



RIDGWAY

Poll Merino Stud

Ric, Gail, Matthew & Rachel Ridgway

Welcome

Newsletter
Number 15
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One prediction that is most certainly correct more often than not is, "The weather will be unpredictable!" That is the scenario that has presented itself this year with wide variations throughout the state and country, with some areas experiencing a great year so far, while others, including some with normally very reliable rainfall virtually missing out completely to date. At Ridgway we were fortunate to receive 50 to 75mm of rain over all our property in mid-April. Like many areas, 10 frosts in early June slowed things down and June has been the driest on record. Consequently the feed is now struggling, but we are luckier than those in many other areas.

As with all our newsletters, we aim to keep you up to date with what is happening at Ridgway with our sheep and breeding programs so that you can inspect and purchase come sale time with much more confidence.

Speaking of breeding programs, moving on from last year's front page on the newsletter where we had a photo of the family after the 2015 sale, our family has grown again with two more granddaughters added into the mix; Indi for Matt and Rachel and Bridie for Josh and Catherine.

From our family last year to our 'wider family'; you our valued clients, this shot is from last year's annual sale. We thank everyone for their support that produced a record result (report included at end of newsletter).



Ridgway Poll Merino Stud

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Ram Sale

This is the most important date on our sheep calendar each year. Our 2017 annual on-property ram sale will be on Monday 14th August at 1pm with inspections from 10:30am.

We have a very good quality team of 160 rams catalogued for this sale, while other rams selected for the Classings Classic and Adelaide Ram Sale will be penned for inspection. A pen of 5 rams will be offered at the Hamilton Sheepvention the week before our sale.

We are exceptionally pleased with their wool figures.

The averages for the 220 sale rams are

Mic 18.9, SD 2.8, CV 14.6, CF 99.8

They are predominately sired by our own homebred rams, with Ridgway 721 and 985 the most prominent. More about 721 shortly but 985 is very interesting. Those who attended our 2015 ram sale may remember him. Being a late drop ram he was catalogued at Lot 43 and was purchased by our neighbours McPiggery for \$4000.



He had magnificent 18 micron wool with 100 % comfort factor. We were unsure whether we should have kept him at the time, but we have been able to use him in our last two AI programs.

He is consistently producing sheep that are deep and square bodied with correct conformation and white, bold crimping wools.

Sons of a Willera ram we purchased at the Hamilton Sheepvention in 2015 are also impressive; his progeny also being square bodied and well covered with very long stapled and bulky fleeces.

Sire Evaluation Trials

We have entered our sire mentioned earlier, Ridgway 721, in both the Elders Balmoral Sire Evaluation Trial and the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial at Keyneton.



Ridgway 721 was sold at the 2015 Classings Classic to the Schroeder family, Gunallo stud and has performed very well for them, being sire of many of their top sheep. He has also performed exceptionally well for us in our AI programs.

These trials are two of ten now running around the country linked to the national Central Test Sire Evaluation (CTSE) data with two link sires in all ten trials.

They provide the opportunity for objective comparisons to be made from different studs by evaluating their progeny on the same property at the same time. The trials have the objective of evaluating and identifying leading sires best suited to each environment with results published in the Merino Superior Sires report.

We are confident R721 will do well in these trials, with the independent trial data like this invaluable as a guideline for our planning of future breeding programs.

The Wool Market

We continue to be more and more convinced of the increased profitability and management advantages of prem shearings. Because of the extra staple length that our sheep are now producing on their supple free skins we are able to meet market specifications at 5 to 7 months wool growth. Below is the wool sale results of the spring/summer clip from our hoggets which were shorn in March. Lot 1463 is from our rams/wethers shorn at 5 1/2 months and lot 1464 from our ewe hoggets with nearly 6 months growth. Note; the exceptional "clean" prices received.

| Lot Ref | Description | No of Bales | Net Wgt | Clean Wgt | Fibre Diameter | | | | VM | SCH DRY | Staple | | | | Position of Break | | | AWEX ID | Grwr Rsv | Curr Appr | | Sale Price | | Gross Proceeds |
|---------|-------------|-------------|---------|-----------|----------------|------|------|-----|-----|---------|--------|-----|-----|------|-------------------|-----|-----|---------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|----------------|
| | | | | | Mic | CV% | COM | CUR | | | Lgth | CV% | STR | Haut | CVH% | Tip | Mid | | | Base | Greasy | Clean | Greasy | |
| 1463 | AAAM | 7 | 1349 | 765 | 17.2 | 18.0 | 99.7 | 56 | 2.4 | 56.7 | 63 | 15 | 44 | 62 | 39.5 | 6 | 63 | 31 | MWF5S. | 1125 | 1984 | 1175 | 2072 | 15850 |
| 1464 | AAAM | 9 | 1538 | 972 | 17.2 | 19.2 | 99.6 | 54 | 1.2 | 63.2 | 66 | 14 | 38 | 57 | 47.3 | | | | MWF5S. | 1240 | 1962 | 1351 | 2138 | 20778 |

| KANGAROO ISLAND | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|----|------|------|------|--|--|--|--|
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1409 | 8 | 18.8 | 71.8 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1400 | 5 | 18.4 | 88.0 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1371 | 14 | 18.2 | 88.6 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1341 | 7 | 18.5 | 89.1 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1311 | 8 | 18.2 | 72.5 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1270 | 12 | 19.4 | 72.1 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1246 | 12 | 19.6 | 73.6 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1189 | 13 | 20.0 | 74.2 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1112 | 9 | 20.6 | 73.0 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1110 | 11 | 18.1 | 60.7 | MPCS | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1105 | 11 | 18.3 | 61.6 | MPCS | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1070 | 10 | 20.9 | 71.8 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 1047 | 8 | 20.7 | 70.5 | AAAM | | | | |
| GREGOR FARMING TRUST | 901 | 10 | 19.3 | 58.0 | MBLS | | | | |

We have always focussed on wool quality and it is particularly pleasing when we see many of our clients achieving outstanding sale results. One of note is long-time client, Gregor Farming Trust on Kangaroo Island. This shows the sale results of their 138 bale offering as reported in the March 16th Stock Journal. With the majority of wools in this sale making 800/900 cents/kg it is clear that the Gregors are being rewarded for producing a high quality fibre. We welcome feedback from all clients on your sale achievements, be it wool or stock sales and are always willing to offer advice on improving your flock and its profitability.

Endorsement

AWN agent Kelvin Shelley has been very important in bringing Victorian clients to our ram sale. He provides the following endorsement and industry observations.

Merino returns hit major high

Welcome everyone to our latest edition of the Ridgway newsletter. Wow, what an amazing 6 months we have seen and hopefully for everyone involved in our great industry you have all had a chance to see some really good returns over this period.

Merino wool has been at the top of the buyers list this year and it's been a great turn around to see the overseas companies in China, Europe, Japan and India, just to mention a few, fighting so hard to acquire the fabulous fibre that we produce here in Australia.

Auctioneering in Melbourne each week for AWN gives me a great insight into the market by knowing who is buying every day. This knowledge and information really helps to improve our direct to mill opportunities overseas which in recent times has expanded significantly.

I have now been with AWN for 11 years and have been involved in some pretty good markets but not sustained like the last 6 months. There have been a few fluctuations but the market has always returned to that higher point we are all seeking.

Since December we saw some strong support for all types of merino wools and it has really continued to gain momentum throughout the year. The 21 micron indicator peaked at 1580 cents clean and while writing this article, I believe it will most likely close for the mid-year break at around the 1500 cent clean mark. There have been some great levels achieved for forward selling your clip into spring and beyond as well.

Ram Selling

We have come to that time of year again with the ram selling season about to begin. It's great for the industry to have the wool market and livestock markets both at fantastic levels leading into this period.

Ram sales will be good again this year as many will strive to purchase the best genetics to extract that extra kilogram of wool or that extra length of frame and loin chop to take advantage of these current markets.

I have had some great results over the last couple of years with the Ridgway rams and hope that you too are receiving the same results. Our premature shearing programs have proven to be extremely profitable using the Ridgway genetics. Coupled with good seasons and the added bonus from AWN's DNA program (which is well suited for prem shearing) has all made for a good decision to head down the prem shearing path.

AWN's DNA (Direct Network Advantage) program continues to deliver extremely good results with wool being purchased for our Carrum Downs factory to produce the highest quality Australian merino and New Zealand eco fur garments. Feel free to contact me regarding this further or to arrange an information session for your area so you too can join the DNA club!

I look forward to catching up with you all at the Ridgway ram sale this year and if you need anything beforehand please feel free to call me.

Kind regards

*Kelvin Shelley
State Manager Victoria/Auctioneer
0427055622*



Last year's sales

Classings Classic

Those who received last year's newsletter may remember we highlighted Ridgway 451ET. This ram ended up leading our sale team for this sale which was part of the World Merino Insight.

R451 then sold for \$14,500 to the Woolford family, Karawatha Park stud on Eyre Peninsula. This was the sale's second top price.



This is R451 after the Classings Classic with Ric, Gail, Bert Woolford and Landmark's Gordon Wood and the second image is his impressive wool. A full ET brother also topped our earlier on-property sale (see report).

Overall we sold 10 rams at the Classings Classic, these averaging \$4950. We thank all who inspected and bid on that sale team, especially the Woolford family, plus the Johnson family, Mt Boothby Trust, Tintinara who purchased three of them at a \$3167 average, having also purchased seven at our on-property sale.

The following is an abbreviated report on our sale that appeared in the print media.

Ridgway's passion rewarded with lift in records

The Ridgway family's passion for outstanding wools with long stapled, white, crimped wool on a big dual purpose body was clearly evident through their wonderful offering at Kulkami. They offered 128 Poll Merinos in the main auction, plus a further 33 in the mini auction.

With 47 registered bidders from three states actively competing for this offering, 10 more rams sold than last year; the quality was well rewarded with a 96% clearance; and the average price also increased by 11%. 123 cleared in the main auction to a top of \$4600 and averaged an impressive

\$1737, then 14 mini auction rams also cleared to \$750. The total sales of 137 averaged \$1627.

While the top price was down \$400 on Ridgway on-property sale record of \$5000, the main auction average increased by \$167, mainly on the back of increased confidence in the industry, the improved seasonal outlook, and the very solid middle ground bidding that resulted.

Duane Simon, McPiggery and buying through Landmark Lameroo sustained strong bidding competition before placing the winning \$4600 bid on lot 1, Ridgway 643. This very impressive ET born ram had outstanding wool figures of 17.1 mic, 2.3 SD, 13.9 CV, 100 CF and a Yearling Clean Fleece Weight of +23, while it was also positive for fat and muscle and had Yearling Weight EBV of +8.3, with a Merino Production index of 160 resulting.



Pictured with the \$4600 top priced ram at the Ridgway sale are Landmark auctioneers Gordon Wood (left) and Richard Miller (right), Ridgway principals Ric (holding ram) and Matt Ridgway (2nd right) and purchaser Duane Simon, McPiggery, Lameroo (centre).

Two full ET brothers of Lot 1 were penned at lots 2 and 5. Lot 2 sold for \$3400 to Dopen Pty Ltd, through Landmark Mt Pleasant. Lot 5, Ridgway 670 was ultimately the sale's second top priced ram when it sold for \$4400 to WF Ryan Pastoral, through Elders Hay.

Also buying through Elders Hay, NSW was Doug Comb. He purchased lot 3, Ridgway R508 for \$4200 (the 3rd top price) and later added another at \$2800.

The only other ram to make \$4000 was R602. With the highest clean fleece weight EBV in the catalogue of +27, it was purchased mid catalogue by Narilla Pty Ltd, Milang. They also invested in two other top rams for \$2800 and \$3000 and averaged \$3267 for their 3 top purchases.

Three repeat buyers with 10 rams each, played a huge part in the overall result. Lynton Barrett through Quality Livestock, Lameroo paid to \$2000 and averaged \$1590; Rob and Sharon McCarthy, Yalpara Station, Orroroo averaged a great value

\$880; and Tim and Matt Brown, Mallee Produce, Lameroo averaged \$1000 for their 10, including three from the mini auction.

Victorian buying strength was significant and came from four repeat clients purchasing a total of 19 rams.

Kelvin Shelley, AWN Wool Technical Manager, Highton, Vic purchased seven rams to \$1100 for KD & G Fagg, Mt Mercer and three at \$750 each for GG, GM & TG Philp, Maroona. Simon Brady, Rhymney purchased one of Ridgway's Hamilton Sheepvention sale team, then added four at this sale to \$2400 and at a \$1700 average, also through AWN. Simon Allen, through Rodwells Horsham rounded out the Victorian buying with five to \$3000 and at a \$1780 average.



Prominent Victorian buyers at the Ridgway sale were Kelvin Shelley, AWN Highton (10 rams for two clients), Peter Brady, Rhymney, Simon Allen, via Horsham (five rams average \$1780) and Simon Brady, Rhymney (four rams average \$1700). They are with Rachel Ridgway (centre).

Steven Paech, through Landmark Murray Bridge was another regular strong bidder with seven rams to \$1800 and at a \$1200 average, while Chris and Andrew Johnson, Mt Boothby, Tintinara and buying through SAL averaged \$1885 for the seven rams they purchased.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge, picked up six rams to \$2800, with four of these going to Chalk Partners, Keith. Other prominent buyers included Glen Hampel, GMR & J Nominees through Landmark Loxton (five to \$3200, ave \$2400), Michael Altus, Altus Pastoral through Landmark Lameroo (five to \$3000, ave \$2160), GL & SL Auricht through Landmark Pinnaroo (four to \$3800, ave \$2525), and Walkerville Pastoral, through Landmark Lameroo (four to \$2700, ave \$1950).

14 mini auction rams sold to \$750 and averaged \$657.

Agents: Landmark Lameroo

Auctioneers: Gordon Wood and Richard Miller

2017 Calendar of Events

- Australian Sheep and Wool Show - Bendigo* ▶ **Friday 14th - Sunday 16th July**
- South East Merino Field Day - Keith* ▶ **Wednesday 19th July**
- Karoonda & Districts Merino Field Day - Murray Bridge* ▶ **Friday 28th July**
- Hamilton Sheepvention (offering 5 rams)* ▶ **Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th August**
- Ridgway On-property Ram Sale - Kulkami (offering 160 rams)* ▶ **Monday 14th August**
- Classings Classic - Murray Bridge* ▶ **Monday 4th September**
- Adelaide Royal Show Merino Ram Sale* ▶ **Friday 8th September**

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