

2010 Lachlan Merino Ram Sale Summary

The demand for quality Poll Merino genetics by stud and commercial Merino breeders continued last week as Lachlan Merino stud averaged \$2208, up \$470 from last year for the Rubie family, Forbes. Buyers were active throughout the sale, but it was the Pollies and sons of Big Joe 449 that attracted the most attention. In a lineup containing 39 Polls all but one of the draft of 71 rams sold, to \$8000, with the passed in lot being retained in the stud, as the reserve price was not met. The average weight of the first 20 rams sold was over 100kg. Stud Principal Glen Rubie addressed the crowd before the sale saying thanks to Big Joe 449, Lachlan genetics will be Australia wide next year, showing there is a strong market for productive sheep with wool and meat. I have been artificially inseminating sheep for more than 20 years; Big Joe 449 is the best ram I have ever used. With the comments still echoing in the buyer's ears Russell Jones, Darriwell Merino stud, Trundle secured lot 2 for the \$8000 sale top price. The 17.1-micron, August 09 drop, milk tooth son of Big Joe 449, weighed 99 kilograms and displayed figures of 14 CV, 2.4 SD, and 99.8 percent comfort factor. Mr Jones described the ram as a beautiful loose, rich skin sheep, which you don't often see on a Poll ram, he has a very soft pure face on a correct frame. The ram will be used as a stud sire in the Darriwell Poll stud.

Volume buyer was return client for six years, Mark and Carol Jones, whose purchases included the \$5600 second top price milk tooth ram (111kg, 18.7mic, 13.4CV, 2.5SD and 99.8CF), to average \$2481. Mr Jones said they run all pure Lachlan genetics; I like their size, constitution, nourishment and wool cut.

We are having good success with them, this year we won the Don Brown short wool ewe competition, he said. Other multiple buyers included Corona Pastoral Company, Condobolin, who averaged \$1571 for seven, while return clients the Taylor family, Caragabal secured five rams, averaging \$1400. Three Queensland buyers were also active during the sale, looking for rams to increase their wool cut and quality.

Grade rams have sold well after the sale, and some good quality grade rams are still available. The sale was conducted by Elders with Andy McGeoch the auctioneer.



Glen Rubie with Russell Jones, Darriwell Merino Stud, and Bevan Jolly, Elders