



From the President's Desk



Welcome to the October edition of the AWSA newsletter.

The lamb industry is in a healthy state at present, and the reports of ram sales to date have been very good, with strong clearances and good prices. Several people have mentioned to me that there is a solid preference for White Suffolk genetics - a strong vindication of

the vision put in place by those who founded the AWSA 25 years ago, and the efforts of all those who have been involved in the breed.

Over the past few months I have had the pleasure of witnessing the exhibitions of White Suffolks at Bendigo, Hamilton, and Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth Royal Shows. At both Hamilton and Perth feature shows there were excellent displays, and I believe the numbers in Adelaide were a record. The 'depth' at all these exhibitions was outstanding, and I congratulate everyone involved.

As was reported previously, Honourary Life Membership was presented to Andrew Michael at the National Conference in February. At Adelaide Royal the Association had the pleasure of awarding a further two Life Memberships, firstly to Kevin Moore - presented by Ian Turner, and secondly to Rob Martin - presented by Geoff Gale. In addition Julie Wiesner and I had much pleasure in awarding Distinguished Service Awards to Peter Heinrich, Graham Day, Malcolm Piggott and Hedley Krieg. These awards are a much deserved recognition of the vision, effort and dedication these recipients have put into the breed. Again, congratulations to them all!

Promotion of the White Suffolk breed is always a topic of some debate, especially as we market rams into such a wide range of environments, and across a diverse time line. I have a strong belief that empowering breeders, or groups, to manage the AWSA promotions at a more 'local level' is the best approach. This is the line we have taken with promotions throughout the spring advertising campaign. In addition to the usual promotions, we have run a 'Win a Ram' competition in each state. The preliminary information we have garnered from the entries is of some interest, particularly regarding timing of ads, but I would stress if any members have ideas or comments regarding AWSA advertising, please make them known to a member of Federal Council.

I hesitate to single any individual out in this forum, but I make an exception with the passing of one of Australia's most notable sheep breeders. Jim Prentice was someone who leaves an enormous legacy to the prime lamb industry. Kurralea genetics have had a huge influence within the White Suffolk breed, and I suspect will do so for many years to come. Vale Jim.

Elsewhere in this newsletter I'm sure you'll find further details regarding the 2011 National Conference to be held in Nuriootpa S.A. next February. The national conference is a great opportunity for members to keep abreast of new ideas, and what is happening in the breed, so make sure you make every effort to get along and have your say in the future of the White Suffolk breed.

In closing, let me wish you all a safe and happy Christmas, and all the best for the New Year.

Look forward to seeing you in Nuri!

Regards, Steve Milne

The Australian White Suffolk Association advises that its Office will be closed for the Christmas break from Friday **17th December** and will reopen on Tuesday **7th January**.

THE STAFF AND AWSA COMMITTEE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

New Members

Name	Location	Flock No	Prefix
Joshua Milton	Clifton QLD	765	Milton Park
Les Bull	Luskintyre NSW	766	Luskin
Jeff McCallum	Melrose SA	767	Willochra
James & Wendy Muller	Orange NSW	768	Chatoona
Bruce Vowles	Burrumbeet VIC	769	Alerrum
John & Janneane Cahill	via Cooma NSW	770	Pahran
Craig & Catherine French	Geurie NSW	771	Westella
Elizabeth Kemka	Linton VIC	772	Ardmay

“WIN A RAM” Promotion

In conjunction with the Spring advertising campaign, the AWSA ran a competition for commercial producers to win a \$500 voucher toward the purchase of a White Suffolk ram.

The purpose of the competition from the AWSA's point of view was to gauge the effectiveness of different styles and timing of Association ads in the rural press in each state. Federal Council would hope that you would have noticed the mention of this competition in the AWSA ads throughout the spring. We quite deliberately did not inform the membership of the competition so that members did not direct their clients to it. It was felt that this may have biased the information we were attempting to garner from the entries. Obviously some members took notice, because they entered even though they were ineligible.

At the time of writing the draw for WA, SA, Vic and NSW, has taken place although the winners are yet to be notified. The Tasmanian competition has yet to close as

their advertising campaign is run a little later than other states.

The winners in each state will be sent a \$500 voucher to be put towards the purchase of a White Suffolk ram. The ram can be purchased at any time in the 2010/11 financial year, meaning that they may have already made their ram purchases this season. Upon receipt of the voucher the winners must get it signed by an AWSA member who has sold them a ram, with an indication of AWSA member name, Flock Number and date of purchase. Upon return of the completed voucher to the AWSA, the winners will be sent a cheque for \$500+GST.

If any members are presented with a voucher to authorise and are unsure of what is required, please contact Andrew Frick.

Phone: (08) 8765 6005

Mobile: 0407 715 123


Email: andrew.frick2@bigpond.com

2010 Sale Results

This year instead of listing sale results in the newsletter we are listing them on our website.

Follow the link from the home page at www.whitesuffolk.com.au

There is also a form to use to submit your results for us to add to the list.



WINGAMIN

KAROONDA

WHITE SUFFOLK STUD

Established 1988 – registered flock no.50

2010 Royal Adelaide Show Success

(30 exhibitors – 376 entries)

Highlights

Most Successful Exhibitor, 4th consecutive year

Supreme All-Breeds Group, 2nd consecutive year

Sale results

6 stud rams sold to a top of \$7,000, ave \$4,667


124 flock rams offered & sold on-property, top \$2,000 (twice), ave \$989




Semen available from our leading rams

Photos of semen sires with full pedigrees/latest ASBV's on our website

www.wingamin.com.au

Clive & Deb Shillabeer Ph: (08) 8578 1143



Supreme Breeders Group 2010 RAS

Champion ram-Hamilton

1st ram lamb (right) semen avail.



Life Membership Awards

KEVIN MOORE & ROB MARTIN

IAN TURNER PRESENTING KEVIN MOORE'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Maybe his greatest attribute is that he is a passionate supporter of young breeders in the industry, whatever breed they choose. There are many White Suffolk & other breeders here today, some who may no longer be quite as young as they once were, but have benefitted greatly from the freely given advice and sometimes actual breeding assets by this person.

He has actively been a defender of remaining true to the Suffolk breed standards – a breed that has stood the test of time worldwide for well over 300 years, through the quality of meat it produces and the management advantages it has.

He has a wonderful eye for livestock and has that ability to recognise the breeding possibilities of different sheep. (Maybe the Southdown breed could have listened a little more astutely to his advice, but that is another issue?)

The broad ribbons our newest Life Member's stud has won at Melbourne, Launceston and Hobart are too numerous to mention other than saying it included champion ram at the Hobart Royal for every year from 1995 to at least 2002!

He was instrumental in establishing the breed in Tasmania and was a major part of the organisation in time and sheep at the breed's launch at the 1989 World Sheep & Wool Congress at Launceston.

The influence of his White Suffolk stud on the breed has been equally huge with his bloodline extending into a majority of other studs at some stage. He was appointed judge at the breed's second Royal showing in 1992 at this venue.



Steve Milne, Kevin Moore and Ian Turner

He was there at the first meeting, he was on committee from 1985 to 1996; he's still here producing wonderful sheep, displaying and selling them across the country; and encouraging others. He has had the support of his family and we must mention his wife Merle, son Dale & grandson Lachlan in particular as they are the ones most of us get to meet, but his family extends much further than that.

Kevin Moore has already been awarded a Distinguished Service Award, but I now invite him to come forward and join Geoff Gale, Ralph Speirs, Don Ferguson, Barry Lang, Andrew Michael, Rob Martin and yours truly as the 8th and a most deserving Life Member of the Australian White Suffolk Association.

GEOFF GALE PRESENTING ROB MARTIN'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Rob's contribution to the White Suffolk Assoc cannot be measured as so much of his contribution was over and above the call of duty. Long trips to Dookie leaving his family on weekends to attend conferences. Nothing was a problem for Rob to help the WSA as he grew with the breed. Much of the improvement of logistics can be attributed to Rob as his loyalty for the breed and his affinity with its' members showed out.

If I had to put a measure on Rob's efficiency as a secretary in a score out of ten I would give him a ten only because I couldn't give him eleven.

I can think of no-one more deserving of the honour of Life Membership of the AWSA than Rob and he thoroughly deserves the award.



Geoff Gale, Rob Martin and Steve Milne

Distinguished Service Awards

PETER HEINRICH, GRAHAM DAY, MALCOLM PIGGOTT AND HEDLEY KRIEG

LETTER OF APPRECIATION.

HEDLEY KRIEG WRITES...

Dear Rob, I wish to express my appreciation and acknowledgement for the honour of being presented with the 'Distinguished Service Award' at the Royal Adelaide Show, 2010.

I can assure you that it was a complete surprise—I haven't considered myself among the leaders in establishing the White Suffolk breed. However, looking back, it has been a wonderful journey, rubbing shoulders with many talented people, and being involved in what has now become the most popular meat sheep breed in Australia.

Thank you for honouring me in this way. All the best for the future.

*Sincerely,
Hedley Krieg*



Distinguished Service Award recipients Peter Heinrich, Graham Day, Malcolm Piggott and Hedley Krieg

LETTER OF APPRECIATION.

ROB MARTIN WRITES...

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Association for awarding Honorary Life Membership to me during this years Adelaide show. I am extremely humbled at receiving this Award, which will be valued and appreciated well into the future. The plaque already has pride of place on my wall at home. I have been involved with this highly professional and member friendly Association almost since its foundation and as a result I have gained enormous satisfaction, made many friends and enjoyed the journey throughout the development of your great breed.

Thank you, this Life membership Award is greatly appreciated.

*Regards,
Rob Martin.*





You know you're a farmer if...

1. Your dog rides in the Ute more than your wife.
2. You convince your wife that an overnight trip to Brisbane/Sydney for machinery parts is a holiday.
3. You wear particular hats to clearing sales, livestock auctions, meetings and holidays.
4. You have to hose yourself down in the back yard before your wife would let you in the house.
5. You've never thrown away a five-gallon bucket.
6. You've used fencing wire to attach a license plate.
7. You know the stock losses, gains and seasonal conditions on a property you leased 10 years ago, but can't remember your wife's birthday.
8. You've fibbed to a mechanic about how often you greased a piece of machinery.
9. You've driven off the road while examining your neighbour's stock.
10. You've buried a dog and cried like a baby.
11. You've used a tractor front-end loader as scaffolding for roof repairs.
12. You've used the same knife to make bull calves steers and peel apples.
13. You wave at every vehicle whether you know the occupants or not.
14. You always look when a vehicle passes your house, even at night.
15. You've used something other than paper as a toilet tissue.
16. You refer to properties by who owned them 25 or more years ago.
17. You give directions to your property by using landmarks not road names.
18. You've got animals living in buildings more expensive than your house.
19. More than 50% of your clothing came from chemical dealers or suppliers.
20. You've enough caps to match every shirt you own, but you only wear one so you don't get the others dirty.
21. The rusted out areas of your old truck are sealed off with old T-shirts.
22. Family weddings and special events are planned around mustering, marking and branding.
23. Your wife agrees to observe Mothers Day after lamb marking/drafting/mustering.
24. Your family goes silent when the weather comes on the news.
25. The meaning of true love is that you'll ride on the tractor with him.
26. Your husband drives a friend home from the bar when he only lives three houses [and 3km] away.
27. Your excuse for getting out of school is that the sheep got out.
28. Your early morning prayer covers rain, wheat and sheep.
29. You listen to "The Country Hour" every day at noon.
30. Your other vehicle is a John Deere.
31. And, finally if given \$1,000,000 you would keep right on being a Farmer because you can never take the farmer out of the country.



Australia's Declining Sheep Flock

Implications for the Sheep CRC and the Australian sheep industry



The size of the Australian sheep flock has fallen from a 170 m in 1990 to below 77 m in 2008. With strong demand for lamb and high prices for mutton and sheep for the live export trade there are concerns that current levels of turnoff are not sustainable.

There have also been important changes in the flock composition with an increase in the proportion

of Merino ewes joined to terminal sires and a sharp decrease in numbers of Merino wethers relative to ewes.

The combined effect of the declining

flock size and the changing structure away from wool-producing Merinos has significantly reduced wool production.

Decreasing supply and continued strong demand has resulted in increased prices of sheep and lambs. The high prices for mature animals (ewes and wethers) provides a mixed message. On one hand it implies that it is good to keep ewes longer as it will be difficult to re-purchase at a later date. Alternatively, it provides an incentive to sell as the current prices provide a good opportunity for producers to get out of sheep. The age demographic of sheep producers means that this could be an important consideration for a number of producers nearing retirement age. Further information should be gathered on the characteristics of producers getting out of sheep to explore the hypothesis that older producers are selling sheep and moving into cattle.

In the case of wool, there has been a long period of low prices for producers initially driven by over supply and more recently the global economic crisis has led to reduced demand. Meanwhile, the rising Australian dollar has increased the price of wool to processors and consumers. For many sheep producers it appears that the lower wool price has been a further incentive to move out of Merino sheep. Most of the decrease in wool supply has been in the mid-micron wools (21-23 m) while the supply of fine and superfine wool has been relatively stable.

The changing flock size and structure are important to the Sheep CRC in terms of ensuring that our portfolio of research is appropriately focused and that our commitments made in the Commonwealth agreement are still achievable.

Implications for the Sheep Industry:

- Reproductive efficiency. The importance of increasing reproductive efficiency is highlighted by the analysis. The CRC's Project 1.2 is designed to deliver increased reproductive efficiency and is making good progress. Further analysis is warranted to determine whether further resources should be allocated to this area and to identify opportunities for collaborating with other organisations to develop synergies through combined research and utilization activities.

- Demand for wool. The CRC's Wool Program focuses on increasing consumer demand for light weight knitted garments worn next-to-skin. Fabrics for these garments require fine to super fine wool (< 19 m) and demand for these high quality garments is sensitive to economic conditions. It is possible that recovery from the global economic crisis and new technologies developed by the CRC will increase demand and price for wool to the point where keeping more Merino sheep for wool production will be attractive.

- Meat quality. With increasing sheep prices and rising meat prices product quality becomes increasingly important in order to maintain consumer demand. The CRC's meat quality research targets both eating quality and nutritional value and is proving to be well positioned.

- Labour. The amount of work involved in sheep management compared to alternatives such as cattle and cropping is clearly a factor in declining sheep numbers. Competition for labour during the resources boom, immediately prior to the economic crisis, highlighted this problem. The CRC's Projects 1.1 and 1.7 aim to produce better adapted sheep that require less labour input and automated

measurement and management systems that increase labour productivity.

- Economic impact. The reduced flock size may make it difficult for the CRC to achieve the

quantum of benefit described in the Commonwealth Agreement as initial impact analysis was based on approximately 30% more sheep than current population. A new impact analysis will be needed to understand the implications and to help revise targets and strategies.

- Adoption and utilisation. Widespread adoption of innovation and skills to use best practice technologies will underpin a profitable and stable sheep industry. The CRC's commitment to increasing utilisation and impact of new and existing technologies must remain a high priority. Excepts from Sheep CRC website www.sheepcrc.com.au



THE SIZE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHEEP FLOCK HAS FALLEN FROM A 170 M IN 1990 TO BELOW 77 M IN 2008.



THE CRC'S PROJECTS 1.1 AND 1.7 AIM TO PRODUCE BETTER ADAPTED SHEEP



Vale - Jim Prentice

1949 to 2010

The Australian sheep industry lost one of its most successful breeders on Friday 24th September 2010 when Jim Prentice, from Aria Park in NSW passed away after a short battle with cancer.

James Ernest Prentice, or to all who knew him, Jim was born at Temora on the 28th December 1949. He was a quiet achiever and most people will know him from his visits to Royal Shows with his Kurralea Poll Dorset and later, White Suffolk sheep.

He commenced his Poll Dorset stud in 1975 and arguably has had the most successful stud in Australia over the last decade or so. Certainly his trips to the Adelaide and Melbourne Royals were laced with championships, a feat duplicated with his White Suffolks in more recent years.

Kurralea still holds the national on-property record price for a Poll Dorset ram when the stud sold one of its 2005 offering for \$26,000, surpassing the \$25,000 record, also achieved by Kurralea. Also, Kurralea "5 Star" is arguably the most famous ram in the industry in the last 30 years; and industry changing sire with numerous semen sales around the country.

Only 2 meat sheep industry sales in this country have grossed over \$500,000, both at Kurralea, in 2005 and fittingly this year, 4 days after his passing.

He was also a wonderful sportsman, a record of success that few may have known due to his modesty. Jim played VFL football for South Melbourne (now the Sydney Swans) under legendary coach Norm Smith from 1970 to 1974. In 1974 he snapped his Achilles tendon which effectively ended his VFL (or AFL as it is now known) career.

He actually started his senior football career with Aria Park-Mirrool as an 18 year old and within 2 years had won selection in the South West League's representative side. After the South Melbourne stint he was the runaway winner of the League's Gammage Medal, a feat he repeated in 1977. In 1978 he played in Tasmania for Devonport and scooped the pool in playing awards including the coveted Wander Medal. He also represented Tasmania against Queensland and Victoria. He captained the state against Victoria and won the medal for best on ground, playing on a bloke called Blight!

Jim played in 6 grand finals but did not get to taste victory until the last of these, when at age 37 and playing for and coaching Girral-West Wyalong in the Northern Riverina League he got to celebrate his and that club's first ever premiership. He finally hung up his boots in 1991.

While best known outside of the area for his football deeds, his first sporting love was with cricket. He was a

great batsman and wicket keeper, as was his father. He scored 55 centuries during his career and had much more success with cricket premierships winning 11 of these during his long and distinguished career. He was proud to have played in a representative side against the touring Indian side.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Kim and children Derek & Angela (from his first marriage), Ben, Sophie and Clare. Jim and Kim's eldest daughter Sasha was tragically killed in a school bus accident in 1994. Jim's greatest loves in life probably explain his make up - his family, his faith, and his farm. This focus enabled him to be very positive about life and optimistic about the future.

(Well over 500 people attended his funeral at Aria Park last Thursday, with South Australian friends Clayton Rowett and Ian Turner acting as pall bearers)

Jim Prentice was a lot of things - a top sportsman; he was a dedicated farmer and a wonderful sheep breeder. He was a man of faith, a fantastic father and family man; a husband to Kim, who likewise was an absolutely magnificent wife and life partner to Jim. To simplify things we could say that he was just a great bloke.



Jim Prentice – 1949 to 2010



Hamilton Sheepvention

2010 Feature Show Results

JUDGE: IAN GILMORE

Novice Ram

Hamilton Produce Trophy

1. Kookaburra Park
2. Kookaburra Park
3. Laurel View

Ram U1^{1/2} born April

Wakefield Park Trophy

1. Wingamin
2. Waratah
3. Bundara Downs
4. Induro
5. Waratah

Ram U1^{1/2} born May

Deppeler Trophy

1. Glenarbian
2. Days Whiteface
3. Woodbridge
4. Wattle Park
5. Bundara Downs

Ram U1^{1/2} born June

Darlot park Trophy

1. Wingamin
2. Days Whiteface
3. Gemini
4. Westleigh
5. Westleigh

Pen of 2 rams A-Jdrop

Elders trophy

1. Bundara Downs
2. Gemini
3. Glenarbian
4. Waratah
5. Wattle Park

Senior Champion Ram

Glen Park Trophy

WINGAMIN

Reserve

Gypsum Hill Trophy

GLENARBIAN

Ram U1^{1/2} born July

Waratah Trophy

1. Gemini
2. Duencin
3. Glengarry
4. Gemini
5. Wingamin

Ram U1^{1/2} born/aft Aug1

Duencin trophy

1. Wattle Park
2. Waratah
3. Days Whiteface
4. Illoura
5. Somerset

Pen of 2 rams J-S drop

Westleigh Trophy

1. Days Whiteface
2. Seriston
3. Duencin
4. Wattle Park

Ram Lamb

Catumnal Trophy

1. Wingamin
2. Waratah
3. Wattle Park
4. Waratah

Junior Champion Ram

South Barnolot Trophy

GEMINI

Reserve

Belladonna Trophy

DUENCLIN

GRAND CHAMPION RAM

Detpa Grove Trophy

GEMINI

Lamb Prod. Class

Nulkwyne Trophy & Advanced Livestock Services Prize

1. Waratah
2. Gemini
3. Bundara Downs
4. Glenarbian
5. Bundara Downs

Novice Ewe

Hamilton Produce Trophy

1. Colosal
2. Banquet
3. Kookaburra Park

Ewe over 1^{1/2}

Adalinda Trophy

1. Duencin
2. Banquet
3. Windy Hill

Ewe U1^{1/2} Apr-May drop

Woodbridge Trophy

1. Wingamin
2. Ramsay Park
3. Waratah
4. Glenarbian
5. Wattle Park

Ewe U1^{1/2} June-July drop

Bundara Downs Trophy

1. Westleigh
2. Gemini
3. Glengarry
4. Wingamin
5. Belladonna

Ewe U1^{1/2} born/aft Aug1

Sunnydale Trophy

1. Belladonna
2. Duencin
3. Glenarbian
4. Wattle park

Pen of 2 Ewes

Landmark Trophy

1. Glenarbian
2. Gemini
3. Waratah
4. Wattle park

Ewe Lamb

Laurel View trophy

- 1. Wingamin
- 2. Wattle Park
- 3. Duenclin

Champion Ewe

Brecon Breeders Trophy

BELLADONNA

Reserve

LMB Linke Livestock Trophy

WESTLEIGH

SUPREME EXHIBIT

Stock & Land Prize

GEMINI

Sires Progeny Group

Gemini Trophy

- 1. Glenarbian
- 2. Gemini
- 3. Wattle Park
- 4. Adalinda
- 5. Wingamin

Breeders Group of 3

Doorland Trophy

- 1. Glenarbian
- 2. Wingamin
- 3. Glengarry
- 4. Waratah
- 5. Gemini

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR

AWSA Trophy

WINGAMIN

Champion Ram



WINGAMIN

Supreme Exhibit



GEMINI

Where are they now?

The Australian White Suffolk Association is celebrating its 25th year. So we thought we would catch up with our foundation members and see what they are up to now.

Many are still members and actively involved in the development of our breed. Some have passed the management of their studs on to the next generation and their stud breeding continues.

We have asked them.....

Why did you decide to breed White Suffolks?

What has been the highlights of being involved with the breed?

What are you doing now?

Here is what they had to say:

Flock No 15 - "Illoura"

Founded by Malcolm Piggott

THE ILLOURA STUD – WHAT MAKES IT TICK!

The Illoura stud commenced in 1938 when the late RV Piggott bought 15 cast for age Dorset Horn ewes and started a Dorset Horn stud on the newly cleared farm at Moorlands, situated in the South Australian mallee. The stud began breeding Poll Dorsets in 1964, and then started breeding White Suffolks in 1985

as a foundation member of the Australian White Suffolk Association.

The stud recognized that the new breed had the potential to become the dominant prime lamb sire as it combined the desirable characteristics of the all the terminal breeds of the day. Illoura was a foundation member of PLG (Prime Lamb Genetics) and worked with Prof Euan Roberts and the University of NSW to develop the breed.

The stud has accessed genetics from around Australia to achieve their breeding objectives and evaluates 10 new sires annually. Using a cross section of sires that are widely used in the industry will provide essential linkages with other studs, which is an essential requirement for performance recording programs. There are exciting developments in the sheep industry to assist the stud master and these should be utilized to ensure that the stud is making strong genetic gains as quickly as possible.

The stud has been showing sheep at the Royal Adelaide Show for over 50 years and sees showing as an excellent opportunity to benchmark your stock against the best sheep in the country. There will be ongoing debate regarding the merit of showing in the commercial lamb industry. The Illoura philosophy has maintained that rams must have the conformation to perform well in the show



ring as well as having the good performance figures that provide a more accurate picture of the genetic worth of that animal. A ram that can only perform in one of these areas is of limited use.

Show highlights include champion White Suffolk ram at the inaugural showing of the breed at the Royal Sydney Show, champion and reserve champion White Suffolk ewes at the Royal Adelaide Show and Illoura is consistently vying for the most successful exhibitor award. In 2009, the stud sold a 4.5 month old ram lamb for a record \$26,000 at the Royal Adelaide Shows Elite Sale. In 2010 Illoura won the Supreme Champion White Suffolk exhibit and the

prestigious Lamb Performance Class that evaluates performance figures, structural correctness and industry suitability. In 2010, a team of Illoura sheep came a close second in the new Maternal Class at the RA&HS against all other breeds. This class evaluates the sheep's suitability to produce prime lamb dams and this result is great for the White Suffolk breed and is an exciting new direction that the breed is exploring.

The Illoura stud is now managed by Allan & Sue Piggott, currently mating 1200 ewes (including 200 ewe lambs) and from these ewes the stud will tag over 1600 lambs. The stud annually sells 500 flock rams to clients across southern and eastern Australia. The top 300 rams are sold in on-property auctions in mid September, with the remainder being sold at local sales and privately. While the flock ram sales provide the bread and butter income for the business, stud sheep sales and shows and working with the White Suffolk fraternity has provided plenty of excitement and enjoyment over the years.



Flock No 16 - "Fingerpost"

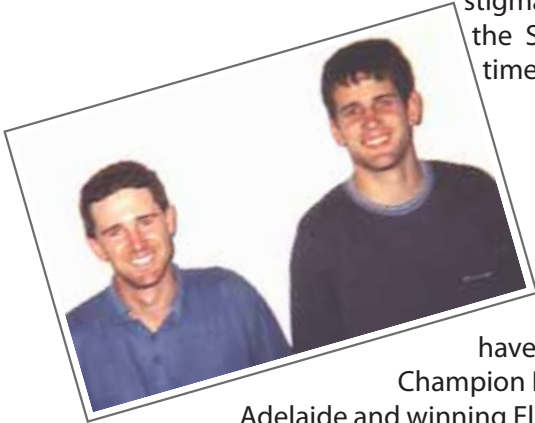
Founded by Geoff Gale

Why did you decide to breed white suffolks?

Fingerpost originated as a Suffolk Stud bought for them when they were still at school to continue their own personal interest in the sheep. A natural transition occurred when the White Suffolk breed began and they decided after seeing where Galaxy Park was going and the stigma attached to the Suffolks at the time to change.

What has been the highlights of being involved with the breed?

Highlights have been winning Champion Ram in 1992 in Adelaide and winning Elders Karoonda



Farm Fair Carcase Competition in 1998. Having been in the stud world through both Suffolks & White Suffolks all their lives has given them a wonderful opportunity to meet many people from across Australia. Whilst they are not exhibiting at shows at the moment they still go to the Adelaide Royal to stay in touch with the breeders and in tune with the breed direction.

What are you doing now?

Michael manages the families Tintinara property which is a small cropping programme with a SAMM stud & commercials. He also is Assistant Supervisor in the Sheep section at the Adelaide Royal during 1st half of the show having been a steward for over 15 years.

Barrie, Donna & boys Lachlan & Mitchell are about to move to the Monarto farm which he has been helping run for about six years.

This is where the White Suffolk Studs are located along with a few South Devon cattle and a cropping programme.

Flock No 18 - "Aylesbury Farm"

Founded by Hedley Krieg

Why did you decide to breed white suffolks?

Aylesbury Farm foundation stud was established out of a desire to breed Suffolk sheep without the black points. Breeding Suffolks had been a lifetime occupation but rams were becoming increasingly difficult to sell due to the fear of wool contamination. In approximately 1980 we had a ewe 'visit the neighbouring Roseworthy College flock which used Poll Dorsets as sires. The resultant ram lamb became our first White Suffolk. We commenced using progeny from this ram lamb and our Suffolk stud and also the addition from a first cross ram "Elouera Stud" Cowra, NSW. Elouera rams continued to be used to stabilize our line and then a 'Langley Heights' ram further lifted the Suffolk percentage and gave us the clean features and high Suffolk percentage for which we are noted today.

What has been the highlights of being involved with the breed?

Having a contribution to the White Suffolk breed genetic pool and the camaraderie and friendships we have made over the years through our involvement with the breed.

What are you doing now?

Hedley and Moira have retired from stud breeding duties and are retiring to Ardrossan. Andrew and Deb now continue the breeding program on their property at Karoonda, along with their young

family Brett, Alex, Maya and Evie. We continue to progress the breed with our emphasis on a commercial, easy care Suffolk type White Suffolk, with particular attention to length and depth of hindquarter and high meat yield of the expensive cuts. We look forward to continuing our relationships with friends we have met over the years and enjoy promoting the benefits of the White Suffolk to new breeders.



Flock No 18 - "Leahcim"

Founded by Andrew Michael



Why did you decide to breed White Suffolks?

The reason we decided to breed White Suffolks was a commercial one, because at the time we were running a Poll Dorset and Suffolk stud side by side we could see that having a Suffolk sheep that was white would suit all our client's needs

. Most of our clients are in marginal country and using merinos as their maternal dams so the Suffolk suited all their breeding needs for meat but the black points created some negativity with their wool and skin production.

What has been the highlights of being involved with the breed?

The highlight of being involved in the breed is the vision and focus from the early days to the success that has been achieved in today's commercial prime lamb market. I must congratulate our leaders and secretary of

our breed, especially in the early days for their strength of character and vision because they set a great foundation on which to build this breed. I found it extremely pleasing this year to attend the National Field day (not attending for a number of years) to see the quality of speakers and the great organization that had been put in place and feel very confident that over the 25 year the breed is still making good business and commercial gains.

What are you doing now?

We are now mating approximately 600 White Suffolk ewes and 2000 stud Merino ewes at Willalooka in the South East which Luke manages and this year we sold about 650 rams . All the Ram lambs are weaned in the South East and are trucked to Snowtown where Stewart and I do all the performance recording and management until the rams are sold in September. Since we started the stud we purchased a pastoral property where we try to run our ewe lambs to help identify animals that can perform in varied environments. These days we are placing even more emphasis on performance record and pedigrees but hopefully not losing sight of structure and mobility.





Perth Royal Show

2010 Show Results

JUDGE: DAVID PIPKORN
PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY FARM WEEKLY WA

RAM Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Brimfield
2. Ashbourne
3. Wesswood
4. Yanda

RAM Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Brimfield
2. Jocklor
3. Iveston Stud

Novice Ram - any age

1. Ridge Top

RAM Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Brimfield
2. Wesswood
3. Ashbourne
4. Yanda

RAM Over 2 yrs

1. Wesswood
2. Jocklor
3. Iveston Stud

RAM LAMB

1. Ridge-Top
2. Valencia Downs
3. Stockdale
4. Ridge-Top
5. Iveston Stud

RAM LAMB

1. Stockdale
2. Ridge-Top
3. Stockdale
4. Iveston Stud

PAIR OF RAMS Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Wesswood
2. Wesswood
3. Nalvin Park

Champion Ram

WESSWOOD

Reserve

WESSWOOD

EWE Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Wesswood
2. Yanda
3. Wesswood

EWE Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Wesswood
2. Nalvin Park
3. Wesswood
4. Jocklor

Novice Ewe - any age

1. Ridge Top

EWE Over 2 yrs

1. Wesswood
2. Brimfield
3. Valencia Downs

EWE LAMB Born before 31 May

1. Valencia Downs
2. Ashbourne
3. Ashbourne
4. Stockdale

EWE LAMB Born after 1 June

1. Valencia Downs
2. Stockdale
3. Wesswood
4. Stockdale
5. Ridge-Top

Champion Lamb

RIDGE TOP

PAIR OF EWES Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Nalvin Park
2. Wesswood
3. Iveston Stud
4. Yanda

Champion Ewe

NALVIN PARK

Reserve

WESSWOOD

SUPREME CHAMPION
EXHIBIT

NALVIN PARK

GROUP - RAM AND 2 EWES

1. Wesswood
2. Nalvin Park
3. Yanda
4. Jocklor
5. Ridge-Top

GROUP OF THREE WHITE SUFFOLK RAMS Under 1 1/2 yrs

1. Brimfield
2. Wesswood
3. Wesswood
4. Ashbourne
5. Nalvin Park

PROGENY GROUP

To be drawn from any Class

1. Brimfield Poll Dorset Stud
2. Wesswood
3. Yanda
4. Jocklor

Progeny Group



BRIMFIELD

Perth 2010 RAS Show was a busy but amiable event which produced some very good sheep on the day. Most classes were well supported and the White Suffolks were presented in great order, considering that many areas are in drought.

The Supreme Exhibit was a ewe owned by Nalvin Park and was a real standout. Although heavily pregnant it took nothing away from her great quality which was born out when she later sold for \$2400 and was part of the last of the Nalvin Park sheep to be dispersed.

The Reserve Ewe owned by Wesswood came out of the over 2yo class and was last years Supreme Exhibit.

The Champion ram was won by Wesswood as was the Reserve and both were selected from the pairs.

The Champion Lamb was a credit to a relatively new stud. Ridge Top is owned by Denim Carter, a young man who is

showing great dedication to the breed.

David Pipkorn did a good job of the judging and I'm sure our first Under Judge Brenton Fairclough, learnt a lot from him.

The stud sale was a little patchy. Wesswoods' Champion ram from Woolarama was the top priced White Suffolk at \$5400 and Nalvin Park had the top priced ewe selling for \$2400.

It was pleasing to have our Federal President Steve Milne over for the show and we hope he enjoyed our great WA weather. Also visiting was Steve Funke and Allan Piggott. David brought his family over too. We hope they all enjoyed the BBQ and fellowship after judging. Lastly congratulations to all the place getters the standard just gets better and better

Julie Klante WA Secretary

Supreme Champion



NALVIN PARK

Champion Ram



WESSWOOD

Champion Lamb



RIDGE TOP

Reserve Champion Ram



WESSWOOD

Champion Ewe



NALVIN PARK

Reserve Champion Ewe



WESSWOOD



2011 AWSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING February 13-16, 2011 at Nuriootpa, in SA's beautiful Barossa Valley

Planning is finalised for the 2011 National White Suffolk Conference and AGM and registrations are being taken **NOW!**

We Look Forward To Your Company!

So...have a well earned break and learn more about the advances in the sheep industry whilst spending quality time getting to know other White Suffolk Breeders from all over Australia.

Book Early And Save!

An Early Bird discount is available for those registering before Friday, 17th December 2010. See your registration form for details.

Accommodation Reminder

Members need to organise their own accommodation. The Barossa Valley Tourist Park is highly recommended and has a good range of cabins next to the Nuriootpa sports and function centre (venue) These cabins are on hold for us until early January but it is advisable to book sooner rather than later. Motel accommodation is also available within a 10 minute walking distance at Vine Inn and Vine Court.

More information can be found on these websites:

www.barossatouristpark.com.au

cabins, powered & unpowered sites Ph: 08 8562 1404

www.vineinn.com.au

Vine Inn (3^{1/2} star) & Vine Court (4 star) motel accommodation Ph 08 8562 2133

Any Other Queries?

Don't hesitate to contact Mark Grossman (chairman of the organising committee) Ph: 08 8565 3232
or Nikki Ward in the office Ph: 08 8210 5231 with any concerns.



Nuriootpa Sports and Function Centre



Royal Adelaide Show

2010 Show Results

JUDGE: DALE MOORE

Ram under 1^{1/2} yrs. April drop

- 1 917 S & R L & G J Funke
- 2 921 WH & PJ Holmes
- 3 927 Wheetelände
- 4 923 RV Piggott & Son
- 5 925 CV & DC Shillabeer

Ram under 1^{1/2} yrs. May drop

- 1 946 Kurralea
- 2 930 P O & J A Button
- 3 951 RV Piggott & Son
- 4 945 WH & PJ Holmes
- 5 958 Wheetelände
- 6 944 WH & PJ Holmes

Ram, under 1^{1/2} yrs. June drop

- 1 967 Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
- 2 984 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 3 985 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 4 972 Glenarbian
- 5 969 D S & C J Ferguson & Sons
- 6 966 AE Day & Sons

Pen of Two Rams. April/June

- 1 1012 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 2 1004 Glenarbian
- 3 1001 S & R L & G J Funke
- 4 1002 Gemini White Suffolk Stud
- 5 995 P O & J A Button
- 6 1010 RV Piggott & Son

Senior Champion Ram

BUNDARA DOWNS

Reserve

KURRALEA

Ram, under 1^{1/2} yrs. July drop

- 1 1015 Anden White Suffolk Stud
- 2 1032 LH & KL McCrae
- 3 1029 G D & G B Huxtable & Sons
- 4 1026 Gemini White Suffolk Stud
- 5 1049 JA & JR Wiesner
- 6 1037 D I & S Mitchell

Ram under 1^{1/2} yrs. Aug drop

- 1 1069 D I & S Mitchell
- 2 1082 Wattle Park
- 3 1075 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 4 1065 LH & KL McCrae
- 5 1052 Aylesbury Farm
- 6 1076 Spring Valley White Suffolks

Pen of Two Rams. July/Sept

- 1 1092 D I & S Mitchell
- 2 1090 LH & KL McCrae
- 3 1098 Wattle Park
- 4 1096 Spring Valley White Suffolks
- 5 1089 G D & G B Huxtable & Sons

Ram Lamb.

- 1 1115 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 2 1101 D S & C J Ferguson & Sons
- 3 1112 RV Piggott & Son
- 4 1120 Windy Hill
- 5 1105 Grossman Family Koonawarra

Junior Champion Ram

ANDEN

Reserve

SOMERSET

GRAND CHAMPION
RAM

ANDEN

Lamb Production Class.

- 1 1131 RV Piggott & Son
- 2 1124 S & R L & G J Funke
- 3 1128 LH & KL McCrae
- 4 1121 Days Whiteface Pty Ltd
- 5 1125 S & R L & G J Funke

Ram Lamb Performance Class

- 1 1141 RV Piggott & Son
- 2 1143 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 3 1133 P O & J A Button

Ewe ovr 1^{1/2} with lamb at foot.

- 1 1149 RV Piggott & Son
- 2 1148 G D & G B Huxtable & Sons
- 3 1152 Windy Hill

Ewe under 1^{1/2} yrs. Apr/May

- 1 1168 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 2 1169 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 3 1161 WH & PJ Holmes
- 4 1170 Wagin WA
- 5 1166 RV Piggott & Son
- 6 1159 Grossman Family Koonawarra

Ewe under 1^{1/2} yrs. June/July

- 1 1191 RV Piggott & Son
- 2 1185 Grossman Family Koonawarra
- 3 1193 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 4 1182 Gemini White Suffolk Stud
- 5 1183 Gemini White Suffolk Stud
- 6 1201 JA & JR Wiesner

Ewe undr 1^{1/2} yrs Born aftr Aug

- 1 1214 D I & S Mitchell
- 2 1216 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 3 1218 Wattle Park
- 4 1208 Grossman Family Koonawarra
- 5 1217 Wattle Park

Pen of 2 Ewes under 1^{1/2} yrs

- 1 1227 RV Piggott & Son
- 2 1228 Wattle Park
- 3 1223 Glenarbian
- 4 1224 Grossman Family Koonawarra

Ewe Lamb

- 1 1240 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 2 1231 D S & C J Ferguson & Sons
- 3 1238 RV Piggott & Son
- 4 1239 CV & DC Shillabeer

Ewe Lamb Performance Class.

- 1 1249 RV Piggott & Son
- 2 1252 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 3 1251 CV & DC Shillabeer

Champion Ewe

ILLOURA

Reserve

RENE

Breeders' Group

- 1 1264 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 2 1263 RV Piggott & Son
- 3 1262 D I & S Mitchell
- 4 1266 Wattle Park
- 5 1258 Glenarbian
- 6 1261 LH & KL McCrae

Sire's Progeny Group.

- 1 1277 S & R L & G J Funke
- 2 1288 CV & DC Shillabeer
- 3 1289 Wattle Park
- 4 1284 LH & KL McCrae
- 5 1281 WH & PJ Holmes
- 6 1279 Glenarbian

**MOST SUCCESSFUL
EXHIBITOR**

WINGAMIN

SUPREME EXHIBIT

ILLOURA

Champion Ewe



ILLOURA

Senior Champion Ram



BUNDARA DOWNS

Grand Champion Ram



ANDEN

Reserve Champion Ewe



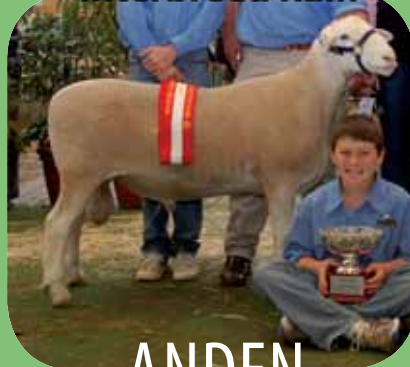
RENE

Winning Group



WINGAMIN

**Supreme Champion
Interbreed Ram**



ANDEN

**Supreme Interbreed
Group**



ILLOURA

November 2010

Purchasing a Stud Sire

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The purchase of a stud sire is always an exciting, albeit nervous, time and often the first consideration is the potential cost. Depending on where you intend to purchase the sire, you will have already arrived at a figure that is the likely expected cost of your selected sire. This figure should take into account the stud's reputation, the past

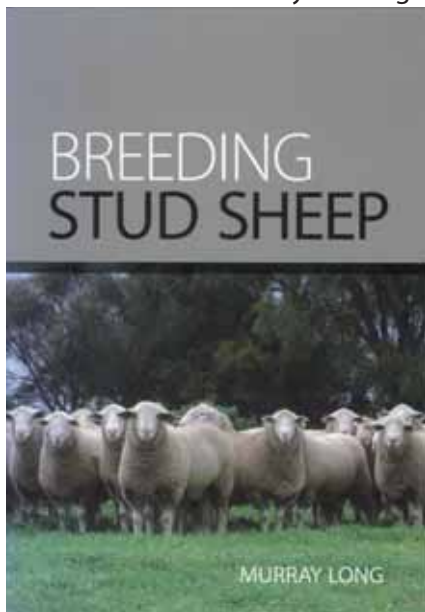
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MOST EXPERIENCED BREEDERS PUT A LIMIT ON A PARTICULAR SIRE BASED ON A VARIETY OF CRITERIA

”

record and profile of the ram in question and just where you are buying the ram. Unless you are lucky, your estimation of the cost of the particular sire will be more than likely exceeded. What is the upper limit on cost and how do you justify the cost of a particular sire?

Many top breeders would answer this question by saying that if the sire is the one they want, then they will not stop regardless of cost; however, get two top breeders with that same attitude and you can guess what happens next.



Most experienced breeders, however, will put a limit on a particular sire based on a variety of criteria. The problem is that at major sales, new stud breeders are often selecting as their top choices the same sires that established studs are choosing and, while this is pleasing from the point of knowing that you are selecting the right sires, it

becomes disappointing when you are left behind once bidding commences.

There are sires that bring top money at auctions and there are those that make average or below, so just how do we justify the money required to purchase a good sire? Unfortunately there is no right or wrong answer. What suits one stud may not suit another and the difficulty is justifying just how much to pay for the sire that suits your stud breeding objectives. If you have decided to buy at auction and not private negotiation, you should have

- FROM MURRAY LONG'S 'BREEDING STUD SHEEP' - AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

selected more than one sire of interest and a decision must be made beforehand as to what each sire you have selected is worth to you. If the sire in question has all that you are looking for, then you should make some serious efforts to justify the purchase of that particular sire. Quick

calculations on the cost per lamb over a set number of years are helpful, but if progeny from your second choice sire that may cost you \$15 less per lamb are not what you will be happy with, then you have wasted whatever money you paid. Within certain constraints, if you like a sire for a lot of reasons, make sure you do not walk away from the sale wishing you had just been prepared to pay a little more, or alternatively, have another sire in reserve that is just as good. In all the excitement and panic of a sale, it is important to remember that the ram you are intending to purchase must take your stud forward – don't just make a spur of the moment purchase of any ram because you did not succeed in acquiring the sire you preferred.

You are better off walking away without a sire than purchasing one that will not take you forward or worse may even take you backwards. The long-term cost of not making consistent genetic gains is far greater than a few extra dollars paid for a sire that could advance your stud to the next level. It all comes back to assessing what you have within your own stud before making the decision to source rams from another stud. However, most of us have financial limits and if you cannot secure the sire you had selected, there are other alternatives. More than likely the purchaser of 'your' ram will be happy to sell semen so you can still use the genetics you liked over selected ewes within your flock.

Chances are you will breed a young stud sire that may be even better than the sire you missed out on, and you will have saved yourself quite a few dollars.

“

SEMEN COLLECTED CAN BE STORED IN LIQUID NITROGEN AT A BREEDING CENTRE INDEFINITELY.

”

Let's now assume you managed to outbid all others and acquire the sire that you had selected and, regardless of the cost, you now have the genetics that you are confident will boost the genetic gain within your stud. There is the possibility that, depending on the sire, other breeders may wish to purchase semen, a decision that is entirely up to you. Whether you market semen from the sire or not, it is good practice to collect semen anyway, not a lot, but just enough to ensure that if the sire has an accident or dies, you still have the genetics that you have so



eagerly wanted. It is good insurance to always have some semen collected and stored from rams that you consider worthwhile; you can always throw it out if not required. If the sire you have purchased turns out to be something special and you decide to market semen, you may even cover the cost of your purchase, however the real benefit of this sire will be the influence he will have within your stud.

“

SEMEN QUALITY IS USUALLY BETTER
AND IT IS EASIER FOR THE RAMS WHEN
TEMPERATURES ARE COOLER.

”

Semen collected from sires you have purchased or your own sires can be stored in liquid nitrogen at a breeding centre indefinitely. The cost of collection and storage is minimal compared to the potential benefits that can be gained by having semen stored. If you have purchased a ram that was prepared for showing prior to being sold, you can often have problems collecting viable semen of a sufficient quality to freeze successfully. This does not

mean that the ram will not work in the paddock; all that is required is time for the ram to 'clean out' and eventually the quality will improve. The influence of high energy and protein feeds, while essential for show preparation, is not ideal for good quality semen production. The simple fact that rams at shows often spend extended periods in warm sheds, sitting on straw most of the day, tends to overheat the testes and consequently reduce semen quality.

The ideal time to collect semen is before the hotter weather begins and this usually coincides with the season when rams are not required to serve ewes. Semen quality is usually better and it is easier for the rams when temperatures are cooler. Overfed rams will also produce lower quality semen so it is never a good idea to have your stud rams, or any rams, too heavy. The collection of semen is very good practice and will ensure that you are never left wondering what that young sire that died unexpectedly could have done for your stud.

Breeding Stud Sheep

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Published by Landlinks Press

Available for purchase from Secretariat.



Royal Adelaide Show 2010



GRAZING MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Grazing management involves complex interactions between plants, soil and livestock. A basic knowledge of pasture composition (What plants are there?), production (How much is there?) and the effects of livestock grazing (What is the impact of livestock on pasture and what is the effect of pasture on livestock?) are needed to understand how different grazing systems work. Grazing management can be used to manipulate animal performance, pasture composition, soil health and NRM outcomes to varying degrees, depending on the intensity and frequency of grazing. The flexibility in grazing management increases as the number of paddocks per mob increases. The timing of the grazing and rest periods is important.

Grazing management should not be a rigid time-based system, rather livestock movement should target particular management issues (e.g. annual weed control, seed set of desirable species or animal requirements) and can be combined with other management strategies (e.g. herbicides) to sustain the pasture base. Grazing management principles outlined below are often referred to as strategic grazing. Each management action is designed to have a specific response rather than letting time based movements randomly affect the pastures and animal performance.

MEETING ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS AND MANIPULATING PASTURE QUALITY

Grazing management can be used to manipulate the quantity and quality of available herbage mass for grazing animals.

Intake (i.e. the amount of pasture animals are able to consume per day) is one of the most important factors that affect livestock production. Once Feed On Offer (FOO) or herbage mass falls below a certain level, animals are unable to consume enough to meet their requirements. Intake for sheep is severely limited when FOO is below 800 kg DM/ha and for cattle below 1200 kg DM/ha. Below these thresholds, pastures are short and it is height which limits intake. Pasture type can affect FOO benchmarks required, for example, native pastures may have lower FOO benchmarks overall if they have large leafy tussocks that are of an adequate height so intake is not limited, but there are large areas of bare ground in-between.

Pasture quality is influenced by digestibility and the proportion of legumes in the pasture. Digestibility is the proportion of the forage consumed which is used by the

animal for its nutritional requirements. The higher the digestibility, the more benefit the animal gets from the forage. When digestibility is high, the feed consumed moves quickly through the rumen and intake is greater. Digestibility is influenced by the species present and the stage of plant growth. As plants mature, from actively growing shoots to fully developed plants with seedheads and again further to dry standing feed, they decrease in quality. Legumes are important because they have higher digestibility and protein than grasses and livestock can have a greater intake for the same level of FOO or herbage mass.

If animal requirements are high (e.g. lambing ewes, or growing lambs) then pastures with higher digestibility and FOO are required for optimal production. For instance, dry sheep require a minimum FOO of 600 kg DM/ha at 68% digestibility whereas a twin bearing lactating ewe requires 1500 kg DM/ha at 75% digestibility.

Grazing management can be used to move animals to new paddocks before pasture drops below critical benchmarks and quality declines. Rested pastures should have higher levels of green leaf and legume which improves the quality, making it suitable for animals with higher requirements. If paddocks are locked up for too long then pasture becomes rank and quality declines. Through dry periods rotational grazing can be used to ration green and dry feed, improve utilisation and reduce wastage provided the quality of dry feed is not too low (e.g. dry redgrass is of little value through winter).

Animals show strong preference for certain plants, but this selectivity decreases as stocking density increases. Animals can be forced to eat lower quality forage and if these animals have low requirements (e.g. wethers or dry cows) then production may not significantly decrease. This means animals with low requirements can be used to consume rank feed. After a rest period, regrowth of higher quality pasture will be available for livestock with higher requirements, provided soil moisture is adequate for growth.

Grazing management can also be used to manage animal health problems. Animals may be introduced to fresh pastures with a lower worm burden after drenching; sheep can be introduced to pastures previously grazed by cattle because the larva does not cross between species. In contrast, high stocking densities may facilitate the spread of some diseases between animals (e.g. footrot and OJD).

Other production efficiencies can be gained from the



“

NOTE:

THE EVERGRAZE WEBSITE HAS MANY LOCATION SPECIFIC FACT SHEETS AND RESOURCES FOR GRAZING SHEEP IN YOUR AREA.

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manner in which different animal classes graze. For example, sheep and cattle may be grazed together. Cattle cannot graze pasture as low as sheep. Sheep are more selective avoiding tall rank areas or undesirable species. Sheep select a higher quality diet than cattle do.

For more information on Grazing and Pasture Management in your local area see:

- The Evergraze website

www.evergraze.com.au

- Prograze program

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/profarm/courses/prograze

- CSIRO Grazfeed program

www.grazplan.csiro.au

Download the Evergraze calculators by going to www.evergraze.com.au/tools.htm

EverGraze Tools & Calculators

The following tools and calculators are to assist you to make informed decisions for your enterprise.

EVERGRAZE FEED BUDGET AND ROTATION PLANNER

A new calculator developed by EverGraze to help you to plan your rotational grazing systems, determine appropriate stocking rates, calculate your pasture growth rates, determine how long your paddocks will last and calculate the most economical ration for your stock. This is a trial version of the tool and we would like your feedback if you find any discrepancies whilst using the tool. Please contact Kate Sargeant kate.sargeant@dpi.vic.gov.au

You may need to lower the security settings on your excel to make the macros work. If you are unsure how to do this, type “enable macros” into the help menu.

EVERGRAZE PASTURE IMPROVEMENT CALCULATOR

A new calculator to help work out the costs and benefits of resowing pastures has been developed by EverGraze. Called the “Pasture improvement calculator”, the tool allows inputs of costs of resowing, the benefits of the resown pastures to livestock, soils and the environment at any given financial values (ie different interest rates, tax rates, gross margins etc). The tool uses Microsoft Excel and allows comparison of two different resowing options compared to current practice.



Melbourne Royal Show

2010 Show Results

RAM over 1^{1/2} yrs

- 1. Yanco Agricultural High School

RAM under 1^{1/2} yrs June/Jul

- 1. R & L Collins:
- 2. Yanco Agricultural High School
- 3. Yanco Agricultural High School

RAM under 1^{1/2} yrs born Aug

- 1. R A & S A Keen:
- 2. R & L Collins:
- 3. Yanco Agricultural High School:

Pen of 2 Rams under 1^{1/2}, July

- 1. St Pauls College:

RAM LAMB after 1 April drop

- 1. R & L Collins:

LAMB PRODUCTION CLASS, TWO RAMS UNDER 1^{1/2}

- 1. St Pauls College:

EWE, over 1^{1/2} yrs, lamb at foot

- 1. R & L Collins:

EWE under 1^{1/2} yrs June/July

- 1. R & L Collins:
- 2. Yanco Agricultural High School:
- 3. St Pauls College:

EWE undr 1^{1/2} aftr 1 Aug drop

- 1. Yanco Agricultural High School:
- 2. R & L Collins:

PEN OF TWO EWES under 1^{1/2}

- 1. St Pauls College:

EWE LAMB, after 1 April drop

- 1. R & L Collins:

BREEDERS GROUP OF 1 RAM AND 2 EWES under 1^{1/2} yrs, animals to be drawn from

- 1. R & L Collins:
- 2. St Pauls College:

SIRE'S PROGENY GROUP, 3 sheep, under 1^{1/2} yrs, to be sired by one nominated sire.

- 1. R & L Collins:
- 2. St Pauls College

Champion Ram

SPRINGVALLEY

Reserve

MERRIBROOK

Champion Ewe

MERRIBROOK

Reserve

MERRIBROOK

Supreme Champion White Suffolk Exhibit



SPRING VALLEY

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR

MERRIBROOK



Royal Adelaide Show 2010 - Ian Pfeiffer and Allan Piggott talk about Lamb with Poh Ling Yeow from 'Poh's Kitchen' (SBS TV) Poh was the well known runner up on MasterChef 2009.



Royal Flying Doctor Service

The furthest corner. The finest care.

Every day in many ways the Royal Flying Doctor Service takes the finest care to Australia's furthest corners so that anyone who lives, works or travels in remote and rural Australia can enjoy the best of health.

For the last 8 years Bundara Downs has donated the proceeds of Lot 19 to the Royal

“

THROUGH THIS YEARS
DONATION, WE PASSED THE
\$10000 MARK TO TOTAL
\$10950 BEING DONATED.

”

**BUNDARA
DOWNS**

Flying Doctor Service. Through this years donation, we passed the \$10000 mark to total \$10950 being donated.

This year the ram (Lot 19), was purchased by David, Peter & Josh Will of Bangham for \$1600.

We consider this a vital service to the rural community as both our family and our clients have used this service.

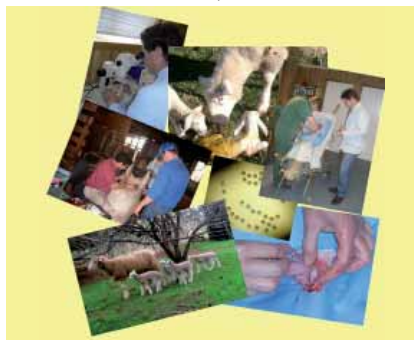


Artificial Breeding Techniques

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING TECHNIQUES

IMPROVING YOUR SUCCESS RATE

Proceedings from a forum held at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Australian White Suffolk Association Inc.
Albury NSW Australia
February 2009



An excerpt from document collated by Murray Long after the 2009 National Conference Forum

Download the complete document at http://www.whitesuffolk.com/documents/artificial_breeding_techniques.pdf

will tend to disrupt the group as they establish a new 'pecking order'.

Any measures that can reduce stress levels in the ewes will result in higher conception rates. This applies to all operations preceding and following AI. Ensure all management aspects such as crutching, drenching and ewe selection are carried out well in advance of the AI program. Once the sponges/CIDR's have been inserted, return the ewes to the same paddock preferably with the same feeding regime. Retain this practice for all subsequent procedures including sponge removal and the actual AI operation. When pulling sponges/CIDR's, allocate the ewes to their sires by marking them at this stage to avoid any further disruption than is necessary once the ewes begin to cycle. The use of dogs to work the ewes at any stage either side of the AI process should be avoided. Ewes should be returned to their paddock immediately following the AI procedure, even if the air temperature is high, as any movement the following day is likely to be more uncomfortable for the ewe and result in heightened risk of lower conception rates. Steer clear of any change to their feeding regime at this stage, or at any stage around the timing of your AI program, and if possible avoid disturbing the ewes for at least the first 2 weeks post AI. The introduction of the backup ram should be around 12 days following AI and the ram should be taken to the paddock, not by bringing the ewes to the yard and then returning them with the ram included. Losses of embryos following AI have been suspected when ewes are returned to the yards to introduce the backup ram.

GENERAL PREPARATION HINTS

For the purpose of this publication, all reference to AI relates to Laparoscopic AI, not cervical AI. Many of the hints contained below are also relevant to ET and the more technologically advanced artificial breeding techniques.

Artificial Insemination, as the most common form of artificial breeding conducted by most sheep breeders can also be the most variable and frustrating. Conception rates can vary the full scale, that is from 0% (unlikely to ever happen) to 100% (hallelujah) with average conception rates around 60-65%. What tends to work for one breeder doesn't for another so a degree of adjustment in technique for your specific conditions and management has to be made. Once you have it working in your favour, AI will become a very cost effective and important tool in your breeding program.

General consensus by breeders is that the ultimate success of your AI breeding program will be determined, not by how you organize the ewes immediately before and during the AI process, but as a result of a well thought-out plan and management months prior to the AI date. Factors such as ewe nutrition, stress of ewes and isolation from any ram influence all seem to have significant impacts on conception rates. Ensure that your AI program is well organized and all preparations are made well in advance as last minute adjustments produce some variable results.

Improved results have been gained by drafting the ewes you intend to AI into a mob of their own, running them separately and well away from any ram influence, either through sight or smell, and keeping this mob as a group in the same paddock for the complete AI process. The introduction of additional ewes close to the AI date

Members reported isolated instances where shearing of ewes a few weeks prior to an AI program has seemingly increased, or not adversely affected, the success rate. There has long been a well supported theory that shearing of ewes increases the conception rates under natural mating regimes, but just how this relates to artificial breeding programs is not known. It has also been suggested that ewes who have recently had their lambs weaned are more likely to respond well to an AI program, it works with cattle so why not sheep. Both these examples tend to have a similar pattern where a stress related incident, followed by an AI program has reportedly given rise to improved conception rates, however it would seem these incidences have been the exception rather than the rule and perhaps their relative success should be kept in context and not become part of an established practice. At all times, avoid any unnecessary handling and stress on ewes around the timing of an AI program.



AI is a procedure where, if the ewe is cycling due to synchronisation, they will have effectively no choice but to be in lamb in the days following the operation. Success of the AI program will depend entirely on how many of these embryos actually 'stick' and are retained through the full term of the pregnancy. The most significant loss of embryos is likely to occur in the first 40 days following AI. It seems that the timing of what would be the 2nd cycle following AI is when many ewes will return to the backup ram if your AI program encounters any problems so the objective is to ensure all measures taken during the first 40 days post AI period are to avoid any excessive embryo 'slip'. If all has gone according to plan before AI, stress of the ewe, including heat stress, seems to be a major factor resulting in lower conception rates following the AI procedure. The placement of ewes in large paddocks where they are required to walk long distances for both feed and water should be avoided and must be a consideration in the forward planning of your AI program.

The timing of your AI program with consideration to the natural breeding season of the sheep breed you are working with will also have an effect on the level of success you gain from any AI program. Breeds that are seasonal breeders will give lower conception rates if 'forced' to cycle outside what would be a natural breeding time for that specific breed. It can be done with some success, but higher conceptions are achieved if the synchronization

and AI program is carried out within the time frame that coincides with their natural period of high fertility. Some breeders reported improved conception rates if the AI program is programmed following the autumn equinox, and as some domestic animals use changes in day length to regulate their breeding season, this would tend to make some sense in that this timing would coincide with their natural breeding season for many breeds.

Using ewes that have previously been successfully inseminated is an ideal way to increase success rates. The use of what may be considered good quality ewes that are reluctant or slow to conceive naturally is a recipe for failure and should be avoided. Maiden ewes and ewe lambs will produce some good results but those that fail to get in lamb to AI the first year should be used with caution in following years. The repeated use of AI on ewes generally seems to have no adverse effects on their ability to conceive.

There are isolated examples from breeders where not following what most would consider to be "best practice" for success has produced some very good and surprising results. However there are equally as many examples where not adhering to some simple rules has resulted in poor conception rates and generally speaking, the odds of success are better if breeders stick to what has worked for a majority of breeders over many years of trial and error.



What is an Acceptable Sheep Mouth?

Sheep must be structurally and reproductively sound to remain productive for many years in the flock. This includes having a sound mouth so they can eat well and maintain optimum nutrition.

When grazing, the sheep tears the grass off quickly by jerking its head as it holds the grass between the lower incisors and the upper dental pad. In a correct mouth, both the top and the bottom jaws are aligned so the incisor teeth are flush with the pad on the upper jaw.

Avoid animals with "undershot jaws" or "parrot mouths" (the lower jaw is too short and the incisors are posterior to the pad) and those with "overshot jaws" or "monkey mouths" (the lower jaw is too long and the incisors are anterior to the pad). The best way to observe for mouth soundness is to look at the sheep's mouth from the side.

A PERFECT mouth is easily recognizable as one that has an even, well-set jaw with teeth meeting a wide pad with a firm bite.

An ACCEPTABLE mouth is one where the jaw is properly set and the teeth touch the front of the pad even though they pass it.

It is UNACCEPTABLE if there is a distinct gap between teeth and pad. Also unacceptable is the other extreme where you have a short jaw and the teeth meet the roof of the mouth.

JAW

Jaw refers to the soundness of jaw structure, in particular the alignment of the lower jaw (& teeth) relative to the top jaw.

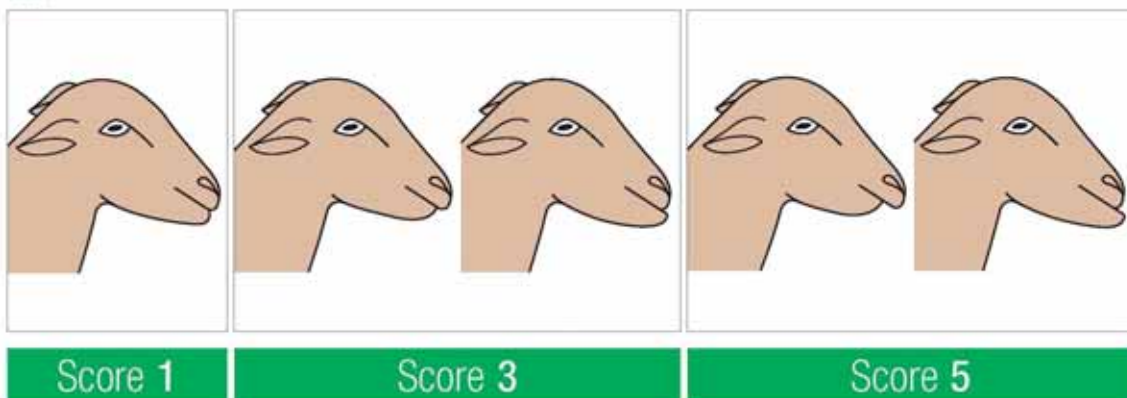
How to Score: A single score of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

When: Anytime, ideally at classing.

Age: Over 4 months.

Rule of thumb: The upper and lower jaws of a Score 1 animal line up squarely at the teeth i.e. teeth rest 'on the pad', whereas a Score 5 animal has either a heavily 'undershot' or heavily 'overshot' jaw.

Jaw



Score 1:

Very Good: upper and lower jaws line up squarely at the teeth i.e. teeth rest 'on the pad'.

Score 3:

Average: jaw is marginally 'undershot' or 'overshot'; lower jaw is slightly shorter or longer than the upper jaw.

Score 5:

Very Poor: heavily 'undershot' or 'overshot' jaw; lower jaw is significantly shorter or longer than the upper jaw.

Look at the mouth in profile and see that the lower jaw is not longer or shorter than the upper jaw or pad. (see image below.)

TEETH

The approximate age of a sheep can be determined by examining upper incisor teeth. At birth, lambs have eight baby (or milk) teeth or temporary incisors arranged on their lower jaw. They don't have any teeth on their top jaw, only a dental pad.

At approximately one year of age, the central pair of baby teeth is replaced by a pair of permanent incisors. At age 2, the second pair is replaced by permanent incisors. At 3 and 4 years, the third and fourth pairs of baby teeth are replaced.

At approximately four years of age, a sheep has a full mouth of teeth. As she ages past four, her incisor teeth will start to spread, wear, and eventually break. When she's lost some of her teeth, she's called a "broken mouth" ewe. When she's lost all her teeth, she's called a "gummer."

Big impact from a young breed

By **STEVE MILNE***

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Australian White Suffolk Association. In terms of breeding evolution, this makes the White Suffolk sheep breed still very young, yet it continues to achieve major industry recognition on a regular basis.

Based on any form of assessment, White Suffolks have grown as a breed, to become the equal of any prime lamb terminal sire breed in the country.

Many commercial breeders have also realised the value of the first-cross White Suffolk-sired ewe as an ideal prime lamb dam, and are now retaining a significant ewe portion for breeding.

Recently the AWSA has been proactive in encouraging breeders to take part in the Sheep CRC/MLA-sponsored Genomics Pilot Project – the beginnings of a genomics revolution within the sheep industry.

The information White Suffolk breeders and their commercial clients will garner from this project will far surpass that of any of its competitors, giving them a huge advantage in continuing to supply a top quality lamb product to both the domestic and export markets.

The progressive attitude of the White Suffolk breeders was highlighted at the association's recent annual conference at Ballarat.

At this conference a group of selected speakers from all facets of the lamb industry presented the latest breeding and management options to challenge fixed thinking and open doors to even more rapid progress.

The willingness of White Suffolk breeders to incorporate these types of ideas into their management and breeding programs is a major part of why the breed has achieved its success to date, and is likely to continue to gain further growth and market share.

This forward-thinking approach of White Suffolk breeders has also infiltrated the traditional show ring.

White Suffolk studs instigated the display of objective information on all show sheep

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– **STEVE MILNE,**
Australian White Suffolk
Association
president



at major shows, and the performance classes that combine traditional aspects of the show ring with modern genetic evaluation had their genesis in

the White Suffolk ring at Sheepvention.

This concept is now a feature at many major shows, and the Australian White Suffolk Association is proud to have led the way in introducing these classes.

The lamb industry is currently as buoyant as it has ever been, and for the foreseeable future the strong demand for lamb is set to continue.

At a time when the ewe base is so low, the industry needs sires that can improve the efficiency and performance of commercial production systems.

All the indicators are that the White Suffolk breed is well placed to supply lamb producers with genetics the equal, or better, of any of our competitors when it comes to growth, carcase and yield.

This points to the fact that the influence and market share of the White Suffolk breed within the Australian Prime Lamb industry will continue to grow.