

Quality the key at Icon

ONE of the new Poll Dorset studs in the Hamilton region will be back at Sheepvention in 2008 after an extremely successful selling season in 2007. The Icon Poll Dorset stud run by Matt and Tanya Tonissen had sold all of their 55 sale rams by the end of November last year, not a bad effort for a stud that has only been running since 2002. Icon Poll Dorset's has quickly built a reputation of supplying top quality prime lamb sires to the industry. Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer programmes have played a major part in the studs rise to popularity among commercial lamb producers, with this year being no exception. To keep up the supply of rams to buyers wanting to secure top quality genetics, an extensive Embryo Transfer programme was carried out in January this year.

This was a huge success, resulting in over 170 embryo lambs out of the best 20 ewes, sired by leading sires from both within the stud and other leading sires from Australia and New Zealand.

LambPlan recording of all stud sheep right from the beginning has enabled us to track the outstanding genetic progress made over the last five years. Early on in the breeding program the focus was on breeding animals with good structure, good hindquarter muscling and well balanced Lambplan ASBV's. Long thick bodies, clean faces and ease of lambing are other key breeding aims. The best sires available from both Australia and New Zealand have been used to try and achieve these goals, with great

success. Genetics have been sourced from Allendale Poll Dorset Stud at Bordertown in South Australia, Wyndamah Poll Dorsets at Swan Hill, from the Kurralea Stud in NSW and Linton in New Zealand.

Sires from Tattykeel have been used in recent times to promote more hindquarter muscling, thickness and improve the finishing ability of the end product. It was felt that their public record in the show ring was unsurpassed by any other Poll Dorset stud in Australasia in recent years and that their genetics would have something to offer the stud. This has definitely been the case and the second drop of rams with

Tattykeel influence will be offered for sale in October this year. The tops of each years ram lamb drop are used at seven months of age to sire approximately 3000 commercial prime lambs bred on farm.

This enables almost all the entire ram drop to be sold to clients with no commercial rams retained on farm. This year's drop of rams are well grown and display the quality carcass attributes for which these sheep have built their reputation.

Icon Poll Dorsets will have a display in the Sheep Marquee (site 194-196) at Sheepvention.

For enquiries call Matt on 0417149805.



SOME fine young rams from Icon.

Icon



Poll Dorsets

Reg Flock 4412 - OJD Vaccinated

BREEDING FOR:

- Balanced EBVs and Structural soundness
- Rapid early growth and finishing ability
- Long thick bodies and clean faces
- High muscle EBVs and hindquarter muscling to match
- Tolerance to Internal Parasites

Rams Available for Private Selection Mid October

Awarded 2006 RASV Young Farmer of the Year

Sheep Marquee 194-196

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