

Black is beautiful at Allendale

Last Friday's three breed Allendale sheep sale at Bordertown achieved a very successful outcome for the Day family, despite seasonal and world financial uncertainty, but the highlight was the success of their Suffolk offering.

With a long and successful history in meat sheep genetics, this annual sale usually attracts a big crowd; this year being no exception. Well over 100 registered bidders were recorded from all states except WA, to compete for the 49 stud grade rams, 235 flock rams and 97 stud ewes from their Suffolk, White Suffolk and Poll Dorset studs. The 4 hours and 40 minute marathon ultimately saw an 85% clearance, with 323 head clearing for an \$835.22 average.

The stud's Suffolk offering of 14 stud rams, 38 flock rams and 30 stud ewes achieved a 100% clearance and topped the averages in each grade of rams and ewes. After the stud's Suffolk success at the Hamilton Sheepvention, Melbourne Royal and the Adelaide Royal feature showings, one could have realistically expected a good flow-on in demand. This kicked off with the first ewe in the ring that sold for \$1,025, purchased by Steve Funke for Kurraden Partners through Landmark Cummins. They purchased 6 of the best ewes at a \$629 average. Volume buyers of Suffolk ewes were MG & TM Smith, through SAL Naracoorte, purchasing 8 from \$200 to \$325.

The Suffolk stud ram offering also saw the sale highlight in rams, with lot 2, Allendale 204/07 topping at \$8,000. It was bought by Landmark's Graeme Hampel, operating for the McCallum family, Gum View stud, Melrose. This ram was sired by Waimotu 1010/03, the New Zealand performance sire that also produced the stud's Hamilton champion and Adelaide reserve champion ram, being retained in the stud.

RA & RM Loane, through Elders Devonport paid \$3,500 for a Suffolk stud ram; adding to their 3 ewe purchases to \$375.

Kent and Rose Martin, through Landmark, Mt Gambier have bought numerous stud rams from Allendale in all 3 breeds over an extended period of time. This year they purchased a Suffolk at \$3,000 after underbidding the top ram; then added 2 White Suffolks and 2 Poll Dorsets to round off a big day out.

In the White Suffolk stud offering, demand was solid but nowhere near as animated as for their Suffolk cousins. Stud rams topped at only \$2,250, purchased by Balmar White Suffolk stud, Kadina, who also purchased 3 ewes to \$400. Ian Cass, Loxton couldn't believe his luck when he was able to pick up the very impressive lot 1 stud ram for only \$2,000.

GR & PJ Zadow, buying through Landmark Karoonda, were the volume ewe buyers, purchasing 12 ewes to \$375. The top priced ewe at \$425 was paid by Jake Taylor, Comet stud and buying through Lanyons, Hamilton. This was for 1 of 3 ewes he purchased, plus a stud ram at \$1,000.

Like the White Suffolk stud rams, the Poll Dorset stud offering sold well under value considering the quality on offer. The 18 stud rams averaged on \$1,542, thus allowing astute top end flock ram buyers to operate, as they did on some of the White Suffolks.

Tallageira Pastoral Co, through Landmark Naracoorte paid the equal top Poll Dorset stud ram price of \$2,750, as did Martin and Kirsty Harvey, Beeamma P/L, Bordertown for 1 of 2 they purchased. Repeat Allendale buyers, Rohan and Sue Giles, Richings stud, Penola made the most of the excellent value and purchased 3 Poll Dorset stud rams from \$1,250 to \$2,000.

In the only real disappointment of the sale, only 6 Poll Dorset ewes cleared, despite their outstanding quality. Simply, there is little demand around at present for Poll Dorset ewes, which is somewhat puzzling.

Flock ram demand throughout the sale was exceptionally strong, with 216, of a total of 235 offered selling for a \$764 average. This included total clearances in the Suffolk (38 rams) and White Suffolk (106 rams) offerings. It was only in the last run of the day; the Poll Dorset flock rams, that demand finally ran out, with 19 of the 91 ram offering failing to clear. With at least

19 of the 49 stud ram offering through the 3 breeds clearing to commercial buyers, meant that buying orders were filled before the completion of the flock ram offering.

The Suffolk rams were 'hot to trot', with the 38 clearing to \$1,200 and averaging a fantastic \$987. L & P Campbell, Elders Wangaratta purchased the top priced ram in this section. WR & EM Jackson, through Elders Keith purchased 6, including 3 at the \$1150 second top price, also adding 1 White Suffolk later. Munga Development, through PPH&S Naracoorte bought 7 from \$950 to \$1,000, as did Sam Thring, Elders Keith, paying from \$800 to \$900. Stewie Hann, Nampara Pastoral, Penola purchased 3 Suffolk flock rams and 2 from the stud offering, averaging out 5 top rams for a \$1,260 average.

Elders Bordertown agent Kim Lovelock purchased both the top priced White Suffolk and Poll Dorset flock rams at \$1,400 and \$1,250 respectively on behalf of AM McKinnon, Mt Gambier. Volume buying in the White Suffolk flock ram section, with 8 rams each, was shared by CN & JA Paltridge, Elders Lucindale; Nalda Park, through Forster Livestock; and Buneet Park Pastoral, through Landmark Warrigul, Vic.

Rising Sun, operating through Keatley Livestock Mt Gambier, purchased 2 Suffolks and 8 White Suffolks, paying to \$900 to also be a significant volume buyer.

The Poll Dorset flock rams represented the best value buying as competition waned late in the sale, with the 72 that sold averaging \$617. Thirty nine of these went for \$400 to \$450; not a reflection of their quality.

Coolana Angus, through Elders Mortlake purchased 11, all at \$400, to be the volume buyer of Poll Dorset flock rams. G Smith & Co through O'Connor & Graney, Mt Gambier purchased 7 Poll Dorset flock rams to \$950, but also added 5 White Suffolk flock rams (to \$750) and 1 Poll Dorset from the stud offering, accumulating 13 rams on the day.

Auctioneers were Jono Spence and Luke Schreiber, representing Elders and Malcolm Scroop and Warrick Barrett for Landmark.

Sale summary

Stud ewes

Suffolks	2008	2007	White Suffolks	2008	2007	Poll Dorsets	2008	2007
Offered	30	30		33	38		34	48
Sold	30	30		22	33		6	20
Top	\$1,025	\$850		\$425	\$900		\$250	\$400
Ave	\$348	\$662		\$272	\$312		\$208	\$263

Stud Rams

Suffolks	2008	2007	White Suffolks	2008	2007	Poll Dorsets	2008	2007
Offered	14	11		17	17		18	16
Sold	14	11		17	14		18	16
Top	\$8,000	\$8,500		\$2,250	\$5,000		\$2,750	\$7,500
Ave	\$2,661	\$3,523		\$1,295	\$2,143		\$1,542	\$2,125

Flock Rams

Suffolks	2008	2007	White Suffolks	2008	2007	Poll Dorsets	2008	2007
Offered	38	28		106	87		91	105
Sold	38	28		106	83		72	101
Top	\$1,200	\$900		\$1,400	\$1,000		\$1,250	\$1,300
Ave	\$987	\$686		\$785	\$639		\$617	\$526

Overall: 323 of 381 sold to \$8,000, grossed \$269,775 and averaged \$885.22



Pictured with the \$8,000 top priced Suffolk ram at the Allendale sale are Allendale principal Graham Day, holding the ram; and Graeme Hampel, Landmark Bordertown, who bought the ram for the McCallum family, Gum View stud, Melrose, operating over the phone.



The Allendale 3 breed meat sheep sale was again very successful. Pictured with 3 of the top sale rams are Ian Cass, Loxton, holding his 2nd top priced White Suffolk ram; Martin Harvey, Beeamma, Bordertown holding his equal top priced Poll Dorset ram; and Graeme Hampel, Landmark Bordertown, who bought the \$8,000 top Suffolk and overall sale top priced ram for the McCallum family, Melrose, SA.