

NEW GENETICS FOR WESTERN VICTORIA

At “CHROME” in Western Victoria we are breeding self replacing maternal meat sheep and Poll Dorset’s. It is our aim to be at the forefront of the Prime Lamb seed stock industry in Australia. To achieve and maintain this high quality level of production, it is necessary to get many things right.

1. We obtained what we considered were the best females available in Australia when we commenced breeding.
2. We place a great deal of emphasis on animal health and management, hardiness and doing ability.
3. We have a clear vision of what our animals should look like and how they should perform.
4. We use the most advanced selection tools available.
5. We balance visual traits with measured performance data.
6. We listen to what our clients want.
7. We are constantly on the lookout for genetics that might be superior to our own.

The key economic driver of a prime lamb production operation is the weight of lambs weaned as a percentage of the body weight of the mother. The logical extension of that means we do not want excessively large females because quite simply, they eat too much for what they produce. For this reason, we are focussed on moderate frame score ewes at CHROME.

To demonstrate our belief in this logic, a number of years ago we trialled Perendale genetics in our maternal Stud at Chrome. Perendales have been used extensively in N.Z. for many years and are an extended cross of Cheviot and Romney from many years ago, in much the same way that the Coopworth is originally a cross of Border Leicester and Romney. The Perendales are active and hardy, have a moderate frame score, have powerful maternal characteristics, and are very fertile with excellent carcass shape. These traits fitted exactly the direction we wanted to go. The Perendale infused progeny have also impressed our ram clients, topping our ram sale average for the past 2 years. These outstanding results prompted us to go to N.Z. in August last year and select a team of Elite Perendale Stud Rams which we have brought to Australia. Our NZ Perendale Sires and a sample of 1yo rams will be on display at Sheepvention site no **335** in the Sheep Marquee.



14 mths Coopworth Sale Rams