

# The Wiltipoll Web

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN WILTIPOLL ASSOCIATION INC

Issue No. 12  
May 2010

## From the Editor



Annie Hughes

Welcome to the 12th 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.

The establishment of state branches has continued with New South Wales joining Western Australia and Victoria with Tasmania soon to follow.

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

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## Inaugural International Cleanskin Sheep Symposium



Jack Slater is seen here holding the winning ram, 'Coolamon Park 831'

Producers from across Australia and the world gathered last week to discuss the bright future for shedding sheep breeds. They were cautious of the response in Australia's Merino-dominated state.

But what the co-ordinators of the first Australian shedding sheep, or cleanskin organization did not bank on was packing out an Adelaide showground's exhibition room with 230 people - 90 percent producers - from six states of Australia, the United States, South Africa and New Zealand, at its first Australian Symposium.

The management committee believes the enthusiasm generated at the two day symposium - sponsored by Rural Press - is indicative of an industry that has spiraled in numbers since the bulk of the shedding sheep genetics were imported into Australia 13 years ago because, put simply, "there is money to make".

Australia has 10 cleanskin breeds; Damara, Damper, Droughtmaster, Meatmaster, Wiltipoll, Dorper, White Dorper, Persian, Minis, Wilshire Horn and Van Rooy.



The place gets the Wiltipoll Ewe section at the Cleanskin symposium

Visit our website at  
[www.wiltipoll.com](http://www.wiltipoll.com)

 **WILTIPOLL**  
THE LESS WORK PRIME LAMB BREED

# Cleanskin Shortage Caps growth



Len Owen, Annie Hughes, San Jolly, Ann Wallace and Jill and Peter Rundle watching the judging of the Wiltipoll classes at the Symposium sheep show.

Cleanskin Sheep Australia symposium coordinator Lou Mawson said producers making money was the only way she could explain Australia's rapid adoption of cleanskin sheep breeds, which had hit the industry so hard that lack of supply had become the main hurdle handicapping growth.

While unsupported with figures – there has been no industry assessment of numbers to date – the bullish response was backed by producers across the Australia explaining the success they have had with the breed and building numbers.

Meanwhile, acknowledgement of market demand among sectors of the sheepmeat industry for Dorper and Dorper cross lambs in particular was noted at the symposium.

Paul Leonard, T&R Pastoral, Murray Bridge, said the fact that Dorper and Dorper cross producers were paid on the same grid as top British breed lamb producers, despite the industry being young in age, was an indication of the acceptance of the quality of the meat.

Denis Russell, a Cleanskin seedstock producer from Parilla, who has been involved in the industry since its infancy, said he received up to four enquiries a week for breeding ewes from producers in pastoral country regions and small scale

sheep operators looking for an easy care animal to produce prime lambs.

"It would be fair to say there are millions of mainly Damara-cross and Dorper-cross sheep in pastoral regions," he said.

Mr Russell said the ability to achieve at least 125% lambing figure twice a year, and minimal handling were major benefits of Cleanskin sheep for producers in marginal country.

However, South African stud producer Clynton Collett, owner of Bethulie stud where Australia's first Dorper, Damara, SAMM, White Dorper and recently Meatmaster genetics were produced, said getting structure into the industry must now be a priority.

"Its very unstructured at this stage with a number of individuals working separately, and they need to be drawn together or risk losing momentum.

Cleanskin animals' skin is considered a hide, and has no commercial value to date.

Roma producer Adrian Tiller, Leinster Pastoral, QLD, was unhappy with returns he was making from cattle and has bought 14,000 Damara cross ewes in the past seven months. He is looking to build numbers up to 20,000.

Goondiwindi, QLD, sheep consultant Lloyd Dunlop said cleanskin sheep numbers were on the rise in Queensland with producers looking for a low maintenance sheep to cash in on the sheep meat boom. He noted flocks were up to 70,000 head.

**SA Stock Journal**  
**February 2010**

Jack & Margaret Slater, "Coolamon Park" Pinnaroo SA were successful exhibitors at the 2010 'Cleanskin' Symposium & Sheep Show held in Adelaide in February. They were awarded 1st and 2nd place in the Wiltipoll ram class, 2 tooth and over and also received 1st and 2nd place in the Wiltipoll ewe class, 2 tooth and over. This is the first time Wiltipoll sheep have been exhibited in a show ring in South Australia.

## The Wedge-tailed Eagle - friend or foe?

Wedge tailed eagles are iconic Australian birds which play an important role in our environment and are fully-protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. A wedge-tailed eagle fact sheet has been published by the SA MDB NRM Board to inform land owners of the bird's importance, and to provide advice on how landholders can live with them on their properties.

Wedge tailed eagles help control the numbers of rabbits and hares present and are one of the few predators that will kill feral cats. In doing so, they help control the exotis disease Toxoplasmosis which affects warm-blooded animals, including humans, but the primary hosts are cats. Wedge tailed eagles help maintain bush and farm hygiene by feeding on weak or sick animals and carrion. These birds are sometimes blamed for lamb losses, but an analysis of the cause of death of more than 12,000 lambs by the CSIRO showed that - with rare exceptions - wedge-tailed eagles were not to blame.

For a copy of the Wedge-tailed Eagles in Agricultural Areas fact sheet phone the board on 08 8532 1432.

Details: [www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)

# Top Flesh at Cleanskin show promotes breeds

Organisers and judges were impressed with the line up at the inaugural cleanskin sheep show at the Wayville Showground on Friday as part of the Cleanskin Symposium.

Wonoka Wiltipoll stud principal San Jolly, Kapunda, who judged the Wiltipoll section, said "The growth in the breed during the past few years has been huge".

Jack and Margaret Slater, Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo, took out first and second place in the two Wiltipoll classes.

Coolamon Park's two-teeth and older ram impresses Ms Jolly with his short smooth coat and overall muscle. "He has a beautiful short natural summer coat which is important in shedding sheep breeding", she said. "But his size, his structure and his muscling are the reasons I chose him."

Coolamon Park also took the ribbon for it two tooth and older ewe. "She is a perfect ewe," Ms Jolly said. "She has good back extension and good stretch in her legs and feet."

Dorper and White Dorper were the other two breeds in the showing, judged by Americans Paul and Kathy Lewis. Dell Dorper, Moama NSW, made an impression on the judges, winning the younger and older Dorper ram categories.

The younger ram took the sash because of his muscle and balance, and the way the older ram carried himself with his overall muscling impressed the judges in his category. "He shows a lot of thickness and he carries himself well through the whole length," Mr Lewis said.

Cathy Lee, Arcadius, Goolwa, had a winner in the Dorper older ewe category, pleasing judges with her femininity.

"She has better length, strength and balance than the second ewe," Mr Lewis said.

In the White Dorper section, Tennyson Bay took all three ribbons in the young ewe category for her "femininity and structure".

"She's a really well balanced ewe, she's feminine and well muscled," Mr Lewis said.

The younger ram ribbon was won by Dumisa White Dorpers, Moama NSW. "He's got the length, he's got decent muscle and good depth of muscle," Mr Lewis said.

The older ram was won by Annalara White Dorpers Dubbo NSW. The judges were impressed with the line up of Dorper and White Dorper in Adelaide.

"They were in good flesh the whole way through," Mrs Lewis said. "We have a broader range in America. We have lots on the lower end with new breeders coming through, but we have the serious breeders as well."

Breeders were pleased by the interest shown in the cleanskins for the first year and hope next year will be bigger.

**SA Stock Journal**  
**February 2010**

## Prime Lamb Sales

5 month old sucker lamb \$95 and \$90 sold October 2009 Cowra Saleyards.

Sire: Wiltipoll

Dam: White Suffolk/Merino

**Ian Hopwood**

**Reavesdale NSW Flock 137**

73 second cross Wiltipoll/Merino lambs sold June 2009 to a top of \$158.50

Lambs sired by Kars flock rams.

**Neil McDermot**

**Narrandera NSW Flock 262u**

Wether lambs Oct/Nov 2009 drop

(late lambs) sired by Kars flock rams

Sold at the Ouyen market (Vic) 29 April 2010

87 @ \$109.00

182 @ \$86.00

62 @ \$80.00

Heavy wethers 2008 drop

35 @ \$120.00

**Fred Hughes**

**Kars Station Broken Hill NSW Flock 1u**

61 Wiltipoll wether lambs over 21kg

dressed weight made up to \$103.80 av

\$101.62.

Sold at Stawell to Woolworths Vic.

This worked out to \$4.80/kg with a \$3.00 skin value.

These were drought stricken wether lambs purchased from Kars Station in Dec 2009. Mr Hetherington sold the lambs in May 2010 after growing out and fattening. Live to dressed ratio was 48% which was higher than other crossbred lambs which are usually 46%. Lambs were finished over summer on average dry feed with no supplementary grain.

**Scott Hetherington**

**Penola SA**

Pen of 6 and 7 month old Wiltipoll/Merino cross lambs sold for \$113.00 in Dubbo 15 February 2010.

We were very pleased with this result as these lambs had suffered a very dry season.

The wool shedding breeds have their own designated area in the Dubbo sale yards and have become very acceptable to the buyers.

**Harry and Jill Powell**

**Munna**

**Coolah NSW**

## Serinidad snares top lamb prices

Serinidad purchased 17 wether lambs Aug 2009 drop in November 2009 from Wonoka, sired by Wonoka rams. These lambs together with a small number of Serinidad wether lambs were last sold last week to T&R Pastoral @ \$4.90/kg

Their average dressed weight was 23 kg with a top of 29.9 kg. Their fat score was generally 3-4 with a couple score 2 and score 5. One of the score 2 lambs still weighed over 27 kg. Their price averaged \$115 with a top price of \$146.50. Skin value \$20 @ \$1 each.

I finished these lambs on grass with some barley in a lick feeder and I was pretty happy with this sale.

**Len Owen**

**Serinidad Wiltipolls**

**May 2010**

# 2010 President's Report

It has been another positive year for our breed. There is a continuing increase in knowledge and acceptance of the breed by main stream farmers as is seen in the increase in the number of enquiries and demand for larger lines of flock ewes from prime lamb producers.

The SA breeders October sale was again successful with a top price for a Wonoka ram of \$2,700 and a Wonoka ewe secured the top price of \$750. The NSW breeders held their state sale at Mudgee NSW in February with a top price of \$950 shared by a Carthona and a Worryless ram and top price of \$600 for a Carthona ewe.

Sub committees have already been established in WA and VIC and during the year the NSW/QLD state sub-committee was also established. The Tasmanian members are in the process of establishing their sub-committee with their inaugural meeting set for May.

## Association Website

The upgrade to the Association website has been completed. The members secure logon has been established where reports of committee meetings can now be accessed.

From June 2009 when the recorded traffic was 484 daily hits there has been an increase each month to 1,138 hits per day in April 2010. I feel that we are receiving excellent value from our website and it is certainly giving our breed a positive presence. I'd like to thank Lizzie our webmaster who edits and changes details to the website which is a constant job.

## AWEX

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 medulated fibre content of the wool of every sheep breed in Australia.

Ten wool samples were taken from Wiltipoll winter fleeces, one sample from ten individual flocks and submitted to AWEX for testing. This testing revealed great variation in the amounts of dark and medulated fibres in the samples. The result of these tests is reflected in the 2010/2012 Code of Practice where the description "Downs wool" has been restored to Wiltipoll

wool despite its listing with the other woolshedding breeds. We feel that a higher understanding of our wool has been achieved as well as the development of a positive relationship with AWEX.

## ASSBA Disaffiliation

During the year our Association disaffiliated from ASSBA and to ensure that our Association is not split and continues to run under one set of breeding regulations only, our management committee has decided that any Wiltipoll sheep that continue to be ASSBA registered will no longer be accepted for registration with the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc. This policy will take effect from 2011.

Our Association has disaffiliated from ASSBA because the rules of both Associations are not compatible and breeders buying ASSBA registered sheep cannot be guaranteed to which class these sheep belong.

There is undisputable evidence that ASSBA do not carry out any checking of breeders records nor on the status of sheep and are not able to issue new members with Wiltipoll breeding regulations.

A copy of our flock register has been sent to ASSBA every year since 1996 but from 2011 this will no longer be necessary.

## The International Cleanskin Symposium

The International Cleanskin Symposium was held in February 2010 with attendance of more than 250 people and provided wonderful exposure for our breed. Five of our SA members entered sheep for sale, show or display. I congratulate members who entered sheep as they were all presented in excellent condition, well grown and clean shed, and it was a very good representation of the Wiltipoll breed. I would also like to thank the members of our committee who manned the Association stand and organised a members and friends dinner the night before.

A number of our members traveled from interstate and our committee organised on-farm visits after the Symposium, to the north of Adelaide to Megan and Steve Seckers, Neville and Terry Slopers and San Jollys properties and to the south to the Wilkinsons. Thanks to all those involved it made for a great weekend.

## Publicity

As participants in the Symposium the Wiltipoll breed has had some wonderful publicity with editorials in the Small Farms magazine and the SA Stock Journal, culminating in the Landline coverage of the event on ABC TV along with a segment on Wiltipolls, Dorpers and some of the other cleanskin breeds. This feature is available for viewing on the Cleanskin website at [www.cleanskinsheep.com.au](http://www.cleanskinsheep.com.au) All of the presentations from the Symposium are also accessible for viewing on that web site.

The Wiltipoll breed and breeders contact details have now been listed in the QLD, NSW, WA, SA and VIC Farmers Federation Farm Guides and the Weekly Times stud sheep publication.

Members have been more active during the year with Wiltipolls being displayed at more and more field days and shows and I congratulate those members who by putting in this effort to display their sheep around the country are helping to promote the Wiltipoll breed throughout Australia.

## Membership of the Association

This year the committee decided to include in our Association, members with unregistered flocks and this has led to a large increase in our membership.

The membership fees have had to be increased to cover the costs of compiling the flock register and the continued increase of the professionalism of our administration by Members Services at Walkerville Tce. has been taken to a new level.

90 new members have joined the Association during the year, 35 new registered flocks have been established and 68 unregistered flocks have been listed.

21 members have taken advantage of our Association's newly established pedigree recording service and are pedigree recording their flocks this year.

The Association has opened a cheque account to streamline the payment of larger accounts.

I'd like to commend and thank both Ann Wallace and Joel Small our Flock Register editors for the time and effort they have put in to the researching of flocks for the accurate compiling of the Flock Register. It is a huge, time consuming job, verifying breeding

records and I appreciate the patience and support that our members have shown during the continual improvements with our recording systems. Members Services also carry out many other small tasks for me on behalf of the Association willingly, and at the drop of a hat, despite being continuously busy with their other work and I thank them for this.

It has been another busy year for our committee members who have met more often than during the previous year and have dealt patiently with the many emails that I continuously 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**

**Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc.**

## Want to advertise? Why not utilise The Wiltipoll Web

Reach your target market with our new full colour newsletter.

With 280 members plus a database of 400 representing anyone who has enquired about our breed, The Wiltipoll Web gives great exposure for your advertising dollar.

Full colour adverts are available in these sizes.

**Full Page (with bleed).**

210mm x 297mm (+3mm)

**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.

# Revolution in worm prediction

## CRC for sheep industry innovation news release

Transforming wool, meat and the sheep that produce them

Graziers will soon have a quick and highly effective tool to detect when sheep should be treated to prevent Barbers Pole worm disease (Haemonchosis) outbreaks.

Estimated to cost the sheep industry \$369 million each year, internal parasites (worms) are the most costly disease of sheep, and resistance to common drenches is increasing every year.

The Haemonchus Dipstick Test kit, which will be commercially available this spring, can detect Barbers Pole quickly and easily in a simple 30 minute on-farm test.

Infections can be identified even before egg counts rise with immature worms detected by the test about a week before they produce eggs – when they are already causing serious disease in sheep.

The kit, developed by the Sheep CRC and to be produced and distributed by Merial and Ancare, will be released in time for this season's outbreak of Barbers Pole in the higher-risk areas of northern NSW and Queensland, and at times in southern higher rainfall zones, including Victoria and south-west WA.

Dr Brown Besier, Sheep CRC project manager and Principal Veterinary Parasitologist with the Department of Agriculture & Food WA, said the test can be used in conjunction with traditional methods of worm detection, such as faecal egg count monitoring, paddock records and grazing management, to determine which mobs are at risk of, or are affected by, Barbers Pole worm.

"The basis for the test is detecting the amount of blood in the faecal samples.

"Barbers Pole worms are blood-sucking internal parasites and as they feed in the abomasum some blood passes through the digestive tract.

"The testing tool is chemically sensitive to haemoglobin (a product of blood breakdown) and changes colour according to the amount of blood in the sample," Dr Besier said.

"Assessed in relation to weather conditions and sheep factors, the colour of the dipstick will indicate if, or when,

drenching is required."

Jack Bree, Merial and Ancare's Director of Large Animal Business, said that the kit will shortly be available as an off-the-shelf package with all components and instructions included, and enough materials for 50 tests.

"Farmers still need to collect dung samples from the paddock, but from there it's an easy, quick and cost-effective process.

"The sample is mixed with water, heated in a water bath and then cooled. The test-stick is inserted into the solution and then the colours on the stick change according to the amount of haemoglobin in the faecal sample. Simple and quick," Mr Bree said.

Chairman of the Sheep CRC, Dr John Keniry, said the Haemonchus Dipstick Test is a prime example of how the CRC model works to develop and deliver scientific solutions to key production problems.

"With contributions and funding from AWI and MLA, as well as state agencies, universities and industry consultants, the Sheep CRC is able to draw on national expertise and resources to address priorities.

"The kit is just one of a range of tools and techniques being delivered and developed by the Sheep CRC to help drive productivity and profitability growth in the sheep industry," Dr Keniry said.

### Media contacts:

Sheep CRC:

Janelle Holzberger - 02 6773 1316

Merial and Ancare:

Jack Bree - 02 9893 0052

or 0418 291 886

The Haemonchus Dipstick Test kit is fully self-contained and includes all the materials required for on-farm use. A refill kit is also available.

Major benefits include:

- Results within 30 minutes on-farm
- Detects worm burdens up to one week before faecal worm egg counts
- Easily accessible and able to be stored on-farm
- Reliable, accurate and inexpensive

**Meat & Livestock Australia**  
**October 2009**

# Karoonda Farm Fair 2010

The Karoonda farm fair turned out to be a top day, the clouds came over accompanied with a gentle breeze and the temperature dropped a little making for a perfect outdoor day. We have been taking our Wiltipoll sheep to Karoonda farm fair now since 2003 and it is a great way to catch up with friends and meet new people interested in easy care sheep. There were many more people there on Saturday and we were kept busy all day chatting to visitors to our site. Attending these farm fairs and field days is certainly the way to promote a rural enterprise.

**Marg and Jack Slater**  
**Coolamon Park**  
**Pinnaroo SA**  
**March 2010**

## Word on Worryless Wiltipoll Stud

After breeding Merino sheep for almost forty years we took the plunge and purchased six Wiltipoll rams from Harry and Jill Powell of Munna to join to our existing Merino ewes. The weaned lambs were run together and the first differences were evident; the barley grass seed infestation slowed the growth of the Merino lambs considerably, while the first cross lambs powered on due to the lack of wool in the areas where most affected. With all the hassles associated with Merino production, we then decided to purchase Wiltipoll ewes and more rams from Annie & Tom Hughes of Kars later in 2006 and the Worryless Wiltipoll Stud was formed.

Looking for another sire to enhance the stud we traveled to the Mount Pleasant Wiltipoll sale on 23rd October 2009 securing a ram bred by Jack and Margaret Slater of Coolamon Park Wiltipoll Stud, Pinnaroo, SA. 2010 saw the NSW and QLD first Wiltipoll Field Day and Sale held on the 6th February where Worryless cataloged one ram selling for the equal top price of \$950. 2010 saw the NSW and QLD first Wiltipoll Field Day and Sale held on the 6th February where Worryless cataloged one ram selling for the equal top price of \$950.

We attended the recent Clean Skin Symposium in Wayville where we listened to a great lineup of speakers and enjoyed the time spent with friends and acquaintances. Thank you for an enjoyable few days.

**Colin & Rosemary Adler**  
**Cypress Park**  
**Barmedman NSW**

# Wonoka tops South Australian Wiltipoll Sale



*BEST RAMS: Tom and Annie Hughes, Kars Pastoral, Strathalbyn, bought the top price Wiltipoll ram at \$2,700.00 from stud breeder San Jolly and Ann Wallace, Wonoka, Kapunda. Also pictured is sale auctioneer, Southern Australian Livestock, Naracoorte's Josh Manser.*

The fourth Annual South Australian Registered Wiltipoll sale was held at the Mt Pleasant showgrounds on Friday 23rd October 2009.

A young Wiltipoll stud ram made the sale top price of \$2,700 for Wonoka stud owner San Jolly, Kapunda, which is a record price for a Wiltipoll ram at this annual event.

Conducted by Southern Australian Livestock, the sale featured sheep from 10 registered flocks, 55 rams and 50 ewes being catalogued for sale. About 40 buyers registered for the sale.

The 14 month old top price ram was bought by fellow Wiltipoll breeders Tom and Annie Hughes, Kars Pastoral Co, Strathalbyn, who took another Wonoka ram for \$2,100. Wonoka sold 6 rams at the sale, averaging \$1,592 and Kars Pastoral sold eight rams to \$900, av \$715. Two Wonoka stud ewes also made the female top price for \$650 and \$750.00, bought by Neville McDonald, Mt Crawford who also bought three Kars ewes, with an overall average of \$580.00. Mr McDonald outlaid \$900.00 for the top priced Kars ram and also bought two rams from vendors K and I Downing of the Palms @ \$700.00 and Anita Bayliss of Burrajac @ \$400.00. Mr McDonald is starting a Wiltipoll stud and has bought another 18 sheep privately from Williamstown.

Kars Pastoral offered 21 ewes, selling 11 at \$500.00 each. RJ & KF Tucker, Clare, bought five Kars ewes and a Wonoka ram for \$1,100.00. The Tuckers' purchases also

included all four of the Coolamon Park ewes which sold to \$675.00, averaging \$612.00. Jack and Margaret Slater, Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo also offered 10 rams which sold to \$1,500, averaging \$1,070.

Gilbert Cleggett, Brookland, Williamstown sold 3 ewes to \$450.00 and three rams to \$400.00. Len Owen, Netherby bought all three of the Brookland ewes, he also purchased the two Burange ewes and three from the Kars consignment.

Don and Gwen Burge, Burange, Lucindale, sold 2 ewes at \$650.00 and offered 6 rams, selling 3 to \$700.00, averaging \$633.00.

Henry Harvey, ABP, Penneshaw offered 15 ewes, selling 9 to \$275, averaging \$214.

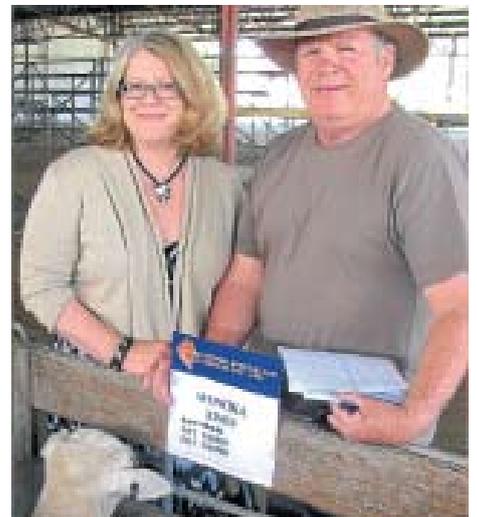
Stud owners David Kuhlmann, Jadala, Glenelg and Neville Sloper, Spring Creek, Kapunda also sold Wiltipoll rams during the sale.

Interstate buyers were active at the sale with Rita Hough, GrangeVale via Dubbo NSW purchasing the top priced Coolamon Park ram for \$1,500.00 with Colin and Rosemary Adler of Worryless Barmedman NSW also purchasing a Coolamon Park ram at \$1,300.00.

PJ and K Dowdle of Woodhouse VIC were again enthusiastic bidders on the day, securing a total of fourteen sires for their sheep breeding enterprise.

A total of 37 ewes were sold for an average price of \$402.00 and a total of 39 rams were sold for an average of \$867.00

**Jack Slater**  
**Coolamon Park**  
**Pinnaroo SA**



*TOP EWES: Prue and Neville McDonald, Mt Crawford, bought 5 ewes to \$750, averaging \$580 and 3 rams to \$900 averaging \$783 at the SA combined breeders sale*

# Starrs Shine with Wiltipolls



Genevieve and Gordon Starr with some of their Wiltipoll ewes and ram.

A bit of optimism has gone a long way at Dalton, where the Starr family have made meat sheep work on predominantly light soils. The key ingredient has been Wiltipolls – a full shedding downs breed specialising in meat production. It was a big shift in thinking for Gordon Starr – the fifth generation on the property, “Eshcol” – and wife Genevieve, who changed from Merinos to Wiltipolls. Already they are joining 900 crossbred ewes, with this year’s drop being the third-cross to Wiltipoll. This new breed goes against the grain for the Starr family, which has a long history with Merinos. Mr Starr’s grandfather, Stanley, established the Eshcol Merino stud in the early 1900s and in 1936 he won the prestigious Stonehaven Cup at the Sydney Sheep Show. The stud was dissolved in 1980, but the family continued to run big-bodied, fine wool Merino sheep until recently, when the low wool market simply wasn’t cutting it. While the couple still like Merinos, the Wiltipoll suited the continued dry seasons and their plan was to reduce the amount of work that was necessary to maintain their business. The first Wiltipoll rams were used in 2005 on their Merino ewes and the lambs have been sold through the Goulburn saleyards. Because they were still grading up, it was hard to get large, even lines of lambs as they contained different percentages of Merino and Wiltipoll, Mrs Starr said. However, with this year’s lambs being the third cross to the Wiltipoll they aren’t far from their first goal of being a full shedding flock. Mrs Starr said they were pleased with the performance of the breed, particularly its

ability to handle the hard seasons. “They have been handling the tough years very well” she said. Also, they were finishing lambs for sale at 18 weeks old on natural pasture, and these topped at \$89 in 2008 and \$76 in 2009. Last week they sold 180 four year old cull first-cross ewes to the abattoir, which made \$80.22 a head. Mrs Starr said they weighed 26.9kg (carcase weight). The real dollars would come later once they had good numbers of surplus, full-shedding Wiltipoll ewes for sale each year. Mrs Starr said there were presently only stud ewes available and the going price was \$400 or more. “We’ve been to sales and been prepared to pay \$300 and they’ve gone from anything from \$500 to \$900,” she said. The Wiltipoll ewes are big, long, fertile sheep, easy lambing and have good feet. “This (the good feet) is another reason why we picked them,” she said. They had only 2 ½ per cent dry ewes last year, most of which had lambs teeth and were sold through the Goulburn saleyards for \$90. As well as having quality, full shedding surplus ewes to sell, the Starrs also plan to introduce either White Suffolk or Poll Dorset rams to half the flock to introduce hybrid vigour to a portion of their lambs. “Its just a logical thing. If you want a prime lamb you really need hybrid vigour and we just see the potential there,” Mrs Starr said. Their aim is a low-maintenance flock producing pure Wiltipoll lambs for the self-replacing side of the flock and crossbred lambs with the benefit of hybrid vigour, and raised on natural pasture.

**The Land 2009**

## Perth Royal Show Honours split between Neribri and Eaglenook

Judge Kristy Glover, Boyup Brook, certainly had her work cut out for her with a great line-up of Wiltipolls at the 2009 Smoke Free Perth Royal Show.

As the judging got underway, Ms Glover said she was after well balanced, muscled and good shedding sheep.

Neribri Stud had a good show exhibiting the best group of three rams and the Champion Ram. Ms Glover said it was a very hard choice because they were all well muscled. ‘I chose the Champion in the end because he was more muscled, he stood well and he was younger’ Ms Glover said.

It was Eaglenook Estate, Keysbrook, which took home the Champion Ewe honours for 2009. Eaglenook principal Ruth Millar said her ewe was only a one year old.

### Farm Weekly WA



Perth Royal Show 2009 – Judge Kristy Glover and Neribri stud principals Brian and Neroli Smith with the Champion Wiltipoll ram.



The Champion Wiltipoll ewe with Kristy Glover and Eaglenook Estate stud principal Ruth Millar

# Eden Valley Estate

## “From horn to poll - our journey!”



*Eden Valley Estate's Wiltipoll ewes produced a large number of lambs in 2009*

In 1996 Steve and I acquired 35 hectares of land with 10 hectares under vines. Then in 2004 we purchased a small herd of Alpacas, we became registered breeders and members of the Australian Alpaca Association. In 2005 we introduced Wiltipolls. We purchased 24 Wiltshire Horn Ewes and 1 registered A1 Wiltipoll ram from Annie and Tom Hughes and we became members of the Australian Wiltipoll Association.

**2005 Lamb Drop:** Our 24 Wiltshire Horn ewes produced a total of 24 lambs. Of those lambs we castrated the eight ram lambs (some were scurred and a couple didn't shed very well) and sold them at the local stock market. We kept the sixteen ewe lambs though eight of them had small scurs.

**2006 Lamb Drop:** We had 33 lambs from 22 Wiltshire Horn ewes, and 2 Class A1 rams (we purchased second ram this year). We joined the 2005 drop lambs later. All twelve ram lambs had scurs so we castrated them and sold the lot to a local hobby farmer. Of the twenty one ewe lambs, three had scurs. We kept them all.

**2007 Lamb Drop:** Our Wiltshire Horn ewe mob was now down to 20 but we now had 16 A & A1 Wiltipoll ewes to swell the flock. We still had our 2 Class A1 rams and joined our 2006 lambs later. We had a total of 40 lambs – we castrated all eleven ram lambs again due to scurs and sold all to a local farmer. Of the twenty nine ewe lambs only two had small scurs and we kept them all.

**2008 Lamb Drop:** Another natural death in the flock brought our Wiltshire Horn ewe mob down to 19, we had 35 A & A1 Wiltipoll ewes and 1 A1 ram (1 ram died end 2007). We joined the 2007 lambs later. We had a total of 35 lambs comprising twelve ram lambs of which we castrated seven due to having scurs and sold them. Five ram lambs had scurs smaller than 2mm or no scurs and we sold them at the local market. We kept one ram lamb as he had no scur and was an excellent shedder. We had twenty three ewe lambs with three having scurs less than 2mm.

In February 2009 at the local market we sold the remaining 19 of our Wiltshire Horn ewes. We also sold 10 Class A Wiltipoll ewes (either scurs or poor shedders) and 4 Class A ram lambs (poor shedders or small scurs).

**2009 Lamb Drop:** We joined 53 A1 Wiltipoll ewes to 1 A1 ram - (2008 ewe lambs joined later). The results were 18 ram lambs. We castrated four with scurs, we have six with scurs less than 2mm and six which are complete polls. We had twelve ewe lambs - all polled.

As of March 2010 we now have: 73 Class A1 Wiltipoll ewes, 12 ewe lambs 09 drop and 1 Class A1 ram. We also have twelve ram lambs - six with no scurs to be assessed for the 2010 Wiltipoll Breeders' Auction in October and six with scurs to be sold at the local stock market.

**Megan Secker**  
**Eden Valley Estate**  
**Springton SA**

## Strong Interest in Mudgee Wiltipolls

The Wiltipoll sheep breed was put to the test at the Mudgee Showground on Saturday with the first sale conducted by the NSW/QLD Wiltipoll sub-committee. NSW/QLD Wiltipoll chairperson, Genevieve Starr, said there was a clearance of nearly 70 per cent for the 92 sheep offered and people traveled from across the state to be part of the event.

Most of the sheep were mature ewes with only six ewe lambs offered.

The ewe price topped at \$600 and averaged \$340. Twenty four rams were sold, three rams reaching the top price of \$950 to average \$471.

Two of the top-priced rams were sold by Judy and Peter Colless, “Carthona”, Wingham. The couple also received the equal highest ewe price of \$550.

Colin and Rosemary Adler, “Worryless”, Barmedman, sold the other top-priced ram.

Catherine and Michael Kimmorley, “Anvil Park”, Armidale, bought one of the \$950 rams and also sold 10 sheep topping at \$350.

The stud's four-month old lambs fetched \$300, and maiden ewes ready to join reached \$350.

Paul Harker, Oberon, bought a ram for \$700 and two ewes from Rita Hough, “Grange Vale”, Dubbo, and two ewes from Judy and Peter Colless.

Auctioneer Michael Anderson said “I thought the sale was successful for a first of its type for the Wiltipoll breed, which is only a fledgling breed within Australia. The majority of the sheep went to fellow Wiltipoll breeders and a percentage to prime lamb producers”.

Selling agents were Landmark Mudgee.

**The Land**  
**February 2010**

# Wiltipoll flock switch scratches Merino itch

Almost 20 years ago South Australian graziers Peter and Jill Rundle made a big decision: if they were going to stay on the land then high maintenance Merinos had to be scratched from the menu.

“The issue of shearing was also in the back of my mind as we expected, as time went on, it would be harder to get good shed hands and shearers,” said Mr Rundle, whose property “Yerunga”, is near Lameroo South Australia.

Weary of the wool market’s volatility and sick of shearing, crutching and treating sheep for flystrike, they looked outside the square for a solution. This led them to the Wiltipolls, which in the early 1990s was still a breed most people knew little about.

The Wiltipoll is a pure meat sheep - there’s no shearing, mulesing or wool clip to complicate management practices.

In simple terms it was developed by breeding out the recessive horn characteristics of the Wiltshire Horn to get a polled sheep.

Wiltipolls are shedding sheep which means nutrition is directed to production of meat rather than wool, their thick skin means they are resistant to grass seeds and there’s no need for tail docking, crutching or mulesing”, Mr Rundle said.

These were all characteristics the Rundles were keen to adopt to help reduce their farm workload.

They started with a small flock, which included Wiltshire Horn ewes and have

been building up their numbers since about 1990. “There’s only a few of the horned ewes left in the flock now,” Mr Rundle said.

Breeding up the flock meant retaining all the ewe lambs and only selling the wether drop each year.

“In the early days we were buying almost anything we could get our hands on to establish the flock,” he said.

“In recent years we have been working on improving the flock and this will mean we might have some ewe lambs to sell soon.”

Wiltipolls, unlike Merinos are seasonal breeders, so they are mated in autumn for a spring lambing. “If a ewe misses getting in lamb during autumn we don’t have the option of re-mating her again for another 12 months,” Mr Rundle said.

“This can have its drawbacks and as a result they are looking into the potential of mating some of the Wiltipoll ewes to Dorpers to reduce the effects of seasonal breeding in the progeny.

But one of the advantages of seasonal breeding (from a management perspective), is that rams can be left with ewes throughout the year.

“I don’t have to worry about running rams in a separate paddock for a big part of the year,” he said.

As the lambs are born in autumn they are often ready for market right in the middle of the sucker lamb season.

The heaviest of the lambs are sold straight off the ewe (at between 18 and 20 kilograms), and the rest of the lamb drop is grown out and sold gradually through to March.

Much of the lamb marketing is through their agents Southern Australian Livestock, who find buyers prepared to take the lambs straight from the paddock.

“There’s still some buyer uncertainty about the breed in the saleyards, so selling them this way I know we are not being discounted unfairly,” Mr Rundle said.

“Wiltipoll meat is excellent eating, its sweet and doesn’t have too much fat, but some buyers discount them in the saleyards if they are shedding.”

A bonus when finishing Wiltipoll lambs is they perform well on good dry pastures, and as a result the Rundles don’t have to supplementary feed them to ensure they reach the desired weights.

“We have even used barley grass, which appears early in the season, to finish lambs,” he said.

The dominant pastures on “Yerunga” are natural and natives, and Mr Rundle describes the country as “typical mallee country – flat and slightly undulating with a sandy loam soil”.

As well as the 2226-hectare “Yerunga”, the Rundles also lease about 1214 ha of land next door to run their flocks.

## The Land



Colin Adler, Cypress Park Barmedman NSW with his ram that shared the top price at the Mudgee sale



Successful vendors Peter and Judy Colless received the top price for both ewe and ram at the Mudgee Sale

# Running Wiltipolls in extreme conditions



*Wiltipolls doing it tough on Kars during the drought*

2009 was a dry year at Kars. However, we were fortunate to have good rains in August which ensured an extremely high lambing percentage for pastoral country. We averaged 130%. As the year progressed, the dry set in again and in October came the worst two dust storms since 1945 and overnight our feed was decimated, consequently by Christmas our ewes were struggling to finish their lambs. We were forced to sell all of our early wether lambs as stores (unfinished) but lucky to find a buyer at Penola, who despite having never run Wiltipolls before, was willing to take on drought stricken lambs to finish on his southern pastures, eventually selling them for excellent prices. (See prime lamb sales) Reducing lamb numbers earlier than normal enabled the ewes to maintain/increase their bodyweight sufficiently for us to fulfill many orders for flock (unregistered) ewes.



*Kars after the rain. Fred Hughes and working dog Boofa enjoying the feed bonanza in early 2010*

Early in the new year we were blessed with wonderful rains and flooding creeks – rejuvenating the entire property. Our ewes and ewe weaners are now rolling fat and we are looking forward to a bumper lamb drop in 2010.

We were able to grow out and finish the retained, younger wether lambs on the lush native pastures and last month they were sold to a top price of \$109.20. We have now sold all of the remaining horned ewes from our back-crossing program, which started in 1993 and our flock of polled ewes, both registered and unregistered, has now reached 6,000 head.

**Annie Hughes**  
**Kars Pastoral Co**  
**May 2010**

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# Promoting and exhibiting Wiltipoll sheep

We want to ensure that when the public hear the words "shedding sheep" they think of Wiltipolls.

There are several ways of doing this and one of the most valuable, which is often cheaper than advertising in newspapers is to attend your local agricultural show and field day. If there is not a specific class or section for Wiltipoll sheep, then approach the show or field day organiser and ask for them to be included.

In 2008 I approached Hamilton Sheepvention to have Wiltipoll sheep classes included and in August 2009 Wiltipolls were shown for the first time. Whilst I was the only entrant, I had the support of Neville Sloper who travelled from Kapunda, SA. I displayed fact sheets, business cards and posters of chops and carcasses and for a solid 2 days Neville and I barely left the sheep pens, being inundated with inquiries and orders.

Quite a few people thought that my Wiltipoll sheep were unshorn Dorpers as my pens were located next to Dorpers which had been completely shorn. One of my rams was in the midst of shedding, so I was able to show and explain the shedding process. It was great to see the reactions and interest of the public but it highlighted just how many people are still unaware of the Wiltipoll breed.

Most pleasing of all was the amount of inquiry that came from commercial farmers - all sick of the work load and costs associated with wool breeds. They were very interested in the lambing percentage differences between Merinos and Wiltipolls. They felt that the additional lambs born with no more effort required, would more than make up for the loss of any profit they may get from producing wool.

I could see that most were really serious about changing over to shedding meat breeds and giving up on wool. But rather than take the time to breed up from their existing flock, most wanted to know where they could purchase commercial Wiltipoll sheep. I left Sheepvention more convinced than ever that Wiltipolls will play a major role with farmers in the prime lamb industry.

In July 2009, Wiltipolls were also shown in Ballarat for the first time by Lorraine Wheeler and myself. Separate Wiltipoll classes will also be held at the Royal Geelong Show this year, thanks to Lorraine's persistence. Previously Lorraine has had to show her Wiltipolls in "other breeds" classes.

Wiltipoll breeders need to attend as many of their local events as possible. There is so much to be gained by speaking with other breeders, farmers and small acreage holders, apart from the overwhelming sales potential. I always make a list of names and numbers and more often than not these turn into sales and where I can't supply, I put them onto other breeders. Because I have promoted the breed along with my stud at a few shows each year, I now rarely need to advertise.

For the full list of shows and field days where Wiltipolls will be exhibited, please refer to the events calendar on the AWA website or contact your state representative. If you know of any field days or events that should be included, please advise.

[www.wiltipoll.com](http://www.wiltipoll.com)

**Maria van Wegen**  
**Bingara Wiltipoll Sheep Stud**  
**Hamilton Vic**



## Bingara

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

## Sheep Measles prevented by worming dogs

Sheep producers across the state are losing money from partial condemnations of sheep carcasses due to sheep measles (*Cysticercus ovis*) caused by the tapeworm (*Taenia ovis*), which is normally found in dogs.

Sheep measles is primarily caused when sheep ingest tapeworm eggs that have been shed on the pasture by farm dogs. Farm dogs pick up the tapeworm by eating affected sheep carcasses.

The tapeworm cycle, and the problem, can be prevented by regularly worming farm dogs at least every three months with a tapeworm effective product; minimising farm dogs' access to raw sheep meat and offal; and proper carcass disposal.

Dog tapeworm tablets are widely accessible and relatively cheap. For dogs reluctant to take tablets, wrapping them in grated cheese can be more successful than trying to put them in meat.

Sheep measles cannot be treated in the sheep. Very little spread is attributable to foxes or dingoes, so concentrating on farm dogs should have marked success for reducing the problem on properties over time.

Details: Rachel Gibson  
PIRSA Animal Health Officer  
Ph: 08 8568 6417  
Email: [Gibson.rachel@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:Gibson.rachel@saugov.sa.gov.au)  
**SA Stock Journal**

# Munna 5th Annual Wiltipoll Sale



Wiltipoll breeders Harry and Jill Powell with buyers Lance and Maree Hodges who purchased the top price ram at the Munna sale for \$1,350

On Saturday 20th February 2010 Harry and Jill Powell and Anna and Tom Dunlop held their annual on-property Wiltipoll Sale at Coolah.

It is amazing the difference a month can make!! At New Year the sheep were looking

very ordinary as 2009 was an extremely dry year, but after the wonderful rain at Christmas and New Year, and subsequent good feed that rapidly followed the rain, the sheep presented for the sale were looking wonderful.

The vendors were very pleased to see both repeat and new buyers and after a pretty tough day for Auctioneer, Bill Tatt, they were extremely pleased to sell all the ewes for a top of \$350 and average of \$305 and 19 rams for a top of \$1350 and an average of \$650 giving them a 98% clearance.

The top priced ram was purchased by Lance and Maree Hodges from Narrabri for \$1350. Lance and his father Ted have been purchasing Wiltipoll sheep from Munna for 14 years.

The top price of \$350 for ewes was paid by Greg Spinks from Mudgee who purchased 3 ewes and also by Tim Martin from Cameron's Creek who purchased 40 ewes for an average of \$305.

It was encouraging to see the majority of the rams go to commercial breeders, as



Beautiful, clean coated ewes were part of the offering at the Munna sale

this is where the Wiltipoll's future lies.

Neil and Ann Kennedy sold 20 ewe weaners for a top of \$300 and an average of \$231 which was a great result given that the sheep had been through drought from birth to Christmas and then two floods since Christmas.

Harry and Jill look forward to a better season this year for everyone and hope to be presenting more sheep at their next sale at Munna on 19th February 2011.

**Jill Powell**  
**Munna**  
**Coolah NSW**

## Balancing on and off farm careers- Rita's Story

For years it was accepted as conventional wisdom that sheep require more intensive care than other species such as cattle. This wisdom is now coming under challenge with the development of new breeds of sheep requiring less maintenance such as the Australian Wiltipoll.

High care aspects of sheep in the past were the need for mulesing, crutching and shearing meaning the sheep had to be brought in from the paddock a number of times during the year.

With poor wool prices for average quality wool it makes little commercial sense to run sheep for wool production in marginal country where fine and superfine wool cannot be produced.

Many farmers in these areas are looking for a meat sheep which can be run like cattle. The high labour input sheep of the past have never been an attractive option to small farmers who often have off farm jobs in addition to their farm work.

Sheep farmer Rita Hough of Grange Vale

Wiltipoll Stud at Mogriguy, 30 km north of Dubbo NSW is typical of a small farmer balancing the labour needs of her farm with her job. Rita has a full time teaching position in the primary industries section of TAFE and this requires regular hours away from the farm.

A low maintenance sheep breed was the only way that she could combine the two activities.

Rita runs her stud on a 250 hectare property and has built the flock to around 500 registered and unregistered breeding ewes. Rita says "As the breed was being developed I could see that it had enormous potential. I commenced my flock in 1999 on a 16 hectare property at Parkes NSW."

Rita's sheep tend to produce multiple births and ewes successfully bring their multiple birth offspring to maturity. Grange Vale stud usually experiences a lambing percentage of around 180% and the weaning rate is only marginally lower.

"We have even had a set of quads here

and they all survived in the paddock with care from their mother only. Three of these quads were ewe lambs which went on to produce twins on their first lambing." Rita adds "Wiltipolls are suitable for cattle breeders who want to take advantage of high lamb prices but who do not have the shearing sheds and yards normally associated with running sheep".

**Excerpt from Small Farms Magazine**

Rita's is a familiar face at numerous field days throughout NSW. She works tirelessly to promote Wiltipolls and her contribution is highly valued by the Australian Wiltipoll Association Inc.



Wiltipolls don't need tail docking for their health. A Grange Vale ram with his tail in tact.



Grange Vale ewe with tail docked

# HornPOLL DNA test for sheep



Bingara double poll rams

In November 2009, Pfizer Animal Genetics offered Wiltipoll breeders HornPOLL DNA testing of rams and ewes for the first time in Australia. The testing was gladly accepted by several Wiltipoll breeders who had always hoped for a test of this kind to become available.

Maria van Wegen of Bingara Wiltipoll Sheep Stud was one of these first breeders to jump at the opportunity but due to the cost of testing sent only 6 ram blood samples. She was pleasantly surprised when all 6 resulted in having the double poll gene. One ram had a 99.9% probability of the double poll copy whilst the remaining 5 had a 93.7% probability. Two of these tests were the 2009 progeny of a class A ram and class A ewes (ie both sire and dam were half poll and their offspring proved to be double poll).

These results have given Maria more confidence when selecting her rams for the possibility of having the double poll gene. This will be confirmed further after her next lot of test results have been received.

## About HornPOLL

HornPOLL is a new DNA test from Pfizer Animal Genetics that is used to identify the probability of an animal carrying zero, one or two copies of the poll gene.

The HornPOLL DNA test identifies:

- Animals that have two copies of the poll allele\* (homozygous poll) and will be naturally polled
- Animals that have one copy of the poll allele (depending on other factors these animals may have a horned, scurred or poll phenotype)
- Animals that have no copies of the poll allele (and will be horned or scurred)

The results also report the probability of an animal being one of the three types described above. The probability estimates are given as a range from 50% to 99%.

## Validation

HornPOLL was discovered in a New Zealand population of Merino x Romney sheep (backcrossed to Merinos) and refined in another resource containing many breeds.

It was then validated in an independent Australian Merino population and a Wiltshire resource. This validation confirmed that the HornPOLL test had an accuracy of >99% in the two validation populations examined.

There are however some exceptions. In Scandinavian breeds (especially the Finn), the HornPOLL test is not as accurate, as some animals receiving a "poll" result develop scurs. Therefore, the current test may not be accurate in flocks where Scandinavian breeds have been introduced. In addition, the validation has not included breeds of African or Asian origin.

## Procedure

The simple procedure involves nicking the ear of the ram or ewe with a sharp, very clean blade to enable a small drop of blood to fall onto a test strip, which is much like a band-aid. This strip is then stuck face down onto a pre bar-coded paper. The year and tag number of the animal is then recorded and all test strips posted to Pfizer, who then collate all of the samples and send to Genom NZ for testing. The test strip kits can be purchased from Pfizer.

This test was offered again by Pfizer in April 2010 with the results being available late May 2010. For more information contact Deb Collins, Pfizer Animal Genetics on 0419 664 834

**Maria van Wegen**  
**Bingara Wiltipoll Sheep Stud**  
**Hamilton Vic**

## Why is LAMBPLAN important?

Australian sheep breeders have been selectively breeding sheep for over two hundred years with the aim of producing sheep that suit their environment, production system and meet market demands. Over time the selection methods used have become more sophisticated to more accurately identify the best animals to use in the breeding program and to maximise progress.

One of the limiting factors has been the ability to accurately identify the best animals to breed from. This is because our observation of how animals appear to have performed in the paddock (their phenotype) is a combination of their genetic makeup (genotype) and the environment that they were raised in. The challenge is to identify animals that have performed better because of their superior genetics, and not because of better environmental or non-genetic effects.

The LAMBPLAN analysis, run by Sheep Genetics, adjusts animals raw measurements for environmental and management influences to provide an estimate of that animals genetic value, or breeding value. A breeding value is our best estimate, from all available information, of an animal's merit for a trait that can be passed on to its progeny.

**Ann Wallace**  
**Wonoka, Flock 3**

## Coolamon Park

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Thinking Wiltipolls  
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# A busy year at Wonoka



Wonoka's weaner rams enjoying their barley paddock

Wonoka Stud located at Kapunda, South Australia has had a busy year with lots of interstate visitors checking out our sheep and also a very successful year for ram sales. Many thanks to all those members who have purchased both registered and commercial rams and we wish you every

success with their progeny.

The season was fabulous until the November heat wave decimated the crops but the feed for the sheep was huge which really set up the weaner lambs to get through summer and autumn.

We planted a paddock of forage peas which produced about 9 tonnes of dry matter per hectare and sustained the weaner lambs for 3 weeks after weaning. They were followed by a late lambing group of ewes through summer.

We also locked up a paddock of barley for the weaners and turned off the wether lambs in December at 40kg and January at 58kg. The mated ewe weaners are still in there. With early rain this year there is



Forage peas growing well on Wonoka for the weaner lambs

a significant amount of regeneration which has removed the need to sow more feed; a very cost-efficient and labour-saving system.

**San Jolly  
Wonoka Kapunda SA  
May 2010**

## MUSTARD RACK OF LAMB WITH ROASTED TOMATOES AND ASPARAGUS

Served with minted ricotta cream

Preparation time 20 minutes

Cooking time 60 minutes

SERVES 4

Ingredients

2 frenched racks lamb, 8 chops each rack

4 roma tomatoes, sliced lengthways

balsamic vinegar, to drizzle

olive oil, to drizzle

2 bunches thin asparagus, trimmed

For the mustard marinade:

1 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp French mustard

1 clove garlic, crushed

1 tspn dried mint flakes

For the minted ricotta cream:

150g ricotta

1/3 cup thickened cream

1/3 cup finely chopped mint



### METHOD

Preheat the oven to 160C. Place the halved tomatoes on a large baking tray lined with non-stick paper, drizzle with the balsamic and olive oil, and season with cracked black pepper. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes.

Then add the asparagus to the baking tray and brush lightly with olive oil. Bake for a further 15 minutes or until the tomatoes and asparagus are soft. Increase oven temperature to 200C. In a bowl, combine the marinade ingredients. Pat the lamb racks dry with paper towels. Smear each rack with the mustard mixture and place racks in a baking dish. Roast for 20 minutes or until cooked to your liking.

Remove from the oven, cover with foil and rest for 5 minutes. Cut racks into pairs.

Minted ricotta cream:

Beat together the ricotta and cream until smooth. Add the mint and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. To serve, place 2 pairs of lamb chops on warm serving plates and drizzle with any pan juices. Arrange the tomatoes and asparagus on the side and top with the minted ricotta cream. Serve with mashed potato.

## MOROCCAN LAMB DRUMSTICKS

Preparation time: About 20 minutes

Cooking time: 2 hrs 20 minutes

SERVES 4

Ingredients

8 lamb drumsticks (frenched shanks)

1 tbsp olive oil

2 tsp chopped chilli  
2 tsp crushed garlic]  
1tbsp ground cumin  
1tbsp ground coriander  
1tsp ground turmeric  
¼tsp ground cinnamon  
1 cup vegetable stock  
425 g can apricot halves



### METHOD

Heat a little oil in a deep sided pan on high and brown lamb in small batches, removing each batch before adding the next. Remove and put aside.

Add spices to pan, stirring until well blended with pan juices. Stir in stock and juice only from apricots. Reserve apricots.

Return lamb drumsticks. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer (cooking gently at a level where tiny bubbles rise to the surface) until fork tender, about 1 ½ - 2 hours. Stir occasionally.

If consistency needs thickening, simmer with lid off until reduced (about 15 - 20 minutes). Add apricots just before serving to heat through.

Serve with couscous mixed with sultanas, almonds and orange zest.

**Meat and Livestock Australia**

# Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) and sheep movements

New members may not be aware of the regulations relating to movement of sheep across states and OJD zones. All members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the OJD trading regulations ([www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au)) and the various options open to flocks in relation to OJD management.

If you are buying in sheep from an area with a lower OJD status than your own your entire flock rating may be downgraded; it could pay to know. Individual states also may have their own trading regulations which you can check on your state government websites.

All sheep bought and sold must be accompanied by a national Animal Health Statement, which is a statutory declaration outlining their health status.

## National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS)

In some states, as from July 1st, 2010 all sheep movements must be entered into a national database online so for those few members who do not have email you will need to have access to a computer to log all your sheep movements. This included animals travelling between your own blocks, to agistment properties or traded. Check your state regulations. For further information please refer to

[www.nlis.mla.com.au](http://www.nlis.mla.com.au) or  
PIRSA 1800 654 688

## Mob Based Movements - Sheep and Goats

From 1st July 2010 there are new rules for the movement of mobs of sheep and goats.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) – Sheep and Goats will be enhanced in 2010. These changes will affect all sheep and goat producers, but these enhancements will help to protect your markets and businesses from the effects of an emergency animal disease or food safety issue.

### What are the changes?

From 1st July 2010 all movements of sheep and goats to a property with a different Property Identification Code (PIC) will need to be recorded on the NLIS database, in what is known as a "Mob Based Movement".

This means you will need to log onto the NLIS database on the internet to record all sheep and goat movements every time you purchase sheep or goats, or move sheep or goats to a property with a different PIC, even for agistment and even if you own the other property.

This is the same database used for cattle NLIS [www.nlis.mla.com.au](http://www.nlis.mla.com.au)

You will need access to the internet and you will need to set up a free NLIS database account to do Mob Based Movements.

A simple rule to remember is if sheep and goats are moved to a property with a different PIC, regardless of who owns it, a

Mob Based Movement needs to be recorded on the NLIS database by the person who owns the animals at the destination PIC. The transfer must be completed within 7 days of the movement occurring.

Remember, a "Mob" can be as few as 1 animal.

### Mob Based Movement checklist

You must record the mob's movement when:

- You are moving sheep or goats to a property with a DIFFERENT Property Identification Code (PIC)
- You are moving your sheep or goats to an agistment property with a different PIC.
- You are buying rams from another property.
- You are lending out a few animals to be lawnmowers, even for a short time.
- You are moving even just one sheep or goat to a different PIC property.

You DO NOT need to record the movement of sheep or goats on the NLIS database when:

- You are moving sheep or goats to a property with the same PIC.
- You are selling or buying through a saleyard.
- You are sending sheep or goats to a feedlot or abattoir.
- You are sending sheep or goats to an export depot.
- You are taking your sheep or goats to a show and bringing them home again.

**Primary Industry and Resources SA.**

## Wiltipoll sheep at the Williams Gateway Expo 2010



Champion Wiltipoll Ram with Neribri Stud principals Brian and Neroli Smith

Good numbers of Wiltipoll rams and ewes were presented in the classes for judge Stephen Eales consideration and in the end he selected a ewe from the Neribri Stud, Boyanup, as the Grand Champion Wiltipoll exhibit.

The rising three year old ewe was sashed Champion Wiltipoll Ewe ahead of another ewe from the Neribri Stud. Mr Eales said the Neribri Champion was very sound for her age and stood up well.

In the ram classes it was another Neribri exhibit which took home the Champion Ram title. Mr Eales said the ram was a younger sheep that stood up well. The ram was a September 2009-drop lamb out of a one year old sire and dam.

The Reserve Champion ram ribbon was awarded to an older ram from the Arizona Park stud, Keysbrook.

**From Farm Weekly, WA**



The Champion and Reserve Champion Wiltipoll ewes exhibited by Neribri Stud, Boyanup. With stud principals Brian and Neroli Smith. The Champion Ewe went on to be sashed the Grand Champion Wiltipoll.

# Wiltipoll lambs success at Dubbo

You will be happy to hear that both Rachael and I have been toiling away quietly to achieve a quality Wiltipoll. Although we are yet to register ourselves with the Wiltipoll Association we have taken some great detail from both the NSW and Australian Association's.

We entered two pens of 4, 9 -10 month old lambs in the 41.1 - 45kgs Dubbo Show Hook Competition. The competition was hotly contested with most breeds well represented. One of our pens was successful in scoring excellent live and dress weights/points which won us the weight range competition with an overall score of 90.5% which carried us to the **Grand Champion!**

Our winning scores below.

Weight Range 40.1 - 45kg • Live Weight 42.2kg

CCS Weight 23.4kg

Dress% 55.5 (an unheard of score)

Fat score 3

Carcass points 18/20 • Visual 17/20

Total 90.5%

Second place went to a pen of Dohne lambs, in the next weight range to 50kg.

**Simon & Rachael Ross**

**Kinvale, Dubbo NSW 2830**

**May 2010**



*Mentieth Farm*  
**WILTIPOLLS**  
THE LESS WORK PRIME LAMB BREED

[www.mentiethwiltipoll.com.au](http://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

## Are you interested in performance recording your flock?

If so, now is the time to investigate Lambplan while they are offering a "try before you buy" program for Wiltipoll members.

All you need to get started is to collect weaning weight (3-4 months), post weaning weight (6-8 months) and preferably know the sire and the dam. All our competitor breeds have a significant number of animals that are Lambplan recorded and although current demand for our breed is very high, one day the dust will settle, and we will need to be able to show that we are up there with the best of them.

Poll Dorset and White Suffolk breeders are keen to get the wool off their sheep now and are looking to Dorpers because they have Lambplan figures. If we want to be competitive in this potentially large market, we will need to have performance recorded rams to sell.

During the Cleanskin Symposium held in Adelaide in February, Lambplan's Project Officer, Hamish Chandler, and Sheep Genetics Manager, Sam Gill, accepted our invitation to meet with Wiltipoll members to talk about Lambplan's services. Below is an excerpt from some information that Hamish has provided as a brief overview of what Lambplan is all about.

Lambplan are currently planning workshops around the country. If you are interested, please let Hamish know (02 6773 2948 or [info@sheepgenetics.org.au](mailto:info@sheepgenetics.org.au)). If there is sufficient interest from Wiltipoll breeders, Lambplan will run a workshop specifically for us.

**Ann Wallace**

**Wonoka, Kapunda SA**

## Our Association's and Tasmania's Loss

It is with much sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Tom Hickinbotham one our early Tasmanian members, Flock 120 La Cava.

Tom was a Vietnam vet who suffered severe health problems as a result of exposure to agent orange during the war, but not one to complain about his lot, he set to and established his Wiltipoll flock in 2005 from Wiltshire Horn ewes sourced in Tasmania and a Kars Wiltipoll ram.

Over the years I have had many interesting and enjoyable phone conversations with Tom and regarded him as a good friend, and his enthusiasm and optimism for our breed never wavered.

Tom developed Motor Neuron disease in late 2009, yet despite deteriorating health and with the knowledge that he did not have much time left, he worked hard to sell off his entire flock to a number of breeders, encouraging them to become members with each mob of sheep that he sold. Tom's story is inspirational in that against the odds he successfully turned a small hobby into a viable business within five years.

**Annie Hughes**

**Strathalbyn SA**

## THE NEXT REGISTERED WILTIPOLL SALE

Friday 22nd October 2010 at Mt Pleasant Showgrounds, South Australia

Visit our website at

[www.wiltipoll.com](http://www.wiltipoll.com)



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