



RIDGWAY

Poll Merino Stud

NEWSLETTER
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Once again it's been a tough start to the year for us here in the Mallee. Having received only 74mm to the end of June we are still being kept busy hand feeding all our stock mostly on a daily basis.

We weaned our AI and ET lambs in late June at 11-12 weeks and left them in the feedlot where they have been with their mothers since they were a month old. We were again very happy with the number of lambs dropped and hope to get good percentages when we wean the remainder of our lambs.

As was the case at this time last year, COVID-19 is still having an impact both here in Australia and around the world. Fortunately for all of us who are "on the land" it hasn't impacted us to the same extent as it has on most other small businesses.

Both the wool and meat markets are still travelling along very well and are forecasted to continue to do so in the second half of 2021.

For us in the ram breeding and marketing business, the main impact the pandemic had last year, was the state border closures. Most of our interstate clients were unable to attend our sale in 2020, but all bar one, made their purchases using AuctionsPlus which we were extremely grateful for.

This year's sale will again be interfaced with AuctionsPlus, even if there are no travel restrictions in place. We feel that having all the details on every ram we offer together with photos and videos available online gives our clients valuable information which will aid them with their selections prior to the sale.



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LAMEROO OFF SHEARS SALE SUCCESS

Friday October the 9th last year proved to be a special day for us at the Annual Lameroo Off Shears Sale.

Both our 1½ year old and 5½ year old ewes topped the sale, with the young ewes selling to Jimmy Alexander, Kaniva, Victoria for \$340. The older ewes sold to James Maslen, John Lamb Pastoral, Conargo, NSW, for \$240. Both prices were records for the Lameroo Sale Yards.



The following is an extract from the sale report which featured in the Stock Journal:

Saleyard records were again broken at the Lameroo off-shears sale on Friday, where 1.5-year-old Ridgway-blood ewes sold to \$340 - eclipsing the yard's previous top of \$326 in 2019.

It was the first time Ridgway Props' Ric, Gail, Matt & Rachel Ridgway, Kulkami, had topped the sale with their young grassfed ewes and they were very happy with the result overall, as their 230, 5.5yo ewes also made \$240, sold on AuctionsPlus to Conargo, NSW.

"We aim to produce quality dual-purpose sheep like many breeders, but more recently, we have really been focusing on early growth traits through our Australian Sheep Breeding Values, which is really starting to pay off, and our wool can also handle the wetter areas, which has also increased demand," Ric said.

The 171 September-shorn April/May 2019-drops sold to JD & RA Alexander, Kaniva, Vic. Jimmy Alexander said he would be putting White Suffolk rams over the "quality ewes" to produce prime lambs.

"We have bought Ridgway-blds in the past - we like SA's big-framed ewes to produce better lambs - and they give us a very good wool cut (8-9 kilograms of 19 micron wool)", he said.

INTRODUCING MACY LEIGH ANGEL

We welcomed our 7th grandchild 'Macy Leigh Angel' in June.

Our daughter Jessica and son-in-law, Taylor regularly help out with our Ram Sale and will be introducing Macy to the world of sheep breeding at this year's sale.



We also had five kelpie pups arrive in June. Four of these will be available for purchase and will be ready to go by the time of our Ram Sale.

They have excellent breeding on both sides, including a state yard dog champion on the mothers side. Their parents are used at Ridgway and they are both good all rounders. Contact Matt for more information.



2020 MULTI-VENDOR SALE RESULTS

We didn't offer any rams at the Hamilton Sheepvention Ram Sale last year due to COVID restrictions, but were pleased that the rams we offered at the Classings Classic and the Adelaide Show Ram Sale all sold very well.

At the Classic our 12 rams averaged \$5875 and sold to 11 individual clients, 4 of which were studs. The O'Brien Stud from Kyancutta paid the \$12000 top price for our first ram, a big, square sire, with exceptional early growth. Regular clients Glencorie, Kangaroo Island paid \$9000 for a heavy cutting, deep bodied ram which we had used as a lamb and collected semen for use in the stud this year.

Two rams sold to \$8000, the first to the Morely Stud, Cleve and the other to Paul & Errol Schenscher, Naracoorte. Balah Nominees bought the second ram offered at \$7500 to use to breed rams for their station and Colara Farms and Tola Ag bought one each at \$5500 and \$5000 respectively.

The two rams we offered in Adelaide were both sired by Moorundie 20 a sire purchased by our neighbours McPiggery, at the 2018 Hamilton Sheepvention Ram Sale.

The first ram sold to the Bury's from the Jaburee Stud, Willmington for \$13000 and the other to Ross Gray, Minlaton for \$4000.

This year we are hoping to offer 5 rams at Hamilton Sheepvention and similar numbers to last year at both the Classings Classic and Adelaide Ram Sale.



Buyers Darren O'Brien & Jodie Reseigh-O'Brien with Ridgway Stud principals Ric & Matt Ridgway (holding the \$12000 top selling Ridgway ram) and Olivia, Indi & Owen Ridgway.

LAST YEARS SALE REPORT

The following is an abbreviation of our printed sale report.

Online bidders boost Ridgway ram sale

With important clients based interstate, Ridgway Poll Merino stud decided to hold its annual on-property ram sale in tandem with AuctionsPlus for the first time near Lameroo on Monday.

And opening the sale up to an online audience paid off for Ric, Gail, Matt and Rachel Ridgway, Kulkami, with five bidders from NSW and Vic helping underpin the sale, with another two on the phone with local agents.

This was on top of the 45 buyers that registered at the sale, who helped the Ridgways to sell 142 rams from 151 offered under the hammer to \$9200, averaging \$2391.

Another four rams sold straight after the sale.

The \$9200 top price ram sold through AuctionsPlus to return client Bill Ryan, Curragh, Oxley, NSW, who bought three rams in total averaging \$5600.

The top lot, sired by Gunallo 295, was an April 2019-drop, weighing 120 kilograms, with an eye muscle depth of 48.5 millimetres and 9.5mm fat depth.



TOP LOT: Nutrien stud stock auctioneer Richard Miller, Ridgway stud principals Matt & Ric Ridgway, Kulkami, and Nutrien's Simon Aldridge & auctioneer Gordon Wood.

The 20.8M ram also had impressive wool tests of 2.8 standard deviation, 13.5 coefficient of variation and 99.8 per cent comfort factor. It also had outstanding MerinoSelect figures, including a yearling clean fleece weight of 27.5 and yearling staple length of 14.7. Also buying on AuctionsPlus was another loyal client, Tubbo Station from NSW's Riverina, who paid handsomely for just the one lot at \$7200.

The sale's second highest-price ram at \$8000 was bought by Duane Simon from neighbouring business McPiggery, also in a singular purchase.

That was an April 2019-drop son of Gunallo 295 weighing 111kg, with a 48EMD and 9.5mm fat. The 20.1M ram had wool tests of 3.3SD, 16.4CV, 99.7pc CF and had a 30.4YCFW and 12.8YSL.

The Graham family, Glencorrie stud, also returned to the sale to stock up for their Kangaroo Island property, taking five rams to \$6800, averaging \$3960, while WJ&AJ Buick, Penneshaw, will head the same way with four rams, averaging \$2800.

A new Ridgway client also from KI, bidding on the phone, was JM&SK Davies, Kingscote, who bought four to \$1600, averaging \$1200.

The biggest volume buyers were sale regulars, the Johnson family, Mt Boothby, Tintinara, who bought 10 rams to \$4600, averaging \$2740; Lynton, Suze and Josh Barrett, Lameroo, bought eight to \$3400, averaging \$1688; while first-time buyers last year, CJ&YM Butcher, Meningie, again returned to buy eight to \$3000, averaging \$2175.

Strong interstate interest, on the phone, also came from Graeme Fagg, Mt Mercer, Vic, who secured six rams to \$3200, averaging \$2533, while Tim Philip, Maroona, Vic, took home four to \$4000, averaging \$3100.

A buyer's choice sale was held after the main auction, where 18 rams sold from 48 offered.

Nutrien Ag Solutions conducted the sale, with Richard Miller and Gordon Wood the auctioneers.



VOLUME BUY: The Johnson family of Chris, Andrew, Eddie, and Will, bought 10 rams averaging \$2740.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo - Friday 16th - Sunday 18th July

South East Merino Field Day, Keith - Wednesday 21st July

Karoonda & Districts Merino Field Day, Murray Bridge - Friday 30th July

Hamilton Sheepvention, Hamilton - Monday 2nd - Tuesday 3rd August

RIDGWAY ON-PROPERTY SALE (OFFERING 200 RAMS) KULKAMI - MONDAY 9TH AUGUST

Classings Classic Ram Sale, Murray Bridge - Monday 6th September

Adelaide Merino Ram Sale - Friday 10th September