBV's are provided. Don and I have taken a few thousand adult ewe weights and we now have good information on this trait.



Fay Buckley of Mingbool and Kevin Norman of Keatley Livestock Mt. Gambier inspecting Terminal Rams.

Lastly, we are seeing self replacing flock numbers increase as people avoid the high priced first cross ewe sales and start to control their own destiny and breed ewes that suit their particular environment and production system. A number of large producers were active on rams as they convert to self replacing systems.

Breeding large numbers of rams allows us to cull hard and running seedstock very "commercially" sorts them out. We receive comments "positively" that our rams look plain "but never go backwards". *It is our job to test them not pamper them.*

In summing up Don and I have supplied rams with extensive and diverse information to a large range of markets and production systems and we thank those that purchased rams this season and trust they will perform well for you in the future.

CASHMORE PARK / OAKLEA RAM SALE

Friday 27th October, 2006 - Hamilton Showgrounds



400 COOPWORTH, MATERNAL COMPOSITE and TERMINAL RAMS

COMPRISING

150 Specially selected elite ET and AI rams. These will represent the top 15% on the Coopworth index and will be sold individually by open auction

200 Selected flock rams. These rams are in the top 400 out of 1200 rams bred by the Cashmore Park and Oaklea studs in 2005. They will be sold in pen lots of 3 to 5 under the Helmsman auction system and the starting or reserve price will be conservative thus we will be catering for all buyers and giving potential purchasers a fair opportunity to buy the rams they desire. These pen lots will be determined by index and type, and there will be lots selected for specific traits such as internal parasite resistance, early season lambing and easy care attributes.

50 Poll Dorset and Terminal Composite Rams.

No rams will be sold prior to the sale and any rams not sold at the sale will be available at their property of origin after the sale for \$100 more than the reserve set on the sale day.

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