

Rain Rain Rain As I sit here writing this newsletter the rain keeps falling. We have had over 30 mm in the last 2 days here and some areas have had much more than that. A fairly good start to the season is being had by most of us in the southern states. Who Knows , maybe we will see a return to some normal winters which in some ways would be good, might slow the pro climate change movement down a bit which would be great. However there might be a fairly large contingent of southern croppers with the "beds running" and a few yellow crops to follow, or will El Nino kick in again and leave us looking to the skies again by the end of August.

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The lamb industry has possibly seen one of the most profitable 12 months ever with good returns for lamb right through the selling season and extreme prices being paid in recent months especially for mutton. What does the future hold? One would expect that the next 12 months will be a better year than the last! Record low ewe numbers, (more and more breeding ewes are being sold to the meat trade every day) combined with increased cropping areas surely has to be good for the lamb industry.

I predicted this time last year that replacement ewes could get very expensive and this prediction is already starting to prove correct with store sheep prices at very high levels. This could be the time for many lamb producers to start self replacing their flocks instead of buying in expensive ewes.



Once again we had an extremely good selling season last year clearing all of our Poll Dorset rams. This adds further proof that we are on the right track with our breeding objectives.

Fast growing, earlier maturing lambs with the ability to finish, are a valued article in modern day breeding systems. The quality and quantity of this year's rams has been greatly enhanced by a major embryo transfer programme carried out in January 2008.

This has resulted in many more TOP END rams to offer to our clients this year.



We have continued to use the best Australian and NZ sires available by AI, selected both on visual appraisal and quality Lambplan data.

This coupled together with the use of Tattykeel genetics has enabled us to breed sheep with very good length, thickness and carcase shape.

ICON NEWS



I invite you to come
and see us at

SHEEPVENTION
August 4th & 5th

SHEEP MARQUEE (site 335)

We will have 1 yo sale rams,
some sires and ewes
on display.

Please come and
have a chat .

AUGUST 2009

All mixed age ewes including studs at Chrome have not required a drench for over 3 years now and I think that is a pretty good effort for ewes run in southern Victoria at above average stocking rates.

Recent faecal egg counts of both Stud and Commercial ewes pre lambing show nothing over 40 epg. Drenching sheep is both costly and labour intensive.

Continuing genetic selection is being placed on the sheep to perform under commercial conditions. Scanning results on mature ewes continue to be around the 160% mark. Stud ewe lambs once again scanned well averaging 128%, joined to lamb at 13-14 months of age.

EverGraze has been researching different pasture and animal systems in various environments across the southern Australia with Ralph Behrendt the Hamilton Site Leader. Last year they included Coopworths into their system and have come up with some interesting data.

Merino Terminal System

Av. \$50.37 per head
Approx. \$45.37 per ewe lambbed
16 ewes/ha
Mid-winter 18.6 DSE/ha
Potential gross lamb income
\$725/ha

Coopworth Terminal System

Av. \$52.97 per head
Approx. \$76.60 per ewe lambbed
14 ewes/ha
Mid-winter 19.2 DSE/ha
Potential gross lamb income
\$1072/ha



For further information visit:

www.evergraze.com.au

You will find the Coopworth information under Southern Vic, Latest Results, document headed "Hamilton 2009 Livestock".

Perendales

The size and weight of mature ewes and rams is becoming an ever increasing issue in the prime lamb industry. Whether it be first cross ewes or maternal composites everyone seems to be breeding them bigger. To try and address this issue we have introduced Perendale genetics from New Zealand over the last couple of years.

Perendales at this stage seem to have blended in really well with the "type" at Chrome and appear to offer a slightly smaller adult frame score and weight.

They are thick bodied well muscled sheep and have good doing ability. This year we have a limited number of rams available sired by Rene 386.03 who was recently ranked no 1 for FEC in the Dual purpose section of the 07-08 Central Progeny test in New Zealand.

I look forward to catching up at Sheepvention.

Regards, Matthew Tonissen.



Matthew Tonissen
Sheep Classing Services

World renowned Sheep classer Sandy McKirdy, who I have been working alongside for many years, has decided to semi-retire from his business. I have always had an interest in this area and with Sandy's encouragement and belief in my abilities I am able to continue my lifelong passion for breeding sheep for other people as well as for myself.

I have been travelling with Sandy to many of his former clients now for the last couple of years and am now classing for clients over Victoria and Tasmania, with the possibility of extending my services into New Zealand. I have a broad range of experience across various breeds of sheep in different climatic conditions.

If you are at all interested, please contact me and I would be more than happy to come and discuss this side of the business.

