

More records set at Allendale extravaganza

The annual Allendale and Days Whiteface combined sheep sale has become a highlight in itself just through the numbers on offer; this year being no different with 445 head from four breeds on offer in a five hour extravaganza.

However it is the quality that goes with this sale that sets it up as one of national significance and a regular event for new records.

Drafts of stud ewes, stud rams and flock rams were offered from the longer established Allendale Suffolks and Poll Dorsets and Days White Suffolks, but over the last few years a line of Maternal Composite rams from Days Whiteface has added another dimension to the sale.

Ross Milne (Elders), Jono Spence (Spence Dix & Co) and Gordon Wood (Landmark) worked tirelessly with almost 'speed auctioneering' to get all the lots through the ring in that time frame, selling to a constantly changing gallery from the 128 registered breeders from three states, depending on breed and description. It is an even bigger job for the staff out the back bringing this number of sheep in and out of the ring and organising deliveries.

At the sale's end, 427 head had found new homes in a 96% clearance and at a \$1776 average. This average was up 21%, culminating in a \$758,200 gross, also up 26% on last year's cracking sale gross. Most certainly the meat sheep industry is on a real high at present with a very strong projected outlook and confident buyers.

There were two exceptional highlight drafts in particular from the Allendale offering; these being the Allendale Suffolk stud ewe and ram drafts.

A new national Suffolk stud ram auction record was set when Allendale 151609 sold to Jeff McCallum, Willochra Props, Melrose for \$14,000, eclipsing the \$13,500 previous record set just 12 months ago at this sale. This beautifully balanced and structurally brilliant meat machine was sired by Mornish 18/12, the New Zealand national champion in 2013.

"It is a beautifully balanced and soundly structured ram with great muscling, yet still has that easy doing softness you need to be confident it will produce progeny that can be easily finished off grass. It also has a different genetic mix from the last very successful ram we purchased from Allendale back in 2008," Jeff McCallum said.

Also buying through Landmark Melrose, Jeff's brother David, Gumview stud, Melrose was only \$2000 behind when he purchased the next lot, A151664Tw for \$12,000. Other top Suffolk stud ram sales included A151638 to TI Fletcher through TDC Penola for \$10,000, two rams at \$9000 and \$7000 to Don Millard, Sheoak Lodge, Mt Hope on Eyre Peninsula through Landmark Cummins, and one to Tolmer Rocks Suffolks through Spence Dix & Co, Tintinara for \$9000.

The entire Suffolk ram draft excelled with all 17 averaging \$6618, well up on last year's outstanding result when 16 averaged \$5421.

The run of Suffolk flock rams was strong with 47 averaging \$1253. RF Verner, buying through Spence, Dix & Co was once again the most prominent buyer in this draft with 10 rams from \$800 to \$1500 and at a \$1200 average, following on from the 12 they purchased last year.

Another Spence Dix & Co client, Treetop Estate was strong at the top of the draft with six rams at a \$1417 average, while IT and LM Pitt, through Elders Murray Bridge also picked up six at a \$1067 average. D & C Brown, through PPH & S with five to \$1700 and at a \$1460 average took their choice selections, later adding six Days White Suffolks at a \$1683 average to be one of the strongest flock ram bidders on the day.

In the extraordinary Allendale Suffolk stud ewe offering, all 39 ewes sold to a top of \$1700 and averaged \$1400. Adam Bradley, Platinum Livestock was buying for clients GB & EJ Lewis. He purchased four ewes to the \$1700 top which was in the last pen when desperately trying to achieve the client's buying request.

"Wow that was strong," was a perfect statement by him after the run. He was also able to purchase them a stud ram at a better value \$5000 when this run came into the ring after the stud ewe runs.

TI Fletcher, who also purchased the \$10,000 Suffolk ram mentioned earlier was exceptionally strong, selecting 16 ewes to \$1500 and at a \$1350 average to make the draft so strong with not one ewe selling under \$1000.

Seaton Park Suffolks through Elders Tumby Bay purchased seven to \$1600 and at a \$1357 average to keep the heat on. Nine buyers were successful in purchasing at least one ewe.

In the Poll Dorset stud ram offering, Ken Williams purchased Allendale 150269, the \$8000 top priced Poll Dorset stud ram for his Ashburnia stud, based in Orange, NSW.

RE & SB Giles through Elders Lucindale paid the second top of \$7500 in this draft while Betty and Ken Walker, Kenlorne stud, Beachport were strong underbidders on both the top rams before securing their third pick for \$5000. The 13 Poll Dorset stud rams averaged a solid \$3808.

The eight Poll Dorset stud ewes averaged \$538, topping at \$700 to Andrew Lakin through Landmark Seymour. TW & EN Mckereth through PPH & S Naracoorte purchased the other seven ewes.

The Allendale Poll Dorset flock ram draft averaged \$1308, with 78 clearing to \$2000. AM & M McKinnon only purchased two rams through Keatley Livestock Mt Gambier, but they made an impact, selecting the top and equal second top priced rams at \$2000 and \$1800.

Brian Johnson, LS Johnson & Son was the biggest volume buyer of Poll Dorset flock rams with 11 to \$1600 and at a \$1418 average.

AJK Pastoral through Landmark Mt Pleasant was a strong bidder with seven to \$1800 and at a \$1629 average, while Dunira Prime Lamb, buying through Spence Dix & Co also purchased seven at an \$1100 average.

Sale Summary:

Suffolks (Allendale)

39 of 39 stud ewes sold to \$1700 and averaged \$1400.

17 of 17 stud rams sold to \$14,000 and averaged \$6618

47 of 51 flock rams sold to \$2000 and averaged \$1253

Poll Dorsets (Allendale)

8 of 8 stud ewes sold to \$700 and averaged \$538

13 of 13 stud rams sold to \$8000 and averaged \$3808

78 of 84 flock rams sold to \$2000 and averaged \$1308

Overall Sale

427 of 445 head sold to \$22,000 and averaged \$1776

Agents: Elders, Spence Dix & Co, Landmark

Auctioneers: Ross Milne (Elders), Jono Spence (Spence Dix & Co) & Gordon Wood (Landmark)



Jeff McCallum (left), Willochra, Melrose purchased this Allendale Suffolk ram for a new Australian record of \$14,000, held by Allendale principal Alastair Day, with his son Angus Day (centre) watching on.





Angus and Graham Day represent the Allendale stud that sold this Poll Dorset ram to Ken & Norma Williams, Ashburnia stud, Orange, NSW for the top Poll Dorset price of \$8,000.



Elders auctioneer Ross Milne is pictured offering some of the Allendale stud Suffolk ewes that sold extremely well, averaging \$1400 for 39 of them.