

# Record average at Leahcim White Suffolk sale

A record average was achieved at Andrew & Rosemary Michael & family's Leahcim White Suffolk sale held on their Snowtown property last Friday. 110 exceptionally even and high quality White Suffolk rams were offered & all sold to a top of \$3,000 and averaged a very credible \$1,098.18.

While it was not standing room only as was the case at their Poll Merino sale earlier in the week, a very good crowd of buyers from three states packed the Leahcim selling complex & competed freely on the rams which contained some of the best performance figures available in the breed. After some 25 years of accurate recording and measurements, the Leahcim rams are sought by some of the top prime lamb breeding flocks in SA and obviously perform well as evidenced through their repeat attendance at this sale.

These return buyers featured prominently, but had to compete with first time visitors who were chasing the excellent figures offered at Leahcim. In comparison with sales as recent as 5 years ago, it was evident that buyers are now accepting and even seeking out rams with some fat covering. From feedback to prime lamb producers, finish on lambs out of already lean Merino ewes is now seen as important, so breeders are seeking rams to suit their specific breeding program. Eye muscle depth was certainly a sought after trait and a "selected" ram with PEMD of +1.8 and a Lamb 2020 index figure of 110 (both the highest in the catalogue) sold for \$3,000 to DW & AL Dunsford of Lucindale, buying through Elders. Whilst 80% of the selected rams were still minus for Post Weaning Fat figures, the 2 top priced sheep were positive and both twins.

Second top price was paid by return clients Paul & Yvonne Wurst of Appila who secured lot 9 at \$2,400, plus the first ram offered at \$2,000. Both of these rams were up the top of the catalogue for Post Weaning Weight and in the top 3% of the offering on Carcase Plus index. The Wursts have been the purchasers of the top and equal top priced buyers for the last 2 years.

Volume buyer on the day and winner of the Snowtown Salt Distributor's prize was again a return client, Adalis Pastoral Company at Barunga Gap. They secured 15 rams at an average of \$900 to put over their Merino ewes on both their home property and a recently leased property.

"I'm very happy with the rams I got today, however I didn't get enough as I need another ten or twelve rams, so I'll be talking to Andrew about getting more next week," principal Adam Jamieson said.

Another volume and return buyer was Craig Bell, Bono Station at Pooncarie who took home 11 at an average of \$956. The spread of buyers, from the South East of SA, Adelaide Hills and the pastoral areas, emphasised the success of the Leahcim breeding project. Return buyers all commented on the success they had had with their progeny.

New attendee from the very well credentialed Fordvale Past. Co. at Strathalbyn was Norm Crawford, accompanied by his agent Danny Reynolds of Elders. "I sought out and intend using the lighter birth weight, high growth rams over maiden Merino ewes. When buying, I always look at the ram first to assess its structure and body shape and then the figures. I like what I see here today at this sale and the rams are as even a lot as you will see anywhere," Norm said. He used to run first cross ewes with White Suffolk rams until a few years ago, but now runs only Merino ewes and attended Leahcim to get rams of the highest order.

<b>Sale Summary</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Offered	110	99
Sold	110	99
Top	\$3,000	\$2,400
Average	\$1,098	\$832

Agents: Elders and Landmark



(1) Luke Michael (left) holds one of the rams purchased by volume buyer Adam Jamieson, (right) Adalis Past. Co., Barunga Gap and with his Agent John Reinke, Landmark, Snowtown (centre). Adam purchased 15 rams to \$1,000 and at an average of \$900.



(2) Top priced ram @ \$3,000 at the Leahcim White Suffolk sale was purchased by Norm Shutz of Elders Clare (left) for DW & AL Dunsford of Lucindale who was "on the 'phone" whilst the ram was offered. The ram is held by Leahcim principal Andrew Michael.



(3) Heath Tiller, HB Rural, Warnertown, a long term client of Leahcim was looking for White Suffolk rams to join with his Leahcim blood flock of Merino ewes. Heath purchased 3 Poll Merino rams on Tuesday and added 2 White Suffolks at this sale for an average of \$1,050.



(4) Dean Williams of Hoyleton uses Leahcim White Suffolks over Merino ewes. To be sure he didn't miss out on securing the rams he needed, he returned from a holiday in Cairns just to attend the sale and secure the rams he needed, purchasing 3 rams above the sale average price.



(5) Norm Crawford, Fordvale Pastoral Co. Strathalbyn is with his agent Danny Reynolds, Elders Livestock Manager at Strathalbyn. A first time visitor to Leahcim, Norm was looking for low birth weight and high growth figures in rams to put over his maiden Merino ewes. He purchased his requirements at above the sale average price.