

Resounding endorsement at Allendale

By RICHARD JAMES

STUD and commercial buyers from four states gave a resounding endorsement of the direction being taken by the Day family's Allendale studs at their 39th annual on-property auction at Bordertown on the first Friday in October. With 110 registered bidders, coupled with the healthy state of the sheep meat industry, plus the influence of the excellent season, it was little surprise that the large gallery pushed prices to record levels.

From a three breed offering of 378 head, only five sheep (all ewes) failed to sell under the hammer and the sale gross of \$455,800 was a record high at this sale.

Only the stud Suffolk rams had a lower average than last year and they were only \$45 down on the fantastic 2009 result. In the opposite sex, stud Suffolk ewes averaged \$314 higher than last year.

The overall sale top price of \$9500, for a superb stud Suffolk ram with wonderful conformation and weight for age, was paid by Lameroo studmaster Allan Gum whose Lowan Hill stud was founded four years ago, mostly on Allendale bloodlines.

Underbidders were PA&RM Loane, Latrobe, Tasmania, operating through Spence Dix & Co. The Loanes went on to secure another Allendale Suffolk ram at the sale's second top of \$7500.

Both rams were sons of the highly successful New Zealand sire Dorie 050052. DG & AC Bascomb, Pt Lincoln paid \$4500 and Grundy Pastoral, Naracoorte paid \$4000 to be other high priced stud Suffolk ram buyers.

Top price of \$3000 for stud Poll Dorset rams was paid twice; by Charlie Koch, Tallageira, Frances, and by Dennis Dalla, Redwood, Warooka. Tallageira also paid \$2500 for another top Poll Dorset stud sire, while Kent & Rose Martin, Kalangadoo also bought 2 Poll Dorset stud rams at \$2500 & \$1800.

A new record price for a stud Suffolk ewe at Allendale sales was achieved when Alastair & Jayne Day received \$1400 for a magnificent daughter of Dorie 050052. The buyer was Bruce Rolfe, Musk, Victoria who secured three more stud Suffolk ewes at \$1100, \$900 and \$600 for his Oberon stud founded in 2000.

Five Suffolk ewes to \$800 was the buying order from Dubbo, New South Wales breeders DJ Hunt & KF White, while 'Artunga', buying through Landmark Hamilton bought 6 ewes from \$700 to \$800.

Co sale vendor, Lachy Day, Day's Whiteface White Suffolks took a stud Suffolk ewe at \$900. The 24 Suffolk ewes averaged an amazing \$812.50, such was the quality created demand.

Lachy Day also took the top Poll Dorset stud ewe at \$600 from an offering reduced in numbers, but certainly not quality. HS Shaw from Mansfield in Victoria was the volume Poll Dorset ewe buyer, purchasing 7 ewes from \$300 to \$500, while Spence Dix & Co purchased 5 from \$300 to \$550 a/c Bergan Park, Keith.

One of SA's biggest prime lamb producers LS Johnson & Son, Naracoorte was a major buyer of Poll Dorset rams, securing 14 through Elders Naracoorte.

Top price of \$1700 went to the bid of RV&L Munro, also through Elders Naracoorte. Tarra Park bought two Poll Dorsets at \$1400 each.

Mount Gambier based O'Connor & Graney agent, Charles Wilson-Smith gave valuable support in finishing the day with 26 Poll Dorset and White Suffolk flock rams for clients G Smith & Co, PL&MR Winser and CL Kilsby & Co.

All 109 Poll Dorset flock rams cleared for a very solid \$1024 average.

In the Suffolk flock ram offering all 24 flock rams sold to a top of \$1300 and averaged an exceptional \$1071.

Agents were Elders Landmark and Spence Dix & Co, with auctioneers Elders' Ross Milne, Landmark's Malcolm Scroop, and Spence Dix & Co's Jono Spence.



This Suffolk ram made the \$9500 top price at the Day family's Allendale auction at Bordertown. The ram is held by Graham Day and is with buyers Megan Lench and Allan Gum, Iowan Hill stud at Lameroo, SA.