

2015 Lachlan Merinos Ram Sale Summary

The Rubie family cleared all 120 Merino and Poll Merino rams on offer at their 10th annual on-property sale last Wednesday. Central West bidders were very supportive of the sale, held at "Meadow Bank", Warroo, pushing bidding to a high of \$8400. Rams averaged \$2390 across the sale, up by more than \$200 on last year's result, and sold to a gallery of 45 registered bidders from across NSW and Victoria. In the breakdown, 55 Merino rams sold to a top of \$7000 and average of \$1782 while 65 Poll Merino rams sold to a top of \$8400 and average of \$2905.

A 111-kilogram 13-month-old Poll Merino stole the show, selling for the top price to buyer Duncan Clowes, Milthorpe. Running on 16.1-micron wool at home, Mr Clowes said he was searching for good quality wool. "We want good quality wool but want to get a bit more growth rate and fertility in our sheep," he said. The ram measured 18.4-micron with a standard deviation (SD) of 2.9, co-efficient of variation (CV) of 16.2 and comfort factor of 99.6 per cent. The August/September 2014-drop ram was sired by a Kamora Park dual-purpose ram using artificial insemination (AI) and was out of one of the heaviest cutting ewes in the Lachlan Merino flock. The Kamora Park sire was the meat and fibre winner at both Adelaide and Bendigo shows in 2013. Mr Clowes also took home one of the two rams to reach the second highest price of the day at \$7000.

The Poll Merino ram measured a fibre diameter of 19.5-micron, SD of 3.2, CV of 16.8 and comfort factor of 99.2pc. It was sired by LM.77 which was the leading sire at the stud's 2013 sale, with 21 progeny sold for an average of \$2847.

LM.77 also has one of Australia's highest Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) for clean fleece weight (CFW).

Elders Deniliquin secured the second \$7000 money maker, this time for a horned ram. The May 2014-drop ram was by HO110 (Honda) whose sire sold for \$50,000. It was a 19.1-micron ram with a SD of 3.3, CV of 17.1 and comfort factor of 99.1pc.

Demand for rams was evident at the sale, with the final ram in the catalogue attracting spirited bidding. It was bought for \$6200 by the Taylor family, Caragabal.

Volume buyers of the day included Mark and Carol Jones, Condobolin who put together a draft of 16 rams.

The Jones family's draft averaged \$3050 and topped at \$6000. The Jones family have been buying rams from the Rubie's for more than 10 years and now runs a flock of 3000 Lachlan-blood ewes.

Boorowa buyer Roger Warren secured five Merino rams and two Poll Merino rams for an average of \$1629 for the seven rams.

Mr Warren has been buying Lachlan Merino sires for the last five years to pick up extra stretch, staple length and growth rates.

The Knight family, Grenfell put together a line of six rams for an average of \$2533 while the Taylor family, Caragabal paid an average of \$2667 for their draft of six rams.

West Wyalong's Phillip and John Lange took home four Merino rams for an average of \$1850 while the Harris family from Costerfield in Victoria took home the same number of rams for an average of \$1950.

The Rubie family also offered graded rams following the auction which was met with strong demand. "We sold over 30 rams after the auction as well," Mr Rubie said.

Mr Rubie said the stud's focus on growth rates and wool cut on lambs had attracted a lot of support from clients. People must never forget you sell wool and meat by the kg.

We shear 12-13-month-old ewe lambs, full sisters of the sale rams, on sale day each year, proving our fast growth rates on full grown animals still with lambs' teeth. Most valuable lambs fleece this year, 17.7mic, cut 10.9kg with \$103.55 on her back.

The sale was conducted by Elders and Landmark with Paul Jameson, Elders, Dubbo and John Settree, Landmark, Dubbo sharing auctioneering duties.



Landmark stud stock agent, Brad Wilson, Dubbo, Glen and Mitchell Rubie, Mr Clowes employee, Jake Walkom and auctioneer Paul Jameson, Elders, Dubbo