

Greatest Big Day Out

All roads led to Bordertown last Friday for the combined Allendale/Days Whiteface offering of rams and ewes from four breeds, producing the best ever sale result for the Day families with a magnificent sale gross of \$551,250.

With the stands packed and including 132 registered bidders, combined with the magnificent presentation of the Allendale Suffolk & Poll Dorset sheep, signs were good for a top result. However not many expected it to be so strong throughout. While the sale achieved an excellent result, on reflection when considering the hard work and investments made by the Day family over a long period of time, combined with the buoyancy of the sheep industry, the result was where it should have been.

After four and a half hours of selling, auctioneers Jono Spence (Spence Dix & Co), Malcolm Scroop (Landmark) and Ross Milne (Elders) brought the curtain down on a marathon, but grand 39th annual sale.

With drafts of stud rams, stud ewes and flock rams from each of the breeds there are invariably highlights in most years, but this year there were many. While the headlines and top prices go to the top stud sales, it was the strength of the flock ram demand that was the biggest highlight this year.

Alastair & Jayne Day's Allendale Poll Dorset offering of 99 flock rams was wonderfully supported, with all selling to a \$2000 top and averaging \$1268. Only 24% sold under \$1000 and these only went down to \$800.

Their limited offering of 17 Suffolk flock rams went at the terrific average of \$1453, topping at \$2100. There were years not that long ago when this could have been the stud ram draft result.

The highest priced flock ram was \$2100, paid by Nampara Pastoral Co and buying through Elders Penola for one of the five Allendale Suffolks they purchased at an \$1820 average. Landmark Naracoorte, account D Brown purchased eight Suffolks from \$900 to \$1400 to be the other dominant buyer in this section.

In Allendale's Poll Dorset offering, Mt Shank Estate and buying through Miller Whan & John, Mt Gambier were the volume buyers with 11 rams from \$900 to \$1600. Other key Poll Dorset flock ram buyers included Bergan Park through Spence Dix & Co (nine rams to \$1500), Spence Dix & Co Adelaide (nine rams to \$900), LS Johnson & Son, Elders Naracoorte (eight rams from \$1300 to \$1700) and G Smith & Co through O & G Mt Gambier (seven rams from \$1400 to \$1700). LS Johnson & Son won the five litres of Merial product from sale sponsors, represented by Ken Gardner, for purchasing the lucky lot.

JA Malone through Landmark Naracoorte purchased 10 rams; five from the Allendale Poll Dorset draft to be a major contributor to the sale's success.

Over the years there have been several astute commercial buyers who are prepared to keep their options open by inspecting the high quality stud rams should stud buyers hesitate in their bidding.

Will McDonald, Blackwood Park, buying through Elders Strathalbyn purchased two Poll Dorset stud rams at \$1500 and \$1750; and then added two White Suffolk studs, thus satisfying his buying needs before the flock ram drafts started.

The stud ewe drafts commenced the auction at 11:30am and met strong bidding, although a complete clearance was not quite achieved. They were followed by the wonderful stud ram drafts where complete clearances were achieved.

PF Honner, buying through SAL Naracoorte purchased 11 of the 24 Suffolk stud ewes to clear from \$350 to \$700, while Elders Strathalbyn; account Adelaide Angus purchased four, all at the equal top price of \$750. This draft averaged \$504.

The demand for Suffolks has been exceptional in the last few years and the stud rams were again highly sought after. The White Family, Kurralli Suffolk stud and buying through agents Davidson Cameron, Dubbo bid to \$6750 to secure A613, the impressive lot 1 sale ram to get the ram sale off on a great note. They later added A622Twin for \$5000. David McCallum, Gumview Pastoral, Melrose paid \$6000 for the equally impressive second ram A600Twin, a figure also paid by the Grundy family, Lake Roy stud, Naracoorte for lot 7, A580Twin.

However, it was lot 3, A660 and sired by A416/08 with a Carcase Plus index of 155.8 that topped at \$8500. The successful bidder was Don Millard, Sheoak Lodge stud, Mt Hope with son in law, Peter Hill, Spence Dix & Co doing the buying on Don's behalf. Underbidder was Jeff McCallum, Willochra Props, Melrose.

Queensland buying entered the books with Josh Milton, Milton & Hall, Clifton purchasing a big, powerful and long ram, A603 at lot 5 for \$4250. The Suffolk ram draft of 12 averaged a fantastic \$5020.

All 21 Allendale Poll Dorset ewes that were offered cleared to an \$800 top and averaged \$500. Peter DeGaris, TDC Penola bought seven ewes for client Shirley Foster, paying from \$550 to the \$800 top for the draft.

Betty and Ken Walker, Kenlorne Poll Dorsets and buying through Landmark Millicent also purchased seven ewes from \$400 to \$550, while Holmfirth Grazing through Elders Naracoorte purchased five from \$300 to \$550 to also be prominent buyers.

The Allendale Poll Dorset stud rams have been undervalued at this sale for several years but produced a very solid result this year with the 15 averaging \$3633. Ian Kyle, Ashley Park stud, Bairnsdale paid the \$7000 top price for A181, a ram that was the blue ribbon winner in the May drop class at this year's Adelaide Royal. The Walkers, Kenlorne stud then paid \$6000 for A68twin. Both these rams were sired by the \$10,000 Leenala 080118, a very early reimbursement on his purchase price. Both rams had Carcase Plus indices of over 180. Six more of the draft sold for \$4000 or better in a much more realistic reflection of their quality than in past sale results.

One of the Day family's longest and most loyal clients in all three major breeds are Kent & Rose Martin, Kalangadoo and this year was no exception. While not at headline prices, they purchased six rams in total this year; two from each breed and paying from \$1500 to \$2500.

Sale Summary

Allendale Suffolks	Stud rams	Stud ewes	Flock rams
Offered	12	27	17
Sold	12	24	17
Top	\$8500	\$750	\$2100
Average	\$5020	\$502	\$1453

Allendale Poll Dorsets	Stud rams	Stud ewes	Flock rams
Offered	15	21	99
Sold	15	21	99
Top	\$7000	\$800	\$2000
Average	\$3633	\$500	\$1268

Agents: Spence Dix & Co, Landmark & Elders

Auctioneers: Jono Spence, Malcolm Scroop & Ross Milne



Graham Day holds the \$8500 top priced Allendale Suffolk ram purchased by Peter Hill, Spence Dix & Co for Don Millard, Sheoak Lodge stud, Mt Hope, SA.



Graham Day holds the impressive \$6750 second top priced Allendale Suffolk ram, purchased by Kevin, Andrew and Donna White, Kurrali Suffolk stud, via Dubbo, NSW.



Ian Kyle, Ashley Park Poll Dorset stud is pictured with the \$7000 top priced Poll Dorset ram he purchased from Allendale and held by Graham Day.