

## Commercial Excellence at Kurralea

Magnificent is arguably the most apt description of the annual Kurralea Poll Dorset and White Suffolk ram sale last week at Aria Park, NSW for both quality and result. Sixty successful bidders from four states provided great competition; especially in the large flock ram offering. Auctioneers, Michael Glasser, Glasser Total Sales Management, and Joe Wilks, Elders Wagga read the mood of the gallery perfectly and kept the sale moving along at a rapid pace. That resulted in a total clearance of the overall offering of 309 head at a \$1301 average.

After achieving a national record priced Poll Dorset ram price of \$28,000 last year, it was the flock ram result that captured the headlines this year, while the stud buyers present were the recipients of bargain after bargain.

The performance of Kurralea flock rams in the paddocks of their clients is what keeps those clients coming back to purchase more of these big, high performance, well balanced and superbly presented rams. 129 Poll Dorset flock rams sold in two drafts to a top of \$1600 and averaged \$1174, while 135 White Suffolk flock rams sold to a top of \$1400, which was received 14 times, and averaged \$1125.

Obviously the substantial rainfall received in the region the week before this sale buoyed the spirits and bidding confidence of commercial producers, but they still had budgeted levels they were prepared to go to, as demonstrated by the relatively tight range between the top and bottom prices. A huge majority of the rams sold between \$900 and \$1200 in both drafts.

The strength of the commercial competition and the evenness of quality was best summarised by the bidding strength in these flock ram drafts. Offered in pairs, or pens of three or four rams, 62% of these lots went in one hammer, where the successful bidder took the entire pen. Only 5 pens of 3 rams required the 3 hammers.

Greg Moncrieff, Moncrieff Livestock, Condobolin is a regular supporter of Kurralea sales with his clients and best summarised the reasoning behind this wonderful demand.

“We buy at Kurralea simply because they have the biggest, productive and most mobile rams, with muscling that suit our purpose in our environment; their progeny really pack on the weight,” he said.

Greg and his clients were also astute enough to inspect the outstanding run of stud rams on offer and operate on these if opportunity presented. In this sale it certainly did. Bill Ramsey purchased 14 Poll Dorsets. These included the \$1600 top priced flock ram amongst seven from that draft for a \$1386 average. Earlier he had picked up seven of the 28 Poll Dorset stud rams, also to a top of \$1600 and at a \$1450 average. That is a wonderful example of doing your homework and giving serious consideration to all options.

Another Moncrieff Livestock client, Clive Swanston picked up four stud Poll Dorsets from \$1000 to \$1250, yet his only purchase from the flock ram drafts in his total of five purchases was at \$1300. Likewise in the White Suffolks, McDonald Bros picked up three studs at a \$1267 average and the seven White Suffolk flock rams in their total purchases of 10 rams averaged \$1357, \$90 higher.

Long time Kurralea supporters, FS Falkiner & Co were again the biggest volume purchasers, picking up 34 Poll Dorset flock rams and 79 of the White Suffolk draft. James Osborne, supported by his son Henry again bought on their behalf. Their purchases ranged from \$900 to \$1400 and averaged \$1149.

Fletcher International Exports purchased 24 rams, 12 from each of the two breeds, paying from \$1000 to \$1400.

Robin Jackson, Lake Repose, Glenthompson, Vic purchased seven White Suffolks from \$1000 to \$1200 and also two from the stud draft at \$1250 and \$1300.

JW Wald, another Condoblin based Moncrieff Livestock client, purchased seven Poll Dorsets from \$1000 to \$1100; BA & EM Robinson, Binalong purchased eight Poll Dorsets from \$1000 to \$1200; and Alex Gemmell, Mirrool, who has purchased rams at Kurralea for 35 years for his heavyweight lamb production, selected seven, paying from \$1200 to \$1300.

Stud demand has been patchy Australia wide this year and this sale also fitted that pattern. Astute enough to give themselves the opportunity to pick up a top ram were Mark and Peter Yates, Barwon Poll Dorset stud, Yerong Creek. They went to \$8500 to secure the 136kg K120028Tw, an April drop son of UP 080185 and a prize winner at both Adelaide and Bendigo this year.

Mark Yates described the ram as “beautifully balanced and structurally correct, with length and muscling. He has thickness, a great loin and hindquarter and stands and walks well. There is nothing wrong with him and that’s the sort of ram you need in a stud breeding program.”

Purchasers in last year’s record priced ram, Grant and Bryce Hausler, Janmac stud, Goroke, Vic linked into the sale via phone this year and were successful in picking up K120293Tw, a first prize winner at Adelaide for just \$6000. This ram was another son of UP 080185. The Hauslers then added the next stud Poll Dorset for \$2250.

Other regular Kurralea stud clients were the beneficiaries of the great value that existed. Irvin Bros, Barelle picked up another top UP185 son for just \$4000 and Ted Rumler, Valed stud, Leigh Creek, Vic paid just \$3500 for a K090527 son. Extreme value was the case for Graeme and Yvonne Hibbard, Deepdene Poll Dorset stud, Narrandera who picked up another Adelaide and Bendigo prize winner for just \$1500. The 28 Poll Dorset stud rams all sold for a \$2161 average.

In the White Suffolk stud ram offering, the buyers of last year’s \$7000 top priced ram, Chatsworth House, Chatsworth, Vic also paid the equal top this year. Through manager Trent Adams and assistant manager Caleb Hogan, they paid \$5000 for K120036Tw, a very impressive and high performing son of K100223. With a Carcase Plus index of 189, highlighted by a post weaning weight growth EBV of 14.8 and a muscling EBV of +1.1 he was a standout ram in the draft. They also picked up a \$1500 bargain later in the draft. They use Kurralea White Suffolks in their composite breeding program where they run 10,000 composite ewes producing prime lambs for the domestic trade.

Also paying \$5000 for a White Suffolk stud ram was Douglas Comb, Manfred stud, Hay. This was for K120043, a 140kg son of K100341, displaying wonderful length and balance, plus a huge hindquarter. With a post weaning weight EBV of 15.4, he was the highest growth ram in the draft. Just behind him for growth was K120007 and Douglas also picked him up for just \$2500.

Two rams went for \$4000 each, both sons of Warburn 100186. The first went to Conapaira White Suffolks at Rankin Springs, while the other went to Bush Farms, Mt Barker, WA. Conapaira also purchased a second ram for \$2750, taking advantage of the quality at great value that was on offer. Just like the Poll Dorsets, an extreme bargain was K120226Tw purchased by a breed foundation stud, Penrise, run by life member Kevin Moore. He paid just \$1750 to take home this wonderfully balanced son of K100120.

## **Sale Summary**

### Poll Dorsets

28 of 28 stud ram sold to \$8500 and averaged \$2161

129 of 129 flock rams sold to \$1600 and averaged \$1174

### White Suffolks

17 of 17 stud rams sold to \$5000 and averaged \$2241

135 of 135 flock rams sold to \$1400 and averaged \$1125

Overall: 309 stud and flock rams sold to \$8500 and averaged \$1301