

# Quality well rewarded at Leahcim

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A select crowd of mainly repeat buyers gathered at Snowtown for the Leahcim White Suffolk sale last Friday.

They were competing on 137 superb White Suffolk rams, showing tremendous growth for age, bone and muscling, supported by outstanding Lambplan performance figures. After their \$1423 average in 2011 the Michael family has consciously penned more rams than expected demand for the last two years to ensure clients with a range of budgets are catered for. That decision was vindicated in a sale that was "hot to trot" at the beginning, then settled into a solid middle ground and finally saw rams going for extreme value at the end.

119 rams sold to a top of \$3000 and averaged \$1030 in a splendid commercially focussed result. Although the top was down \$1000 on last year, the average was up \$157 with 15 more rams clearing at auction. While 21 rams sold for \$1400 or better, 44 sold for \$800 or less.

Long time Leahcim clients, Paul and Yvonne Wurst, Appila paid the \$3000 top price for L120412, an outstanding ram for phenotype supported by figures at the extremely top end, highlighted by +17 for post weaning weight, +1.0 for muscle and culminating in a Carcase Plus index of 202.9. This was one of two rams the Wursts purchased for their prime lamb enterprise, their other purchase at \$1800.

They produce 700 to 800 prime lambs per year from Leahcim White Suffolks over Merino/Border Leicester first cross ewes with a 150% lambing result. They lamb in both autumn and winter to get wider use from the elite rams they purchase. By seeking out the highest performers they turn their lambs off earlier, having just sold a draft of 13 to 14 week old lambs for \$122/head.

By purchasing the top price the Wursts received a sponsor prize from Snowtown Salt Distributors, as did the volume buyers in this sale. That went to another long-time repeat buyer in Bono Station, Broken Hill. Roger Wheaton bought wisely on their behalf, accumulating 15 rams in total from \$600 to \$800.

Not far behind were two other buyers with 14 rams each. Mark Dyson, Springmount Pastoral and buying through Quality Livestock, Pt Adelaide purchased at the top end of the sale, his purchases ranging from \$800 to \$1900 and at a \$1404 average. Tom Hawker, Anama Holdings, Clare and buying through Elders also purchased 14, his rams coming from the middle value part of the sale, paying from \$700 to \$1100 and at a \$944 average.

Buyers came mainly from the mid north areas of the state, but also included WA and NSW buyers. Welke Brothers, through Landmark Esperence was one of the interstaters, purchasing five rams at a \$900 average price.

Other key buyers included AJ & DK Whitehorn through Elders Clare (nine rams from \$700 to \$1800), Adalis Pastoral through Landmark Clare (seven from \$600 to \$900) and Humphris Family Trust through Elders Jamestown (also seven from \$600 to \$800).

GN & CJ McCallum, through Landmark Clare purchased the only ram going as a stud. They purchased L120221, another extremely high performance ram, for \$2000.

Sale Summary	2013	2012
Offered	137	154
Sold	119	104
Top	\$3000	\$4000
Average	\$1030	\$873

Agents: Elders and Landmark

Auctioneers: Damian Webb (Elders) and Gordon Wood (Landmark)



<< Pictured with the \$3000 top priced Leahcim White Suffolk ram are Damian Webb (Elders auctioneer, Kadina), purchasers Paul and Yvonne Wurst, Appila, Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood and the ram is being held by Alistair Michael, Snowtown.

Pictured after the Leahcim White Suffolk sale are the key volume buyers in the sale: Tom Hawker, Anama, Clare (14 rams), Mark and Hannah Dyson, Springmount Station (14 rams) and Roger Wheaton, buying for Bono Station, Broken Hill (15 rams)

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