

PRESS RELEASE

Another fantastic Kurralea result

A year on from an extraordinary result in 2015 when 356 rams averaged \$1785, the potential was for a buyer resistance this year at the Prentice family's Kurralea ram sale.

However, while there was certainly some fall-back, most loyal buyers again fronted at this major meat sheep industry event at Aria Park and bid actively for the high quality Poll Dorset and White Suffolk rams on offer.

There were 66 registered buyers from four states, only down five on last year, with another half million gross resulting. 364 rams sold in a total clearance at a \$1427 average, again built on the back of flock ram demand rather than stud ram results.

In fact the stud ram drafts of 27 Poll Dorsets and 16 White Suffolks could only be described as great value for quality, averaging a modest \$3324 and \$2156 respectively.

The highlight in the Poll Dorset stud section that commenced the sale was a top price of \$13,000 paid by Grant and Bryce Hausler, Janmac stud, Goroke, Victoria. This was for Kurralea 150036 Twin, an outstanding son of K130291, the \$18,000 sale topper at their 2014 annual sale. With Lambplan performance figures of 15.5 for post weaning weight, -0.8 for Pfat, +1.1 for Pemd and a Carcase Plus index of 193, backed by superb structure and conformation, this ram certainly attracted a lot of pre-sale attention. Rapid fire bidding saw the Hauslers outbid Ian Sutherland, Deloraine Downs stud, Coleraine, who linked in by phone, bidding via Elders agent Jim Bruce.

No strangers to Kurralea genetics, the Hauslers were in the buying syndicate with the Rowett family, Ulandi Park stud, Marrabel, SA that paid a then record \$28,000 for K110011 in 2012.

Nine sons of K130291 averaged \$4472, significantly higher than the average for the draft of Poll Dorset stud rams. JR Ireland, Tullibigeal, NSW and GA Habeck, Hillview stud, Chiltern, Vic both paid \$5500 for stud Poll Dorset rams, while DM & BB Blyton, Cooma, NSW and Livingstone Poll Dorset stud, Omeo, Vic both paid \$5000 to put significant strength in the middle of that draft.

There was value and opportunity missed as well, as nine of this draft went to commercial producers from \$1500 to \$2000. W & L Ramsey, a regular at grabbing some of these bargains, picked up four at an \$1812 average, buying through Greg Moncrief, Condobolin. He later added two Poll Dorsets and two White Suffolks from the flock ram drafts, taking home eight rams at a \$1756 average. His two White Suffolks at \$1800 were the top price in that section of the sale.

It was value all round in the White Suffolk stud draft with only two of the 16 making anything like their value, so eight buyers went home with rams at extreme value and big smiles. Ian and Pam Kyle, Bairnsdale, Vic were rewarded for their regular attendance at Kurralea sales by picking up K150764 for just \$4750, the top price in the draft. Balanced figures and visual attributes were standout features in this son of K140294.

Tom Groat, Conapaira White Suffolks, Rankin Springs, NSW had a virtual picnic, picking up three top rams at an average of just \$2667. This included K150665 Twin, the only son of K140380 whose progeny will feature heavily next year, at the \$4500 second top price in this draft. Twelve of the 16 sold for \$2000 or less, indicating opportunity missed by many stud breeders. One who didn't was Doug Comb, Manfred stud, Hay. He picked up two very good rams at just \$1750 each.

Again commercial buyers were active, including Moncrief Livestock Condobolin clients McDonald Bros. They picked up two of them at \$1500 each. They then added six from the flock ram drafts to average \$1425 for their eight rams.

Greg Moncrief is one astute agent who doesn't let such opportunities pass and his clients reap the rewards.

The 321 rams in the flock ram drafts were offered in four alternate breed runs. The 160 Poll Dorsets maintained buying competition right through both their drafts with only one ram selling under \$1000. However, it was a different story in the White Suffolk drafts. While not a reflection on the quality which was maintained to the very end; the first run of 89 White Suffolks saw all sell over \$1000 and to a top of \$1800, but only seven of the 72 in the second run made \$1000 or better. This allowed volume buyers to average out their buying. It was also the area where the smallish drop off of demand as a result of last year's high prices hit home. The obvious key message from this is producers can't receive the extreme value buys that were available in this last run this year if they didn't put themselves in the mix.

Key volume buyer was again Australian Food Ag, Deniliquin, through Elders Deniliquin. They purchased 80 Poll Dorsets and 66 White Suffolks, becoming most active in the White Suffolks when demand from other bidders slackened off, picking up 35 at just \$800 each. The consistent performance and type within such a large selection pool of rams is what continues to attract them to Kurralea as the preferred supplier of meat sheep sires for their large sheep breeding flock.

Operating through Elders Coleambally, Paraway Pastoral was strong in the White Suffolks, purchasing 42 rams. Like AFA they became stronger in the second draft when most other bidders had completed their buying, with 11 rams at \$800.

Operating at the top end in the White Suffolk draft was BFB Pty Ltd, Temora. They purchased 14 White Suffolks to \$1500 and at a \$1436 average; demonstrating producers can select top quality still at good value despite the presence of big volume buyers.

Naturally the Prentice family was very pleased with the result and Ben Prentice thanked all buyers for their continued faith in Kurralea genetics.

"After last year's result that went beyond our expectations, we appreciated and expected a little fall off this year, but adding a few more rams and buyer loyalty to the type and performance of the rams we are offering has produced today's great result. For that loyalty and support we can't thank them enough," Ben Prentice said.

Sale Agents: Elders VP Wagga and Glasser Total Sales Management
Auctioneers: Michael Glasser (GTSM) and Joe Wilks (Elders VP)

Sale Summary

Poll Dorsets: 27 stud rams sold to \$13,000 and averaged \$3324
160 flock rams sold to \$2000 and averaged \$1355

White Suffolks: 16 stud rams sold to \$4750 and averaged \$2156
161 flock rams sold to \$1800 and averaged \$1109

Overall: 364 rams sold to \$13,000 and averaged \$1427

Photos:

Pictured with the \$13,000 top priced Poll Dorset ram at the Kurralea ram sale at Aria Park are Kim Prentice, Kurralea; purchasers Grant and Bryce Hausler, Janmac stud, Goroke, Vic; and Ben and Lucy Prentice, Kurralea.





Pictured with the \$4750 top priced White Suffolk ram at the Kurralea ram sale at Aria Park are Lucy Prentice, Kurralea; purchasers Pam and Ian Kyle, Bairnsdale, Vic; and Ben Prentice, Kurralea.

The top priced Poll Dorset ram in the ring being auctioned by Michael Glasser, and showing the large offering of rams behind the dais.



Young Henry Prentice carrying out traffic monitoring duties as buyers load their purchases at Kurralea.