

NEWSLETTER



TOWONGA MERINO & POLL MERINO STUD NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020



TOWONGA

MERINO & POLL MERINO STUD

ON PROPERTY
RAM SALE
WED 9 SEPT 2020

Contact

Garry Kopp 0401 461 829
Peak Hill NSW

Auction Commences 1pm

100 Rams to be offered
200 Grade Rams available afterwards

Location

Towonga Shearing Shed
'Rachelvale' 5502 Newell Hwy
PEAK HILL NSW

STUD DISPLAY -2020



Rabobank-Dubbo
RAM SALE & STUD DISPLAY
25-26 August
Tues-Wed Display
Wednesday Sale Day



Towonga Poll 181094, purchased by Michael Kelly for \$4,500 was the Top Priced Ram at our 2019 On-Property Ram Sale. The Sale Average was \$1911.

BETTER CHOICES



The mulesing debate is forefront in our industry at the moment. With our lambs' welfare being our primary concern, we genuinely believe that this is a crucial procedure in the animals' lifetime welfare and one we take great care in performing.

Participating in an anesthetic trial last year, we observed the younger lambs' recovery time to be far better than those mulesed over six weeks of age. The older the lamb, the longer it took for the wound to

heal and resume healthy weight gain.

Additionally, we did some simple observation on the poddy lambs; which indicated that the tail docking takes a more substantial toll on the lambs' recovery, rather than the actual mules. Considering this, we try to mules and dock tails as early as possible, using an Analgesic 'Meloxicam' before and Anesthetic 'Trisolfen' after the procedure. Additionally, a fly prevention product is always applied afterwards.

SNAP SHOTS OF 2020



HOSTING AWI SHEARER TRAINING



DROUGHT FEEDING



EWE COMP JUDGING



GROWING GRAZING CANOLA

ET & AI PROGRAMS

We are concentrating on getting the best genetics on the ground with some assistance from modern science.



With no outings for our show ewes during this COVID Year, we decided to put them straight into our ET program. Together with the two Grand Champion Ewes from Dubbo '18 & '19 and using our Towonga Sires, we look forward to advancing our breeding goals a little faster than mother nature would have. We take these programs seriously as they allow us to fast-track our breeding direction and get the most out of our most outstanding sires.





A BUSY YEAR OF DATA COLLECTION

Data Collection for Genetic Gain, something we have been focusing on at Towonga.

Fleece Weighing Maiden Ewes

Our lifetime data begins with all 2018 drop ewes fitted with EID (Electronic Identification, Device) ear tags. In October '19, these ewes were fleece weighed and side sampled for fleece measurement; valuable data that aids selection in our stud breeding program. Our visual hands-on classing remains our first selection tool. Still, now with the added benefit of this additional data, we have a platform for selecting the most productive sheep for our stud enterprise. Our 2019 and 2020 drop lambs are now fitted with the EID devices and will enter our data collection program for their Lifetime Production record. We are concentrating on getting the best genetics on the ground with some assistance from modern science. .



Mothering Lambs

With our AI and ET programs providing a tool to fast track genetic gain, we also know the importance of identifying the ewes standing out in producing the top progeny. The benefits of ensuring the same ewes continue to be used in our stud breeding program and to identify those who have had their time. Knowing the pedigree of the lamb gives the added advantage of ram selection for the next joining.



Eye Muscle and Fat Scanning

Our industry benefits from the merino's versatility, they are profitable in growing wool, and over the hook. We have tested the EMD (eye muscle depth) and Fat Score of all our 2020 sale rams. Thanks to accredited scanner Rick Power, EMD and Fat Depth figures will be available in our 2020 Sale Catalogue.



Fleece Weighing Sale Rams

Sale Rams have been fleece weighed when shorn on April 1. This data will be available for ram buyers as a ranking of fleece cut in the Sale Team. Fleece weighing reinforces our sire selection.

Remote Monitoring

Monitoring lambing ewes; recording their weights, feed and watering habits, and wool growth. What a fantastic opportunity it is to be part of a Remote Monitoring Research Project. For the last twelve months, Greg Sawyer has been trialing a Walkover Weighing system; the data recorded remotely. Greg is currently studying his Ph.D. at the University of Sydney

and is also our Elders Wool Rep. The data is proving useful for numerous management decisions, as well as a unique mothering-up system. Greg and Garry have worked on the weighbridge prototype, making it easily transportable when moving the mob to a new paddock. We look forward to continuing this project with Greg and learn from his progressive studies on sheep and wool production.





DUBBO RAM SALE

WED 26 August 2020



Towonga 180297

Sire: Imperial Syn -Poll
Mic: 20.3 SD: 3.4 CV: 16.7 C.F: 99.5
DOB: Aug 2018

If size matters- look no further!
This gentle giant carries lustrous long stapled medium wool. He has a dry poll and a clean open head.



Towonga 180174

Sire: Maiden Wonga Syn
Mic: 20.2 SD: 3 CV: 14.9 C.F: 99.7
DOB: April 2018

This ram offers extra staple length, great bone and spring of rib. Width in his back end and a good medium wool.



Towonga 180301

Sire: Wonga Syn
Mic: 18.8 SD: 2.5 CV: 13.3 C.F: 99.9
DOB: Aug 2018

An impressive young sire with great presence. 180301 has wool-cut and outlook, he carries a fine-medium wool.



2020 SHOW STOPPERS!

Stud Reserves



TOWONGA 190655 Sire: HoneyBadger
Mic: 22.2 SD: 3.9 CV: 17.6 CF: 97.9 YEMD: 39.5 YFAT: 6.5
Son of our foundation Sire 'HoneyBadger', an outstanding wool sheep that has a big broad frame. Scanning above the flock average in EMD; a Sire we are excited to add to our breeding program. On display On Property & Dubbo - Semen Available



TOWONGA 191665, Sire: Towonga 180097
Mic: 18.3 SD: 2.5 CV: 13.7 CF: 99.8 YEMD: 34.5 YFAT: 5
Sired by the Grand Champion Strong Wool Poll (180097) at last years Rabobank Show in Dubbo, this young ram is a standout for his skin quality, wool and frame. He will be on display On-Property and Dubbo. Semen Available.

CONTACTS

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