

Best gets better at 40th sale

In a significant milestone, the Day family staged their 40th annual sheep sale, featuring high quality offerings from four breeds.

The combined offering of Allendale Suffolk and Poll Dorset rams and ewes, plus the Days Whiteface offering of White Suffolk rams and ewes and Maternal Composite rams was presented to prospective buyers in tip-top condition.

Jono Spence, Spence Dix & Co and one of five auctioneers who had the pleasure of standing over and controlling the bidding during this marathon sale said, "The depth of quality gets better all the time."

He praised the principals on their presentation and great results around the major shows.

"These studs have stood the biggest test of all; the test of time. They continue to produce standout genetics, as indicated by their success at the recent Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Shows and make them available to other breeders Australia wide," he said.

The registered buyers' list contained bidders from three states who competed for the 124 stud rams and ewes and 320 flock rams on offer, including 89 Suffolks and 140 Poll Dorsets from Alastair and Jayne Day's Allendale studs.

The softer lamb market and seasonal cut out in many areas of the country reduced expectations, especially on top of last year's spectacular and record-breaking half a million dollar sale.

That proved to be the case as buyers were more reserved in their bidding.

Alastair and Jayne Day, Allendale had the honour of offering their Suffolks first in each ram draft, courtesy of topping the averages for the last couple of years. Allendale has recently purchased the entire daughter stud Brechinridge to cater for this higher demand. Consequently they were able to offer higher numbers of both stud and flock rams, and along with the softer overall demand, this brought the Suffolk drafts back to levels comparable with the other breeds on offer.

In an excellent start, the 15 stud rams offered all sold to a top of \$6000 and averaged \$2667. The highlight was the offering of All110817, the interbreed champion at the recent Melbourne Royal Show. Sired by A070204, he is a $\frac{3}{4}$ brother of last year's Adelaide interbreed champion, a ram that was retained, hence this ram being offered for sale rather than also being retained.

Lachie Kelly, 'Mooramook', Caramut, Vic was the lucky buyer, picking him up for the \$6000 top price, yet still great value for such a high quality ram.

Spence Dix & Co's client, Tolmer Rocks Suffolks paid the equal second top price of \$4000, while Kent and Rose Martin, Chickerloo, Kalangadoo also paid this figure, both these rams being sons of A090474.

The Martins have been long-time supporters of the Day family genetics in all three main breeds and this year also purchased a Poll Dorset in their stud ram purchases, with a total spend of a \$9000.

Kevin O'Driscoll, buying through SAL Lameroo was prominent in the Suffolk ram sections. He purchased five of the 15 stud rams from \$1250 to \$1750 then added the two top priced flock rams at \$1100 each, his seven purchases averaging \$1314.

PPH&S Naracoorte clients, Munga Park were the dominant Suffolk flock ram purchasers, successfully bidding on 16 of the 46 offered from \$600 to \$800.

Forty three of this draft, which was up 30 on last year's very limited numbers, found buyers and averaged \$721, this being much more affordable for commercial breeders than last year's \$1453 average.

The Suffolk stud ewes from Allendale again proved popular with all 27 offered selling to \$600 and averaging \$431. Justin Boyer through Landmark Euroa was the biggest volume buyer with eight of these ewes, paying from \$300 to \$550.

Moss Vale High School, buying through Landmark Moss Vale and Tolmer Rocks Suffolks purchased six ewes each, while Drydens Run, through Landmark Kyneton paid the \$600 top for one of two Suffolk ewes they purchased.

Repeat buyer, Martin Harvey, Paxton stud was also the purchaser of the \$5000 top priced Allendale Poll Dorset ram in the 14 strong draft. This was for A110103Twin, a top son of Leenala 080118. This ram was typical of Allendale's renowned high quality Poll Dorsets, structurally brilliant and beautifully balanced with muscling in the right places and supported by equally impressive and balanced Lambplan figures.

Pondam Park through PPH&S Naracoorte paid \$3500 and \$3000 for two top rams from this draft, while Rohan Giles, Crower stud and buying through Landmark Lucindale paid \$3000 and \$2500 for the second and third rams offered in exceptionally good value buying.

A relative lack of new Poll Dorset studs being formed meant stud ewe demand was very limited with only four of the 23 classy ewes offered finding buyers.

The Poll Dorset ram draft had the misfortune to be offered last of the big lines in a market where most buyers were filling orders earlier in the sale. This resulted in 31 of the last 47 rams failing to find buyers, but those who waited for this draft found top quality rams to select from with competition strong at the beginning. Nineteen Allendale regulars bid successfully, with JA Malone through Landmark Naracoorte paying the \$1500 top price for one of six they purchased to also be the equal highest volume buyers. Their six select rams averaged \$1267.

Panmura Props, through Spence Dix & Co, Keith averaged \$1133 and topped at \$1400, also purchasing six rams, as did Began Park, also through Spence Dix & Co and at an \$850 average. LS Johnson & Son also purchased 6 rams, buying through Elders Naracoorte and paying to \$1200.

The 72 Poll Dorset flock rams that sold averaged a healthy \$965.

Will McDonald, Blackwood Park and buying through Elders Strathalbyn has been a long term supporter of Allendale/Days genetics and is one commercial buyer who is very aware of the bargains that often appear in the stud ram offerings. This year he included two Poll Dorsets from the stud draft amongst his 5 purchases on the day, paying from \$1500 to \$1750 and at a \$1550 average.

Agents: Landmark, Elders & Spence Dix & Co

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



Graham Day holds the Allendale Suffolk ram that was interbreed champion at the recent Melbourne Royal and sold for the \$6000 top Suffolk price to Lachie Kelly, 'Mooramook', Caramut, Vic.



Marin Harvey, Paxton Poll Dorset stud, Western Flat is with the Allendale ram he purchased for the \$5000 top price in the Poll Dorset draft.



The sale commenced with the Allendale stud ewe offering, with these receiving another total clearance and a \$431 average.