

Four States Support Leahcim White Suffolks

The commercial emphasis of the Michael family's White Suffolks was again appreciated by the four state buying gallery who attended the 28th Leahcim Sale on Friday of last week.

Having withdrawn from the show circuit for the foreseeable future and speaking on behalf of the family, Alistair Michael said that, "The stud was now concentrating purely on the commercial aspects of their flock".

This was very evident from the moment you walked in the sale shed at Leahcim and you were able to appreciate the depth of muscle and wonderful hind quarters and skin and wool quality on the offering. The use of ASBVs for over 30 years has clearly paid strong dividends in the flock.

"The use of trait leading sires to maximise carcass attributes like muscling, yield and IMF (Intramuscular fat) are now combined with "Shear Force", which determines the tenderness, moistness and importantly the taste of the meat", Alistair said.

With the intention of building the sale up to around 180 head next year you get the feeling when speaking with Alistair and his brothers Stewart and Luke that the Leahcim stud will stay on top in the breed for some time to come.

Without any rams penned or offered as studs this year the average for the 114 offered and sold of \$983 was only slightly down on last years \$999.

Emphasising the strength of the commercial following Leahcim enjoys, Yvonne Wurst whose husband was in hospital, purchased the three top priced rams for her partnership PG & YD Wurst, "Amleth", Appila, by paying to \$2300 and averaging \$2133. All June drop in the catalogue which boasted June to September drop rams, the C+ index on the Wurst sheep averaged a very high 195.5 and PEMD averaged 2.8.

Those who have attended the Leahcim sale over the years would know they have built up a very loyal clientele and it was up to Landmark's very capable Gordon Wood to sort them out.

Peter Reichstein from Quality Wool Wirrabara was as busy as a bookmaker on Melbourne Cup Day managing buying cards for eight clients. PG & YD Wurst, MF Page & Co, MJ & EL Forrest, JW & LR Ballantyne, Lenville P/L, TR Jefferson & Co, BM Rice and Moten Family Trust were all multiple purchasers.

Craig Bell, "Bono" Station, Pooncarie purchased 20 rams through the good agency of Roger Wheaton from Red Hill to be the biggest volume buyer of the day, paying from \$700 to \$800. Roger also purchased another five rams at \$1200 for Landmark Esperance, client Scott Welke who returns each year to by both Merino and White Suffolks from Leahcim.

Peter Rolstone from Elders was active and put a wonderful base in the sale, purchasing 16 rams for the Martin Family at Swan Hill. Tom Hawker, Anama Holdings Trust from Clare returned again and purchased 14 head to \$1100 and at an average of \$983. Danny Reynolds from Strathalbyn with Fordvale Pastoral purchased three rams early in the sale for an average of \$1533.

Operating through Landmark, other buyers were Shurgal Enterprises, Clare who purchased six for an average of \$833; MD&B Duffield, four averaging \$1062; Adalis Pastoral, three averaging \$816; AF & HI Wehrmann & Son, two averaging \$1300; and TJ Freeth from Kimba, three averaging \$1133.

Elders clients included AJ&DK Whitehorn, four averaging \$1300; Manna Creek, Jamestown, four averaging \$950; ML Jaeschke, four averaging \$1000; and CJ&J Rogers Kadina three to \$1000.

Nathan May from Gladstone one at \$1400 and DJ & MD Hewitt one at \$1200 also purchased.

Sale Summary	2015	2014
Offered	114	130
Sold	114	129
Top	\$2300	\$4000
Average	\$983	\$999

Agents: Landmark Clare

Auctioneer: Gordon Wood



Peter Reichstein, Quality Wool, Wirrabara is pictured with some of his clients post sale who all purchased multiple rams; Yvonne Wurst (PG & YD Wurst), Appila; Greg Page (MF Page & Co), Gladstone; Murray Forrest (MJ & EL Forrest), Hornsdale; John and Shane Ballantyne (JW & LR Ballantyne), Gladstone; Wayne Zwar (Lenville Pty Ltd); and Laura and Roger Jefferson (TR Jefferson & Co), Tarcowie.

See more photos over page



Leahcim's Rosemary Michael is with Roger Wheaton from Red Hill who purchased 20 rams for Bono Station, Pooncarie, NSW, plus 5 for Scott Welke Esperance WA.



Peter Rolstone, Elders Clare inspecting some of the 16 rams he purchased for clients in this sale.



Tom Hawker "Anama" Clare looking over the offering before the sale.