

The Wiltipoll Web

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN WILTIPOLL ASSOCIATION INC

Issue No. 13

June 2011

From the Editor



Annie Hughes

Welcome to the 13th edition of The Web.

This edition includes reports on activities, sales, shows and field days that have been attended by Wiltipoll Association members around the country during the year.

In addition we have stories from various farming enterprises recounting their conversion to shedding sheep breeds.

To be part of future newsletters send your opinions, sales and show results, or other newsworthy activities of interest to:

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\$5800 National Wiltipoll Record



Thrilling Day: Wonoka stud principals San Jolly and Ann Wallace, Kapunda, were thrilled to achieve a \$5800 national record with a ram sold to Peter George, Illowra, Kawarren, Victoria.

A new national Wiltipoll record was set at the South Australian Combined Breeders sale last Friday at Mount Pleasant with the top price ram reaching a spectacular \$5800 high. The July 2009-drop ram from vendors San Jolly and Ann Wallace, Wonoka stud, Kapunda, sold to Peter George, Illowra stud, Kawarren, Victoria, who was looking to improve his new stud comprising 30 ewes. "I really liked his black feet, good length and good clean shedding coat," he said. "Wiltipolls are less work than other breeds. I only go up to the farm on weekends so they need to be easy care. The top price easily eclipsed the \$2700 top at last year's sale, also achieved by Wonoka, and the \$3200 paid for a Western Australian ram in a private sale earlier this year. For San, it was a reward for the past 12 years of

breeding the sheep. She said it had been a long journey, especially when it came to gaining acceptance for the Wiltipoll breed among mainstream sheep producers for its easycare attributes. "It has been a slow and steady progress trying to improve the breed quality. And because they are not imported, we have had to breed them ourselves," she said.

The Mt Pleasant multi-vendor sale continues to grow in stature each year with the fifth annual sale catalogue comprising 53 rams and 46 ewes from 12 different vendors. It attracted 41 registered bidders from SA, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania and in the breakdown, 39 rams sold for a \$1326 average and 34 ewes for a \$462 average.

Continued page 3

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 **WILTIPOLL**
THE LESS WORK PRIME LAMB BREED

2011 Presidents Report



Members of the newly elected committee at the dinner after the 2011 AGM. From left Neville Sloper, Peter George, Peter Colless (Vice President), Annie Hughes, Bastian Seidel, Len Owen (President), Richard Parker, and Dennis Johnson. Alick Wilkinson (Secretary) and Paul Brady (Treasurer) were absent.

It has been a very difficult year for the management committee of the Association as it became apparent when the annual returns were received last April that sheep whose breeding did not conform with the Association's breeding regulations had been returned, with many affected sheep having been sold on to 26 other flocks.

What followed has been an enormous amount of painstaking research carried out by members of the committee together with the Flock Book editors in an effort to determine the breeding of these animals, ensuring that the breeding regulations continue to be upheld. An assessment of the parent flock has been carried out and the Association has received a copy of the assessment but this has been received too late for the committee to consider it before the AGM. There has been constant liaison with the assessor over the past months which has at least allowed the breeding of sheep in the downstream flocks to be determined. This has cost the Association dearly in monetary terms as well as voluntary man hours, but the Committee was obliged to protect both the integrity of the Wiltipoll breed and the hard work done by many breeders.

We have been very fortunate that three members of our committee have generously lent money to the Association to cover the running costs during the year due to the depletion of funds as a result of the previously mentioned investigation. Fortunately the Association was able to cover its running costs and these funds were not needed. Our sincere thanks go to one extremely generous Tasmanian couple (members) who have donated \$1000 in a wonderful show of support.

The past year for our breed has again been extremely positive – helped of course by the general boom in the sheep and prime lamb industry. More and more mainstream farmers continue to convert to the shedding breeds than ever. It is apparent that the two major cleanskin breeds are Dorpers and Wiltipolls. Both breeds are being sold in commercial numbers in all states.

This year has seen some record breaking prices attained for Wiltipoll rams and ewes across the country. I must congratulate the organizers and vendors of the NSW/Qld and SA breeders' sales where top prices of well over \$2000 were achieved – a few years ago prices like this were unimaginable. I must make special mention of Wonoka stud here in South Australia which received the record breaking price of \$5800 for a ram. An amazing but just reward for many years of careful selection and breeding.

Congratulations also go to Munna, Neribri and Carthona for their successful private sales.

Lambex Conference

In August I was invited to speak at the Lambex conference held in Perth. This was a two day conference and as I was the only representative of a cleanskin breed invited, it was a wonderful opportunity to talk about the Wiltipoll breed to a large audience of 500 plus lamb producers.

The Cleanskin Symposium

The 2nd International Cleanskin Symposium was held in February 2011 with attendance of more than 170 people and again provided wonderful exposure for our breed.

Thanks to the members who manned the Association stand and organized a members and friends dinner before and after the Symposium.

A number of our members travelled from interstate and an on-farm visit after the Symposium, to San Jolly's Wonoka Stud was organised.

Constitution

The NSW Incorporations Act, under which our Association is incorporated, was amended in 2010 with a number of changes taking effect from the 1st of July 2010. There are several positive changes, probably the most notable one being the ability to now conduct postal ballots when a membership vote is required.

All Associations are required to update their rules or constitutions accordingly at some time, and we were pro-active it doing this in late 2010. A General Meeting of around 30 members (including proxies) passed a Special Resolution approving our new constitution on 12 February this year. As you are aware a workshop is being held after this AGM to consider further ideas for improvements to the Constitution from interested members.

Membership of the Association

The inclusion of members with unregistered flocks has been a great success, our membership has increased significantly as a result and members with unregistered flocks are kept up to date with the doings of the Association.

62 new members have joined the Association during the year bringing our total membership to 256. 24 new registered flocks have been established and 14 unregistered flocks have been listed. 41 members have pedigree recorded their flocks last year. From now on only sheep with full pedigrees as opposed to partial pedigrees will be accepted for pedigree recording.

The committee was very pleased with the Flock Register produced last year but decided that tenders should be called for the compilation

of the Association's 2011 Flock Register and they were sent to five separate bodies. Joel Small's tender was successful and Joel will be administering Members Services again for the year.

The Tasmanian Sub-committee has now been established with Bastien Seidel as Chairman. Tasmania has bounded ahead in terms of membership thanks largely to the enthusiasm and drive of Bastian and his partner Erica Bell.

I would like to thank all of the members of our committee for all the work that they have done throughout the year for the Association and for all the members. A number of these members travel huge distances at their own expense and in their own time to attend meetings. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Ann Wallace who gave many hours of her valuable time, and Len who as Vice president has contributed over and above what is normally expected in both hours and expertise at the expense of many of his own working hours. We have been very fortunate to have Len available to guide the committee through the upgrade of the constitution.

**Annie Hughes
President 2010**

Lamb on a High

Lamb is set to overtake beef as Australia's most expensive meat for the first time, as the nation's sheep shortage pushes prices to record levels. Some butchers are selling lamb chops for more than T-bone steak.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) figures have shown the average retail price of lamb was \$14.16/kg in the March quarter, fast gaining on beef at \$16.14/kg and higher than pork at \$13.46/kg and chicken at \$4.02/kg.

MLA market analyst Sylvia Athas said lamb's 3.4 per cent rise during the quarter was of interest, given the slight fall in other meat prices.

Buckingham Butchers owner Blair Parsons has been charging \$22.99/kg for lamb loin chops and \$20.99/kg for T-bone steak at his Bunbury shop.

"There doesn't seem to be any relief in sight" he said. Mr Parsons said lamb prices used to be on par with pork loin chops, which he now sells for about \$16.99/kg.

Independent Grocers Association president John Cummings said it was inevitable that lamb prices would rise above beef, given the general exodus of sheep farmers from the industry after years of low prices.

"Consumers can't expect farmers to continue to produce sheep for low returns," he said. "It's a simple case of supply and demand."

**The WA Countryman
August 2010**



Top priced Wonoka ram at the SA Breeders Sale Oct 2010

\$5800 National Wiltipoll Record

Continued from page 1

Wonoka sold another ram for \$3400 to JW & AF Cabot, Port Lincoln, and for the same money, The Palms, Palmer, sold their pick ram to Bruce Williams, Marchmont, Gigegannup, WA. Repeat volume buyer PJ & K Dowdle, Woodhouse, Vic, underpinned strong competition early in the sale but after he had filled his order, a number of rams from the newer vendors were passed in. Tasmanian breeders Erica Bell and Sebastian Seidel, Misima Stud, Hobart, made their presence felt during the ewe offering with 10 ewes, including two at the \$925 high from Wonoka stud.

Mr Seidel, Secretary of the Tasmanian sub-committee, said Wiltipolls were better-suited to these high rainfall areas than other naturally shedding breeds and had eliminated the need to drench their sheep. Ewes were generally in demand with Wonoka averaging \$788 for their six ewes and Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo, having a total clearance of their six ewes for a \$575 average. However, there was buying across all budgets, with 14 of the 15 ewes including two with lambs at foot from Eden Valley Estate, Springton, making between \$225 and \$300 each. Elders Strathalbyn conducted the sale with Tom Penna the auctioneer.

**SA Stock Journal
October 2010**

Correct level of vaccination vital for lamb health

Vaccinating your lambs should be a standard procedure for producers as the animal health with production and economic benefits are well known. One area where producers can improve is the all important second vaccination for lambs.

The recent PIRSA Animal Health sheep producer survey showed that a number of producers were only giving their lambs one vaccination, usually at marking, leaving the lamb with less than optimal immunity.

A successful vaccination program will get these things right:

- The type of vaccine.
- The number of doses.
- The timing of the doses.
- Storage and handling of vaccines.

The vaccine used should provide protection against cheesy gland and, at the minimum, also cover tetanus and Pulpy Kidney (enterotoxaemia, over eating disease) ie, a standard 3-in-1.

In some areas, a 6-in-1 is recommended because it covers a wider range of clostridial diseases. Your local animal health officer and veterinarian or private vet can advise you on vaccine choice.

For the purposes of this article, we will look at these common vaccines and not at the more specific ones that protect against scabby mouth, Erysipelas or Ovine Johnes disease.

When using vaccines containing trace elements or anthelmintics, ensure the correct dose is used to avoid under or over dosing.

If ewes are vaccinated correctly, their lambs will obtain antibodies through the colostrum (first milk) which will give them some protection for the first month or two of life.

Vaccinating lambs at marking acts as a sensitizing or priming dose that stimulates the lambs' immune system to protect for about six weeks. Remember that it takes the immune system about two weeks to fully respond.

A second dose given four to six weeks later, or at weaning is vital. This dose will further stimulate the immune system, resulting in a prolonged level of protection.

This can last out to 12 months and really set the sheep up for ongoing immunity using annual boosters.

Weaners going on to high quality pastures or being supplemented with grain are more at risk of pulpy kidney, and should receive booster vaccinations every three to four months.

Booster doses can be given when the lambs are in the yards for other reasons, eg, drenching or drafting off a line for sale, to save on labour and time.

Vaccination is a relatively easy practice and is good livestock management.

Give your lambs the best chance to survive and grow and provide them the full vaccination program that they require.

Dr Nigel Baum
Veterinary Officer PIRSA
Biosecurity SA , Animal Health 08 8842 6227
SA Stock Journal May 2011

Jayvee Farm buys top Wiltipoll ram

Values for rams and ewes lifted considerably at the recent second New South Wales/Queensland Combined Wiltipoll Breeders Field Day and Sale at Gulgong, NSW when rams topped \$2,050 and ewes made to \$675.

The Carthona stud of Peter and Judy Colless, Wingham, NSW sold the top ram at \$2,050 to Chris Rundle and Dianne Bak, Jayvee Farm Stud, Bute. It was a July '09 drop son of Carthona 101 from Bussey 17.

The Baks started their venture into Wiltipolls at the South Australian sale in 2009 buying six ewes and in 2010 a sire from Coolamon Park Stud, Pinnaroo.

"We were keen to introduce some NSW genetics into SA so this sale was perfect for us," Mr Rundle said. The sale's ram average was \$1,115, and six ewes averaged \$567, topping at \$675. Sheep also went to Victoria, many areas of NSW and the ACT.

The average price for stud rams jumped to \$800, while stud ewe values lifted to \$487 compared with the first sale at Mudgee last year, when 24 rams topped at \$900 to average \$471 and 38 stud ewes made to \$600 averaging \$340.

Also, a further 20 commercial purebred ewes at Gulgong topped at \$450 to average \$427.50.

Chris and Dimity Milne
Top Farm NSW

Awareness grows in easy care sheep breed

The interest in easy-doing sheep is growing with the Wiltipoll 2nd NSW Qld combined Breeders Sale and Field Day attracting a big crowd.

Ewes were particularly popular with 30 of the 32 registered ewes on offer sold through the auction. The other two sold in post-sale negotiations.

There were also 20 commercial "GrangeVale" Wiltipoll ewes sold in lots of three for an average \$408 per ewe.

NSW/Qld sub-committee chair Genevieve Starr said they could have sold many more ewes.

"There are probably some people here disappointed that there are not more ewes," she said.

All up, Mrs Starr said the sale was much stronger than last year.

The Field Day also attracted some interest, with forums discussing nutrition and sheep selection throughout the morning.

"While not everyone bought, there are obviously people interested in the breed," she said.

There was also interstate interest, with a breeder from Tasmania present, while the top-priced ram was bound for SA.

The Western Magazine
January 2011

Cleanskins give robust cash flow

In little more than a decade graziers running cleanskin breeds in pastoral areas have gone from social outcasts to owners of highly profitable prime lamb enterprises.

BR&C Agents Broken Hill co-owner Malcolm Brady admits he was one of the many sceptics when the sheep were first introduced, but is now an advocate for their ease of maintenance, high fertility, and finishing ability even in below average seasons.

The long time stock agent says the early adoption of Dorpers, Damaras, Wiltipolls and other cleanskin breeds typically came from those newer to farming, the younger generation who had researched them, and people struggling financially with prolonged low wool prices.

There was often "hostile tension" between neighbouring properties but the swing has even helped the Merino breeders, with the nation's wool clip dropping dramatically.

"There was a huge backlash by traditional Merino producers concerned about wool contamination from fibres and just not knowing about these sheep," he said.

"Now they have looked, watched and learnt, they see that the sheep are not the threat they thought they were and were even a help to lower the supply of wool."

Between 20 % and 30 % of Malcolm's clients south of Broken Hill down to Swan Hill in Victoria have either gradually infused the naturally-shedding breeds in their Merino flocks, or switched over their flocks entirely.

There have also been dispersal sales of self-replacing Merino flocks to be replaced with Dorper cross enterprises, exacerbated by the high incidence of flystrike this season.

Malcolm says cleanskin breed clients are now making much greater returns even with the recent rise in wool prices, because of the big difference in numbers of lambs to sell.

"With much higher lambing percentages than Merinos they are averaging more than \$100 for their lambs on-farm so it is a big difference, and those with Merinos need a lot of wool to catch up."

Another real benefit is the ability to finish more lambs in pastoral areas rather than sell them as stores to the inside country.

Malcolm says farmers are competing with the mining industry for labour and shearers and shed hands are becoming increasingly difficult to find, so it is an advantage that the cleanskin flocks do not require shearing and only minimal crutching.

Instead of shearing, property owners have time to complete other jobs around the farm such as fencing.

"My clients who have changed over are fencing their properties, putting in new troughs and new yards and spending money on infrastructure, whereas most of those with Merinos are struggling to do that and are just treading water," he said.

Malcolm Brady
Guest speaker
Cleanskin Symposium Feb 2011
SA Stock Journal



Recipe courtesy of the MLA - Serves 6

1 Australian leg of lamb, butterflied
freshly ground pepper, to taste
sea salt, to taste

Salad

2 pounds sweet potatoes (2 large or 3 medium)
2 tablespoons olive oil

Warm Australian Lamb Salad with Sweet Potato

2 bunches arugula, torn
1 small red onion, halved and thinly sliced
6 ounces feta cheese, crumbled

Dressing

½ orange, for juice and zest
2 tablespoons red wine or sherry vinegar
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Trim lamb and season with salt and pepper.

Preheat oven to 375°F. To start salad, peel and dice the potatoes into ½ inch pieces and toss with the olive oil to coat. Place on a baking sheet and cook for 20-30 minutes, until tender and golden brown.

Heat a barbecue or grill pan to medium high heat and cook lamb for 5 minutes on each side. Cover barbecue or transfer lamb to the oven and cook for 8-10 minutes or until medium-rare and internal temperature reaches 130-140°F. Cover loosely with foil and allow to rest for 15 minutes.

To finish the salad, while lamb is resting, whisk the dressing ingredients together and season to taste. Toss the arugula, onion and warm potatoes together in a bowl, add half the dressing and mix well. Place on a platter or individual plates. Slice lamb thinly across the grain and arrange over the salad.

Scatter with the feta cheese and drizzle with remaining dressing.

Carthona Wiltipolls reign at Gulgong sale

Dianne and Chris Rundle of Jayvee Farm in Bute, South Australia paid \$2050 for a Carthona ram bred by Peter and Judy Colless at Wingham.

The Rundles are setting up a small Wiltipoll stud and have been sourcing rams since 2009. They travelled to NSW to get some different bloodlines into the mix.

In the past the Rundles have run first cross Suffolk and Merino fat lambs and operated a White Suffolk stud, which gave Mr Rundle the "bug for pure-bred sheep".

The second, top-priced ram, also from Carthona, sold for \$1075 to Chris and Dimity Milne, who live in Sydney but have a small block at "Top Farm", Oberon.

The Milnes have been breeding Wiltipolls for two and a half years and this ram will go into their operation.

The ram sale grossed \$16,000, averaging \$800, with a 52 per cent clearance.

Ewes averaged \$487, selling to a top-price of \$675, also a Carthona ewe, bought by Max and Vicki Walsh of 'Willow Bend', Gulgong.

The Walshes have White Dorpers as well as cross-bred ewes.

They also purchased a Wiltipoll ram and plan to put him over the ewes to improve the conformation of the Dorper feet, preferring the dark hoof of the Wiltipoll on their soft ground.

They also hope to breed the Wiltipoll stud line and see how it

performs for them.

"If we are happy with the result I might lean towards them", Ms Walsh said.

Gunhurst stud, operated by Paul Brady at Bathurst sold two ewes at the second top price of \$600 while clearing four ewes at auction to make the top average of \$575.

Two ewes were purchased by Morrie Wood, 'Woodys Hill', Orange. Kerryanne and John Thompson, 'Glenburnie', Kars Springs via Scone bought six commercial ewes from Grange Vale Eumungerie, paying \$425 each for three and \$400 each for another trio.

The day also included the auctioning of two second-cross charity ewes, donated by Colin and Rosemary Adler of 'Worryless', Barmedman.

The ewes both sold for 4300 to Gordon and Genevieve Starr of Eschol Wiltipolls, Dalton, with the proceeds of one ram going to the Queensland Premier's Flood Appeal, while the other is going to the NSW-QLD sub-committee of the Australian Wiltipoll Association. The sale was conducted by Landmark Mudgee, with Michael Anderson as auctioneer.

The Land January 2011

Stud	Offered	Sold	Top (\$)	Ave. (\$)
Rams				
Carthona	5	5	2050	1115
Reavesdale	1	1	900	900
Worryless	4	4	1000	775
Allambie	1	1	750	750
Gunhurst	17	7	800	661
Holmsview	2	1	650	650
Waratah	1	1	400	400
GrangeVale	3	-	-	-
Kirwin	4	-	-	-
Total	38	20	2050	800

Stud	Offered	Sold	Top (\$)	Ave. (\$)
Ewes				
Gunhurst	4	4	600	575
Carthona	6	6	675	567
Allambie	2	2	600	550
Four Winds	4	4	500	456
Kirwin	5	5	500	440
GrangeVale	9	7	475	425
Waratah	2	2	400	400
Total	28	26	675	487
Commercial ewes				
GrangeVale	20	20	450	427.5



Peter and Judy Colless with their top priced Carthona ram and buyers Dianne and Chris Rundle, Bute SA

Total Clearance at Auction for Munna Wiltipoll Sale

On Saturday 19th February 2011, Munna Wiltipolls held their 6th on property Wiltipoll Sale.

The vendors were Harry & Jill Powell and Anna & Tom Dunlop of Munna, Coolah, Neil & Ann Kennedy of Yuma, Coonamble and Peter & Judy Colless of Carthona, Wingham.

Buyers came from NSW, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia, with spirited bidding and a complete clearance. The auctioneer Bill Tatt, of Christie & Hood, says it is the first stud sale he has conducted where there was a total clearance at auction. Bill is an "old" bloke who has been auctioneering for many years, at too many sales to count, which makes this a wonderful result.

Rams averaged \$1391 for 22 rams with a top price of \$2500 for Carthona 348 - purchased by Bastian Seidel & Erica Bell from Misima Stud, Hobart, Tasmania and 2nd top of \$2400 for Munna 884 - purchased by Peter & Judy Colless of Carthona, Wingham, NSW.

Ewes averaged \$573 for 66 ewes with a top price of \$750 for two

Munna ewes purchased by Ian & Loris Hopwood, Reavesdale, Murringo, NSW.

Ewe lambs (6 months old) averaged \$418 for 20 lambs with a top of \$475 each for 5 Yuma ewe lambs sold to Whitehouse, of Merriwa. The volume buyer was once again Tim Martin of Bundarra, NSW who purchased 12 ewes for an average of \$491 and 10 ewe lambs for an average of \$412.

It was wonderful to see many repeat buyers back again and to also welcome new buyers. The 108 sheep were sold to 22 different buyers.

Munna sold 6 month old prime Wiltipoll lambs in Dubbo on Monday 14th February for \$148 so the breed has become very well accepted by the market and we believe will continue to grow in market share.

**Harry and Jill Powell
Munna, Coolah
NSW**



Peter and Judy Colless of Carthona with the top priced Munna ram which they purchased for \$2400

Bastian and Erica Seidel, Misima stud Tasmania with the Carthona ram which they purchased for \$2500



The outstanding pen of Munna ewes which sold for an average of \$537 to Bastian & Erica Seidel, Misima Stud Tasmania

A Good Year at Carthona

Carthona Wiltipolls Wingham have completed a very successful year of showing at field days, 3 days at Tocal in April and 2 days at Mudgee Field Days in July. We achieved top price of \$2050 for a ram and top price of \$675 for a ewe at the 2nd NSW-QLD combined breeders sale and field day at Gulgong on 22nd January conducted by Landmark and top price of \$2500 for a ram at the Munna Coolah Wiltipoll sale on 19th February conducted by Christie & Hood, Dubbo. We believe the key to our success has been a combination of careful selection of rams and heavy culling of all inferior stock. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have purchased ewes and rams from us and wish you every success with their progeny

We also attended the Cleanskin Sheep Australia symposium in Adelaide the last 2 years and this year Peter was a guest speaker on sheep in a high rainfall area. We strongly recommend this symposium.

**Judy and Peter Colless
Carthona
Wingham NSW**

Tasmanian Subcommittee Gaining Momentum



The Tasmanian sub-committee of the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc.

Since its inauguration on May 29th 2010, the Tasmanian Sub-Committee of the AWA has been going from strength to strength. After the general self-introduction to other members, an election of office bearers took place. Two were appointed namely Bastian Seidel - Chairman, and Andrew Bailey – Secretary. The meeting then got underway, and was both friendly and informative. It consisted mainly of where we were heading, and what we wanted to achieve.

The second meeting took place on October 2nd 2010, it was very well organised, and enjoyable, and included a telephone link up with AWA President Annie Hughes, who answered all questions that were asked of her. All attendees showed a very keen attitude, which indicates that the future of the breed is assured in Tasmania. A discussion was held concerning future Wiltipoll sales in Tasmania, and also arranging for the breed to be included in as many agricultural shows as possible. There are a few people on

these show committees that do not readily accept wool shedding, low maintenance sheep, but it is our intention to persevere, and we are confident that we will prevail, and be eventually accepted at all agricultural show venues.

To reinforce the interest shown in the Wiltipoll breed, it is worthy of mention, that breeders in Tasmania have sold registered rams and ewes to mainland members, which is quite remarkable as it was only in 2003 that rams were imported from the mainland to Tasmania for the first time.

Discussions were also held concerning a breed promotion at venues such as Agfest. All agreed that this was a good idea, as the event attracted visitors both national and international.

The third meeting was held on March 26th 2011, and was attended by 16 people. A presentation was made by video link with San Jolly. It was a very interesting talk about classing A1 Wiltipolls and was very informative. It also covered the nutritional needs for optimal weight gain for lambs. It was followed by a talk by Andrew Bailey regarding pedigree recording, and gave many useful options. Bastian Seidel discussed the Cleanskin symposium held in Adelaide during February 2011. The Annual General Meeting to be held in Adelaide on April 9th 2011 was discussed at length followed by miscellaneous business. The meeting closed after deciding that the next meeting would be held on September 24th 2011.

All meetings have been well organized and well attended, and it is a credit to both Bastian and Andrew. Input by anyone present is encouraged, and is handled in a very supportive way. I personally look forward to these Sub-Committee meetings.

Geoff Hannis
Dervale Magra, Tas.

The Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc.
has been advised of the
following upcoming sales:

Registered Wiltipoll Sale 2011
The South Australian
Performance Breeders Sale
Friday 21st October 2011
Mt Pleasant SA

Next Registered Wiltipoll Sale
in New South Wales
Saturday 21st January 2012
Gulgong NSW



www.mentiethwiltipoll.com.au

Australian Wiltipoll Association
Registered Flock Number 136

Breeding from established
registered bloodlines using
Class A and A1 ewes and rams

Enquiries: Jain Mentieth
0417 891 669
PO Box 195
Tumby Bay SA 5605

Transport available to all areas

Wiltipoll Success At Exeter Show



Helen & Ross Eastburn, Glendale Lodge, Tas. with their winning ewes

The Exeter Show in northern Tasmania had a shedding breed's exhibition at their annual show again this year. After spending 3 hard hours on Friday night assembling the sheep yards for the expected exhibitors, we went home tired but excited anticipating good weather and a bumper crowd for the second Cleanskin exhibition as it is now known.

Andrew Bailey from Winkleigh Stud organised the sheep section last year, after deciding that we needed to give Wiltipolls more exposure. His friends Jim and Jo Lyell from Upper Natone came with their Dorpers and Alex Zhao from Sheffield came with his White Dorpers. Wiltshire Horns were also exhibited. Alex very kindly agreed to judge the Wiltshire Horn and the Wiltipoll breeds section.

Glendale Lodge again this year was fortunate enough to win the Best Wiltipoll exhibit with their 2 year old ewe, Grace, who incidentally won the award last year. Glendale Lodge took out the 1 to 2 year section with a well grown ewe. Winkleigh Stud exhibited a lovely young ewe lamb in the under 1 year Class who eventually took out the reserve champion Wiltipoll exhibit. The exhibition was very well patronised with 21 exhibits vying for success.

We will be exhibiting again next year, and encourage any registered breeders who would like to attend to contact Andrew Bailey or Helen Eastburn for further details.

It certainly is a credit to Andrew for organising this event for the 2nd year, the interest from the public has been so encouraging. We certainly look forward to bringing more animals to show next year.

Helen Eastburn
Glendale Lodge
Sidmouth Tasmania



Caramelized Australian Lamb Chops with Grilled Rosemary Carrots

Carrots

1 bunch baby carrots, trimmed & peeled,
leave ½ inch stalks

4 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

2 teaspoons fresh rosemary, finely
chopped

2 tablespoons currants
salt and pepper, to taste

To Serve

Barbecued potatoes or bread, green
salad, and chilled Australian beer.

Combine the marinade ingredients in
bowl and brush over all sides of the lamb

chops. Cover and refrigerate for at least
30 minutes for flavors to infuse.

Drain excess marinade and cook lamb
on medium high heat, turning frequently,
about 10-12 minutes for medium or until
cooked as desired. Transfer to a plate,
cover with foil and let stand for 5 minutes
before serving.

To prepare the carrots, place all
ingredients in plastic bag and toss. Wrap
in foil and place on the grill with the lamb,
turning pouch occasionally until carrots
are cooked as desired.

Serve lamb over grilled carrots, and side
with barbecued potatoes, a green salad,
bread, and chilled Australian beer.

Recipe courtesy of the MLA - Serves 6

12 Australian lamb shoulder chops

Marinade

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce (or red
wine vinegar)

2 tablespoons dark brown sugar

2 teaspoons honey mustard

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Wiltidam sheep support farm profitability in dry seasons

When Ian Tubby changed from Merinos to cleanskin sheep at his mixed farming operation in WA he had sheep for crop rotation without the costs and labour demands of mulesing and shearing. More importantly the hardiness and fertility of his cleanskin sheep helped carry the business through a difficult decade of below average rainfall.

Ian and Betty Tubby have now taken up a smaller operation breeding stud cleanskin sheep at Gingin, but in Jan 2010 were farming at Morawa east of Geraldton. The Tubby's commercial flock of cleanskin ewes was developed by infusing Merinos with quality genetics from a few cleanskin sheep breeds. Tubby bred stud Damaras and developed his own stud Wiltidam breed and made Damara and Wiltidam ewes and rams available for sale to other sheep producers.

By using the Damara and Wiltipoll genetics in his flock, Tubby intended to introduce hardiness, year round lambing, fertility, mothering instinct, effective conversion of poorer quality pasture and crop residue, and the production of woolless lambs with good surviving and early grazing abilities that had leaner carcasses with better quality meat.

In 1998 the Tubbys were cropping more than 3400 hectares as well as producing wool from 1500 Merino ewes and 1500 Merino weathers/lambs averaging 6kg (greasy) of 21 micron wool per adult sheep.

"We felt we were doing too much work for too little return but we still wanted sheep for rotation. We decided to change our breed to produce meat rather than quitting all our sheep to embark on the huge risk option of 100% cropping in a marginal farming area in years of drying climatic conditions. In our area cleanskin sheep will survive where cattle will die."

The Tubbys looked into Dorpers and Damaras finally leasing four Damara rams. The Damara is an old fat tailed breed, introduced to Australia from South Africa in 1996. Fat tailed sheep store fat in their tail and use it as a back up energy source during dry periods.

"We mated 700 Merino ewes to the leased rams achieving 70% lambing," says Tubby. "We also purchased Damara embryos - the pure Damara rams were then used to upgrade our Merino ewes."

Damaras limited Market Appeal

However, the Tubbys found they were limited to selling their commercial Damara cross

sheep in the export market. "The Australian domestic market doesn't like Damara lamb because the carcasses are too lean and the meat yield is lower than typical of domestic lamb."

In 2003 they decided to investigate other cleanskin breeds after the Cormo Express carrying 57,000 Australian sheep was stranded in a Saudi Arabian port because Saudi officials refused to accept the sheep.

The Tubbys had sold about 500 Damara cross lambs into that shipment. "We knew we had to produce a sheep which was not only sought after in Muslim countries but also on the local market."

The Tubbys chose Wiltipolls which were developed in Australia from predominantly Wiltshire Horn stock in the early 1990s. They selected ewes from their Damara flock for artificial insemination from a top Wiltipoll ram, and the progeny underwent stringent early selection using visual appraisal as well as Lambplan Maternal Index. They called the progeny Wiltidams.

To further improve access to domestic markets Tubby used stud Dorpers as terminal sires in a portion of the commercial flock. (The last Dorpers and their crossbreds were sold recently).

"Our commercial ewe flock consisted of approximately 5000 F3 and above Damara/Merino bred from a base of our original Merino ewe flock, plus in later years with the use of Wiltidam rams, we have Wiltidam/Damara cross ewes."

The cull and CFA Damara cross ewes are sold to live export, being replaced by commercial ewe lambs from the flock to maintain the flock size. Ram lambs and ewe lambs not needed for replacement are also exported.

The flock undergoes normal selection criteria plus Lambplan figures and disease checks (including Brucellosis and OJD). "The ewes breed all year round and lambs are exported as soon as they are ready after tagging." We have found the net profit is equivalent to or better than wool sheep without the work and hassles." Tubby says. They do not tail dock any of their lambs. "It would be counter productive and cruel to take away their nutrient storage that carries them in times of feed shortages."

Feed Shortages

"I estimate that the minimum extra cost of production of woolled sheep over cleanskin

sheep is \$18/h (based on contract rates of \$8/h for shearing, \$4/h for crutching, \$2/h for lice treatment, \$4/h mulesing/tail docking). A cleanskin ewe flock will consistently produce more than 140% well nourished lambs every year, whereas a Merino flock will be lucky to produce 90% all run in the same paddock."

"So not only do you have the extra \$18 per head production cost, you are losing 500 lambs at \$30/h (my estimate of the cost of a live lamb) for a mob of 1000 ewes, or \$15/h. The trade off for this is that you may get \$30 net per head from wool. The way I see it you do all the extra work to lose at least \$3/h."

"Fat tail sheep are the preferred sheep for the Middle East market as well as most other Muslim countries. Although there is no longer a premium paid for Damaras over Merinos in the export market, we have found that cleanskin ewes will get room on the livestock boats for very reasonable prices, while Merino ewes will be left in the yards back at the farm.

"The demand for cleanskin breeding ewes is increasing rapidly at the moment, however for farmers who don't have sheep the cost to get back in is prohibitive. Our empty CFA and cull ewes normally go on the live boats because breeders cannot pay the price the shippers pay."

"We dealt direct with the shipping companies for ten years, however now we get the livestock agents involved to lighten our marketing load," says Tubby. "At no time have there been any great delays for shipping and sheep have left the farm as soon as they are ready."

The sheep at Morowa graze on crop stubble, clovers, medics and grasses as well as shrubs. Tubby says the grazing/browsing behavior of his cleanskin sheep has not significantly damaged or changed the pasture mix because they are a mobile animal and do not stay concentrated in one area.

Tubby says the Wiltidams retain the hardiness of the Damara and are easy to contain with standard Merino sheep fences. "The ewes have a more muscled body than Damaras and are not as flighty, making them easier to handle." It is too early a stage for Tubby to have had sufficient cull Wiltidam lambs to sell to the export market. "The most important thing for us to do will be to monitor over the hook, although we are breeding for maternal trait not terminal."

Recently they introduced Van Rooy genetics



A line up of Ian Tubby's typical Wiltidam rams



Wiltidam ewes

from Muganbi stud at Parkes, NSW into the Wiltidam breed for the very dominant white gene and a more acceptable temperament. Van Rooy's are a fat tailed South African breed brought into Australia in the late 1990s. They seem to have all the attributes of the Damara as well as being heavier, with a more docile disposition."

Middle East Investigation

In 2008 Tubby went to Dubai in the UAE to investigate potential for selling his lamb direct. A staff member of the W.A Dept of Trade and Commerce gave him a tour of the 100,000 head capacity sheep feedlot, a local livestock market (souk), and a local abattoir very close to the souk.

"We also met with a meat importer who imports air freighted chilled lamb carcasses from WA and we visited a few of the large modern supermarkets. The cost of processing a sheep at the Dubai abattoirs was 30% of the cost in WA. The average worker was paid AU\$7 an hour." Tubby found the standard of the abattoir and the work was adequate and was supervised by fully qualified vets and meat inspectors.

"The difference between what I could get (paid) for my sheep and what the people in the UAE have to pay is huge, at least three times higher than the on-farm live sheep price in Australia. The air freight cost of chilled lamb from Australia was very high.

The importers told me it was not an issue; their markets were happy to pay the end cost, and they always had a consistent supply of very fresh lamb without any hassles."

"Six months after my visit to Dubai I supplied one air-freight chilled container of Dorper/Damara cross lamb to the importer that I had met with. They agreed our type of lamb was excellent. However I was not able to supply any more because I would have been losing money."

He believes that he did not have the cost saving advantages of economies of scale and ownership of the abattoir and supply chain that would have made this venture profitable. "I had to pay full price from start of the line to dispatch at Perth airport."

Tubby's son Cameron took over the Morowa mixed farming in early 2010 and Tubby and his wife moved to Gingin taking only Tubby's stud Wiltidams and Damaras. "I currently have about 110 ewes in my Wiltidam ewe flock having sold off a few to new Wiltidam studs in WA and NSW in recent weeks and 150 stud Damara ewes."

Tubby plans to keep a nucleus of his two sheep stud and a spread of his very best genetics. "I continue to breed Damaras because I have some of the best poll Damaras in Australia. I have Wiltidams because they are what are needed for a maternal ewe flock. I will be ramping up the breeding of Wiltidams on the Gingin property and there are already four Wiltidam studs in WA as well as one in NSW.

"At Morowa, Cameron is breeding Van Rooy's as well as the commercial sheep. He is using Van Rooy's from eastern states to cross with Damara ewes for his commercial ewes and is using White Dorpers as terminal sires. In the future the farm, like a lot of other grain farms in Australia will continue to run cleanskin sheep as a crucial part of the business. If grain prices don't start to pick up a lot there will be more sheep and less grain."

Ian and Betty Tubby
Bundaleer Wiltidams
tubby@bundaleersheep.com
www.bundaleersheep.com

Written by Laura Page
Australian Farm Journal magazine

Wiltipoll LAMBPLAN "Try Before You Buy"

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Your flocks data will be combined with the current LAMBPLAN dataset and run through the full analytical process in an unpublished run so it will not impact on flocks currently participating in LAMBPLAN. The data submitted for your flock will be removed from the LAMBPLAN database when the trial run is completed. Results from this analysis will be reported using the standard LAMBPLAN format. Results are only disclosed to the participating stud.

The analysis will include a genetic linkage analysis to identify each flock's current linkage status.

A condition of participation is that while the flocks will receive the full suite of LAMBPLAN reports they are not entitled to release this information publicly.

These results can be discussed with the Sheep Genetics staff to review and interpret the reports, discuss current data structure and further discuss LAMBPLAN and its potential application in the flock. Your genetic advisor and or data manager are encouraged to participate in this discussion.

As a minimum, the records required are individual animal ID, sire ID (to achieve links to other flocks), date of birth (average DOB estimate OK), sex, weaning weight and date of measurement. Information on additional traits is welcome.

For clarification of data requirements, further detail or assistance to participate please contact;

Hamish Chandler
LAMBPLAN Project Officer
Phone: 02 6773 3430

Sheep Genetics
Phone: 02 6773 2948

2010 Perth Royal Show



Champion Ram and Best of Breed exhibited by Brian and Neroli Smith (Neribri Stud) at the Perth Royal

The 2010 Perth Royal Show was well supported with sheep from Ruth and Ross Miller's Eaglenook Estate Stud, Sarah John's Nardie Stud and Brian and Neroli Smith's Neribri Stud. They were judged by Adrian Squires – a young but very well experienced judge, Poll Dorset breeder and prime lamb producer.

The ram classes were very strong but in the end a young ram from the Neribri Stud was sashed Champion Ram after edging out the winner of the 4 tooth class from Eaglenook. The Neribri ram then went on to beat the ewe from Eaglenook and become the Best of Breed. This ram lamb was the progeny of a one year old sire and dam combination and was a standout animal as a young lamb. The judge commented on his outstanding muscling and excellent feet and leg structure.



Champion Ewe exhibited by Ross and Ruth Miller (Eaglenook estate)

The ewe classes (especially the young ewe class) were even more challenging for the judge as a range of styles of sheep were presented. The Eaglenook sheep were beautifully prepared and presented and had all been washed, the Nardie sheep were also washed and were presented with long tails and the Neribri ewe lambs all had twin lambs at foot. In the end the scale and muscling of the Eaglenook sheep prevailed and they won both Champion and Reserve Champion ewe and the group classes which gave them the prize of Most Points in any British Breed. The Wiltipoll has been nominated as feature breed for the 2011 Perth Royal Show and it would be great to have a large display of sheep.

Neroli Smith
Neribri Stud, Boyanup WA

Wiltipoll Member Services is going online

Volunteers are being sought to trial a new online portal being developed for Association members. The initial system is being developed to handle contact information updates for members and to process electronic transfer applications instantly. Other services are planned to be introduced after the initial release, including:

- Online pedigree management
- History of transferred sales and purchases
- Basic flock statistics
- Parentage/progeny tracing
- Online flock return submission

If there are any services you would like to see as part of this online portal, or if you would like to be part of one of the trial groups for the pilot program, please contact Joel Small at members@wiltipoll.com.

Coolamon Park Wiltipoll

Reg. Wiltipoll Flock 16

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Thinking Wiltipolls
Think Coolamon Park

Annual General Meeting 2011



Members of the newly elected committee at the dinner after the 2011 AGM. From left Neville Sloper, Peter George, Peter Colless (Vice President), Annie Hughes, Bastian Seidel, Len Owen (President), Richard Parker, and Dennis Johnson. Alick Wilkinson (Secretary) and Paul Brady (Treasurer) were absent.

There were a number of significant features of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc, held in Adelaide in April. The first was the outstanding attendance of members, with many coming from interstate, along with a large number of proxies lodged for the election of the 2011 Office Bearers and Committee members.

Second was that Annie Hughes, founder of the Association and President since inception 15 years ago, chose not to seek re-election as President. I think all members would agree that the Association would not be as strong as it is today without her many years of dedication, leadership and plain hard work.

Lizzie Hughes, long-time Secretary of the Association, also chose not to seek re-election, and we thank her for her many years of service.

Thankfully Annie has remained a member of the new-look Committee, which sees former Vice President Len Owen as President, Peter Colless as Vice President, Alick Wilkinson as Secretary and Paul Brady as Treasurer. The new Committee has an exceptional blend of skills and experience ranging from the rural/agricultural sector through to professional, senior management and financial backgrounds. All are obviously passionate Wiltipoll breeders, and this all augers well for the future of the Association. Full details of the Committee and their profiles can be found on the Association website.

Len Owen
President

Eumungerie's Wiltipoll World

Leather book covers and leather folios will showcase a potential new market for Wiltipolls at the Country Energy Mudgee Small Farm Field Days.

Eumungerie Wiltipoll sheep breeder, Rita Hough, had the skins done up last year to look at the value-adding potential of the breed.

Running her sheep under the name Grange Vale, Ms Hough said if there was a market in Australia for these items she'd like to start to establish it.

While the products for display were just trial items, skinned in Victoria and handmade in Dubbo, they would be on show so she could see what interest was piqued.

It would also allow potential for current Wiltipoll breeders to see what value adding could be available with their animals. "A lot of people are interested in the leather," Ms Hough said. "People want to buy it but it's just a trial at this stage. "It's a beautiful, soft leather." Ms Hough said an important part of the leather products would be ensuring it was all-Australian made.

In her trial, she had only managed to find one place to skin the sheep and that was in Victoria but she was determined not to do it overseas.

She said the skins themselves could come from those who sent the animals to the meat market.

Increasing numbers of farmers were finding Wiltipolls appealing, Ms Hough said, due to their "easy care" reputation and good lambing percentages. She said not needing shearing was also a major advantage for people wanting to run sheep for the first time. Broad acre, hobby and small-acreage farmers have bought sheep from Ms Hough. "They are readily accepted at sale yards," she said.

She said cattle farmers were buying them because they wanted a sideline to their cattle businesses but didn't have the entire infrastructure necessary for sheep – such as shearing sheds.

And those who wanted just a handful of sheep to mow the lawn were also turning to these self-shedding varieties because they couldn't get shearers to come and shear just 20 sheep. "Sales have been on the increase for a while as more people have become aware of these sheep," Ms Hough said. "I work full-time and they suit my lifestyle."

By Kim Chappell
Small Farms Magazine
July 2010

Forget docking

SA breeder eyes tail end of the market



Registered Kars ewes in winter coats displaying undocked tails at Tom & Annie Hughes Strathalbyn property in SA

Wiltipoll sheep and lamb tails could soon be on Australian menus if South Australian breeder, Annie Hughes has her way. For the past 12 years she has left the tails on her registered full wool-shedding Wiltipoll ewes. The Hughes family run 300 Wiltipoll ewes at "Martindale" near Strathalbyn in SA, while at the 60,000 hectare Kars Station near Broken Hill their Wiltipolls have taken over completely from their Poll Merinos. "Sixteen years later we don't have any Merinos or crossbreds carrying wool; we run only full wool-shedding ewes" Annie Hughes said. The flock has grown to 6,000 head.

Annie said that she had persevered with her tails-left-on trial despite opposition from other family members and from now on tails would be left on all registered ewe lambs born on Kars Station.

"We have given it a good trial having left tails on for more than 12 years and we feel confident there is not a health, reproduction or fly problem in fact not any sort of problem", she said.

"Occasionally we have a ewe that in winter gets a dirty tail but this happens with cattle and it cleans up as soon as the wool starts shedding in spring. No Wiltipoll with a dirty tail had ever become flyblown and there was no incidence of cancer from sheep with their tails left on.

Sheep generally get cancer as a result of sun on the sensitive skin in this area which is naturally protected by the tail. So leaving tails on has eliminated this problem.

"If Wiltipolls don't need their tails cut off for their health then in my view there is no need to cut them off".

She believes that that the no tail-docking practice could spread to other cleanskin breeds.

"I am not advocating that other woolly breeds of sheep should leave tails on. A woolly sheep must have its tail docked otherwise it will be susceptible to fly strike".

But she was hoping that leaving tails on would represent a marketing advantage for Wiltipoll sheep and lambs, as well as meaning less work and chemical use.

"I think the animal health and welfare issues are important. My view is that when PETA (people for the Ethical Treatment of

Animals) has finished dealing with mulesing it will then turn its attention to tail docking. Our breed being a full wool-shedder is in a perfect position to take advantage of this. We have done years of trials and have evidence that leaving tails on does not hurt the animal in fact the tail is there for a purpose, it protects the vulva and anus and shades the udder".

She said "Lamb tails could also become a new meat cut for consumers, once butchers get used to it".

"Lambs tails are the most delicious thing – you just crumb and fry them and the meat is sweet and extremely tender".

"If we could get the Chinese to eat lambs' tails instead of rhino horn we could really make serious money".

But the Hughes' market lambs and sale rams still have their tails docked.

"Leaving the tails on breeding ewes is just a start – it is a gently, gently approach." Annie said. "We need to think about why we are bothering with tail docking, causing the animal unnecessary pain and stress when we don't need to do it with cleanskin breeds? Some of our ewes are born with naturally shorter tails and it might be a good idea to selectively breed for that trait."

Stock and Land
The Land
October 2010



Running the gauntlet through rain soaked roads another load of Wiltipoll ewes sets off from Kars Station for their new homes. Fred Hughes, January 2011

I read your article regarding lambs tails. I am a New Zealander and in my Maori Culture, most of us LOVE lambs tails. We simply chuck them on an open fire, burn off the wool and cook the tail through, then take the burnt off and eat away.

I cannot seem to find any tails over here in Australia. Would you sell or know of anyone who sells lambs tails? This could be a good business to advertise at the New Zealand and/or Pacific festivals.

Jamie Phillips
E: jamie.phillips@conbear.com

Enquiry from Robert Bainbridge UK

I am familiar with both Iolo Owen's EasyCare (UK) and Dr Rolf Minhorst's Nolana (Netherlands) sheep breeds.

You may be interested to know that there is now a 'new' shedding breed created by SIG (Sheep Improvement Group). It's called the Exlana and is a mix of Wiltshires and various others. I don't think it is a real breed so much as an ongoing process!

There are less than 10,000 Wiltshire Horn in the UK spread across something like 500 flocks, so with only 150 ewes we have one of the largest flocks of Wiltshire Horn. The reason I am interested in your commercial Wiltipoll flocks is I'd like to source improved genetics and thought that with your larger flocks you guys might be better able to select for fertility and meatiness. And thus have better genetics for commercial production than we do here. Do you think that could be the case?

The EasyCare and Nolana are both second rate crosses. The EasyCare is good at producing a fast finishing 16kg lamb but produces a lamb that is too small and it gets fat too quickly for extensive systems.

It also produces an uneven crop of lambs when crossed with a terminal sire. While the Nolanda is separating into two varieties - a smaller, hardy line and heavier, hungrier line more akin to the German mutton type. Minhorst has suggested to me that, in many ways, the UK's Wiltshire Horn is the superior sheep.

And indeed I 'm very pleased with it. I've just finished lambing and not lost a single ewe even though I never lambed a single sheep. One of the ewes I bought in last year had a prolapse and several old girls with no teeth have not produced enough milk. But that is hardly surprising following the worst winter in 30 years followed by a drought instead of the traditional 'April showers'. No one has any grass at all, but the rain in the last few days should now see it jump out of the ground.

The two biggest problems I have with my flock are the low fertility - about 130% finished off ewes tugged - and their horns digging into my legs during pen work. Hence my enquiry to you. Do you think that any your Australian Wiltipoll flocks

could be more fertile than mine?

My main interest is that the UK sheep industry is failing, the national flock shrinking by about 3% per year. The industry will need a new approach if it is to recover. Its slowly becoming more obvious that we need the national flock to be of polled, shedding sheep. The EasyCare cannot provide the quality of genetic material necessary for crossing, and the Wiltshire is both lacking in fertility and has horns. Hence my interest in buying semen and upgrading my flock into Wiltipolls.

Robert Bainbridge
UK farmer
2010

Editor's note: It is interesting to read Robert's comment regarding his opinion of the EasyCare breed being unable to provide the quality of genetic material necessary for crossing. The EasyCare is a third cross only, using the Welsh Mountain sheep breed to introduce the poll gene. Our Association has adopted Scott Dolling's recommendation of fixing the Wiltipoll breed at the fifth cross to ensure that the breed is genetically stable.

KARS PASTORAL CO - Registered Wiltipoll Flock 1

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Kars Pastoral Co will be holding a Wiltipoll Field Day and Sale on 26th November 2011 on Kars Station Menindee Road Broken Hill NSW, featuring:

- Displays of registered and flock Wiltipoll rams and ewes
- Barbeque lunch
- Guest speakers
- Flock ewe and ram sale

Commercial numbers of full wool-shedding Kars bred Wiltipoll ewes and rams will be offered for sale together with composite Wiltipoll/Dorper rams from Wonoka Stud Kapunda SA.

Agents: Landmark and Elders

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Prime lamb Results

A pen of 42 Wiltipoll/Merino 3rd cross lambs were sold in Griffith sale yards to a top price of \$165/head. These lambs were 11 months of age and were among the top eight pens in the sale of 39 pens of lambs. They were sired by Kars rams.

Neil McDermott
Narrandera, NSW
June 2010

Lamb prices we received for Reavesdale lambs sold at Cowra sale yards over the past twelve months. We averaged \$126-25 for all lambs sold with a top price of \$146

Ian and Loris Hopwood
Reavesdale, Murringo NSW
October 2010

We purchased 870 flock ewes from Kars Pastoral Co in 2009 and were pleased with their 130% lambing.

We sold 8 month old wether lambs from these ewes dressing out at 23.5 kg averaging \$145. This worked out at about \$6/kg.

We sold most of the ewe lambs produced at 7 months of age for \$190 on the place. We are thinking that with the recent price rises for breeding ewes this might have been a bit cheap.

Tom Edwards
Penola SA

Munna sold 6 month old Wiltipoll lambs for \$148/head in Dubbo on Monday 14th February.

Harry and Jill Powell
Munna, Coolah NSW

Marg and Jack Slater, Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo SA sold 1st cross Wiltipoll/Merino woolly lambs in mid February 2011. They were pleased with the prices they received for 58 lambs weighed 22.6kg dressed at \$6.00/kg with a skin value of \$9.00, averaging \$144 per head.

Marg & Jack Slater
Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo SA

Wiltipolls were sold from Kars Station Broken Hill at Dublin market in early March 2011.

15 wethers made \$109/head, 30 wethers made \$140/hd and 19 wether lambs made \$130/hd.

Another load of wether lambs were sold at Ouyen on 14th April. 79 lambs sold for \$147/hd, 153 @ \$137/hd, 59 @ \$118/hd and 139 @ \$113/hd. These lambs were 9 months of age and well grown as a result of a wonderful season.

Fred Hughes
Kars Station, Broken Hill NSW

25 wether lambs were sold from Spring Creek at the Dublin lamb sale in March 2011. These lambs were 3rd cross Wiltipoll/Merino and were 8 months old and made \$165 a head.

Another pen of 28, 3rd cross wether lambs 8 months old made \$135 each

Neville Sloper
Spring Creek Wiltipolls, Kapunda SA

Marli stud Macclesfield sold 18 lambs to T & R Pastoral Murray Bridge aiming for the weight class of 32kgs. For the ten lambs that hit the mark we received \$168.80 for the carcass plus \$5 for each skin making \$173.80/ head!

These lambs were all from Jutland Valley rams out of mainly Kars blood ewes.

This is a record for us for a lamb (and an improvement on the \$3 we received for skins last year).

Alick and Mary Wilkinson
Marli Stud, Macclesfield SA

May 2011

Congratulations to Mary and Alick, as this is the highest price yet received for Wiltipoll or Wiltipoll cross prime lamb

Wiltis on show at Cleanskins

The Cleanskin Symposium was held in Adelaide for the second time, from February 9-10 2011.

The conference event was well attended with over 150 people listening to presentations from producers to experts on topics ranging from animal health to cost of production to management. Peter Colless (AWA Flock 13) gave an interesting and informative talk on running Wiltipolls in a high rainfall area while San Jolly (AWA Flock 3) dispelled some of the myths surrounding nutrition and highlighted the importance of understanding the maturity pattern of your breed of sheep.

Of the many informative and thought provoking speakers, Dr Alex Ball from Meat & Livestock Australia gave an outstanding presentation on the status of the current Australian flock, current research and best management practices to help producers maximise returns while increasing the national sheep flock to ensure growth and sustainability. Jamie McTaggart of Saltbush Livestock and butcher Trevor Hill shared their experiences in developing product for a premium branded market and the importance of consistency and consumer education in achieving their success.

The Symposium included sessions in the sheep pavilion to show case the range of shedding breeds where the owners of display sheep were given the opportunity to stand with their sheep, give a brief description of their breed and participate in a question and answer session. Excellent representation of the Wiltipoll breed was provided by Jack & Marg Slater, Coolamon Park Stud and Annie & Tom Hughes, Kars Pastoral Co.

The social activities surrounding the event included a fabulous welcome dinner at the East Asian Bistro, a conference barbecue in the Old Ram Shed, a pizza night at Buon Giorno's, a farm visit to Wonoka, finishing with a pub lunch at the North Kapunda Hotel.

Hopefully this will encourage lots more Wiltipoll breeders to put the Cleanskin event in their calendar for February 2012.

Ann Wallace
Wonoka Stud, Kapunda SA



The Cleanskin audience keenly watching the Wiltipoll display and information session



Annie Hughes (Kars Flock 1) and San Jolly (Wonoka Flock 3) discussing the attributes of Wiltipolls with the Cleanskin audience (rams on left Kars registered Class A1, ram on right Wonoka Wiltipoll Composite)

What a year of ups and downs at Wonoka

There is no doubt that the high point of the last 12 months was the success of the SA Breeders sale at Mt Pleasant – thank you in particular to Peter George, Bastian Seidel and Erica Bell for your enthusiastic participation in the sale to set new records for the sheep. Very encouraging indeed!

This high point in the year was followed by severe flooding through the middle of the property in early December; right through the ram paddocks (thank heavens we had moved them to higher ground the previous weekend) which took out every fence and left us with two paddocks. Our wonderful neighbours donned their Wellies and headed out into their pea crop to retrieve all the weaner lambs and we were very

fortunate to only lose one ewe through it all.

Our hearts go out to any of our fellow breeders in the eastern states who have been affected by far more severe flooding and also to our friends in the west who are experiencing one of their worst dry runs on record. Let's hope this winter brings some sense back to the weather.

Following the December rains we have had the greenest summer I've ever seen at Kapunda – pasture has been clover dominant and growing at approx. 40kg DM/ha per day. Interestingly the ewes have scanned at only 169% this year compared with 188% the previous 2 years, confirming my suspicions that clover's not all it's made out to be!

We pregnancy scanned the ewes in May and Neville Sloper brought his high school students out to watch Paul Cousins from Cousins Merino Services do the scanning. He was rapid fire so the kids had to be on their mettle keeping the ewes up to him as well as having a look at the ultrasound screen to pick up how many lambs each ewe had on board. It was lots of fun and I think the kids enjoyed it.

San Jolly
Wonoka Stud, Kapunda SA

Weaner paddock "water slide"

December 2010: Flood damage at Wonoka, Kapunda SA



Low maintenance lamb mums



Mike O'Hare, Beckom NSW with some of his top ewes.
Photo Courtesy of the Land

Five years ago Mike O'Hare 'Greendale' Beckom, moved to Wiltipoll sheep because there was "no money in wool".

The breed was marketed as a full wool-shedding, easy care meat sheep with no mulesing or shearing required, and that's what Mr. O'Hare was looking for. He said crossbred sheep were grossing \$12 to \$13 a head for wool at the time, and it was costing more than \$7 just to shear and sell the wool, not to mention the other management issues such as crutching and dealing with flies and lice.

"There was just no money in wool, so if we're not making anything out of it we don't have all that hassle of shearing and crutching and so forth," he said. "I don't know that it is saving us a great deal directly, but it is saving us a lot of unnecessary work."

On their 2200 hectare property the focus is fixed firmly on prime lambs. Mr O'Hare runs as many as 1600 ewes, 500 of which are Wiltipolls, as his flock is still in the breeding up stage.

"The Wiltipolls shed very well, they stay in their paddock and they are easy sheep to run," he said. "They're excellent prime lamb mothers." Mr O'Hare said the sheep were seasonal breeders and didn't cycle until autumn.

"The Merino, for example, although the peak of their fertility is in the autumn, they'll still breed at other times of the year," he said. "The Wiltipoll – except for the odd one won't join at all in the spring."

Mr O'Hare said because the majority of the Wiltipolls weren't joined until March and April, it meant lambing was in July/August.

To get around the seasonal breeding, Mr O'Hare was crossbreeding Wiltipolls with Dorpers, which breed all year round. The first batch of Dorper-cross ewes were joined earlier this year and Mr O'Hare had seen some promising results. A terminal sire such as a Suffolk or Dorset was used to produce the prime lambs. Lambs are sold at 12 to 16 weeks for the over-the-hooks market.

"We used to produce more than 90 per cent export weight lambs, to 24 kg plus, but during the drought, because the lambs have been harder to finish, we've been selling them into the domestic market at weights of about 21kg dressed weight," he said.

Mr O'Hare said the biggest problem for the Wiltipoll sheep was a lack of publicity because it was a small breed and not well known. "I can see a lot of potential for Dorper breeders and others to incorporate some Wiltipoll genetics into their flocks," he said. Once it becomes better known Wiltipolls will become more popular.

Wiltipoll Sale Preview
The Land, January 2011

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Enquiries Welcomed

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Website: www.wiltipollsheep.com.au



Low Maintenance: Misima Stud's Wiltipoll ewes don't need to be shorn.

Misima's minimal fuss tack pays off

Breeding hardy and "easy care" sheep is the main objective at Erica Bell and Bastian Seidel's Misima Stud in the Huon Valley.

The couple's stud was once home to Wiltshire Horn sheep but now Erica and Bastian run Wiltipolls.

"Wiltipolls are very low maintenance," Bastian said. "Of course we don't have to shear them and this year we have also discontinued docking the tails of our A1 ewe lambs." Wiltipolls are a natural wool-shedding breed that aren't prone to flystrike so crutching isn't needed. Misima Stud avoids chemical drenching and emphasises breeding for worm resistance. Another major focus at the Misima Stud is the selection of sheep with strong hooves – essential in high rainfall areas. "We're aiming to breed sheep that don't need to be shorn, drenched, mulesed or taildocked," Erica said. "Trimming of hooves should only occur every three years if at all." Add the natural ability to thrive on poor unimproved pasture and Misima Wiltipolls are the ideal breed for organic prime lamb producers. "We aim to constantly improve our breeding program and select our sheep carefully," Bastian said. To that end, Misima Stud placed the winning bid on the two top pens of Wiltipoll ewes from Wonoka Stud at the recent Combined Wiltipoll Breeders Sale in Adelaide. "They have great LAMBPLAN data and meet all our selection criteria," Bastian said. "We are fortunate that we can bring these ewes to Tasmania."

Tasmanian Country
November 12, 2010

Lambex 2010

I was thrilled to be invited by the organizers to be one of the speakers at the 2010 Lambex seminar held in August at the Burswood Casino complex in Perth in front of a large crowd of 500 plus lamb producers. I was the only speaker representing a shedding prime lamb breed and was interviewed with three other lamb producers in turn, reminiscent of a Michael Parkinson interview.

A continuous powerpoint of my sheep photos revolved across two huge screens during the interview and it was a great opportunity to talk about the Wiltipoll breed, and to explain the management of our prime lamb enterprise on Kars as well as mingle over the two days of the conference with others in the industry.

Annie Hughes.



Annie Hughes, Sam Kekovich (MLA's lamb ambassador, the face of Australian lamb) Neroli Smith and San Jolly at Lambex convention Perth 2010



Annie Hughes being interviewed on the Kars Wiltipoll enterprise by Gerry Gannon at Lambex convention

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, 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,

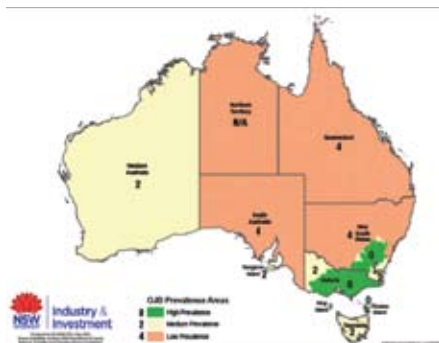
Hamilton SheepVention, Perth and Adelaide Royal Shows, Wagin Woolarama and Karoonda Sheep Fair.

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.

The main message is...

- there is an advantage in buying from a registered breeder
- you should ask questions when looking at sheep
- you should know that if you buy unregistered, you can't then register
- where to check to find out if something is registered
- there are a range of sheep to suit all budgets
- it is a good idea to look at a range of sheep before choosing
- website has more information

Information about Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) for new breeders



Ovine Johne's disease is a wasting disease of sheep caused by a bacterium that lives in the gut of infected sheep.

Some of our new members, especially those of you that may be new to the sheep

industry, may not be aware of the new OJD regulations. Before you buy or sell sheep I would encourage you to visit the Animal Health Australia website at the following address to check the regulations. www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/ovine-johnes-disease-in-australia/

If you buy in sheep from a high prevalence area the OJD rating of your flock is likely to be downgraded which may restrict how freely you are able to trade sheep in the future. Aside from the trading difficulties, you may not want to take the risk of introducing OJD into your flock. If your property is located within a high prevalence area you might

want to consider a vaccination program.

New Wiltipoll breeders may also not be aware that when sheep are traded their movement must be accompanied by 2 sets of documentation:

Sheep health statement – these can be downloaded from the same website detailed above. National vendor declaration - www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/On-farm-assurance/Vendor-declarations/LPA-NVD-Waybills.

The Animal Health Australia and Meat and Livestock Australia websites contain a large amount of interesting and valuable information about the sheep industry in general and in particular about OJD.

Shedding Scores

Wool Growing Area

Wool Growing Area refers to the skin area that grows wool at some time through the year. In some seasons wool may not be present on some (or all) of that area. An animal with a score 1 does not grow wool on any part of the body; it is effectively a hair sheep. An animal with a score 5 grows wool over the entire body for at least part of the year, it may however shed some (or all) of this wool seasonally.

When to score: As part of an R&D project the preferred option is to score animals once each season (i.e. Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn) with the first score being taken at the same time as the Weaning Weight (approximately 3 months).

How to score: A single score of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

Hair Type

Hair Type refers to the length and coarseness of the hair that grows on the animal particularly in the areas not covered in wool.

When to score: As part of an R&D project the preferred option is to score animals once each season (i.e. winter, spring, summer, autumn) at the same time as Wool Growing Area is being assessed.

How to score: A single score of 1, 3 or 5.

Score 1 - Short fine hair, less than 1.5cm in length

Score 3 - Medium hair, approximately 1.5 to 2.5cm in length

Score 5 - Long course hair, greater than 2.5cm in length






Current Wool Cover

Current Wool Cover refers to the skin area that is covered in wool at the time of assessment. Wool may have grown on other parts of the body but has been shed prior to scoring. An animal with a score 1 does not currently have wool longer than 1cm on any part of the body, it may have

grown wool and complete shed, or it may be a hair sheep. An animal with a score 5 is completely covered in wool (excluding the head and feet).

When to score: As part of an R&D project the preferred option is to score animals once each season (i.e. Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn) with the first score being taken at the same time as the Weaning Weight (approximately 3 months).

How to score: A single score of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Score 5
				
Wool Growing Area				
Animal Does not grow wool. 0% wool growing area 100% hair	Animal grows a saddle of wool across shoulders and part way along the back. 25% wool growing area 75% hair	Animal grows wool to approximately half way down the flank. Approximately 50% wool growing area	Animal grows wool over most of body except for legs, belly and breech area. 75% wool growing area 25% hair	Animal grows wool on all of body (excluding feet and head) for at least part of the year 100% wool growing area 0% hair
Current Wool Cover				
Animal is not currently carrying any wool. 0% wool cover 100% hair	Animal is carrying a saddle of wool across shoulders and part way along the back. 25% wool cover 75% hair	Animal is covered in wool to approximately half way down the flank. Approximately 50% wool cover	Animal is covered in wool over most of body except for legs, belly and breech area. 75% wool cover 25% hair	Animal is completely covered in wool on all of body (excluding feet and head). 100% wool cover 0% hair

