

## Kurralea's magnificent commercial result

The commercial qualities of high growth, body size and extreme muscling were on display in full at the Kurralea annual on-property ram sale at Ariah Park, NSW last week, when 303 head sold to a very appreciative commercial clientele achieving a terrific \$1,024 average.

The success of the Kurralea genetics for commercial clients is almost legendary and this has seen a flow-on to the stud industry. Kurralea genetics now feature very prominently in many other leading studs in the industry today. With their outstanding record of show ring success, where they achieved champion ram in both their Poll Dorset and White Suffolk breeds at both the Adelaide and Melbourne Royals, it would have seemed likely higher stud demand would flow on this year. However, in the only disappointing aspect of the sale, stud breeder demand was relatively low, which in light of many other stud sales, is more a reflection of stud breeder attitudes rather than any reflection on the quality available.

There were some stud sale highlights though. The sale top of \$10,500 was achieved for lot 2, Poll Dorset sire Kurralea 2/07, a full ET brother to the stud's keeper sire that was champion ram at the recent Melbourne Royal and reserve champion at the earlier Cowra Dorset Fair. The successful buyers were Kurralea regulars, Roger Honner and his son Steve, Junee, NSW. The ram had tremendous growth, fleshing and balance, supported by Lambplan figures of +14.7 for growth, -1.0 for fat and +0.13 for muscle, culminating in a carcass plus index of 188.5. The ram was sired by New Zealand ram Ohio 353/05

Underbidders were the Hausler family, Janmac Poll Dorset stud, Goroke, Vic. They compensated somewhat by successfully purchasing lot 3, K307/7 sired by K755/05 for \$5,000 and then another full ET brother to the Melbourne champion at lot 9 for only \$3,750.

The absolute steal of the day was lot1, Kurralea 725/07 Twin, an August drop ram sired by Valma 435, the sire of the 2 top priced rams last year. This youngster was number 1 on Lambplan with a Carcass Plus index of 204.4 and had the structural class and fleshing to match. Michael King, Netley Park stud, Bordertown, South Australia opened the bidding at \$5,000 and scared all other bidders off; being successful with this opening bid. The 30 Poll Dorset studs averaged only \$2,335 with 10 of these being bought by astute flock ram buyers.

The top White Suffolk stud ram went for only \$2,750 to C & R Stimson, Highcamp, Vic. Commercial breeders also operated on the White Suffolk studs and in a line up that had real depth of quality, to see 7 of the 10 go to flock ram buyers was clearly their win and stud breeders' loss. These 10 averaged slightly higher than last year, but it was still only a modest \$1,390.

However, in the flock ram offering it was a different matter. 243 flock rams sold to a top of \$1,300 and averaged a very healthy \$861. The first run of 102 Poll Dorsets averaged \$953.47 with the first 50 of these still averaging over \$1,000. These were followed by the 74 White Suffolks, with all clearing strongly to \$1,050 top and averaging \$852.16. The final run of 104 Poll Dorsets saw 88 clear to a \$950 top and a \$700 average. The final 16 rams passed as orders were filled. These results were well up on last year and obviously the improved season in the area has helped in this regard.

Such was the solidity of buying demand that from the 98 pens of flock rams to come through the ring, 61 (62%) of them sold on the first hammer, despite 3 hammers being available.

Top flock ram price of \$1,300 was paid by Shaun Robinson, Binelong for the second pen of Poll Dorsets offered; big rams with extreme muscling which is such a rare combination due to this being a negative genetic correlation.

FS Falkiner & Sons, Deniliquin have been very strong supporters of the big clean pointed Kurralea rams for a long time and were back in force again this year. They purchased 44 Poll Dorsets to a top of \$950 and 43 White Suffolks to a top of \$1,000, plus also picking up several of the under valued stud rams in a great day's buying.

Fletcher International, Condoblin were also large repeat buyers, picking up 31 Poll Dorsets and 11 White Suffolks that also included 3 stud class rams, paying to \$1,000 on the flocks.

Chatsworth House, Chatsworth, Vic picked up 12 of the very best Poll Dorset rams, paying to the flock ram drafts' second top price of \$1,200 and at an average of \$1,100.

In the White Suffolks, Neil Arnold, Condoblin purchased 15 rams to \$1,050 and at a \$1,000 average to also be a very strong buyer. The only other double figure buyer was local Ariah Park buyer, WA Haddrill, who waited patiently until near the end of the sale and was able to pick up his 10 Poll Dorset purchases for a \$575 average.

## Sale Summary

<b>Poll Dorset studs</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>PD flocks</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Offered	30	33		206	182
Sold	30	33		189	152
Top	\$10,500	\$12,000		\$1,300	\$1,000
Ave	\$2,335	\$3,382		\$835	\$722

  

<b>White Suffolk studs</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>WS flocks</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Offered	10	12		74	80
Sold	10	12		74	80
Top	\$2,750	\$2,000		\$1,050	\$900
Ave	\$1,390	\$1,250		\$852	\$682



*Kurralea principal Jim Prentice holds the stud's \$10,500 top priced ram at their annual on-property ram sale. Also pictured is Steve Honner, Junee, NSW, who with his father Roger, were the purchasers.*



*Michael King, Netley Park, Bordertown, SA with the \$5,000 stud Poll Dorset ram he purchased at the Kurralea on-property sale. Holding the ram is Kurralea principal Jim Prentice, Aria Park, NSW.*