

15th Annual On property Ram Sale

Thursday 4 February 2010

52 Poll Merino & Merino Rams



Latest News

Wool Carbon Alliance

The WCA was launched in 2009 as an initiative of the Australian wool industry, lead by AWI, IWTO & industry representatives. The purpose is to promote wool's environmental attributes as part of the solution to increasing carbon levels in the atmosphere. Some of the WCA outcomes sought are: that wool products be recognised by consumers as the fibre of choice for taking personal action to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere, that our wool fibre is recognised as a legitimate carbon sink, that wool growers are recognized & rewarded for any carbon capture & storage on our natural grasslands. Martin Oppenheimer is a member of the WCA.

NSW DPI Gross Margins – breed more merino ewes & wethers

With current sheep numbers & reduced wool production it is not surprising that gross margin comparisons are showing opportunities for merino enterprises:

	GM/Ha	GM/DSE
Merino Ewes (21mic) Terminal Rams	\$310	\$31
Merino Ewes (19mic) Merino Rams	\$283	\$28
Cattle -Grow out Steers (240-460kg)	\$236	\$29
Merino Wethers (19mic)	\$233	\$23
Cattle -Yearling	\$171	\$21
Cattle -EU	\$148	\$18
Cattle -Inland Weaner	\$85	\$21

Worm Resistance (WEC) – reduce risk & select tested sheep only!

If you want less problems with worms in your flock then you need to select sires with a negative WEC. Using untested sires is a high risk exercise that can lead to productivity losses & even deaths. For example, in 2008 we used 2 poll merino sires from the same stud & both from the same year drop. Unfortunately the sires were NOT tested for WEC. This was risky but a sheep geneticist advised that the Stud should be reasonably worm resistant based on previous data. Surprisingly the result from our progeny test was that one sire had a YWEC of -46 while the other was +75. A difference of 121% !!! Only select sires with a negative WEC ASBV from tested flocks.

Breech Wrinkle ASBV's (EBWR) now being used – an advance on breech scores

Early Breech Wrinkle (EBWR) and body wrinkle have an estimated heritability of 0.35, which is similar to body weight, staple strength and eye muscle depth. Environmental effects also have a significant effect on the expression of wrinkle, sometimes called 'feed wrinkle'.

twin born lambs 0.3 to 0.5 score plainer than a single born lamb
maiden lambs 0.2 to 0.3 score plainer than lambs from older ewes
drought lambs 0.5 to 1.0 score plainer than lambs born in good feed conditions.

Accounting for these feed effects is one of the reasons why a Breech wrinkle ASBV has been developed. All Petali stud lambs are scored at lambmarking for Breech wrinkle. This is an ideal time to assess lambs & the development of the new ASBV is a very timely & valuable tool.