

2019 Ram Sale Summary

A marquee full of buyers looking for plenty of quality wool and plenty of meat, gathered at the Rubie family Forbes based property for their 14th annual ram sale for Lachlan Merinos. Maiden ewes, who are full sisters to the rams on offer, were shorn prior to the auction and displayed to show the high commercial value fleeces with the top fleece of 17.1 micron fetching \$148.35 and weighing 12.8 kilograms, sired by Lachlan 130, sold for \$18,000.

Of the 140 stud rams offered 134 cleared to a top of \$14,000 averaging \$3007.

Twenty-three grade rams were also sold after the auction to \$1000 averaging \$991.

Whilst not a stud record, the top priced ram, LM33 750 was an August 2018 drop lamb, son of Banavie 333 who carries a 19.6 micron fleece and a coefficient of variation (CV) of 14.8 percent and a comfort factor (CF) of 99.4 percent, and weighed 122.5kg. His sire Banavie 333, was sold for \$60,000 to WA.

John Humbert, Kedleston Park Poll Merinos, Calivil, Victoria who joins about 3000 ewes annually, purchased the ram after a long rally of bidding. He loved the rams dense, long stapled crimped wool and his sound structure. "Hopefully he will breed a bit of wool thickness and keep the wool on our sheep. "This is the first time we have been to this sale, but we have purchased semen previously. "I like the cuttability and growth rate of the Lachlan rams."

Volume purchasers, Mark, Brad and Carol Jones, north west of Condobolin, now join about 2300 rams annually on their 23,000 acre properties. The family has been coming to this auction since it started and they purchased 22 rams for a draft average of \$3750 and a top of \$5500 twice at this sale. Brad Jones said, "We selected the rams for nourishment, wool density, wool cut and frame."

Commercial purchasers from Western Australia who run over 20,000 ewes included Phil Corker, Boyupbrook who took home three rams. "We are after bone and structure, correctness. They are sirey types, "We look to early maturity, we want to grow out wether lambs, we want big growth rates with beautiful wool."

Paul Jameson, auctioneer for Elders Stud Stock believes the sale was a testament to the Rubie family and their breeding program, "There are a lot of big rich wooled rams, a real mix of meat, carcase and wool and a lot of productivity. "It was great to see such a large crowd on hand supporting what the stud is up to."

Brad Wilson, Landmark Stud Stock said it was an excellent result. "People are chasing body size, shape and wool cut which was in the draft today,

"Rams went to Victoria, all over New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.
"It was a really good day all around."

Having just completed the National Merino Challenge in Sydney with 160 students from around Australia taking part, Mitch Rubie placed second overall in the individual section and with his Charles Sturt University team taking the top honours for a tertiary team. He was very pleased with the sale. "There were a lot of familiar faces and a lot of new faces which is encouraging," he said. "The top priced ram was outstanding even from a lamb. At seven months he weighed 79 kilograms, his early growth rate and staple length is great. He is a top ram all around."

Stud co-principal Glen Rubie said, "it was great to see a lot of commercial breeders and studs again from a large range of climate areas and states. We continue to back up our breeding goals of breeding for quality with productivity, with most of these rams, only 12-13 months old, averaging 107kg. We shear sisters of the rams in front of the crowd, to highlight these breeding goals. This year, the ewe lambs averaged; 17.5 micron, cut 10.84kg, body weight of 71.1kg.

We still have rams available for private selection, and we expect purchases to continue for the next month or so.

The sale was conducted by Elders Stud Stock and Landmark Stud Stock with Paul Jameson and John Settree sharing the rostrum duties.