

Lachlan Merinos Ram Sale Summary 2012

A mix of new and repeat clients from a wide range of geographical regions cleared the entire 102 Poll and Horn merino rams, to average an affordable \$1962.

By offering 20 more rams in this year's line, opportunities presented themselves at both ends of the market, with rams selling to a high of \$5000, while just under half the draft cleared for \$1600 or less. This year's sale rams were the heaviest they have been averaging 100.2 kilograms at 12-13 months of age, with current short wool tests averaging 19.5 MIC, 15.4 CV, 2.9 SD and 99.4 CF. At the end of the sale the demand for Lachlan genetics continued with a further 30 grade rams being snapped up.

Producers were again treated to a hands-on demonstration to show the extra benefits of Lachlan Merinos' early growth rates, with 12-13-month-old sisters of the sale rams being shorn in front of the sale crowd. The best ewe lamb this year tested 17.9 micron, 2.5 SD, 14.5 CV, 99.7 CF and 77kg body weight, with a fleece of 10.5kg. All the ewe lambs were 70kg and above, with an average fleece weight of 9.1kg, with micron averaging 18.4.

Return client, Robert Green, Forbes, outlaid the \$5000 sale top for a 19.9 micron, poll son of Big Joe 449. Mr Green said he continues to use Lachlan rams as they are free growing sheep with good structure, frame and wool crimp.

Volume buyer and purchaser of the \$3200 top priced merino horn ram was Mark Jones, Condobolin, who averaged \$2711 for his draft of 18 young rams. Mr Jones, who runs a pure Lachlan blood flock, said he has had great success with Lachlan genetics. "Last year we won the Don Brown ewe competition; our ewes were the heaviest in the competition averaging 77kg at 14 months of age" Mr Jones said. "Our ewe's average wool cut was 8kg this year, with 9-month-old ewes cutting 7kg with a staple length of 95mm with the wether lambs weighing up to 80kg. Graham and Elizabeth, Alec town, paid to \$3400 for their two rams, with the family utilising Lachlan genetics for nine years with excellent results, having won the Parkes wether trial three years in a row. Multiple buyers included the Knight family, Grenfell, the Taylor family, Caragabal, and Forest View Farming, West Wyalong, who averaged \$1850, \$2750 and \$1600 for eight, four and six rams respectively. Other buyers included Roger and Karen Warren, Boorowa, who has not mulesed for five years and averaged \$1000 for his six rams. Mr Warren said this was the second year he had purchased at the Lachlan sale he was after plain sheep, with good breeches and a stylish wool staple. "The Lachlan progeny were standouts at lamb marking this year, after 10 inches of rain in February and March, the wool quality was not affected," he said. Weethalle producer, Des Mohr turned off sucker lambs through the Griffiths yards at six months of age and took home five new poll sires for his self replacing Merino flock, to average \$1160. "The Lachlan rams are a true dual-purpose sheep with plenty of meat. I join the best of my Merino flock to the Poll merino rams, while the culls are joined to White Suffolks," he said. Darryl Greenaway, Collarenebri purchased two Poll rams, including the \$4400 second top-priced Poll ram. Mr Greenaway, who joins 3000 Merino ewes, said he purchased his new rams for their length of body and wool characteristics.

The sale was conducted by Elders, with Andy McGeoch as the auctioneer.



Mark Green, Forbes with Glen Rubie, Mark and Brad Jones, Condobolin