

The Wiltipoll Web

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN WILTIPOLL ASSOCIATION INC

Issue No. 11
May 2009

From the Editor



Annie Hughes

Welcome to the 11th edition of the Web.

This edition reports on increased numbers of sales, field days and sheep shows supported by more of our Wiltipoll Association members.

Western Australian members have led the way with the establishment of the first state Sub-Committee of the Association. The Victorian Sub-Committee has also been established during the year and NSW members are in the process of establishing theirs.

To contribute your opinions, sales and show results, or other newsworthy activities of interest to future newsletters, please send them to:

Martindale
PO Box 620
Strathalbyn SA 5255
Email: wiltipoll@bigpond.com
www.wiltipoll.com.au

3rd South Australian Registered Wiltipoll Sale

The Third Annual South Australian breeder's sale at Mt. Pleasant showgrounds on Friday 24th October had a total clearance of all 50 rams offered. The rams were well presented, well grown and were totally shed. Ten Wiltipoll breeders consigned sheep to make up the total offering with five breeders making their sale debut this year. There was particularly strong buyer activity from commercial breeders - keen to secure rams overlooked by breeders looking to buy sires for registered Wiltipoll flocks.

Jack and Margaret Slater, Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo once again topped the sale with one of their rams selling for \$1,650 to Don and Gwen Burge of Lucindale, SA. The August '07 drop ram weighed 83 kg. Coolamon Park sold 4 rams, Wonoka 2 rams and Kars Pastoral Co 2 rams of in excess of \$1,000. An average of \$733 was achieved for the 50 rams, being \$33 head less than in 2007 but with 16 more rams being sold in 2008.

In the ewe offering, 49 young '07 drop ewes were put up for sale. The sale topping ewes were bred by San Jolly Wonoka, Kapunda selling 2 for \$700 each to Aileen Johnston, 'Wiltihill' Sutherlands, S.A. Don and Gwen Burge, Burange Lucindale also did well, selling 4 ewes at \$650 each.

Kars Pastoral Co. Strathalbyn with the largest consignment of ewes sold 17 of their lineup. Unlike the previous two years there was not as much demand for ewes and 28 were sold for an average of \$466 per head. The remaining 21 failed to reach vendors reserve.

The sale was conducted by Southern Australian Livestock with Bruce Redpath auctioneering. SAL agent Paul Keynes said that 'considering the economic instability of the market the sale did reasonably well'. Prior to this year's sale, rams and ewes had been inspected by committee members to assist vendors in the selection and presentation of their stock for sale. All concerned are to be complimented as the

standard and presentation of the sheep for sale was much improved this year.

Volume buyers included P.J. & K Dowdle, Woodhouse, Victoria who bought 10 rams for an average of \$717.

Peter and Jill Rundle, Lameroo, SA were also big supporters of the sale, taking 10 rams for an average of \$500.

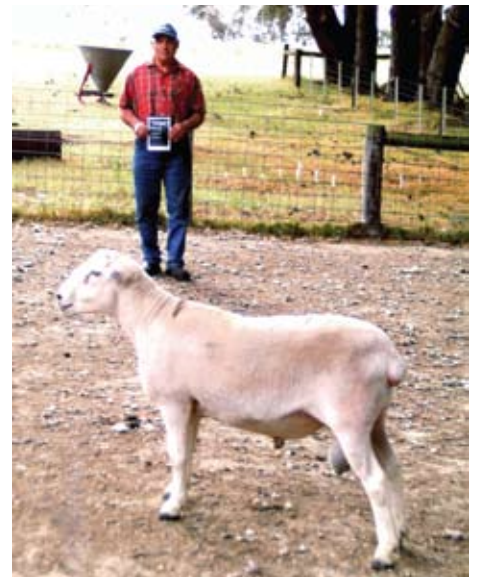
Paul Brady, Bathurst, NSW bought 4 'Burange' ewes, 4 Kars Pastoral Co. ewes and 1 Coolamon Park Ram.

Angela Slagter and Michael Dowd bought 9 Kars Pastoral Co ewes and a Coolamon Park ram.

I was extremely pleased with the interest shown in our 12 Coolamon Park rams as they sold for well above our reserve price. We went to the auction with some reservation because of the continuing drought conditions but the strength of the bidding on our rams belayed our concerns.

Jack Slater
Coolamon Park Pinnaroo SA

(How they sold on page 2)



The top price Coolamon Park Ram of the Mt Pleasant sale with buyer Don Burge.

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WILTIPOLL
THE LESS WORK PRIME LAMB BREED

THE NEXT REGISTERED WILTIPOLL SALE

Friday 23rd
October 2009

at:

Mt Pleasant
Showgrounds
South Australia

3rd South Australian Registered Wiltipoll Sale - How they sold

(cont. from page 1)

Ewes

- **Wonoka - Kapunda**
Offered 2, sold 2
Top Price \$700 Average Price \$700
- **Burange - Lucindale**
Offered 4, sold 4
Top Price \$650 Average \$650
- **Kars Pastoral Co. - Strathalbyn**
Offered 33 sold 17
Top Price \$500 Average \$415
- **Mentieth Farms - Kangarilla**
Offered 5, sold 5
Top Price \$400 Average \$400
- **Coolamon Park - Pinnaroo**
Offered 5, sold 0

Rams

- **Wonoka - Kapunda**
Offered 3, sold 3
Top Price \$1,300 Average \$1,083
- **Coolamon Park**
Offered 12, sold 12
Top Price \$1650 Average \$942

- **Kars Pastoral Co. - Strathalbyn**
Offered 11, sold 11
Top Price \$1100 Average \$789
- **Burange - Lucindale**
Offered 2, sold 2
Top Price \$900 Average \$775
- **Jadala - Kangaroo Island**
Offered 3, sold 3
Top Price \$800 Average \$667
- **Amber Creek - Yankalilla**
Offered 3, sold 3
Top Price \$725 Average \$650
- **The Palms - Palmer**
Offered 4, sold 4
Top Price \$750 Average \$638
- **Mentieth Farms - Kangarilla**
Offered 4, sold 4
Top Price \$650 Average \$538
- **Jutland Valley - Springton**
Offered 5, sold 5
Top Price \$500 Average \$445
- **Burrajac - Burra**
Offered 3, sold 3
Top Price \$500 Average \$433

Munna Wiltipoll Sale Report

A total clearance of stud ewes topping \$650 and selling to new and repeat clients was the highlight of the annual Munna Wiltipoll Sale at Coolah on 21st February 2009. The sale was held on behalf of Jill and Harry Powell of "Munna", Coolah and Neil and Ann Kennedy of "Yuma", Coonamble. All sheep presented were total shedders and were in great condition. It was good to see both familiar faces and some newcomers at the sale and we hope that all purchasers will be happy with their sheep.

Munna's 57 top grade spring drop '05 ewes sold to a top of \$650 and averaged \$418 for a total clearance with return buyers Maxine and James Blackburn, "Tunbridge Homestead", Merriwa, buying 6 ewes to average \$588.

Yuma's offering of 22 spring '08 weaner ewes also cleared averaging \$243.

The rams were a bit tougher to sell with 8 of the 20 offered selling to \$1100 with an average of \$938. Peter Secombe of Mudgee purchased the top selling ram for \$1100 and it was pleasing to see half of the rams going to new buyers. 26 stud ewes were purchased by a new buyer Tim Martin, "Yarrowonga", Kentucky for average of \$408 and a ram for \$800.

The proceeds of the first pen of ewes, \$1200, were donated equally between the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and the Queensland Flood Appeal.

We look forward to seeing you all at our 2010 sale to be held on 20th February 2010.



Maxine and James Blackburn with their 6 Munna ewes



Top price ram purchased by Peter Secombe, Mudgee

2009 President's Report



Your 2008 Committee with genetic advisor Scott Dolling hard at work at one of our meetings during the year

It's been another positive year for our breed. There's a continuing increase in acceptance of the breed by main stream farmers - seen in the increase in enquiry and demand for larger lines of flock ewes from prime lamb producers.

This year the Wiltipoll breed description has been included in the Meat & Livestock Australia Handbook of Australian Livestock for the first time. A listing of Wiltipoll breeders/members from the Eastern states has again been included in the 2008 Weekly Times stud sheep Directory. The breed has also been listed with the Stock on-line website as well as Rolf Minhorst's Nolana website in the Netherlands.

In July, Wiltipolls were included in competition at the 2008 Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show for the first time. Greg Toll organized this and a number of members travelled from other states to support the breed. We hope that Wiltipolls will continue to be shown at Bendigo on a permanent basis.

The SA breeders October sale was again successful with a complete clearance of rams at higher prices than the previous sale. Demand and prices for ewes were down on last year's sale. Top price of \$1,650 went to a Coolamon Park ram bred by Jack and Margaret Slater and top price of \$700 went to two Wonoka ewes bred by San Jolly.

The change of format for the Flock Returns as well as the new pedigree recording has been well accepted. Eight members have taken advantage of our Association's newly established pedigree recording service and have pedigree recorded their flocks this year.

As our breed grows and memberships increase it has become necessary to establish state groups to deal with individual state activities. I think this is a very positive move and I welcome it. On request from WA members our management committee has established regulations for state Sub-committees. Congratulations must go to all of the state groups but especially to the Western Australian members who have set up the first Sub-committee of the Association in the West. Victoria too has established its Sub-committee in 2008 and the NSW members have just called a first meeting to establish theirs.

More members have been displaying sheep and have requested boxes of newsletters and fact sheets for handing out at Shows and Field days. This is a good way to promote our breed.

The committee has agreed that an upgrade to the Association's website is well overdue and this is now underway. It is being re-formatted so that changes to the site can be carried out by our management committee instead of having to pay for changes to be

made by web technicians. It is also being given a new design.

Our committee's continued agitation with AWEX regarding its contamination rating for Wiltipoll wool has resulted in that body deciding to embark on the AWEX Sheep Breeds Project to test the dark and medullated fibre content of the wool of every sheep breed in Australia. This could be an ongoing project because as it stands the project does not address the issue of cross contamination from paddocks, yards or trucks. Our committee is still working on this. Ten wool samples will be taken from Wiltipoll winter fleeces, one sample from ten individual flocks and our committee will organize the collection and submission to AWEX of these samples.

42 new members have joined the Association during the year and 24 new registered flocks have been established.

Changes to the Association rules have now taken place as a result of the vote by the members at last year's AGM and these changes are being incorporated into the 2009 Flock Register. This has been a very time consuming exercise and I would like to thank Lizzie our secretary who has spent many hours in the office emailing and collating members' replies.

Upon enquiring with the Dept of Fair Trading I have been advised that there is nothing in The Act to prevent the notice of an Annual General Meeting being sent via email instead of post so in future, members will receive their AGM notice in that form. Only 36 members do not have email facilities so their notices will be sent in the mail.

It has been a particularly busy year for our committee which has had to meet more often and has also had to deal with the many emails that I send them for their comment and advice.

I would like to thank these members for all the time and effort that they have freely given to the successful running of the Association.

Annie Hughes
President
April 2009

Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show July 2008

As a result of the efforts of one of our members, Greg Toll of Gunbower Vic, Wiltipolls were included for the first time at the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show last July. A total of 24 entries competed and quite a number of Wiltipoll Association members attended to lend support.

Judge, Wilson Beer from Echuca was impressed with the size and quality of animals put forward, considering the young age of the breed. Greg Toll's Gee Tee stud scooped the pool with Champion and Reserve Champion for both his rams and ewes. It was good to see some first time exhibitors putting their sheep forward and we are hoping that Wiltipoll classes will be included in this sheep show permanently. The members enjoyed the weekend with time to catch up at the show and at dinner afterwards.



The line up of the Group 1 ram 2 ewes with the winner Gee Tee stud and runner up Allambie stud



Greg Toll with his Champion and Reserve Champion ewes.



Wiltipoll members enjoying the action in the show ring.

Ram under 1 ½ years

- 1st Gee Tee stud,
- 2nd Timemm
- 3rd Timemm

Ewe under 1 ½ years

- 1st Gee Tee stud,
- 2nd Gee Tee stud,
- 3rd Gee Tee stud

Ram 1 ½ - 2 ½ years

- 1st Gee Tee stud,
- 2nd Gee Tee stud

Champion Ram

- Gee Tee stud

Reserve Champion Ram

- Gee Tee stud

Ewe 1 ½ - 2 ½ years

- 1st Gee Tee stud,
- 2nd Gee Tee stud,
- 3rd Gee Tee stud

Champion Ewe

- Gee Tee stud

Reserve Champion Ewe

- Gee Tee stud

Group 1 Ram 2 Ewes

- 1st Gee Tee stud,
- 2nd Allambie stud

Group 1 Ram 2 Ewes under 1 ½ years

- Gee Tee stud

AWEX Report

The management committee of the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc. initiated a project in May 2008 to determine the basis for the current risk rating of Wiltipolls in category 5 (the highest risk of contamination) in the AWEX Code of Practice.

To date there had been no research to investigate the potential of Wiltipolls to contaminate the fleece of Merinos, however over the last 10 years the Wiltipoll fleece has been progressively downgraded on three separate occasions from AWEX Risk Category 3 (Downs breeds) to AWEX Risk Category 4 (coloured wool breeds) to now being classified with the Exotic sheep breeds (Damara, Dorper) in AWEX Risk Category 5. These progressive downgradings are speculative and appear to be completely unfounded.

AWEX classifies the Wiltshire Horn as an "ancient downs breed", therefore we required an explanation supported by evidence to show why the Wiltipoll should not receive the same classification.

We have urged the AWEX Review committee to properly and fairly investigate risk ratings ascribed to all breeds with the utmost urgency, such that evidenced-based risk ratings can be attributed to all breeds under the AWEX Code of Practice. In the meantime it would appear that a rating assigned unfairly to Wiltipolls that could be seen as a trade barrier. We advised AWEX that we would be seeking the advice of The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on this matter.

In September 2008 I received a response from AWEX confirming;

"The framework for the review of the Code of Practice will include sheep breed Associations amongst other key industry stakeholders. AWEX advised that it would write to all sheep breed associations seeking their input"

Our letter would be tabled with Industry Services Advisory Committee for consideration as part of The Review.

AWEX noted our comments with respect to further funding of research and enquired whether the AWA Inc. or any other sheep

breed has research to be made available for inclusion in the deliberations.

Mark Grave, CEO of AWEX "extended the offer of being prepared to meet with you and association members to discuss this or any other further issue".

Mark Grave sent a copy of the Australian Wool Innovation Project report 'Managing the Risk of Dark and/or Medullated Fibre Contamination which demonstrated that:

No testing for dark or medullated fibre, or the level of potential contamination through coming into contact with a Wiltipoll/Wiltshire has been undertaken.

The lack of science around categorizing the Wiltipoll/Wiltshire in this manner is astounding, and the subsequent requirement to declare a DMFR rating on any sheep coming even remotely into contact with Wiltipoll/Wiltshire is therefore similarly flawed.

The AWA Inc. believes that the risk rating applied by AWEX to Wiltipoll/Wiltshire sheep, without substantiation, is a serious restriction on the ability of our breeders to market Wiltipoll rams as terminal sires to prime lamb producers. In fact we believe AWEX's risk rating is affecting the sales of Wiltipolls as other breeders fear contamination from our breed even when they are being run on the next door property. As I mentioned in my recent conversation with Mark Graves, my husband and I as past Merino breeders, have run Wiltipoll/Wiltshire Horn rams with our Merino ewes for the past 15 years and there has never been any complaint or evidence of contamination from the wool store, the agents or the wool buyers in all of that time.

The AWA Inc. would willingly accept a DMFR rating that is based on evidence following valid research that clearly demonstrated the level of dark or medullated fibre present (on average) and the risk of fibre cross contamination with other sheep. In the meantime, the AWA Inc. has requested that reference to the Wiltipoll breed be removed from the AWEX Code of Practice and DMFR rating scheme until a legitimate rating can be established.

In October AWEX sent an invitation to our organization to provide written feedback on issues from the 2007 – 09 Code of Practice that we would like considered as well as suggestions on how these issues might be addressed.

Our committee prepared a submission for this review which was submitted in December. In March 2009 we received advice from AWEX that it would be conducting a Project which aims to "objectively define the pigmented and medullated fibre status of each sheep breed used in Australia". Only one sample from 10 individual breeders within each breed will be taken to represent each breed. The issue of cross contamination in the paddock is yet to be addressed by AWEX. We will keep members advised as to the progress and outcome of this issue.

Annie Hughes

President.

April 2009

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Half Page (no bleed)

190mm x 138mm

6x1 column

60mm x 90mm

6x2 column

60mm x 125mm

6x3 column

60mm x 190mm

Only relevant material will be accepted.

Iraq comes to Wonoka



Wonoka Wiltipolls were fortunate to be included on the itinerary for a contingent of Animal Production Scientists from Iraq in December, 2008. The Iraqi's were attending a 3 day training course at The University of Adelaide as a part of the AIAS Program.

“The goal of the Australia Iraq Agriculture Scholarships (AIAS) program is to build public resource management and promote economic reform in the Iraqi agricultural sector while simultaneously improving technical knowledge in agriculture and natural resource management.”

We had a range of sheep on display from purebred Wiltshire Horns to Class A1 Wiltipolls and spent a couple of hours discussing:

- The development of the Wiltipoll breed (challenges & opportunities)
- Shedding characteristics
- Meat characteristics and the value of Lambplan
- Costs and returns
- The profitability of a breeding up program
- The future for Wiltipolls in Australia and overseas

There was a great deal of interest in the shedding characteristics of Wiltipolls and the usual question arose about “what do we do with the wool”. Luckily we had kept a perfectly formed bird's nest, beautifully lined with shed wool which we passed around; it was easy to explain the lack of commercial value of the coarse wool when the Iraqi's could touch and feel it.



Birds quickly clean up paddocks after wool has shed & put it to good use.

Livestock Options for Week-end Warriors

I grew up in traditional rural NSW last century. I remember that maintaining good relations with neighbouring farmers was crucial. However, rural Australia has changed since then. West of the long wavy line that divides NSW, farms are getting bigger while east of the line farms are getting smaller.

New entrants to farming east of the line are often, like me these days, weekend farmers. We often bring much needed enthusiasm, innovation, skills and capital to struggling rural communities. However, for many of us, agriculture is a challenging new field with a steep learning curve.

Many of us need to learn the skills of managing livestock or pastures. I get the impression that discord between neighbours is more common now in part because of this difference in attitude and background.

We Livestock Health and Pest Authority staff get involved in this conflict when landholders who have a very liberal attitude to rabbits or livestock problems share ordinary boundary fences with operators that are more traditional. Some producers quite rightly become very concerned when neighbours don't control footrot or lice, threatening their own livelihood. I occasionally talk to new farmers about appropriate enterprises. Of course, personal preference is important but it seems to me that some enterprises are unsuited to most part time farmers.

I think running a self-replacing merino ewe flock for example, requires considerable skill and timing. Sheep must be shorn, crutched and joined on time. A fly wave or an outbreak of barbers' pole worm can cause havoc between Sunday evening and the next Saturday morning. Managing Merino weaners can tax the best of

producers. Timing is less critical for a beef cattle breeding operation but managing calving heifers is a commitment and bulls can be a challenge. Growing steers requires less management and labour and can be profitable although this depends on buying and selling well.

Alternate enterprise such as goats and sheep that don't require shearing are popular and in my opinion appropriate choices for part time farmers. Parasite control is however important and goats in particular need fox control at kidding time.

As Ashley White (NSW DPI Cowra) mentioned, alternate sheep breeds are here to stay. However, they can be another source of irritation between neighbours. Traditional fine wool producers worry about fibre contamination from new breeds that shed their fleece.

I asked Dr Sue Hatcher (NSW DPI, Orange) if shedding sheep were a threat to fine wool producers across a fence. She has studied this in Western Australia prior to the introduction of Awassi sheep.

Sue told me that fibre transfer requires direct contact. This occurs readily when Merino ewes are joined to exotic rams. However, two months later most of these contaminating fibres had fallen off.

Poor boundary fences are the source of much friction. Reminds me of the well know line from American part time farmer and poet, Robert Frost, “good fences make good neighbours.” True to form however, I understand a neighbour complained that Frost's fences actually weren't so good.

Bruce Watt
BVSc, MS, MACVSc.
District Veterinarian
Tablelands Livestock Health & Pest Authority
Oberon NSW April 2009

Establishing the first Sub-Committee

How do we do it in the West?



In Western Australia we have been blessed with several breeders who have been breeding Wiltipolls for well over a decade. Their knowledge and expertise have been a key factor in setting up the Australian Wiltipoll Association, WA Sub-committee. Additionally, the enthusiasm of new breeders has kept the momentum going.

In a few words, this is what we do...

- Keep it informal and simple (A president and secretary and lots of delegated tasks)
- Transparency – No hidden agendas
Keep people informed and lines of communication open
- An annual AGM (between January and March about 4 months after the WA breeders sale)
- Promotional commitment - breeders commit to attending at least one show, field day or fair annually e.g. 10 breeders, 10 shows means great exposure, including any advertising that comes with this.
- Breeders were asked to put a \$50 fee up front to cover some incidental promotional costs to get the kitty going.
- Community chest commonly called the "tool box" All breeders have access to this when they go to a show or field day and it is housed in Perth. It contains a Wiltipoll banner (donated by a member), flyers, breeder list and hopefully soon some laminated recipes and a DVD of all WA breeders' sheep.
- Flyers – containing info about the breed and breeders in WA. There is a place for individuals to place their logo and address on the back. It is a tri-fold design so fits into a DL envelope beautifully for mail outs.
- Support and encouragement for all breeders of Wiltipolls. As much as we are in competition with each other, we need each other to grow our image and exposure. A lot of effort is put into supporting each other.
- Sale preparation: about 3 months before the sale – Everyone had a say in where the sale was to be held and costs to be considered. We all have ownership in the process.

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Enquiries always welcome

Breeders' Sales Reports

Buoyant lamb prices 2008/9

Coolamon Park SA lamb sales

Compared to the lambs produced in 2007, the 2008 drop prime lambs have brought significantly improved returns. This has been greatly appreciated by all producers. On the 7th Oct 2008 Coolamon Park sold 60 1st cross Wiltipoll/Merino sucker lambs May/June drop at an average of \$94.91 head including skin value of \$5. These lambs averaged 22.5 kg carcass weight at a value of \$4 per kg. A second consignment of 84 lambs from the same mob was sold 3 weeks off shears on 18th Jan 2009. An average price of \$92.86 was achieved, average carcass weight was 22.2 kg price per kg \$4.18. The skins were of no value.

When weighing lambs we aim for a minimum target weight of 45kg liveweight before consigning them to T & R Pastoral Export Abattoirs at Murray Bridge SA. Three to four hours off feed and water before weighing will give a more accurate assessment of the carcass weight. A lamb may lose up to 5kg of weight when off feed and water for twelve hours. It is good management for sheep and lambs to be off green feed and water for 12 to 24 hrs prior to transporting to place of sale. It is always good to hear off the successes of other prime lamb producers using Wiltipoll genetics and some encouraging sales are reported below.

**Jack Slater, Coolamon Park
March 2009**

Yondara WA lamb sales

David and Maxine Marshall, Yondara Wiltipolls Boyup Brook, WA, in several consignments sold 1098 Wiltipoll/Merino F1 and F2 '08 drop lambs average \$85.50/head. One exceptional lamb with 44.9kg carcass weight grossed \$202.05.

Peter and Jill Rundle, Lameroo, SA, sold

212 August 2008 drop Wiltipoll/Wiltipoll sucker lambs in November to average \$81.64 per head. These lambs averaged 23.3 kg carcass weight at \$3.50 per kg with no skin value.

Petana Pastoral Co lamb sales

Peter and Anne Crouch "Petana Pastoral Co" Wanbi via Loxton SA were pleased with their sale of a line of 100 Wiltipoll/Samm sucker wether lambs April/May '08 drop in September 2008 for \$115/head. Their total sale of sucker lambs averaged \$90/head.

A recent consignment of 130 Wiltipoll/Samm lambs carried over through the summer were sold in early March 2009. The lambs processed at T & R Pastoral Murray Bridge SA weighed 25 kg carcass weight, at \$4.30 per kg, with a skin value of \$2.50, returning \$110 per head.

**Jack Slater, Coolamon Park
March 2009**

Reavesdale lamb sale

Sale of Wiltipoll cross lambs April 2008 August 2007. Drop 8 months of age.

Dam - White Suffolk/Merino, Sire - Wiltipoll. Price: 25 @ \$85/hd, 16 @ \$88.80/hd, Sold at Cowra sales.

Ian Hopwood, Murringo NSW

Bunganbil lamb sales

Sale report of 2nd cross wether lambs at Griffith sale yards. 1st cross Wiltipoll lambs 69 @ \$106/head on 8/2/08, sired by Kars flock rams. 2nd cross Wiltipoll lambs 44 @ \$126 on 22/August 08. These lambs were the top price paid in the yards on that day. All sired by Kars flock rams.

Neil McDermot, Narrandera NSW

Kars Pastoral Co lamb sales

Kars sold three loads of lambs in March 2009. The lambs were full wool-shedding

and were July/Aug '08 drop.

The season was of below average rainfall but as a result of thunderstorms over parts of the property in November/December 2008 they were finished on green feed.

The 1st load of 400 lambs averaged \$66 head with the top pen making \$83/head.

The 2nd load of 700 lambs averaged \$77 head with a top of \$88/head. 550 lambs made over \$80/head.

The 3rd load of 680 lambs averaged \$74.50 with a top of \$87/head.

With each consignment the whole paddock of lambs was sent to fill each truck and the heavier ones were not taken off to be sold separately. The lambs were sold at Dublin SA by Landmark and many were purchased by feedlotter who are starting to demand Wiltipoll lambs. We were all extremely happy with these sales.

**Annie Hughes, Kars Pastoral Co
March 2009**

Kars Pastoral Co ewe sale

In November 2008, 200 Wiltipoll full-shedding flock ewes and six rams were sold to David, Geoff and Laraine Toose of Smeaton in Victoria to start their commercial Wiltipoll prime lamb enterprise.

David writes: I am interested in Wiltipolls to replace the 1st cross ewes I am now running. My intention is to run a self replacing mob of about 600 ewes. I thought that I might start with a small number just to see how they go and if I am happy, increase the number to suit. I am located at Smeaton in central Victoria. I am very aware of getting the best genetics and also clean sheep. We will be starting harvest soon (Cropping enterprise).

David Toose, Smeaton Vic



2 year old Kars flock ewes ready to be trucked to David Toose at Smeaton Vic



2 year old Kars flock ewes ready to be trucked to David Toose at Smeaton Vic

Buyer beware!

When you make your next Wiltipoll purchase, make sure you do your homework so that you get the sheep that are right for you.

Breeders who are members of the Wiltipoll Association are bound by the Wiltipoll classification system. More information is available in the Flock Register, but broadly, a Wiltipoll must fully shed its fleece annually. There are then 5 classes of Wiltipoll ranging from A1 to unregistered.

If your aim is to register your purchase, check the latest Flock Register to ensure that rams are currently registered and that ewes are from a registered flock. If this is not the case, it is very unlikely that the sheep will be entitled to future registration.

Regardless of registration requirements, reputable breeders will happily discuss the breeding of their flock and the class of any animals they are selling, their characteristics, health status and age.

Wiltipolls are displayed at many shows across Australia, including Bendigo, Hamilton SheepVention, Perth Royal Show, Wagin Woolarama and Karoonda Sheep Fair and the Royal Adelaide Show. (An events page is coming soon to our website.)

Viewing sheep on display at shows, field days or at breeders sales will help you to recognise quality sheep. The best sheep are not always within everyone's budget but doing your homework will give you the best measuring stick to guide you.

Anne Wallace
April 2009

Coolamon Park

Wiltipoll

Reg. Wiltipoll Flock 16

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Thinking Wiltipolls
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Northern Trial reinforces moderate stocking

One of the biggest challenges in convincing northern beef producers to moderate their stocking rates has always been in convincing them that their business's bottom line will not suffer as a result.

With a lack of compelling evidence to the contrary some northern speargrass country producers continue to stick to the adage that "more stock equals more money", fearing that they will be financially disadvantaged if they lower their stock densities.

Stocking rates practiced by producers in Charters Towers area have varied enormously, from an environmentally destructive extreme of one beast to 2 hectares to one beast to 20 hectares.

But now for the first time, a catalogue of compelling research evidence is emerging that argues that modern stocking does not come at a financial cost, and in fact is likely to add substantially to the bottom line, in terms of net return over the longer term.

A ten-year grazing trial at the Lyons family's Wambiana station, south of Charters Towers is now producing research data that underpins the long term sustainable value of lighter stocking rates in northern speargrass country.

A detailed economic analysis suggests that in terms of accumulated cash surplus, the difference over ten years compared with heavier stocking would be worth \$1.8 million across a typical 20,000 hectare northern grazing property.

Delivering an update on the project to members of the Northern Pastoral Group in Brisbane recently, was project leader,

Dr Peter O'Reagain. He said Australia was not only the driest continent on earth, but it also suffered the greatest variability in rainfall.

"Since pre-history, the country has experienced irregular cycles in rainfall going from boom to bust and back again.

We all know from experience that a season with lots of rain and grass can turn into a scene of absolute devastation within 12 months through lack of rain and too many cattle," he said.

Most of the recommended strategies to cope with such climate variability – including more conservative stock numbers and varying numbers depending on seasons – had been around for decades, and were already adopted by more progressive beef producers.

"However, adoption of such strategies has certainly not been as wide spread as they could have been, which is obvious by the condition of grazing lands in some parts of North Queensland," Dr O'Reagain said.

The big question to ask is, "Why aren't these strategies more widely adopted?"

Dr O'Reagain suggested the reasons were many and complex. They include;

Government tax and other policies that worked against adoption.

Issues of property size.

The simplistic notion that 'droughts are natural and the good years will return.

"There is still a commonly held belief that sustainability and profitability are basically incompatible," he said.

Queensland Country Life

Wonoka Wiltipolls getting out and about

In November 2008 San Jolly and Ann Wallace took a trailer load of Wiltipoll ewe hoggets to the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide to join in celebrations of 125 years as an institution of Agricultural Education.

Our sheep were displayed on the main arena with a range of sheep breeds including Border Leicesters and Poll Dorsets with the pigs located not far away! There was a huge crowd in attendance and a lot of interest in the Wiltipoll on the day.

ABC's The Cook and the Chef

23rd July 2008 Filmed in New Zealand.



In this episode Maggie and Simon conclude their six week New Zealand odyssey. Simon checks out New Zealand lamb, one of the most iconic of all that country's products and Maggie returns to Hawkes Bay to find out why Saffron is the most expensive spice in the world. The first shipment of refrigerated lamb left New Zealand in 1882 bound for England and from small beginnings it's gone from strength to strength.

Not all of New Zealand's lamb is produced the same way though. Despite its clean, green image only around 1% of the country's farmers are organic. In the heart of 'Lord of the Rings' country, on the South Island, Simon met self-proclaimed 'wild man' and organic lamb farmer, Tim Gow. Tim actually played a wild man, in one of the three films which was shot near his magnificent mountain property in the Southlands.

Tim farms Wiltshires, a hardy meat sheep dating back to Roman times, which is ideally suited to organic farming. One of the pioneers of organic farming in New Zealand, his stock have been free of vaccines, chemicals and drenches for over twenty years and he produces a sweet, fine grained meat, which to quote Tim, 'once you've tasted, you're addicted'!

In the kitchen Simon cooks one of Tim's lamb shoulders stuffed with a delicious tapenade of green olives, almond flakes, white anchovy and capers, while Maggie slow cooks lamb shanks to perfection, with a combination of cinnamon orange and chestnuts, creating the consummate winter dish.

Saffron is one the world's most exotic spices with the majority grown in Iran, but both Australia and New Zealand are now producing some very good product. While in Hawkes Bay on the north island, Maggie visited saffron grower Mark Tyro to discover why, at around \$35,000 per kilo, this spice is so expensive.

Back in the kitchen Maggie poaches and roasts some pears, in a syrup of saffron, sherry and verjuice and served with a cinnamon and lemon crême caramel they're irresistible. As an accompaniment to his lamb, Simon bakes some delicious Saffron Hasselback potatoes and shares a great tip on how to ensure they're always soft and creamy on the bottom and a little crispy on top.

More recipes from episode 24 shown below or visit www.abc.net.au/tv/cookandthechef



Lamb Shoulder Stuffed with Green Olive

1 lamb shoulder, deboned
500g green olives to yield 300g once pitted
2 cloves garlic
4 white anchovy fillets, or 2 anchovy fillet
1/4 bunch fresh parsley
2 tablespoons capers, washed well
1 lemon, zest and juice
Black pepper
100g toasted almond flakes
5 sprigs fresh rosemary
Kitchen twine
1 lemon

Blend all ingredients except lamb in a food processor and season to taste. The olives will be salty so you won't need to add salt.

Spread the lamb on your work surface skin side down and smear the centre with olive

mix. Roll up and tie with kitchen twine into a nice log, getting the maximum amount of skin on the outside. Sprinkle with black pepper a touch of salt, but the stuffing will be salty so be careful. Cook in a hot oven to start, 200C for 15 minutes then reduce to 150C for 2 hours. Baste with juices and a squeeze of lemon juice. Remove from oven, cover and rest 15 - 30 minutes.



Lamb Shanks with Cinnamon & Orange

4 lamb shanks
1 teaspoon lemon thyme, chopped
1 teaspoon rosemary, chopped
1 garlic quorn, blanched and peeled
1 litre lamb stock - heated
2 oranges, peeled and segmented
3 pieces orange rind
Juice of an orange

1/2 cup of dry white wine
3 cardamom pods, crushed & pods discarded
1 stick cinnamon
Sea salt and pepper to taste
Butter and a little extra virgin olive oil
1 cup of chestnuts cooked in 3 cups of stock for 10 minutes and left to sit overnight.
3 tablespoons flat leaf parsley, chopped

Season the lamb shanks liberally with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Heat a little butter and evoo in a very heavy based saucepan large enough to hold all the shanks and seal on all sides. Deglaze with the white wine and leave to reduce for a bit. Add the garlic, half orange segments, juice and rind, with the herbs, cinnamon, cardamom, chestnuts and the lamb stock. Cover the shanks with a cartouche and tight fitting lid, place in an oven previously heated to 140C for 3 - 4.5 hours depending on the quality of the shanks, turning the shanks occasionally. Remove the lid, cartouche and cinnamon stick after 4 or so hours and continue to cook uncovered for an additional 1/2 hour – until the juices have thickened.

Serve topped with the balance of orange segments and the flat leaf parsley.

Victorian Sub-Committee up and running in 2008



Chairman Greg Toll with secretary Maria van Wegen

In April 2008, Maria van Wegen and Greg Toll held the first Victorian Wiltipoll Breeders meeting in Bendigo.

Then I was in my second year of breeding Wiltipolls and found that I was pleasantly surprised to find how friendly and uncompetitive the Wiltipoll breeders were.

I suggested to a few Victorian breeders that we should get together and share ideas, hence our first meeting was held in April, 2008. Discussion varied from average lambing percentages being achieved, who were the main buyers of Wiltipoll rams and ewes and how best to advertise and market our breed. Wether lamb sales were also a popular topic, where best to sell them eg.

saleyards or over the hooks and what prices were they achieving.

It was agreed that we should continue to meet on a regular basis. Greg Toll was nominated as the Chairperson and I was nominated as the Secretary. The Wiltipoll Association later approved the Victorian Group and we are now known as the Victorian sub-committee of the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc.

One year later we have met several times in Ballarat which is more central to most of the breeders in Victoria and we communicate regularly throughout the year. We live in different regions across Victoria and have different sized land holdings. We are a mixture of stud, registered and/or commercial sheep farmers each having a range of experience that we share.

The breed is still relatively young and as such we are still lacking a lot of the competition amongst ourselves. Progress has been made with Wiltipolls being shown at a number of shows and will be exhibited for the second year at Bendigo Sheep and Wool show in July and for the first time at Sheepvention in Hamilton in August 2009.

We will be holding our next Victorian sub-committee meeting at the Bendigo Show in July and encourage all Victorian members to come along. Another meeting will be held later in the year. If you are interested in joining our sub-committee, or want any information, please contact

Maria van Wegen,
e-mail: bingara@wiltipollsheep.com.au
Phone Mob: 0417 843 561 or Hm: 03-55711467

Maria van Wegen
Bingara Wiltipoll Sheep Stud
Hamilton VIC

Transition from Wiltshire Horns to Wiltipolls nearly completed at Wonoka

The backcrossing program at Wonoka has almost finished following 14 years of breeding and selection. The last mob of Wiltshire Horn ewes have just been joined to complete the development program which will result in two main lines of Class A1 Wiltipolls. These lines are based on Clifton Hills Wiltshire Horn (Vic), Kaya and Idavale White Dorper (WA) and Koonawarra White Suffolk (SA) bloodlines and have been specifically bred from genetics unrelated to other Wiltipoll studs. The intention has always been to widen the gene pool of the Wiltipoll by introducing a range of breeds to ensure genetic diversity at the end of the breeding program for the few studs that have developed foundation Wiltipolls.

The breed is well positioned to boom with increasing interest from the commercial sector. We are fortunate to have members with large flocks to supply commercial producers with large numbers of ewes which will create an important market for ram breeders. Very exciting times indeed!



Showing off 2008 ram lambs! Remember if you grow them out by 8 months you can sell them to work!

Wiltipolls at Wagin Woolorama



Wiltipoll display at Wagin Woolorama

Wagin Woolorama is the biggest sheep field day held in WA and it attracts large crowds from most of the sheep producing areas.

The Smiths (Brian and Neroli together with Greg and Kym) hosted the Wiltipoll Association display with help from Alan Milson, David and Maxine Marshall and Malcolm and Caril Barker. It was great to

see the members working together to explain the attributes of the breed to the many visitors to the tent.

Our site was on prime real estate at the junction of 2 roads and this was organised by Greg and Kym who also brought a trio of purebred animals and some fantastic 1st cross ewe lambs to show how clean the belly and breech regions become. The display material, sheep pens and the tents were organised by Brian and Neroli. Thanks to San Jolly and Annie Hughes for allowing use of their photos in the promotional material.

A major component of the promotional material on display was a demonstration of the breed's meat production capacity and a big thank you must go to David and Maxine Marshall for allowing me to access their kill sheets for the 1100 grass fed lambs that were sent to slaughter. This allowed a gross margin budget to be constructed which provided very good evidence of the profitability of our breed under commercial paddock conditions.

One particular lamb was singled out for special attention – he missed the first 2 drafts and ended up in the final draft with a carcass weight of 44.9 kg (this would have been a liveweight of around 90kg) and a fat score of 3 and paid \$4.50/kg to return just over \$202. Not bad off grass!

Neroli Smith
Boyanup WA

Breeding out the Horn – how to do it

In sheep genetics the poll gene is dominant and the horn gene is recessive.

To start the process of breeding out the horn....

1st Season Mating

The horned ewes must be mated to a double polled ram (a ram that does not carry the horn gene).

- A double polled ram can only be produced by two polled parents.
- A double polled ram may have a small scur/scurs but it/they must be less than 12 mm in length.

All of the offspring will be half polls carrying a horn gene from the ewe, and a poll gene from the ram.

Visually: All ewe lambs will be visually polled (or displaying small keratin knob or a very very small scur).

All ram lambs will display scurs (some big, some small) but will not display true horn.

2nd Season Mating

The half polled ewe lambs from the previous mating must be mated with a double polled ram.

The majority of the offspring will be double polled.

A small percentage (both ewe and ram lambs) will still carry the horn gene and will be half polled.

Visually: All ewe lambs will be visually polled.

As described above the few ewe lambs which are carrying one horn gene and one poll gene will appear polled and may display a small keratin knob or a very very small scur on their horn sites).

A small percentage of ram lambs will display scurs. **No true horn displayed.**

All of the first drop ewe lambs will be visually polled (even though they will still carry a **hidden** horn gene), and after the second mating the majority of your flock will be a double poll animal.

This information has been sourced from C.H.S.(Scott) Dolling, M.Ag.Sc., R.D.A. the genetic advisor to the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc. Scott was also the genetic advisor to the Australian Poll Dorset Association.

Pip Hughes
Kars Station
Broken Hill NSW

Sheep industry and the Economy

The recent events across world financial markets will affect all of us in some aspect of our day to day lives. Just what does this mean for the Australian sheep industry? With our sheep flock at historically low levels and any short term increase unlikely, supply and demand especially for lamb, will play a big part in what this will mean for the industry in the short term. With our sheep flock below 80 million and falling, the one small positive is that the percentage of ewes in this figure is approaching 60% which will partially offset any further reduction in lamb numbers. A number of other factors may also give some short term reprieve for sheep producers with grain prices falling and on farm retention of lower grade feed grains that potentially are destined for lamb finishing or supplementary feeding. While some areas have offloaded significant numbers of sheep after drought feed reserves were depleted, harvest has allowed many to replenish feed stocks however the dry finish has resulted in lower quality grain attracting very low prices with some grain even unsaleable. Even top quality grain has seen some disappointing returns for growers and many may rethink the economics of grain production compared to

the relative security of sheep. Recent cost of production estimates for cropping are around \$200/t and given the current climatic uncertainty and prices being received at silo delivery points, some turnaround in either input costs or returns is needed to keep many cropping areas viable.

So what does all this mean long term for the sheep industry? The falling \$A is potentially the dominant factor in the Australian sheep industry. However any effect will not be seen in the short term. The current fear of recession in many developed countries has already seen reduced demand for more expensive cuts of lamb and an increase in the consumption of cheaper meat such as mince and sausages. Less consumers are dining out meaning more product purchased for home preparation, potentially a plus for the lamb industry. History has show that recession affects sales of beef the most and pork and chicken least, with lamb moderately affected, so domestic consumption will be reduced. However it is anticipated that Asia and the Middle East will not feel the full impact of any global recession and, as they are important markets for our industry, the lower \$A will

eventually work in our favour and result in increased sales and returns for sheep industry exports.

Increasing population growth in Asia and Africa will result in increased demand as will the increasing wealth in these countries. As living standards in these countries rise so does the demand for animal protein. Increasing population accompanied by increasing living standards leaves the Australian sheep industry well placed to supply the needs of a global demand that will outstrip supply over the next 10 years. Australia is the only sheep producing nation with any chance of meeting this increased demand.

Demand forecasts are for sheep meat exports to decrease to the US and EU markets over the next 12 months but increase to China and the Middle East. With China consuming close to 25% of world meat consumption and sheep meat the preferred animal protein, the short term outlook is promising. Supply will be the only problem we face.

For more information visit Meat & Livestock Australia - www.mla.com.au.

Wiltipoll Sheep – Get the name out there.

Maria van Wegen couldn't believe her luck when a local journalist rang her up and asked if she'd be interested in doing an interview about her Wiltipoll Bingara Stud.

I had been running a classified in my local paper advertising my rams and ewes for sale including the usual line of No Shearing, No crutching, No mulesing. This immediately caught the attention of Pru Saimoun a journalist for The Western District Farmer who phoned me to inquire about the breed. Not being one to refuse any free publicity, I immediately agreed to an interview. I told Pru about my stud and how my husband Phil and I got onto this fantastic breed of sheep. We needed a low maintenance grazing animal for our property. Phil was

originally a shearer and was adamant he never wanted to shear another sheep again. However one day I saw a repeat 2006 episode of Landline where San Jolly was having her very first Wiltipoll sale. After contacting a number of breeders, I rang Phil and told him I had found a sheep breed that didn't require shearing - that are just grown for prime lamb. Phil and I visited Greg Toll's Gee Tee Stud at Echuca where we bought our first stud flock of 31 ewes and one ram.

The article went to print the following week with the heading "(NO) click go the shears". I was overwhelmed with the positive response. The paper is distributed to over 22,000 people across Victoria and I am still

receiving phone calls and comments today. What fantastic publicity!

The article included useful information about the breed for both the small acreage farmer new to sheep, as well as the mainstream farmer looking to produce prime lamb for the market without the costs and work of a woolly breed.

Now has never been a better time to get the message out that this is the breed to have especially with the low wool and high lamb prices.

Maria & Phil van Wegen
Bingara Wiltipoll Stud
Hamilton VIC

Questions and answers

Question: *Could you explain to me again about the polling of ewes. I thought that if a ewe is truly polled she has depressions with no scur but if there is no depression and no scur or a small scur then she is probably carrying the horn gene. Is that correct?*

Answer: I think the confusion has come about regarding the half polled animal. A ewe that carries both the poll and the horn gene (Class A) will appear polled but on closer inspection and running your fingers over the horn sites a small bone knob may be felt.

A ram that carries both the poll and the horn gene (Class A) will appear to have scurs of varying length, from half an inch in length to aberrant horn which is about 5 inches in length and curls back behind the ears like the handlebars on a boys bike. Many of these half polled rams will not display a depression on their horn sites as on some of them the scurs are of a size that will not allow this. None of these scurs appear to be true horn as in the Wiltshire Horn.

A double polled ram meaning one that does not carry the horn gene (Class A1) will display depressions on its horn sites and may have a small scur in the depressions but this scur must be less than 12 mm or half an inch.

A double polled ewe meaning one that does not carry the horn gene (Class A1) will display depressions on its horn sites and will have no bone knob or a very very small bone knob in the depressions. It is visually very difficult to distinguish between a half poll and a double poll ewe.

A ewe that has no depressions on the horn sites and has no horns or scurs is hornless and does not carry the poll gene. It has been documented that hornless ewes and an odd hornless ram have been produced from so called purebred Wiltshire Horn flocks. Whether or not these animals had depressions on their horn sites is debatable.

It appears that this may have occurred as a result of some random cross breeding with a polled or hornless animal at some earlier time in the particular flock's history. The Wiltipoll breed does not include hornless sheep.

To explain further, ewes from the horned Merino breed are hornless the rams from the same breed have large coiled horns. With a mating within this breed, ewes will produce ram offspring that are horned and ewe offspring that are hornless.

Annie Hughes.
March 2009

Plant Benefits rammed home

Chemical properties in some native plants have the ability to stop sheep suffering from a debilitating stomach condition known as lactic acidosis.

Research by Peter Hutton a recent University of Western Australia PhD graduate funded by the Future Farm Industries CRC, has shown that some native plants may have the right chemical properties to replace antibiotic feed supplements that reduce lactic acidosis in sheep.

"Unlike the common stomach aches humans suffer from, lactic acidosis is a serious illness in sheep caused by the bacterial breakdown of cereal grains to produce lactic acid, which can cause a severe decline in animal health and death if left untreated", Dr Hutton said.

"Traditionally, acidosis has been controlled through the inclusion of antibiotics in grain feed. However, Australia, like the European Union, will soon ban these supplements, as their prolonged use can create resistant bacteria that could be passed on to humans. "About 50 percent of all antibiotics used in Australia are added to

stock feeds, which creates a substantial overhead for farmers."

However, some Australian plants could offer a cheap, clean and green alternative to antibiotics, because they contain chemical compounds that inhibit acidosis-causing bacteria. Dr Hutton's research is the first time that Australian plants have been tested for bioactive properties to prevent the condition.

"As part of my research, I created chemical extracts taken from native legumes and a selection of rangeland shrub species. These chemical extracts were tested on a range of bacteria known to cause lactic acidosis with up to five plants producing positive results," he said.

"One of the plant extracts produced a level of acidosis protection comparable to the protection gained through the use of antibiotics." The fodder shrub *Acacia Saligna* has also shown potential to protect against lactic acidosis.

Queensland Country Life
June 2008

Callistemon Park Wiltipolls

Wiltipolls are like Dexters in that they are a lower maintenance and relatively easy care breed and with that comes a fair portion of new breeders who have no experience with stud stock and often little or no experience with livestock at all. I feel that in breed society communications - Journals and the like, it would benefit the breed to cover issues such as conformation, main disease issues etc. I know that for the larger breeders it would seem a waste of time as they likely know all the basics, but the new breeders have considerable potential to impact both positively and also negatively on the breed (even if, individually, in a small way) - some breeders may not be up to speed with recent changes in requirements for LNIS tagging and

diseases such as Johnes, footrot and Brucellosis are something we all need to understand to protect ourselves, our reputations and also our breed. It is easy to forget that newcomers are not always aware of important issues. I know that not all Dexter breeders are aware of all the important issues and are able to benefit from various articles in our 'Bulletin' which related to the above. I am always learning something new even though both my husband and I have come from farming families and spent a our early years helping on farm - for those new to livestock there is an even greater learning curve.

Judy Allen
Callistemon Park
Beelbanger NSW

News from the Nolls



The Noll family at last year's AGM dinner

A few years ago, my family bought about 100 acres of land just outside of Burrumbuttock, which is near Albury. Having been sheep farmers in the past, we also bought about 50 pregnant White Suffolk ewes. However, it wasn't long before we realised that we had a problem. We had sheep, but no shearing shed. So we made some enquiries, and attended the 1st Annual Mt Pleasant Wiltipoll Sale. Following the sale we established our Wiltipoll stud Cando, with the view of breeding rams to join with our White Suffolks, and Merinos on another property, thereby eliminating the need to shear. We used Coolamon Park ewes and a Kars ram.

In early 2008 I decided that, while other people my age were seeking part time employment, I would take a more active role in our stud. So I chose some ewes from Coolamon Park, with the view of eventually buying their descendants from my parents, and forming my own stud.

At present, we have a few ram and ewe lambs on the ground, growing towards joining our breeding flock. However, it will be at least a year before we will have enough sheep to start selling to interested buyers.

Mathew Noll
Burrumbuttock NSW

More Awards for Eaglenook

Eaglenook Estate had a fantastic day at the 2008 Perth Royal Show reeling in the prizes as their Wiltipoll ram was sashed the champion. There were three exhibitors and 26 entries in the Wiltipoll section. Judge Trevor James said the champion ram was a very well muscled and correct sheep. He added that the Wiltipolls were excellently presented "They have excellent muscle qualities and for people who choose easy care sheep these are definitely an option especially with the mulesing issue". "The industry is going down the poll path, the horns are disappearing." The reserve champion ram also went to

Eaglenook. A Neribri ewe was sashed champion ewe. Stud principal Brian Smith said, "She is out of a one-year-old ewe and was a late lamb so she has done well".

Champion Ram:
Eaglenook Estate, Keysbrook

Reserve Champion Ram:
Eaglenook Estate, Keysbrook

Champion Ewe:
Neribri, Boyanup

Reserve Champion Ewe:
Eaglenook Estate

The Muster
December 2008

Producers urged to stay on top of Carbon Emission Trading Scheme

"Keep yourself informed and understand all aspects of the scheme" was the strong message to producers at the NEED and Yunta Bestprac groups' information session on carbon emission trading schemes presented by Sally Davidson from the Australian Farm Institute.

"Agriculture will not be included in an emission trading scheme until at least 2015 and after that it is still yet to be determined," Ms Muster said.

"There are still a lot of unknowns but one of the key messages to producers was to keep up to date with current policy and any changes affecting the agricultural sector."

Ms Davidson says livestock industries face a particular challenge if made responsible for the cost of 'measured emissions'.

"The agricultural system is complicated, it has many elements which impact on farm profitability, and added into that a number of these elements impact on greenhouse gas emissions," she said.

"In order to assess the feasibility of changing enterprises or enterprise mix, all these elements need to be considered." David Lindner, Morgan, said the workshop had given him an understanding of how an emission trading scheme worked and the base from which agriculture would start.

"My concern is producers will need to offset all carbon emissions from livestock. The rules on offsets available from existing vegetation are unclear" he said. "On top of this, if a producer plants vegetation as part of an emission trading scheme, most of the value is realised in the first 20 -30 years.

"If the property is then sold, there is very little ongoing value for the purchaser and the vegetation can actually become a liability. "For example, if a fire comes through and the vegetation is lost, the owner needs to repay the income received over the life of the plantation or cover the difference until another plantation is established to produce similar credit status.

"A key message for me was that we need to understand all aspects of the Scheme and be aware of the potential liability and how they might impact on our business before signing up."

Details: www.climatechange.gov.au

SA Stock Journal
March 2009

Beela Rise Cleans Up in Carcase Competition.



Jenny's daughter with trophies

Western Australian breeders Sam and Jenny Staker entered 9 Wiltipoll 1st cross sheep in the district carcase competition in October 2008. From a total competition of over 150 lambs of all breed types, the Stakers came in third in the "on the hoof" section for the presentation of the lambs. Once slaughtered, the Stakers won 1st in the light weight carcase, "on the hook", 2nd in the medium weight carcase, "on the hook" and gained Supreme Champion (96.5 points) from one individual carcase. These are terrific results not only for the Stakers, but for all Wiltipoll sheep breeders.

With continuous genetic selection, culling and measurement, carcase improvement can be made and the overall standard deviation can be shifted to the right.

Excellent results at Beela Rise, Brunswick WA



This 8 year old ewe purchased in 2005 from Annie Hughes – Kars Pastoral Co was mated to a selected Beela Rise ram carrying Neribri genetics. She has lambed down and reared

these triplet ram lambs in 2008. After scanning, two of the lambs measured in the top ten of lambs born on Beela Rise in 2009 using Sheep Genetics Australia measurement (lambplan).

Bingara

Wiltipoll Sheep Stud

Registered Wiltipoll Flock no. 174

Registered ASSBA Flock no. 22

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Breeding quality, fully shedding
Stud Rams and Ewes

Maria & Phil van Wegen

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