

Border Leicesters a top meat breed

THERE are not many sheep breeds that have made such a significant contribution to the Australian meat industry as Border Leicesters.

Their genetic compatibility and symbiotic relationship with the Merino ewe needs no introduction.

The first or secondcross maternal progeny of Border Leicesters have adapted to any conditions that can sustain sheep production.

The breed's physical attributes of a bare face, legs and plain body have created a ewe which is productive and does not need mulesing.

Increased fertility and an aggressive maternal instinct lead to a greater percentage of lambs weaned.

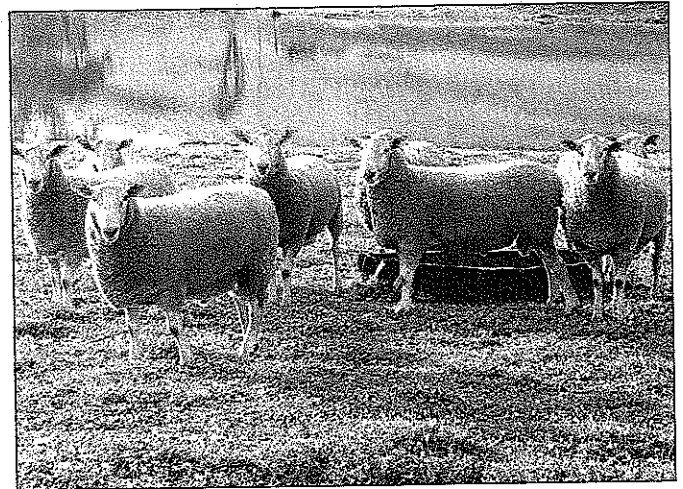
Research undertaken

several years ago showed that the Border Leicesters had the highest level of Intra Muscular Fat (marbling) which contributes to greater flavour and eating experience.

At the recent Smoke Free Perth Royal Show the two highest-priced groups of carcasses all had dams sired by Border Leicester rams, indicating their maternal ability when mated to a terminal sire to turn off more quality meat at a younger age.

Border Leicester cross maiden ewes in the Eastern States during the last few weeks have regularly sold for more than \$200, establishing them as the preferred ewe for dedicated prime lamb producers.

The wether lamb



component of the lamb drop can be sold direct to abattoirs or sold to the boat trade, realising a valuable quick cash flow.

In Western Australia quality rams are still available from studs scattered throughout the sheep-producing regions.

Wiltshires shine to \$3000 top for Neribri stud

By ROB FRANCIS

WHILE early inquiry indicated a strong result would eventuate at the Neribri Wiltshire Horn and Wiltipoll stud sale held at Boyanup, the actual result was well beyond the expectations of stud principals Neroli and Brian Smith.

Of the 33 rams offered, 31 sold to a top of \$3000 and averaged \$982 and one of the passed-in rams sold quickly for \$500 to give an almost total clearance.

The ewes did achieve a total sell-out, with 16 ewes selling to \$550, averaging \$431.

Buyers travelled from a wide area, as far as Esperance, Wickepin and Calingiri as well as local areas, to total more than 80 breed enthusiasts at the sale.

The top price of the day was paid for lot five, a Wiltipoll

sire of terrific size and stretch.

Alan and Alison Mutton, Wickepin, were finally the successful bidders after a long tussle with Ken Hart, Gnadue stud, Narrogin.

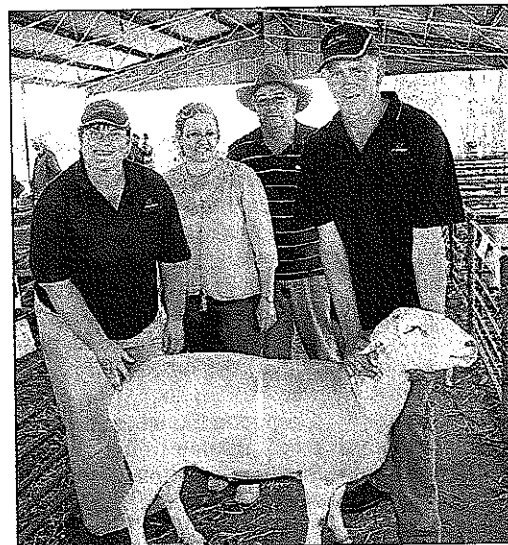
The next highest price in the poll rams was the last of the registered rams, costing JR & TA Watkins \$2250, making their long drive from Esperance worthwhile.

This ram was a twin and once again, Ken Hart was the losing bidder.

The Watkins added two more registered rams to the load, paying \$1400 for lot eight and \$1000 for lot nine.

The top price in the unregistered rams was \$900, paid by Windorah Farms, Wickepin, for another upstanding sheep, carrying a dash of white Dorper blood.

The Wiltshire Horns attracted strong and sustained competition, with the recent



□ Neroli (left) and Brian Smith (right), Neribri stud, were all smiles after the outstanding sale result and were pictured with top price buyers, Allison and Alan Mutton, Wickepin, who paid the top of \$3000 for lot five.

Smoke Free Perth Royal Show champion creating a flurry of bids before being knocked down to VC & JB Mudge, Boyup Brook, at \$2800. Later in the catalogue, lot 25 also sold for \$2800, with Endomooore Pastoral, Harvey, the winning bidder.

The first horned ram to sell, lot 20, got the breed off to a strong start when sold for \$1700 to ST & J Staker, Brunswick.

The values paid for the ewe offering remained fairly

constant, with bidding competition on all 16 sheep offered.

The top of \$550 was paid for lot 39, a well grown young breeder.

The buyer, named as Bundaleer, Gingin, also paid \$500 and \$450 (twice) for other choices.

Other buyers in both poll and horn sections were T B Stewart, Vasse, buying two poll ewes for \$300 and \$400, before adding two horned sheep for \$500 each.

NERIBRI RAM SALE (Under the hammer results)

Rams	offered	sold	top	gross	average
Wiltipoll	20	19	\$3000	\$16,700	\$879
Wiltshire Horn	13	12	\$2800 (2)	\$13,750	\$1146
Total	33	31	\$3000	\$30,450	\$982
Ewes	16	16	\$550	\$6900	\$431