

# WUNNAMURRA POLL DORSET

*"Wunnamurra Rams Breed Better Lambs"*

## Welcome to the 22nd Wunnamurra Poll Dorset Ram Sale Thursday 12th September, 180 Rams, **12 noon Auction**

We will have the rams penned early with inspections occurring from 9am and the auction at 12 noon.

We would like to mention that **we sold all of our rams by early October** last year and some clients were unable to acquire the ram quantities they needed. We would ask you to go through your ram team now to ascertain your needs for this year, and to plan early to ensure you get what you want on sale day.

We now market rams over a very wide area, from Kyalite to Morundah, Grenfell, Holbrook, Moama, Hay, Euroa and even down as far as Leongatha and Winchelsea, and also our local area, Jerilderie to Deniliquin.

The sale rams exhibit our breeding aims of big, long, bold, clean headed rams, displaying early growth suitable for joining to Border Leicester Merino cross ewes or large framed Riverina Merino ewes to produce quick maturing lambs for the Trade or Export markets.



All Stud lambs are weighed at birth and at weaning. At 6 months all lambs are weighed and scanned for fat depth and eye muscle depth. From these measurements ASBVs, or (Australian Sheep Breeding Value) are allocated to each lamb.

Catalogues with ASBV information will be **emailed out**, available on our website, and available on sale day. If you don't receive email, or have questions about Lambplan, please contact us.

All rams have been drenched with Zolvix Plus, backlined with Avenge and vaccinated with GlanEry 7 in 1 in August. For your protection our sheep are guaranteed free of Footrot and Lice, and we are certified Ovine Brucellosis Free. We have been vaccinating against Ovine Johnes Disease with Gudair for over 20 years. Wunnamurra is also in the **Riverina Sheep Biosecurity Area**.

On behalf of Andrew, Judy, Annabel and Eric we welcome you to inspect our Rams on sale day and thank you for your ongoing support. Outside agents welcome 3% rebate.

The sale is being held in conjunction with Elders Jerilderie and Nutrien Finley, with lunch provided after the conclusion of the auction. Wunnamurra is located 10km south of Jerilderie.

**We are happy to deliver rams if required.** We do ask that we are given plenty of notice before the auction.



For more information, contact Andrew Gillett on 0429 660 584 or go to [www.wunnamurra.com.au](http://www.wunnamurra.com.au).

# Knowing your ASBVs

Rams with lower ASBVs for birth weight (BWT) produce lambs with lower birth weight. If joining to merino ewes aim for 0.45 or less to minimise birthing issues. Larger frame crossbred ewes are able to handle higher birth weight ASBVs. Very high birth weights should be avoided.

Rams with more positive ASBVs for post weaning weight (PWT) produce lambs that grow quicker and reach target weights in a shorter time. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 3kg heavier at post weaning age (7.5 months) than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

The eating quality index is targeted at terminal producers interested in improving the meat eating quality of their prime lambs. The EQ index is based on the same production targets as TCP with the added extra emphasis on eating quality traits including Intramuscular fat (IMF) and Shear force (SF5).

Trait	BWT (kg)	WWT (kg)	PWT (kg)	PFAT (mm)	PEMD (mm)	EQ INDEX	TCP INDEX
ASBV	0.3	4	6.0	-1.5	1.0	130	150
Acc	43	63	71	59	69		

Rams with a more positive ASBV for weaning weight (WWT) will, on average, produce lambs that grow quicker to weaning. This ram will produce lambs that are 2kg heavier than a ram with a 0 ASBV for WWT.

Rams with a more negative ASBV for post weaning fat (PFAT) will produce lambs that are leaner, at the same weight. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 0.75mm leaner at the GR site when compared to a ram with a FAT ASBV of 0.

Rams with more positive ASBVs for post weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD) produce lambs that have more muscle, independent of weight, and a higher lean meat yield. This ram will produce lambs that have, on average, a 0.5mm deeper eye muscle than a ram with a 0 EMD ASBV.

The TCP index is a replacement for Carcase Plus and assists in identifying animals with high growth and muscle, while reducing carcass fat. This contributes to higher lean meat yield (LMY). TCP aims to maintain eating quality by having a small emphasis on Intramuscular fat (IMF) and Shear force (SF5).

## Meeting the Future Market

DEXA, Lean Meat Yield, Intra-Muscular Fat, and eating quality are all headlines that have been in the media recently, but what does it all mean for you?

DEXA or Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry machines and MEQ probes are being installed at a number of processing plants and with this comes the ability to measure Lean Meat Yield, Intra Muscular Fat and weight of individual carcasses in real time on the processing chain. Currently these machines are being used by robotic cutters to accurately breakdown carcasses into primals for further breakdown for retail. As the technology improves and becomes more widespread, these DEXA machines will be used to analyse a carcass and estimate the weight of individual cuts before the carcass is broken down. It will also be able to measure LMY and IMF of carcasses which is a key determinant of lamb eating quality as well as processing efficiency and value of carcasses. The idea is that in the future, pricing grids for over the hooks will have premiums or discounts for LMY and IMF, as eating quality will become a factor in the value of individual cuts and indeed whole carcasses.

Gundagai Meat Processors (GMP) are the only abattoir with a pricing grid that incorporates LMY and IMF with Hot Standard Carcase Weight. Lambs that achieve over 5% IMF receive a premium. Unless you supply GMP or have your own paddock to plate branded lamb, it isn't essential to select rams based on eating quality traits just yet.

If you have processor feedback from GMP this will help you identify the traits to focus on in your ram team to improve your kill specifications e.g targeting LMY or IMF ASBVs.

We wish to let our clients know that we are selecting for EQ ASBVs in the stud and are using DNA genomic testing to identify elite EQ animals. When the time comes that there is substantial premiums for LMY and IMF we will have the rams available that perform both for fast growth as well as premium eating quality.

If you do wish to select rams based on the Eating Quality traits at the Ram Sale, please contact Andrew to discuss the rams that meet these criteria.



# Crossing your Ts with Ram Care

Now is the time to bring your ram team into the yards and assess their soundness prior to joining this year, as well as getting an idea of how many replacement rams you require. Time and effort is well spent caring for rams to ensure their longevity and are in best condition at joining. **Key practices include:**

- 6 in 1 or 5 in 1 vaccine, twice yearly if possible
- Internal parasite drench
- Apply fly treatment on heads to reduce poll strike
- Check teeth, toes and testicles (especially in aged rams)
- Shear at least 6-8 weeks prior to joining to minimise impact on semen quality
- Trim all feet to avoid lameness issues.



Check the condition of the rams. For the most part of the year rams only require maintenance feed to maintain weight and condition, often rams are fed too much for the bulk of the year and can get way too heavy. This can cause lameness and breakdowns. For approx. 8 weeks in the lead up to joining, increase the condition of rams to ensure they are fit and raring to go on day 1 of being with ewes. Also post joining they may need to be built up a bit as rams usually lose weight over the joining period.

## Our Sires Top in the Trials

At Wunnamurra Poll Dorset Stud we are committed to validating the genetics of the sires we use. We submit our rams to be tested in research trials such as the Bowan Park Poll Dorset Research Flock and the Information Nucleus Flock (INF), at University of New England. Various rams of ours have been entered and their progeny extensively tested in various environments and compared against other sires. We have participated in a number of years in the INF since the start of our ASBVs journey and in every year (except 2021) for the Bowen Park Trial since its beginning.

Our genetics have proven to be extremely successful in all years of the Bowen Park trials.

In 2019 and 2020 we entered four rams into the Bowan Park Trial. These trials analyse the growth and muscle traits of the progeny of 14 different sires per year across the industry. In addition these lambs are then slaughtered and full testing is conducted on the carcass for eating quality traits, Intra Muscular Fat (IMF), Lean Meat Yield (LMY) and Shear Force (SF).

In 2019 we had the **top two lambs for IMF %**, with three lambs in the top six out of 99 lambs. The top lamb from this trial, sired by Wunnamurra 120455, had the highest ever measured IMF % recorded in Australia of 9.75%.



In 2020 we again had the **top IMF % lamb in the trial** at 7.34%, and three in the top 15.

Additionally we had the **top two heaviest carcass weights**, with four in the top seven out of 239 lambs. The sires of these lambs were Wunnamurra 170303 and 160298. The W170303 progeny group averaged 52.03kg liveweight at 17 weeks of age, the highest in the trial.



W120455 is the one of the highest ranked Poll Dorset ram for IMF as well as one of the highest EQ Indexing rams in Lambplan. This ram has become a key sire as we look to improve eating quality traits over the coming years, so our clients can achieve a premium for their lambs in the future as these market opportunities develop. We have invested in maximising his genetics with our Embryo Transfer (ET) program over the past 3 years. The progeny from this ram and his sons that we have used are featured in this year's sale and all display exceptional EQ ASBVs.

In the 2022 Bowen Park trial Wunnamurra 200106 was chosen to be compared. We highly rate this ram and have used him in our own stud for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 drop lambing. The trial progeny of this ram had the **3rd lowest average Shear Force** of all sires for that drop and **3rd highest IMF carcass**. At 17 weeks his progeny **body weight average was the heaviest of the drop at 49.2kg** and they were **2nd highest average for EMD**.

In 2023 Wunnamurra 190065 was entered in to the Bowen Park Trial. His progeny displayed the **highest average EMD** for all sires in that trial year with one lamb scoring the **highest individual EMD**, 38mm at 17 weeks of age.

We currently have Wunnamurra 220006 submitted in the 2024 Bowen Park trial with no data yet to be reported.

# Family Update

Life on Wunnamurra has settled down into a rhythm since Eric's first introduction to the farm and our encounter with November 2022 floodings. Farm life with a toddler proves to be both challenging and rewarding, with no two days being the same. Eric is completely in love with all things farming as long as he has a shovel and bucket in hand to dig. Tractors and sheep are two of his favourite things and will happily tell everyone about how he feeds Hay to the Baa Baas.

With Eric's enthusiasm for farming starting early we thought best to secure some more land for the next generation. Two boundary neighboring properties were recently acquired in June/July to expand the property's land holdings. Now we just need Eric to become that little bit more useful to help with the expansion workload, Andrew plans on having him drive a tractor soon.



## Ram Sale History

Year	Rams Sold	Average Price	Top Price
2023	151 of 162	\$1307	\$2100
2022	191 of 191	\$1700	\$3400
2021	182 of 182	\$1809	\$3800
2020	174 of 174	\$1545	\$3100
2019	125 of 165	\$961	\$1900
2018	125 of 153	\$1041	\$1900
2017	155 of 155	\$1200	\$2000
2016	132 of 132	\$1401	\$3100

# WUNNAMURRA POLL DORSET

"Wunnamurra Rams Breed Better Lambs"

FLOCK  
3721

## ANNUAL RAM SALE

THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 12 NOON AUCTION  
JERILDERIE - ON PROPERTY SALE - 180 RAMS



LAMBPLAN DATA QUALITY 5 STARS  
BRUCellosIS ACCREDITED

FOOTROT FREE  
OJD VACCINATED

**RIVERINA BIOSECURITY AREA**



ELDERS  
0427 938 187

**ANDREW GILLETT**  
**0429 660 584**

NUTRIEN  
0419 625 815

[www.wunnamurra.com.au](http://www.wunnamurra.com.au)

