

Suffolks shine brightest in 'Bordertown Bonanza'

The combined Allendale and Days Whiteface sheep sale at Bordertown produced another magnificent result for the Day families with 430 head of stud rams; flock rams and stud ewes going under the hammer in just on five hours of selling.

Jono Spence (Spence, Dix & Co), Ross Milne (Elders) and Malcolm Scroop and Gordon Wood (Landmark) representing the joint selling agents kept the sale going at a good pace, extracting bids from the 108 registered bidders from four states.

With such a large offering from four breeds, the only accurate comparison would be with last year's combined sale. In that respect the clearance rate was up three per cent to 90%, the top price was up \$3750, the average was up \$41 and the sale gross of \$403,800 was up \$22,050; a magnificent result.

Alastair and Jayne Day and family offered 230 head of Poll Dorsets and Suffolks in this combined offering, while Lachy & Lou Day and family offered White Suffolks and Maternal Composites.

While the overall result was outstanding, the highlight was the buoyant Suffolk market.

The offering of the 40 Suffolk ewes set the scene early with all selling to a \$900 top (x2) and averaging \$536. Kerry Graham, Skallemaro Suffolk stud, Kangaroo Island purchased six, including the two top priced lots, adding to the top priced ram and ewes she purchased last year.

The volume buyer was Andrew Bates, Seaton Park stud, Tumby Bay. Bidding on his behalf was Paul Kilby, Elders Area Manager for Southern Eyre Peninsula, purchasing 13 of this draft from \$300 to \$600, and later adding two stud rams at \$4500 and \$2500 from that draft.

The 15 Suffolk stud rams also met great competition and opened with Allendale 1341, a ram that was champion at this year's Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Shows. Sired by Allendale 588/10, the supreme interbreed champion at Adelaide in 2011, this ram was a highlight of a great line that had little separating them in quality. The intense bidding duel on the top lot was eventually won again by Paul Kilby, this time for the Bascombe family, White Flat Suffolk stud, Pt Lincoln at \$8750. This was the top individual lot price for the whole sale.

The A588 sons were a standout and the six offered in this draft averaged \$4792, 29% above the average of \$3716 for the entire line of 15 rams. Gum View Park, through Landmark Melrose paid \$5000 for another A588 son, while Western Australians, GM & MJ Byrne, through Elders Midland paid the second top price of \$6250 for A1310 son, a ram that was second in the pairs in Adelaide and Melbourne.

While that section was hot, the flock ram section absolutely sizzled. 52 Suffolk flock rams were offered and these all sold to a \$1600 top, achieved seven times, and averaged \$1092, up \$246 on last year's already strong result.

Five buying accounts in particular contributed strongly to that result, purchasing 27 of the draft and all the top priced lots. C Willson, Kingscote and Dunira Prime Lamb, Manoora both paid \$1600 for one of their purchases, but Nampara Pastoral, Penola (eight rams including two at \$1600), Keppoch Partners, Padthaway (eight rams including three at \$1600) and KF, CA & PW O'Driscoll, Lameroo (seven rams including one at \$1600) were both high price and volume bidders.

By far the biggest volume buyers of the whole sale were the Thring family, Blue Hills, Telopea Downs and buying through Spence, Dix & Co. They purchased 37 flock rams, including one Suffolk, all at \$600 each in great value buying. As such, they won the animal health products donated by sale sponsors Coopers Animal Health.

The Allendale Poll Dorset offering was full of quality as highlighted by the stud's recent successes at Adelaide Royal where they won the Supreme Interbreed ram of the show award with a keeper ram, plus Junior Champion ram in the breed's 60th year celebrations. That latter ram, Allendale 130268 achieved the top Poll Dorset price at \$6000, selling to Bruce Willison, Kreeside stud, Mt Pleasant. He was one of six sons of Derrynock 131/11, a sire that has proven to be very successful at Allendale. Another son was the only other ram to reach \$5000, selling to Rohan and Amanda Giles, Crower stud, Lucindale through PPH & S.

Bruce Willison also paid the \$400 top price for one of only five ewes to sell in the 16 ewe offering.

In the Poll Dorset flock ram section demand was good at the start, with G & JR Koopman, Tungkillio paying the \$1400 top for one of three Poll Dorsets they purchased. However demand did not hang on for the entire draft of 95 rams, with only a 70% clearance being achieved, which was disappointing considering the quality.

Brooklea Trading through Landmark Bordertown were the biggest volume buyers in this section, purchasing 10 from \$900 to \$1100. Brian Johnson, LS Johnson & Son through Elders Naracoorte purchased seven from \$700 to \$900, while Bergan Park, Keith (six to \$1100), T Tranten, Kalangadoo (six to \$1300), and Walteela Props, Avenue Range (six including two from the stud draft) were strong contributors. The average of \$898 was quite good in the current market, but high quality rams were overlooked.

Allendale Sale Summary

Allendale Suffolks

40 of 40 stud ewes sold to \$900 (x2) and averaged \$536

15 of 15 stud rams sold to \$8750 and averaged \$3716

52 of 52 flock rams sold to \$1600 (x7) and averaged \$1092

Allendale Poll Dorsets

5 of 16 stud ewes sold to \$400 and averaged \$320

12 of 12 stud rams sold to \$6000 and averaged \$2520

66 of 95 flock rams sold to \$1400 and averaged \$898

Agents: Spence, Dix & Co, Landmark and Elders



Graham Day holds the combined sale's top priced ram, an Allendale Suffolk that sold for \$8750. It was purchased by Elders Lower Eyre Peninsula area manager Paul Kilby, who bought it on behalf of the Bascombe family, White Flat Suffolk stud, Pt Lincoln. The ram was champion at both the Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Shows this year.



Ian Schaeffer and Kerry Graham are pictured with Suffolk ewes including the six they bought to the sale's top ewe price of \$900 for Kerry's Skallemaro Suffolk stud on Kangaroo Island. They purchased the \$5000 top priced ram at last year's sale.



Bruce Willison, Kreeside Poll Dorset stud, Mt Pleasant travelled to Bordertown with his stud manager Kym Williams to purchase Allendale 130268, the Adelaide Royal Feature breed showing's Junior Champion ram, held by Graham Day. He paid the sectional top of \$6000 in great buying, also purchasing the top Poll Dorset stud ewe for \$4000.



The Malone family of Nick, Will and Jim, Talinga, Naracoorte have just had great success with their branded Malone Lamb at the Sydney Royal Fine Foods Festival, winning three gold medals and the best grassfed lamb award. They use Allendale genetics in their program, again purchasing at this year's sale including 2 of the Allendale Poll Dorset rams. They are pictured with Allendale's Jayne Day.



The Thring family, Blue Hills, Telopea Downs were the biggest volume buyers at the combined Allendale/Days Whiteface sale, purchasing 36 White Suffolks and one Suffolk flock ram. As a result they won the animal health products donated by sale sponsors Coopers. Pictured are Julie Christie, Coopers Northern SA sales manager, Alastair Day, Allendale, Lachy Day, Days Whiteface, Jock, Sam and Jane Thring, 'Blue Hills' and Bec Barry, Coopers South East representative.

