

Leahcim's star continues to rise

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 at Snowtown last Friday. The only areas that did not see a major lift from last year were numbers offered and visual quality. Last year's outstanding quality was certainly under rewarded, but this year an increase in competing buyers saw the quality receive a much fairer reward.

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 very much stamped in type, being moderate framed with rapid early growth and showing plenty of muscle expression; rams ideally suited for producing domestic trade lambs 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 the top performance ASBVs. In doing so they paid from a fantastic value \$700 up to \$1,600 in astute buying.

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.

On display was the Anden ram Leahcim purchased at the Adelaide Elite sale for \$13,000. With great visual appearance backed by outstanding performance ASBVs of +16.7 for Pwwt, +0.9 for Pemd and a Carcase Plus index of 206, this ram created a lot of positive comments and is sure to have a positive impact at Leahcim in their future breeding programs.

Sale Summary	2009	2008
Offered	99	108
Sold	99	72
Top	\$2,400	\$1,500
Ave	\$832	\$707