

Fantastic flock ram demand fuels Kurralea lift

In a sale with as much history and national success as the Prentice family's Kurralea Poll Dorset and White Suffolk ram sale, it would be easy to concentrate on their stud sale results.

However, this year in a total clearance of the 322 rams offered on the day, it was the fantastic flock ram sales that saw the most solid buying support. While stud demand tends to fluctuate substantially, the Kurralea flock ram demand has stayed strong through many years of less than desirable seasons. Seasonally, 2009 is an improvement on last year in the immediate Arah Park district, but still far from the ideal conditions being experienced in many southern areas of the country.

No doubt some of those experiencing a better season were behind the increased flock ram support, with several commercial Victorian buyers amongst the buying competition.

In the 2 drafts of top Poll Dorset flock rams, a total of 193 rams were offered. These all sold from \$600 to a \$1,200 top for an excellent \$854 average, up \$19/head on last year's solid result. In between these 2 drafts, 93 outstanding White Suffolks were offered, these all clearing, also from \$600 to a \$1,200 top and at a \$906 average, up \$54/head on last year. The lesser number of White Suffolks available was the main reason for the higher average over the Poll Dorsets.

The flock rams were paddock grazed on a specially grown oat crop to enable them to express their huge genetic potential, presented in excellent order and being very even in type, condition and performance. Typically they were big, clean pointed, high growth rams, but uniquely they also possessed wonderful muscling, clearly expressed visually as well as being verified through objective Lambplan information.

Several large volume buyers accounted for a significant proportion of the offering, but there was ample selection and value for the smaller volume buyers to freely operate. Kurralea principal Jim Prentice also indicated there were still over 100 mostly spring drop rams available for private selections.

FS Faulkner & Sons, Deniliquin, NSW have been big supporters of Kurralea genetics for their prime lamb production and again operated strongly through James Osborne, purchasing 57 Poll Dorsets from \$600 to \$1,100 and 50 White Suffolks from \$700 to \$1,000.

Angus Girle, representing Fletcher International Exports, Condoblin was also a strong bidder and paid to \$1,000 in both breeds while purchasing 8 Poll Dorsets and 11 White Suffolks.

Greg Moncrief, Moncrief Livestock, Condoblin is also a great admirer of Kurralea genetics and operated on behalf of 5 different clients, purchasing 37 Poll Dorset rams in total, including two at the \$1,200 top flock ram price on the day.

Alex Gemmell, Tracton Pastoral Co, Mirrool is another who has purchased at Kurralea for a long time and next year will again benefit from the 12 Poll Dorset rams he purchased at this sale, paying to \$900.

It was two Victorian accounts that were the other double figure volume buyers. Chatsworth House, Chatsworth purchased 10 of the very best White Suffolks, paying from \$1,000 to the equal top of \$1,200, after purchasing 12 of the best Poll Dorsets last year.

Doing the reverse was Robin Jackson, Lake Repose Partnership, Glenthompson who purchased 10 excellent Poll Dorsets from \$700 to \$900, having purchased White Suffolks in the past.

The 286 flock rams averaged \$871 with solid bidding to the very last ram, these still having Lambplan indices well above the breed average.

There was also a total clearance in the stud rams, with buyers present from 4 states, plus 22 registered bidders through the Auctions Plus network. However competition was not as sustained as the commercial support, with prices paid best described as being in the 'exceptional value' area. The top price on the day of \$8,250 was paid by Andrew Hiscock, representing his family partnership of JM Hiscock & Sons, 'Brurob', Kilmore, Victoria. He outbid all other bidders including Auctions Plus to secure Kurralea 080007, a ram sired by K060758 and displaying balance, structural soundness, great downs type wool and terrific muscling. Andrew said he saw the ram at the Melbourne Royal and it was a combination of his volume, conformation and performance figures that attracted his attention.

Philip Wardle, Eldra Pastoral Co, Naracoorte purchased a big, powerful and wonderfully muscled K080211, only being pushed to \$3,500. Verge Pastoral Co, Euroa also only had to go to \$3,500 for K080057, clearly one of the longest and structurally sound rams in this outstanding offering. Amando Dissegna, Warburn and Rod Fawns, Deniliquin combined forces in anticipation of having to pay dearly for 080739, a fantastic high performance spring drop son of Kurralea 'Pure Gold'. The fact they only had to pay \$3,750 was indicative of the restricted stud budgets.

In the White Suffolk stud ram offering of 8 even quality rams, it was K080113, the 2009 Canberra Reserve Champion and sired by Detpa Grove 060520 that made the sale's second top price overall of \$4,000. The successful purchasers

were Bruce and Glenda Brill, 'Glenroy', Griffith. Auctions Plus provided the \$3,750 second top price in the White Suffolks, while Gunya Pastoral Co, Wagga Wagga went to \$2,750 for K080310Twin, a very appealing and partly coloured spring drop ram that the Kurralea stud very nearly retained for stud purposes.

Sale Summary

Studs

	2009	2008	W Suffolks	2009	2008
Poll Dorsets Offered	28	30		8	10
Sold	28	30		8	10
Top	\$8,250	\$10,500		\$4,000	\$2,750
Ave	\$2,175	\$2,385		\$2,013	\$1,390

Flock rams

	2009	2008	W Suffolks	2009	2008
Poll Dorsets Offered	193	206		93	74
Sold	193	189		93	74
Top	\$1,200	\$1,300		\$1,200	\$1,052
Ave	\$854	\$835		\$906	\$852

Agents: Elders Wagga Wagga

Auctioneers: Michael Glasser & James Tierney



Pictured with the 2 top priced rams at the Kurralea annual ram sale are Elders auctioneer Michael Glasser; Andrew Hiscock, Brurob Poll Dorset stud, Kilmore, Victoria, buyer of the top priced Poll Dorset at \$8,250; Kurralea principal Jim Prentice holding the top Poll Dorset ram; Ben Prentice holding the \$4,000 top priced White Suffolk ram; and that ram's buyers, Glenda & Bruce Brill, Glenroy, Griffith, NSW.



Jim Prentice, Kurralea studs, Ariah Park, NSW holds the \$8,250 top priced Poll Dorset stud ram at last week's annual Kurralea on-property sale and is with buyer Andrew Hiscock, Brurob Poll Dorset stud, Kilmore, Victoria.



Ben Prentice, Kurralea stud, Ariah Park, NSW holds the \$4,000 impressive top priced White Suffolk ram at the Kurralea on-property sale last week and is with the ram's buyers, Glenda and Bruce Brill, 'Glenroy' stud, Griffith, NSW.



Pictured after the flock ram section of the Kurralea Poll Dorset and White Suffolk ram sale were James Osborne, FS Falkiner & Sons, Deniliquin, NSW (purchased 57 Poll Dorset and 50 White Suffolk rams); Angus Girle, Fletcher International Exports, Condoblin, NSW (11 White Suffolks and 8 Poll Dorsets); Greg Moncrief, Moncrief Livestock, Condoblin (37 Poll Dorsets for 5 clients); James Tierney and Michael Glasser, Elders auctioneers; Robin Jackson, Lake Repose Partnership, Glenthompson, Vic (10 Poll Dorsets); Kurralea principal Jim Prentice; and Alex Gemmell, Mirrool, NSW (12 Poll Dorsets).