

Flock ram demand drives massive Day Allendale sale

The Day families staged their 45th and huge four breed sheep sale at Bordertown last Friday, and on the back of very strong flock ram demand they achieved a 95% clearance from their combined 447 sheep offering.

With 116 registered bidders representing four states, there was constant activity throughout the 4.5 hours sale, not only from active bidding, but with seat changing between the stud and flock drafts of the four breeds: Allendale Suffolks and Poll Dorsets and Days White Suffolks and Maternal Composites.

Auctioneers Jono Spence (Spence Dix & Co), Gordon Wood (Landmark) and Ross Milne (Elders) kept the bids flowing and the hammer tapping at a rate of just on 100 lots/hour, while the unsung yard staff behind the scenes kept the sheep flowing rapidly in a mammoth effort.

Stud demand fluctuated this year, with averages down on the very buoyant 2016 sale, but the extra confidence across the South East and Victoria in particular, from a top season combined with record prime lamb prices drove a significant lift in flock ram demand, particularly in the most dominant Poll Dorset and White Suffolk lines, with the Allendale Poll Dorset average increasing by 23% from last year's top result.

In the normal run of sale procedure an 11am kick-off of the stud ewe lines saw the most apparent drop in stud demand. 56 of the 80 ewes offered across the three breeds (Suffolks, White Suffolks and Poll Dorsets) achieved a 70% clearance rate, the only area not to receive a full clearance in the sale.

However, there were still some significant highlights in the Suffolk line from Alastair and Jayne Day and family. 36 of the 40 cleared to a new Allendale high of \$2500, paid twice by James Cleland, through Rodwells Horsham for outstanding ewes. He didn't stop at the top though, and went on to purchase 18 ewes in total at a \$972 average.

Allan Gum, Lowen Hills stud, Lameroo also made an impact with eight ewes to \$1000 and at a \$588 average.

The 36 of 40 that sold averaged a very solid \$900, but well back on last year's extremely buoyant \$1400 average.

Only two of eight Poll Dorset ewes found new homes though.

There was much more interest in the stud ram offerings, these all selling to quite strong bidding, but still significantly back on last year's results that saw record highs in two of the three breeds.

The 17 Allendale Suffolk stud rams also sold strongly and hit a high of \$9000 twice. Allendale 161901, a winner of no less than six blue ribbons and three broad ribbons at the Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Shows, was offered first in this draft. Allan Gum, Lameroo added to his purchase of eight ewes in the morning to place the winning \$9000 bid for this wonderfully balanced ram.

Sired by A141434 it also boasted excellent and balanced Lambplan figures culminating in a Carcase Plus index of 173.7. He then added A161814, a long and powerful son of the NZ ram Mornish 120018 for \$6000 and A161944Tw by A100588 for \$4000 in a substantial investment to boost his stud which had suffered a few setbacks in recent years along with his personal health.

“I’ve got my Mojo back and these Allendale sheep, a stud I’ve always admired, will help take us back to the numbers and quality we and our clients want,” Allan said.

Lachy Kelly, Mooramook, Caramut paid \$8000 for Allendale 161813, a first prize winner in Melbourne, before Brett Shepherd, Mullinger Park, Kybybolite and bidding by phone through independent consultant Leigh Allan was pushed to the \$9000 equal top for Allendale 161971Twin. This ram impressed with his length, balance and depth of muscling and was a first prize winner in both Adelaide and Melbourne in the pair of rams classes.

Long-time supporters of the Day family studs, Jeff McCallum, Willochra Props, Melrose went to \$6500 and Tracy Parker, Langkoop to \$5500 for Allendale Suffolk rams.

The 17 Suffolk stud rams averaged a very solid \$4323.

The Allendale Poll Dorset stud ram line-up presented as well as anyone could remember in recent times, but that alone was not sufficient to attract enough strong bidders. The 16 averaged just \$2750, with over half going to astute flock ram buyers. However, those stud buyers who put themselves in with a purchasing chance by being there were the big winners, none more so than Charlie Koch, Tallageira Pastoral Co and buying through Landmark Naracoorte’s David Heinrich. He snapped up the first two offered, A160277 and A160119, both prize winners at Adelaide and Melbourne for just \$3000 and \$4000 respectively.

The \$4000 ended up being the equal top price for this terrific draft, with Lachlan Grundy, Lake Roy stud, Naracoorte and AJ & PA McBride, Lucindale equalling that price and sharing in the top price honours for A160140Twin and A160217 respectively.

Alastair Day said post sale, “It seems you have got to have huge sheep that are less efficient, or figures through the roof to attract consistent stud ram demand in the Poll Dorsets at present, but we are not into chasing fads or single traits; we are very happy producing moderate and more efficient and functional sheep with good balanced figures that match their structural balance and correctness that give our clients consistently good results.”

While the stud ram demand was solid but reserved, the flock rams were extremely buoyant.

The magnificent draft of 85 Allendale Poll Dorsets were ‘hot to trot’ topping at \$2000 and averaging \$1604, up nearly \$300 on last year’s great result.

Nicholas and Lisa Rowett, Mundulla paid the equal \$2000 top amongst their six purchases at an \$1883 average. Bergan Park, Keith in purchasing six rams, also to the \$2000 top averaged \$1783.

The strongest drivers of the buoyancy in this draft were Brian Johnson and Sam Limbert, LS Johnson & Son. They purchased 21 top quality rams, bidding to \$1900 and averaging \$1667.

Talinga, Naracoorte (seven rams ave \$1743) and MJ Tilley, Adelaide (seven rams ave \$1429) were also prominent buyers.

The Allendale Suffolk flock rams were also strong with all 45 clearing to a \$1900 top but were just below last year’s great result, averaging \$1220.

D & C Brown, Padthaway and buying through PPH & S’s Richard Harvey bid the \$1900 top in purchasing four top rams at a \$1625 average.

CG, CL & DJ Groth, Keith (six rams ave \$1600), AS & SJ Lowe, Mundulla (six rams ave \$833), CN & JA Paltridge (six rams ave \$933) and SN & LJ Longbottom, Bordertown (five rams ave \$1440) were also strong in this draft.

Sale Summary

Allendale	Suffolk stud rams		Suffolk ewes		Suffolk flock rams	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Offered	17	17	40	39	45	51
Sold	17	17	36	39	45	47
Top	\$9000 x 2	\$14,000	\$2500 x 2	\$1700	\$1900	\$2000
Average	\$4323	\$6618	\$900	\$1400	\$1220	\$1253

	Poll Dorset stud rams		Poll Dorset ewes		Poll Dorset flock rams	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Offered	16	13	8	8	85	84
Sold	16	13	2	8	85	78
Top	\$4000 x 3	\$8000	\$500	\$700	\$2000	\$2000
Average	\$2750	\$3808	\$500	\$538	\$1604	\$1308

Overall sale: 423 of 447 head sold to \$12,000 and averaged \$1670

Agents: Spence Dix & Co, Landmark & Elders

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



These two Allendale Suffolk stud rams topped the Allendale stud offering at \$9000 each. With them are Graham Day, holding the ram purchased by Allan Gum (centre), Lowen Hills stud, Lameroo, while Naracoorte stud advisor Leigh Allan holds the ram he purchased for Brett and Amanda Shepherd, Mullinger Park, Kybybolite.



James Cleland and his children Isla and Hamish are with the Allendale Suffolk ewes he purchased at the sale's top price of \$2500. Buying through Rodwells Horsham, James purchased 18 Suffolk ewes for his expanding Suffolk stud.



Alastair Day controls the ring as his Poll Dorset ram A160217 is sold for the \$4000 equal top price in this draft by Elders auctioneer Ross Milne.