

## 2020 Ram Sale Summary

KEEN bidders looking to buy productive dual purpose, nourished, soft, bright white, well built rams were a highlight of the 15th annual on-property ram sale of the Rubie family's Lachlan Merinos stud based at Forbes. 140 rams were offered for a 100 percent clearance with a total sale average of \$4077. In the breakdown, 116 Poll Merinos sold to \$11500 to an average of \$4088 and 24 Merino rams sold to \$7,000 and averaged at \$4021, with another 36 grade rams selling straight after the sale from \$1,000.

The top priced ram, 16 month old polled ET bred son of the 2018 Dubbo champion March shorn ram, Willandra 18, Lachlan 190007 who carries a 21.1 micron fleece, Coefficient of variation (CV) of 15.2 percent and a comfort factor of 99.6 percent. His eye muscle depth (EMD) was 42.5 millimeters and fat depth of 6.0 millimeters. He was purchased by return buyers Gerald, Claudette and Lachlan Woodhouse from Myack Merinos, Tarcutta, who runs about 250 stud ewes and a commercial flock of approximately 2500 ewes. He was looking for a good dual purpose ram who had good structure with plenty of meat and wool. "This ram had a lot of frame and a really good eye muscle figures for dual purpose qualities, his wool is outstanding and he has a beautiful skin" Mr Woodhouse said. "He is structurally sound with a nice straight top-line and will help us put more frame on our sheep and also wool. "He was just shorn today and cut 9.9 kilograms of wool with six months of wool on him, it is beautiful free growing wool at 100mm.

Two rams reached the second top price of \$9000 and went to Glenburn farms, Tungamburn, Victoria and Morgan and Vickery, Hollbrook.

Volume buyers included the Ellis family, Panuaka with 22, the Jones family from Condobolin with 16 and Flick Estates, Cumnock also with a draft of 16. The Ellis family took home a draft of 22 with a top price of \$4000 three times for a draft average of \$3261.

Purchasing for the last five years, James Flick from Flick Estates picked up 16 rams, he was looking for meat attributes as well as the wool. His draft topped at \$4500 twice and averaged \$3734. "We like the heavier sheep with early maturity but not losing out on wool," Mr Flick said. "We have been trying to get a true dual purpose and focus on the meat, "The Lachlan Merinos have been perfect for us."

Commercial self replacing enterprise of a few thousand ewes joined annually, Brad Jones, Condobolin was looking for nourishment, needing to improve his ewes after the drought. His draft of 16 topped at \$6000 and averaged \$4313. "We are basically all Lachlan blood now, we have noticed the improved growth rate and body structure and we are cutting a lot more wool." Mr Jones said. "These rams are the full package."

Long time sale supporter and wool classer Alison Rutledge thought the sale had an amazing result. "In all the years I have been coming here I think this was the best line up of wools," Ms Rutledge said. "The most consistent line up of crimp, stylish beautiful soft wools.

Co-Principal of the stud, Glen Rubie was very happy with not only the sale but also happy with our clients' comments that we are receiving about production. "They are telling us that the meat and wool quantity and quality is very pleasing," Mr Rubie said. "The top priced ram was ET bred, his mother was fully grown at 12-months-old, we shored her at our sale two years ago, she cut 10.9 kg of phenomenal white wool, he is very much like her. "Not many people have seen this ram, due to Covid, there were a lot of positive comments, interest and views. He is a very modern sheep. "Our average was very strong, it was great to see support from studs and ram breeders and commercial buyers. "Productivity is what everyone wants. Carcase and wool cut are important. "Most of our rams are paddock run, our rams averaged 103 kilograms, majority still lambs. "Some sheep in the industry take three years to mature, some don't get growth but most of these rams are fully grown."

To back up our breeding goals each year, we shear 12-13 month old full sisters of the of the rams in front of the crowd. **This years top ewe lamb, at 12 months of age, weighed 74kg, cutting 10.8kg of 17.5 mic wool, which was valued at \$92.98, Jemalong Wool, Forbes.**

The sale was conducted by Nutrien and Elders with John Setttee, Nutrien and Paul Jameson, Elders sharing the rostrum duties.

