

LEAHCIM NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter No.8

July 2010

White Suffolks & Poll Merinos

Welcome to Leahcim's 8th Newsletter

Welcome to our 2010 newsletter. It has been a very exciting 12 months since our last newsletter. We have now established our flock at Willalooka on the Panlatinga property. Luke has settled there and is enjoying the challenge. We are holding an important field day there on August 5th and another at Snowtown on 30th August. A very pleasing list of successes for Leahcim genetics follows in this newsletter.

We trust the information contained in this newsletter is both interesting and educational. The two field days we are staging also promise to be great learning opportunities with two outstanding speakers at Snowtown. We encourage your attendance. As always, we are keen to receive any feedback on our genetics from all clients.

Regards; Andrew, Rosemary, Luke & Stewart Michael, 'Leahcim', Snowtown, SA
Phone: (08) 8865 2085 Fax: (08) 8865 2585 Luke: (08) 8757 8272
Email: leahcimgenetics@bigpond.com

We encourage you to check out our website as a source for more information



www.leahcim.com.au



Leahcim's 2010 Calendar of Events

- ★ Hamilton Sheepvention - Monday 2nd August & Tuesday 3rd August - displaying Site 335
- ★ Willalooka - Panlatinga Field Day - Thursday 5th August
- ★ Dubbo - Thursday 19th to Friday 20th August - 'Why Merino conference & presentation
- ★ 'Understanding & Utilising ASBVs presentation - Thursday 26th August
at Yanta stud, Tumbby Bay
- ★ Snowtown Field Day & Inspection Day - Monday 30th August
- ★ Adelaide Show - White Suffolk Judging - Friday 4th September
- ★ Adelaide Elite Sale - Sunday 5th September - Leahcim offering 2 White Suffolk rams
- ★ Leahcim Poll Merino Sale - Tuesday 14th September 1:30pm
Offering 200 Poll Merino rams 13 months of age
- ★ Leahcim 23rd Annual White Suffolk Sale - Friday 17th September 1:30pm
Offering 110 White Suffolk rams

Interactive Field Days

We invite you to attend one or both of two interactive field days we are sponsoring. The first is at our Panlatinga property, 28km south of Keith off the Keith/Naracoorte Road (on the corner of Cannawigra Road) on 5th August from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Andrew will speak on the Leahcim genetics and also present an explanation of ASBVs; what to look for and how to interpret the figures for your advantage. Special emphasis will be placed on the new ASBV for breech wrinkle score.

There will be a selection of rams from both breeds catalogued for the September ram sales at Snowtown, plus ewes and lambs on display. There will also be some private selection rams available for sale on the day.

On the 30th August at Snowtown, the complete sale teams will be on display. The highlight will be a presentation by Jason Trompf and Nick Linden on the topic: "Industry Efficiency – Ewe and Lamb Performance".

Dr Jason Trompf is a lamb and beef producer from the north east of Victoria. He is an honorary research fellow with the Dept of Ag Sciences at LaTrobe University.



Dr Jason Trompf & Nick Linden

Nick Linden is a research scientist with the Vic DPI and is based at the Rutherglen Research Centre. If you haven't heard Jason and Nick speak on this topic, you really should be there. Their presentation will clearly define the exciting opportunities that exist and how best to assess your production and management options. It promises to challenge the way you analyse your sheep enterprise.

Leahcim Genetics Breed On

Over the past 12 months, there have been many highlights in the success of progeny from Leahcim genetics. A few of those successes are:

White Suffolk Genetics

- Woolford Prime Lambs; Barry, Susan & Nathan topped Dublin market on many occasions
- Wheaton Prime Lambs, Redhill, SA – topped Dublin market for 3 weeks
- Nigel Kerin's Prime Lamb, NSW – 1310 White Suffolk lambs ave \$155/head

Poll Merino Genetics

- Turner's Australian record price for commercial ewes
- 050154 high price progeny – Rice's Creek (Classing Classic)
- 060047 progeny produced top Woodyarrup semen sire
- 070151 & 070297 purchased by Haddon Rig are now ranked Australia's 2nd & 3rd best rams for EBWR, plus they have high fleece weights (purchased through Bill Walker in 2008)
- 080609 - highest priced ram at the 2009 sale, purchased by White River and Allala studs (Leahcim have progeny of 609 – they look outstanding)

- 2009 Burra Field Days display by Rices Creek of great commercial rams (sired by Buster – highest priced ram from 2008 Leahcim Poll Merino Sale)
- 2009 Leahcim stud genetics sold to over 52 studs in Australia

Merino ewe record shattered

A new South Australian record price of \$261/head for commercial Merino ewes was achieved earlier in the year at Snowtown when Richard and Barbara Turner, 'Rayville' dispersed their Leahcim bloodline flock at their clearing sale.

This price was paid by Mark Kerin, Yoeval, NSW for 130 of the Turners' 2008 drop ewes that were pregnancy tested 'in lamb'. He then purchased the top 138 2007 drop ewes for \$241/head, plus 110 2006 drop ewes for \$250/head.

Other successful buyers of the second pens of these age groups, or older drop ewes were Soil Management Systems, Orroroo, who paid to \$120/head for 3 pens and DP & VL Stott, buying through Landmark Loxton who purchased 2 pens to \$149/head.

There was exceptional interest with enquiries from Qld, NSW and Vic as well as South Australia. This converted through to very strong demand on the day because the ewes were very well presented and were from a well recognised bloodline, plus they had a measured performance background. They also fitted into a non-mulesing management system, with the top young ewes all being non-mulesed. Such quality sheep are very hard to source.



Richard and Barbara Turner are pictured with their record breaking ewes.

The demand was so strong that there were still five active bidders on the top pen of 2008 drop ewes at \$220/head. Anthony Glasson, Thargaminda, Qld; Bill Holcombe, Goulburn and operating through Elders Clare; Mark Kerin's brother Nigel who operates separately from Mark; and David & Tim Graetz, Mundulla were the underbidders who pushed the top ewes to the new record levels.

Commenting specifically on the record priced paid for their ewes, Richard Turner said, "We are still in shock. It was certainly the highlight of the clearing sale. We had hoped to get \$150/head and when they hit \$200/head we couldn't believe it. Then they still kept going, so I think you could say we are pleasantly shocked," Richard said.

"Naturally we'd like to thank all the buyers and bidders for their support and also Andrew Michael who has classed our sheep and assisted us so much over the years in selecting the right

rams to match our flock objectives," Richard added.

Selling agents were Landmark Snowtown Jon Reinke Agencies. Landmark's state livestock representative Gordon Wood said that he was very impressed with the quality. "They would have to be one of the best lines of Poll Merino ewes I have seen to date. Their superior genetics stood out and this result is further proof that people will travel, compete and pay a premium for the right product," Gordon added.

Local manager Jon Reinke said he'd never experienced a sale anything like this in 40 years of involvement with livestock.

"However, these February shorn and scanned in-lamb ewes were in first class condition and a credit to the Turner family. I think they sold according to their presentation," Jon said. "The pendulum has certainly swung with a lack of income in cropping turning more producers into looking at sheep for a more reliable and better spread of income," he added.



These impressive young 2008 drop Poll Merino ewes offered by Richard & Barbara Turner, Snowtown sold for a SA state record of \$261/head at their clearing sale last Friday. They sold to Mark Kerin, Yeoval, NSW.



Landmark Snowtown's Jon Reinke spots a bidder for auctioneer Mel Haynes, on this pen of 138 2007 drop Poll Merino ewes that sold for \$241/head, also going to Mark Kerin, Yeoval, NSW.

Leahcim's Andrew Michael, who classed the flock and has supplied rams to the Turner family for 16 years, said the Turners had always placed strong emphasis on easy care sheep with quality skins and advanced meat and wool performance data.

"I would say their hoggets were the equivalent quality of any stud or commercial advanced performance genetic sheep that I have seen anywhere in Australia. In the last seven years the rams they have purchased from us had average ASBV's of +4.1 for yearling weight and +16 for clean fleece weight. Their wool clip micron average was 20.9 for their breeding ewes and 18.8

for their weaners, with staple length of 105mm and 74mm respectively and a VM of only 0.8," Andrew said.

"That might go a long way towards explaining why producers who seek performance tested genetics would come from far and wide to compete for these ewes," he added.

Andrew Michael said that he had fielded three enquiries from the eastern states for similar ewes, if available since the sale.

"One of these was a prominent interstate agent who said several of his clients had achieved great success with our Leahcim bloodline sheep," Andrew said.

"He also indicated that quite a lot of his clients had tried some of the newer imported options in an attempt to increase returns and to ease management demands, but those who had also run the performance selected Leahcim blood Poll Merinos alongside them found the Poll Merino progeny were 10% heavier and the necessary culling percentage for water stain, or lack of performance was less than 0.05%, whereas it was as high as 30% in the other option tried," Andrew concluded.

Visits from Marks and Spencer representatives, plus Eric Autor

During the past 12 months we were very fortunate to have important delegations from the retail sectors of America; England & Europe visit us at Leahcim. Their visits were to investigate the progress we have made in eliminating the need to mules our lambs, while still producing high quality carcasses and wool. Both Marks & Spencer and Eric Autor (vice chairman of the Retail Federation of America) are important delegates that came to Australia with the objective of gaining first hand information on Australia's current situation in regards to the stopping of mulesing in the near future.

From their relayed information, there is now doubt in our minds that the mulesing debate is now NOT being driven solely from PETA. Many other groups, businesses and people in general are feeling very strongly that Australia MUST stop the practice of mulesing. Countries like Switzerland have banned all sheep products from Australia, and there are companies in the EU that will only source sheep and lamb meat produce in Australia from unmulesed lambs and are also progeny from ewes that are unmulesed.

Where both parties voiced their biggest concerns was "They are getting mixed messages from the Australian Media and AWI (NOT ALWAYS CORRECT)" They also felt that collectively, Australian sheep producers are not taking seriously enough the impact and image this practice of 'continuing to mules their sheep' could have on the entire Australian sheep-meat and wool industries in the future.

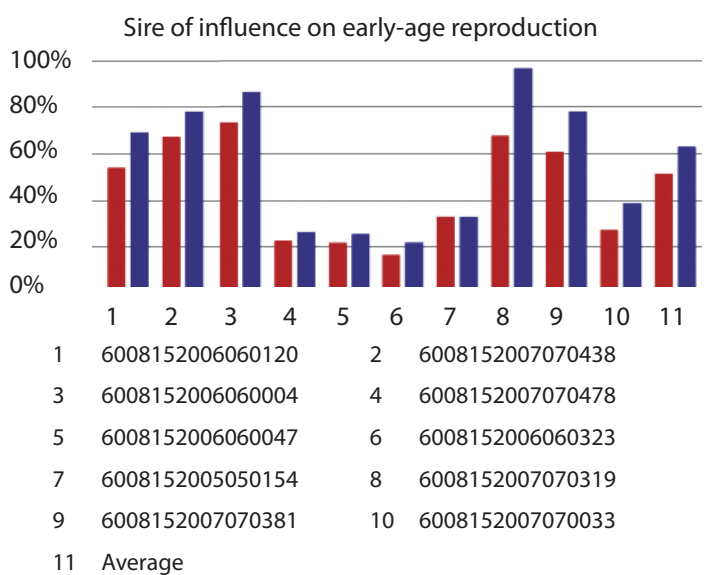
Leahcim ewes for sale

We have been expanding our breeding flock over the last 5 years and subsequently we have not had a lot of top quality surplus ewes available for sale. However, we have now reached a level of ewe numbers that exceeds our own replacement requirements. This year we will be selling 450 Poll Merino and 180 White Suffolk stud ewes in November. The ewes will be shorn

in October. The White Suffolks will have full pedigree and ASBV figures, while approximately 60% of the Poll Merinos will have similar information. The ewes will be classed into breeding potential and age groups and then priced accordingly. Orders, or expressions of interest will be taken prior to November and inspection days will be allocated for interested prospective buyers.

Ewe Lamb Trial

James Whale from Mike Stephens and Associates, Victoria, is doing a research project on the opportunity to improve genetic gains and profits from mating 8-10 month old Merino lambs. At Leahcim, we have been mating our White Suffolk ewe lambs for over 10 years and getting approximately 70% in lamb, while our Poll Merino ewe lambs have been mated for the last 3 years with mixed results. This year the pregnancy test results are 66% lambs after a 2.5 cycle mating, with a mix of ram lambs and older rams used. To obtain the best results when mating ewe lambs, it is advisable to shear them early. Then with good feed management you can maximise growth prior to mating. James has analysed the pedigrees, links, carcase information and costings to see whether mating ewe lambs is a consistently profitable exercise and to also see if genetics play an important part in successful ewe lamb matings.



■ % ewes pregnant per ewe joined ■ % lambs per ewe joined

ASBVs for Breech Wrinkle

Early Breech Wrinkle (EBWR) is a genetic measurement for variations in the breeding potential of Breech and Body Wrinkle. The reason we incorporate Body Wrinkle is that the correlation for Body and Breech Wrinkle is 0.9, which is very high (ie 90 of every 100 sheep with Breech Wrinkle will have Body Wrinkle).

This is one of the newest ASBVs available from Sheep Genetics and in our opinion is going to be one of the most important breeding and selection tools for our Australian sheep flock for the next 5 years. This ASBV is displayed as a devaluation so a sheep that has a EBWR of -0.5 will reduce breech wrinkle by half a score (sheep breed scores are 1-5, with 1 being no breech wrinkle and 5 a mass of wrinkles). A large number of Leahcim rams are trait leaders for reducing Breech Wrinkle and that can be identified on the Merino Select website, using the search

tool for 'EBWR'.

This information below clearly shows that plain bodied sheep can have high growth, high fleece weight and free growing low micron wools

	YWT	CFWT%	YFD	YSL	EBWR
080285	10.6	+21	-1.2	+8.3	-0.50
080312	8.7	+18	-1.3	+13.1	-0.52
080323	9.1	+19	-0.6	+9.3	-0.40

Leahcim sale rams will have their ASBVs for EBWR displayed in the sale catalogue along with all the other important ASBVs.

At Leahcim, we believe sheep that are higher than a score 2 for Breech Wrinkle will probably require mulesing, so if your flock has sheep breech score of a 3 or greater you should select sires that have ASBVs for EBWR of -0.4 or lower. All of Leahcim's top sires have excellent Breech Reduction ASBVs, while retaining high fleece weights with good micron reduction attributes.

Poll Merino Future Sires

These 3 rams above are all sired by Leahcim 060120, one of the top performing sires in Australia, with excellent carcase growth, high fleece weight and great breech wrinkle reduction capacity. His figures are YWT 9.8; CFWT% +20; EBWR -0.8.

The progeny from these 3 rams that we identified at Panlatinga in late June are outstanding, with some of the best skins ever identified at Leahcim and carcasses similar to what we would expect from our White Suffolks.

Leahcim 070319 and 080187 are both sons of 050024. They have progeny with excellent length of carcase and super wools (I think the wool on 080187 is the best wool yet produced at Leahcim). The first sons of 070319 will be for sale this year. With all 60 progeny having a breech score of 1, they will be great breeders for the future.

Leahcim 070478 and 080563 are sons of 050154 and are producing excellent silky wools that have micron reducing capacity - (YFD ASBV of -2.2 microns).

Proven sire 060004 will have a draft of quality rams at this year's sale with outstanding skins and a very strong poll factor.

All the top semen sires will be on display at our inspection days and our annual sale days.

Best just gets better

The following report on our Poll Merino sale was written by Ian Turner

Last September's Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale was extraordinarily successful with a large crowd of around 200 people witnessing a new Leahcim on-property individual record ram price, plus an on-property auction sale record.

After last year's amazing result that saw 80 rams clear to \$22,000 and average \$3,130 it was anticipated that rates could fall back a little this year. However that did not take into consideration just how 'in tune' the Michael family are with industry trends and commercial producer needs.

Consequently buyers attended and bought from all mainland states and at the end of the main auction of 79 rams, a new record of \$24,500 had been set; 5 rams sold for more than \$10,000 and last year's national on-property sale average record was exceeded by \$137, with the 79 rams averaging an amazing \$3,267.09.

Last year some of the commercial breeders missed out on rams with only 40 mini auction rams available. However, Leahcim principal Andrew Michael was very conscious of the need to increase supply of quality rams to cater for all buyer needs, so also offered 120 rams by mini auction. The quality of these was still very high, with one selling to \$6,500, but with 53 clearing and half of these selling at \$500 or \$600 he certainly reintroduced value for commercial clients into the sale.

The new Leahcim on-property record of \$24,500 was paid by the Daniell family, White River stud, Poochera in partnership with Cliff Phelps, Allala stud, Pt Lincoln. They were successful in outbidding the Wallaloo Park stud, Marnoo, Vic bidding by phone through Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge.

The ram, Leahcim 609 Twin had a wonderful combination of carcass and wool ASBVs on Merino Select, highlighted by a +28% figure for clean fleece weight of typical bright, well defined and long stapled 18.3 micron wool. White River has successfully used Leahcim genetics in their Poll flock program via semen and John Daniell said the ram should ideally match the Commonwealth 34 daughters in their flock.



The Leahcim on-property record priced ram @ \$24,500 is pictured with John Harris, Landmark Cummins Ag Services, Cliff Phelps, Allala Poll Merino stud, Cummins, Wes & John Daniell, White River, Minnipa; Jeff Becker Elders Wudinna; Luke Michael, Leahcim, Snowtown holding the ram, Gordon Wood, Landmark auctioneer and Leahcim principal Andrew Michael.

Wallaloo Park didn't miss out altogether as they got the sale off to a cracking start by successfully bidding \$12,500 for lot 1, Leahcim 348, one of the highest growth rams in the catalogue with a terrific 17.3 micron wool.

Robert Hooke, Willera Merinos, Serpentine, Vic followed, picking up lot 2 for \$4,500 and then adding lots 7 at \$7,500 and 28 at \$6,000 to put some real top end heat in the sale.

Ray Schroeder, Gunallo stud, Pinnaroo picked up lot 16 for \$6,000 while Ross and Wally Miller, Coreena stud sheep, Barcaldina, Qld went to \$8,000 in purchasing lot 5 and then added 2 more at \$6,000 and \$2,400 to be significant contributors to the sale's success. Bill Walker also went to \$6,500 in purchasing lot 9 for repeat clients, Welke Brothers, Cascades, WA. He later added rams for \$2,200 for Matt Cook and \$5,500 for Glenlea Park stud, Pinnaroo.



Pictured after the stunning Leahcim Poll Merino sale are Robert Hooke, Willera Merinos, Serpentine (3 Merinos to \$7,500 and 8 White Suffolks). Rob Germein, Pt Vincent (6 rams to \$2,800), Ross & Wally Miller, 'Coreena', Barcaldine, Qld (3 rams to \$8,000).

The strength of the top end buying was best indicated by the first 20 rams averaging over \$5,000. While the prices tapered back as the sale went on, the quality didn't and some seedstock breeders found elite sheep later in the catalogue.

The Mallee based Kamora Park and Ridgway studs bid to \$10,500 through Landmark Karoonda's Murray Greenfield before securing lot 26, Leahcim 295; touted pre-sale as one of the top rams in the catalogue.

The Graetz Family Trust, Bordertown dug in and paid \$11,000 for lot 39, Leahcim 203, a top son of Leahcim 154. L154 has proven to be the leading sire nationally under sheep CRC testing for the elimination of breech wrinkle.

Richard Harkness, Superior Wool, Tintinara paid \$10,500 for lot 51, another outstanding young sire with a clean fleece weight ASBV of +31%, to round out the 5 figure rams.

Don Mudford, Dubbo, NSW underbid several of the top priced lots, but found a top young ram in the mini auction, going to \$6,500 before being successful. He also purchased another in the main auction at \$1,600.



Stewart Michael, Leahcim, Snowtown is with Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge and the ram Bill bought for \$12,500 for Wallaloo Park, Marnoo, Vic

Volume buying in such a strong sale with a large number of competing buyers was harder to achieve, but several regulars and new buyers achieved their required numbers, topping up with mini auction rams if necessary.

WJ Farming Trust, Birregurra, Victoria bid strongly throughout the sale. Buying through Elders Geelong, they purchased 10 rams on the day to be the biggest volume buyers. They bought 6 in the main auction from \$1,000 to \$2,200 and added 4 mini auction rams from \$600 to \$1,600, demonstrating there was value to be had in the sale.

Gary Armour, 'Tekoot', Yass, NSW was another volume interstate buyer, purchasing 7 rams from \$600 to \$4,000 and at an average of \$2,057.

South Australians were not left out with Peter Phillips, Penola purchasing 8 rams from \$500 to \$2,500 in great value buying. The Orroroo area has always provided good buying competition in this sale, this year being no exception with MA & BJ Kuerschner being the strongest in purchasing 6 rams from \$1,000 to \$1,800.

Rob Germein, Pt Vincent is also a long time Leahcim supporter and purchased 6 rams from \$600 to \$2,800 and at an \$1,883 average. Local Snowtown Landmark agency operator Jon Reincke purchased 6, A/c Hayes, while long time regulars Roger and Ros Wheaton, Crystal Brook and Chelwood Farming, Mintaro purchased 5 rams each.

Other key ram buyers included: HT Haslett, Orroroo (4 rams to \$2,250), JF & GM Kuerschner, Orroroo (4 rams to \$2,600), A & M Jaeschke, Clare (4 rams to \$2,800), Aramaa Props, Orroroo (3 to \$3,000), Prime Family Trust, Wharminda (3 to \$3,500), Maro Creek & Wilkinson, Snowtown (2 @ \$3,500 and \$4,000), EW Hoepner & Co, Balaklava (4 to \$900), Brian Kay, Pt Lincoln (2 to \$4,600), and Paul Rundle, Kulpara (4 to \$600).

The limited offering of stud and commercial ewes did not match the ram demand, but Karawatha stud, Kimba made the most of the opportunity and purchased 48 young stud ewes at an average of \$198 and also picked up the 67 commercial ewes at \$80 each.

The sale concluded with an offering of White Suffolk rams. The Leahcim White Suffolk sale is scheduled 3 days later, but this smaller offering has been included to cater for the needs of their Poll Merino clients. 18 of these sold to \$750 and averaged \$644. Robert Hooke, Willera Merinos, Serpentine was the main buyer, picking up 8 of the 18 on the day.



Key buyers (below) at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale are Richard Harkness, Tintinara (1 ram @ \$10,500), Tim & David Graetz, Bordertown (1 ram @ \$11,000). They are discussing their purchases with Elders area wool manager Craig Eckert.

Sale Summary:

Poll Merino rams

Main Auction 79 Offered & Sold, Top \$24,500, Ave \$3,267

Mini Auction 120 Offered, 53 Sold, Top \$6,500, Ave \$866

Ewes 115 Sold, Top \$250, Average \$129.22

Sale Agents: Landmark & Elders

Auctioneers: Gordon Wood & Craig Shearer

Leahcim Poll Merino value

The challenge for all seedstock breeders is to match supply and increasing demand.

A shortage usually means prices rise and some prospective buyers miss out. This was the case at our 2008 sale when our 80 main auction rams averaged a record \$3,130 and 40 mini auction rams all sold for a \$1,150 average.

While this may seem good for us as vendors on the day, it is not good for buyers who missed out and consequently may be forced to go elsewhere, so it is not good for us in the longer term.

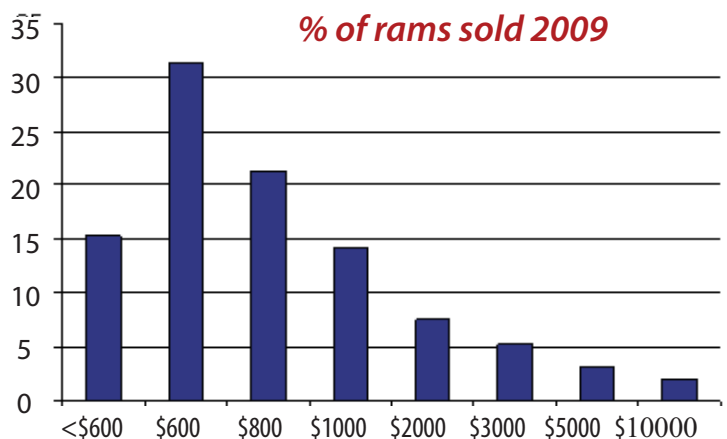
Subsequently, in 2009 we increased our sale numbers to 200 rams all up; an increase of 67% in supply to ensure this did not happen again. This proved to be a good decision for all prospective buyers were able to source rams.

We were again humbled by the huge crowd that attended and included buyers from most states of Australia. The main auction average for 79 rams actually increased to \$3,267 and of course attracted the reporting headlines. However, this average was primarily the result of very strong top end demand. Of the rams sold in the main auction, 12 sold for \$5,000 or more, including 5 for \$10,000 or better, topping at a new Leahcim on-property record price of \$24,500.

While we are delighted with that top end support, the resultant average doesn't reflect the value for most buyers. The 12 top rams actually accounted for \$1,450 or 44% of the main sale average! With the balance of the main auction, plus the mini auction rams, everyone got a good choice at excellent value. There were 132 sold which meant there were still plenty available at the end of the day, giving even the very last buyer plenty of choice.

A better reflection of the value available was that a massive 71% of the sales on the day were from \$500 to \$2,000 and 28% sold for under \$1,000. That represents real value buying for sheep with ASBVs that indicate purchasers are likely to achieve significant levels of genetic gain.

For a quick visual of Leahcim Poll Merino value, here is a graph of all our auction and private sales in 2009. From this you can see 82.6% sold for \$1000 or less!



2020 Index for Prime Lamb

Production

The latest research data information indicates that some changes in breeding directions for terminal sires are required. There is an identified need to avoid prime lambs becoming too lean as reduced moisture, flavour and tenderness in the meat is an undesirable and correlated result. Prime lamb birth weights are rising as they are correlated to selection for higher weaning and post weaning weights. There was an identified need to still increase early growth rates, but not birth weights.

The new 2020 Index was created for this purpose. It gives a better guide than the old Carcase Plus (C+) index towards producing ideal prime lambs that enable producers to meet most markets. The ASBVs for fat that are no leaner than -0.7 and no fatter than -0.0 will maximise the 2020 Index, plus produce progeny that still have tender, succulent meat. Lamb birth weight ASBVs need to sit between 0 and +0.5 so lambs are strong enough at birth to survive but are not too large to cause an increase in lambing problems from dystocia. Early growth rates can be identified by using high growth from weaning to post weaning, so a balance of weaning and post weaning ASBVs is used. Positive muscle ASBVs are used to maximise yield in the carcase. This year we will have both 2020 Index and Carcase Plus Index figures on display to assist your transition to the new index.

White Suffolk Sires - ANDEN 080275 & LEAHCIM 060076

ANDEN 275 was purchased at last year's Royal Adelaide Show Elite Sale for \$13,000.00. His first progeny born at Panlatinga have excellent length of carcase and very pronounced muscle through the loin and butt. He has great ASBVs - BWT 0.1; PWWT 17.5; PFAT -1.0; PEMD +1.0.



LEAHCIM 060076 has proven to be one of the best sires we have ever used in our stud. He is producing lambs with low birth weights & excellent meaty carcasses. His ASBVs are BWT 0.1; PWWT +15.0; PFAT -0.3; PEMD +1.7. Both these rams are ranked very high in the White Suffolk Elite Sires listings.

Anden 070008 (used by AI in 2009) has a PWWT ASBV of 18.6. He has progeny available for sale this year. We have already used 3 of his sons in the ewe lamb mating program this year.

We will be showing and selling rams at this year's Royal Adelaide Show and we urge anyone attending the show to inspect them - we don't think you will be disappointed!

We are extremely pleased with the success of the breeding direction we have taken with our Leahcim White Suffolks in the last few years.

Over 1300 lambs in one sale

For those who attended our 2008 Poll Merino sale, they would have noted that Nigel and Kate Kerin, Gullen Gamble Merino stud from Yoeval, NSW made a significant impact on the sale. They purchased lot 2, Leahcim 527 for \$7,500, the sale's 3rd top price. This Poll Merino investment was a relatively new venture for Nigel and Kate. Perhaps unknown to most is that Nigel and Kate are major prime lamb producers using Leahcim White Suffolk genetics for this enterprise. Just this month they sold 1310 lambs in one hit, over the hooks to Swifts at Dubbo. They averaged \$155/head. To be able to market this number in one sale speaks volumes for the consistent genetic capabilities of our genetics and of course Nigel and Kate's management. Nigel was NSW Farmer of the Year in 2008.

Vale Keith Ballantyne

At our 21st annual White Suffolk on-property sale in 2008, we made presentations to Mel Haines (who had attended all bar 2 of our sales) and Keith Ballantyne. Keith was our longest term client who had attended every one of those 21 sales. His nephew John attended and bought last year for their business.



It is with great sadness that we report Keith's passing earlier this year. While we are all aware of life's two certainties, it is still very sad when we lose such a loyal client and friend. It will not be the same this year and to state the obvious, we miss him.

Our sympathies go to his family.

Leahcim's star continues to rise

This is a report on our White Suffolk sale also written by Ian Turner

On top of their record breaking Poll Merino sale 3 days before, Andrew and Rosemary Michael and family staged a very successful White Suffolk sale in September. The only areas that did not see a major lift from last year were the numbers offered and visual quality. Last year's outstanding quality was certainly under rewarded, but this year an increase in competing buyers saw a more equitable result.

The 32 registered buyers pushed the sale average to \$832, up by \$125 on last year, but by no means expensive considering the quality and measured performance of these rams. The Leahcim rams are all stamped in type, being moderate

framed with rapid early growth and showing plenty of muscle expression; rams ideally suited for producing domestic trade or lower export weight lambs.

Last year's equal top price buying honours were shared by Simon Seppelt of Quality Wool and Paul and Yvonne Wurst, Appila. They were both very prominent buyers again. The Wursts were the purchasers of this year's \$2,400 top and later added another at \$1,300.

Simon Seppelt purchased 19 rams under the Quality Wool banner for various clients, concentrating on top performance ASBVs. In astute buying he paid from a fantastic value \$700 up to \$1,600.

Top prime lamb producers, the Woolford family, Booleroo Centre, also selected rams to a top of \$1,900. Two station orders were prominent in the volume buying area of the sale. Craig Bell, Bono Station, Pooncarie purchased 15 rams in total for a \$625 average, while Doug Caley, Bangate Station via Walgett, NSW purchased 10 at an average of \$650.

On a sentimental note, Keith Ballantyne, Gladstone again purchased 2 rams, having bought at every one of Leahcim's twenty two annual sales.



Rosemary Michael (centre) is with Simon Seppelt, Quality Wool who purchased 19 rams for various clients and Yvonne Wurst, Appila who paid the \$2,400 top at September's Leahcim White Suffolk sale.

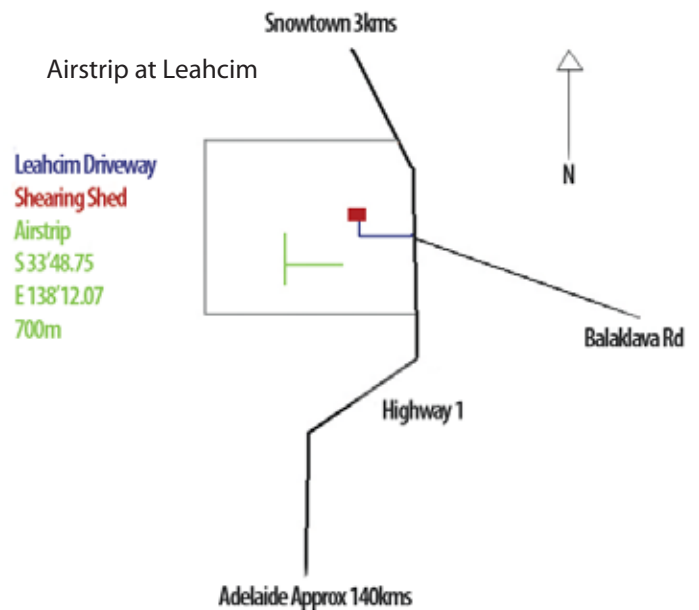
Sale Summary

Offered & sold - 99 rams; Top price - \$2,400; Ave price - \$832



Personal Milestone

At the 2010 National White Suffolk Conference in Ballarat, Andrew was awarded the honour of Life Membership of the Australian White Suffolk Association. A past President of the Association, Allan Piggott made the presentation (right) during the AGM of the Association, highlighting Andrew's extensive list of achievements including a stint as President, but stressed it was his progressive and innovative outlook on sheep breeding that had the biggest impact on helping take the breed forward. Andrew humbly responded, but still gave a parting piece of advice to breeder members on the challenges ahead.



Andrew, Rosemary, Luke & Stewart Michael, 'Leahcim', Snowtown, SA
 Phone: (08) 8865 2085 Fax: (08) 8865 2585 Luke: (08) 8757 8272
 Email: leahcimgenetics@bigpond.com
www.leahcim.com.au