

LEAHCIM NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter No.17



July 2019

White Suffolks & Poll Merinos

Welcome

What a great time to be in the sheep and goat industry. Rosemary and I had the privilege of visiting Reola Station in late May and saw how innovative farmers and pastoralists manage animals within their environment.

Tony Brown showed us his understanding of animal behaviour and how he works with the environment to improve animal production in pastoral regions. It was one of the most interesting insights into animal behaviour we have ever seen. Thanks Tony.

I mentioned sheep and goats because both are at record high prices. The potential to jointly and better manage both species in Australia would

be of great economic benefit for our rural sector.

With the effects of long dry and extreme heat periods, lack of rain and low feed reserves, much of Australia is experiencing very low reproduction rates. In this newsletter we touch on many new and exciting programs that will continue to develop our clients' flocks and I believe will change industry focus.

We cover:

- Reproduction
- Next year of MLP Temora Trial
- Wool production from a different view
- White Suffolk Genetic Gain at Leahcim

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We encourage you to regularly check our website for updated information

www.leahcim.com.au

Leahcim's 2019 Calendar of Events

- ★ Displaying – Bendigo ASBA – Friday 19th to Sunday 21st July
- ★ Hamilton Sheepvention – Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th August
- ★ Adelaide Royal Show(White Suffolks) – Friday 30th Aug to Sunday 1st Sept
- ★ Classings Classic – Monday 2nd September
- ★ Leahcim's Snowtown Poll Merino Sale – Tuesday 10th September
- ★ Leahcim's Snowtown White Suffolk Sale - Friday 13th September



Temora MLP Trial

In the last few newsletters we have posted independent trial data on this lifetime breeding trial (Leahcim has had many sires, or link sires represented in trials throughout Australia). We now cover reproduction data one year on, plus evaluate the profits and losses related to genetic selection for meat and wool production.

Reproduction Data

Leahcim 090918 continues to be a trial trait leader for growth, fat and muscle, plus body and breech wrinkle reduction. Leahcim 090918 has the best ASBV for breech wrinkle reduction in Australia. If L090918's data was compared with the Leahcim 2018 drop rams, he would rank in the bottom 30% for the ASBV for most of the Wool and Meat traits.

2016 Drop Raw Data Weights – F1 Ewes								
Breeders flock, Sire number	Weaning	Post Weaning	Yearling	Weight Gain	Hogget	Adult2	Weight Gain	Adult3
	(kg) 25/10/16	(kg) 31/01/17	(kg) 17/05/17	Weaning to Yearling (kg)	(kg) 15/07/17	Pre Joining (kg) 21/12/17	Weaning to Joining (kg)	Pre Joining (kg) 10/12/18
Bella Lana, 130296	30.0	34.7	37.3	7.3	49.3	63.6	33.6	78.1
Boyanga, 145112	28.9	33.5	36.8	7.9	47.1	62.2	33.3	77.0
Glen Donald, 120014	31.0	35.2	36.3	5.3	47.8	63.8	32.8	79.3
Greendale, 120012	29.1	33.7	36.3	7.2	48.3	62.7	33.6	77.7
Leahcim Poll, 090918	31.4	37.3	39.6	8.0	50.9	67.2	35.6	81.6
Sire X	30.7	34.5	37.9	7.2	48.8	63.6	32.9	81.9
Pastora Poll, 082893	29.0	33.4	34.8	5.8	45.5	59.9	30.9	75.5
Poll Boonoke, 120020	29.7	34.1	36.2	6.5	47.6	62.1	32.4	78.9
Pooginook Poll, 140632	29.8	34.7	37.1	7.3	48.6	63.1	33.3	78.7
Roseville Park, 140611	29.8	32.8	35.7	5.9	46.9	59.4	29.6	75.3
Trigger Vale Poll, 140477	32.5	38.0	41.5	9.0	53.3	67.8	35.3	84.6
Wattle Dale, 140754	30.5	33.6	36.6	6.1	47.2	61.9	31.4	80.1
Wurrook, 130149	29.6	32.6	34.9	5.3	45.4	58.3	28.7	73.2
Average	30.2	34.5	37.0	6.8	48.2	62.7	32.6	78.6

The table left shows the Weight raw data:

2016 Drop Raw Data Wool – F1 Ewes																		
Breeders flock, Sire number	GFW (kg)			CFW (kg)			FD (µm)			FDCV (%)			SL (mm)			SS (Nixtex)		
	Y	A2	A3	Y	A2	A3	Y	A2	A3	Y	A2	A3	Y	A2	A3	Y	A2	A3
Bella Lana, 130296	2.9	7.9	9.1	2.0	4.8	4.7	16.3	19.5	19.3	18.4	16.0	16.0	84.8	121.4	108.7	32.9	29.7	25.9
Boyanga, 145112	2.6	7.1	8.1	1.9	4.6	4.7	16.0	19.0	18.8	18.3	15.5	15.8	90.8	121.5	112.3	29.0	35.4	25.9
Glen Donald, 120014	2.9	8.8	10.5	2.1	6.1	6.4	15.9	19.5	19.5	20.7	17.5	17.1	81.6	114.0	106.1	32.1	37.2	25.8
Greendale, 120012	3.0	8.7	9.8	2.0	5.3	5.6	15.0	17.9	17.7	19.1	16.3	15.3	82.4	115.2	115.9	34.6	37.6	27.1
Leahcim Poll, 090918	3.0	7.7	8.7	2.1	4.9	4.8	16.4	19.4	19.5	18.3	15.4	15.7	88.5	120.4	112.8	28.2	34.0	28.7
Sire X	2.9	8.8	10.7	2.0	5.6	6.2	16.0	18.9	18.9	19.7	17.8	17.3	76.4	111.3	108.6	32.6	36.6	29.9
Pastora Poll, 082893	2.9	7.8	9.2	2.0	4.8	5.2	15.5	17.8	17.6	20.3	17.4	17.6	80.1	109.8	103.2	30.1	34.6	29.1
Poll Boonoke, 120020	3.0	8.4	9.9	2.1	5.5	6.0	15.7	19.0	19.0	19.9	17.1	16.9	83.7	114.5	113.0	29.7	34.3	27.5
Pooginook Poll, 140632	2.9	8.4	10.0	2.0	5.3	5.4	16.4	19.9	19.3	18.9	15.9	15.8	84.8	116.3	108.1	33.0	37.3	28.2
Roseville Park, 140611	3.0	8.3	9.6	2.0	5.0	5.2	15.5	18.1	17.9	19.0	16.1	15.9	75.7	111.3	104.5	30.7	36.3	27.6
Trigger Vale Poll, 140477	3.0	7.9	9.3	2.0	5.0	5.2	17.4	20.4	19.9	17.3	14.7	14.3	87.0	119.0	110.5	36.5	34.3	27.2
Wattle Dale, 140754	3.0	8.5	10.1	2.1	5.3	5.6	15.4	18.1	17.6	19.6	16.1	16.0	80.8	115.9	102.9	32.7	37.2	25.3
Wurrook, 130149	2.9	8.2	10.0	2.0	5.4	6.0	15.4	17.8	17.5	20.7	17.8	16.1	74.2	108.1	104.5	36.2	36.8	30.6
Average	2.9	8.2	9.6	2.0	5.2	5.5	15.9	18.9	18.7	19.2	16.4	16.1	82.4	115.3	108.5	32.2	35.5	27.6

This table shows the trial Wool raw data:

Leahcim genetics continually sit as trait leaders within Merino Select for CV of fibre diameter and staple length which is a result of many years selecting for a combination of good structured skins and genetic selection for staple length, controlled by different genes.

2016 Drop Raw Data Reproduction in 2018 - Adult2 Stage (Maiden)													
8 rams were used in a syndicate and naturally joined to the F1 ewes on December 21, 2017 and were removed on January 25, 2018.													
Breeders flock, Sire number	Ewes Joined	Pregnancy Scanning Count 12/03/18					F2 Progeny Weaning - Lamb Numbers 05/09/18						
		Empty	Single	Twin	Triplet	Number	Foetus Rate ¹	Single	Twin	Triplet	Number	Survival ²	Weaning Rate ³
Bella Lana, 130296	29	2	18	9		36	124%	20	8		28	78%	97%
Boyanga, 145112	37	4	17	16		49	132%	19	24		43	88%	116%
Glen Donald, 120014	19	4	7	8		23	121%	6	16		22	96%	116%
Greendale, 120012	20	1	13	6		25	125%	15	6		21	84%	105%
Leahcim Poll, 090918	27	1	10	15	1	43	159%	10	20	3	33	77%	122%
Sire X	36	10	13	12	1	40	111%	16	14	3	33	83%	92%
Pastora Poll, 082893	28	7	13	8		29	104%	15	8		23	79%	82%
Poll Boonoke, 120020	29	12	8	9		26	90%	11	12		23	88%	79%
Pooginook Poll, 140632	26		14	12		38	148%	16	14		30	79%	115%
Roseville Park, 140611	16	2	9	5		19	119%	10	4		14	74%	88%
Trigger Vale Poll, 140477	35	5	19	11		41	117%	23	12		35	85%	100%
Wattle Dale, 140754	28	3	11	13	1	40	143%	11	16	3	30	75%	107%
Wurrook, 130149	16	5	3	8		19	119%	7	8		15	79%	94%
Total	346	56	155	132	8	428	124%	179	162	9	350	82%	101%

The Reproduction raw data is shown in this table

2016 Drop									
Raw Data									
Condition Scores & Carcase Measurements – F1 Ewes									
	Condition Score			EMD (mm)			FAT (mm)		
	Hogget	Adult2 Pre Joining	Adult3 Pre Joining	Hogget	Adult2 Pre Joining	Adult3 Pre Joining	Hogget	Adult2 Pre Joining	Adult3 Pre Joining
Breeders flock, Sire number	04/10/17	21/12/17	10/12/18	15/07/17	21/12/17	10/12/18	15/07/17	21/12/17	10/12/18
Bella Lana, 130296	3.3	3.7	3.6	25.6	27.7	30.4	3.1	4.2	6.5
Boyanga, 145112	3.4	3.6	3.7	24.1	27.6	29.1	3.9	5.6	8.5
Glen Donald, 120014	3.3	3.5	3.4	22.6	24.8	27.3	2.7	3.8	6.1
Greendale, 120012	3.5	3.6	3.7	23.5	25.8	28.3	3.0	3.9	6.2
Leahcim Poll, 090918	3.6	3.7	3.6	24.0	27.2	30.0	3.1	4.7	7.4
Sire X	3.4	3.7	3.6	23.4	25.8	29.0	2.7	3.6	6.8
Pastora Poll, 082893	3.2	3.6	3.6	23.2	26.5	29.1	2.2	3.7	6.0
Poll Boonoke, 120020	3.5	3.7	3.7	24.1	26.8	30.6	2.7	3.6	6.7
Pooginook Poll, 140632	3.4	3.5	3.5	23.7	26.6	29.6	2.7	3.9	6.8
Roseville Park, 140611	3.1	3.5	3.6	23.7	25.6	28.0	2.9	4.0	6.8
Trigger Vale Poll, 140477	3.7	3.9	3.7	25.2	26.6	29.2	3.7	5.1	7.8
Wattle Dale, 140754	3.4	3.6	3.5	23.4	24.9	27.6	2.6	3.6	7.1
Wurrook, 130149	3.1	3.4	3.2	22.3	24.2	26.4	2.8	3.3	6.0
Average	3.4	3.6	3.6	23.8	26.2	28.8	2.9	4.1	6.8

The table left shows the Condition scores & Carcase Measurements raw data:

Profit and Loss Statement within this Temora trial data

Using a 100 breeding ewe comparison from this trial, we have evaluated the variations in returns from two of the link sires. We have deleted the comparison ram's identification and called him Sire X because the purpose of this is to show the variation in meat and wool returns that exists within the Merino breed.

Wool production returns for 12 months

Wool variations

Sire X increased 2kg (adult ewes) 100 ewe = 200kg @ 1300c/kg = \$2600 (Compared with L 090918)

L 090918 increased 100gm (yearling lambs) 130 lambs @ 13kg @ 1300c/kg = \$169.00 (Compared to Ram X)

Thus Sire X:

WOOL VALUE INCREASE / BREEDING per 100 EWES = \$2431.00

Meat production returns for 12 months

L090918 – 30 extra progeny @ \$160 = \$4800 (conservative value)

Average daily weight gain to yearling stage

130 progeny @ 800 g @ \$8.00/kg = \$832.00

Thus L090918:

MEAT AND PROGENY RETURN is \$5632 compared with the wool \$ increase return from Sire X of \$2431.

The difference PER 100 EWES MATED is \$3201

L090918 RETURNS AN EXTRA \$32.01 PER EWE MATED

ASBVs 21st July 2019

	YWT	YFAT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YFDCV	YSL	YWEC	EBWR
090918	4.9	0.0	0.0	12.0	-0.9	-1.4	11.2	1	-1.6
acc	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	94	98
Sire X	2.7	-1.3	-0.9	19.2	-2.1	2.2	-6.7	142	1.1
acc	98	95	96	96	97	97	97	79	98

This is the Sheep Genetics data summary:

- Both sires are link sires in this trial
- Both sires have outstanding data accuracies
- For any sheep breeder who doesn't believe that sheep breeding ASBVs work we advise you to DO THE SUMS!
- The figures from these two rams replicate the outcome you should expect using Genetic evaluation ASBVs.

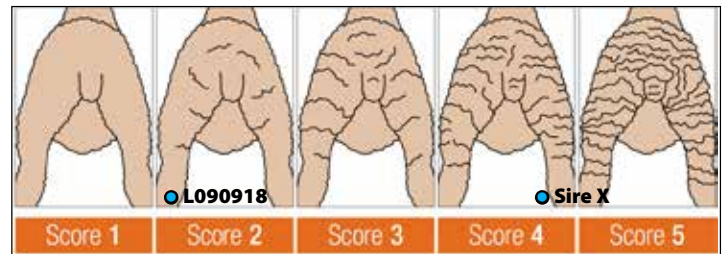
This information only amplifies Leahcim's desire to increase the level of information we make available to our clients and the industry:

Ram X has an EBWR of +1.1

Leahcim 090918 has an EBWR of -1.6

EBWR difference of 2.7

The table shows the breech scores from 1-5.



Sire X had 27 % dry ewes which would have increased the wool production expected from those sheep. At Leahcim we believe 090918 was lower follicle density (090918 was never measured), which would explain the lower wool production and higher microns.

Follicle Density

Over the last 5 years Leahcim has evaluated many of our top genetics for follicle density and marvelled at the variation in density and skin structure. 26 years ago, Jim Watts conducted our first skin tests doing some White Suffolks (15 -18 f/mm²) and some Poll Merinos (48 – 76 f/mm²). The numbers were interesting, but we never utilised those results at the time.

Through technology, computers and programs, our recent tests have allowed us to demonstrate why follicle density will become another selection tool.

This year Leahcim will be measuring over 650 new follicle density slides and with our previous 150 samples taken over the last four years, we will then have 800 FD measurements that can be linked to pedigree, growth, fat, muscle, fleece weight, micron, CV, SL, Yield. We know from previous research that follicle density is highly correlated to CFW, Micron and Yield.

Over the next few months we are hopeful of entering over 800 follicle density results into AGBU for analysis. This will give us a serious guide to the impact of follicle density on wool, meat and reproduction traits.

Leahcim is hopeful of offering follicle density ASBVs as another great selection tool to our clients and the industry to increase productivity and profitability.

Genetic correlations between follicle density and objectively measured fleece characters at 10A and 16B months of age.

Character	Genetic correlation
Yield	0.37A
	0.24B
Clean fleece weight	0.54
	0.21
Fibre diameter	-0.37
	-0.43
CV of fibre diameter	-0.09
	0.06
Staple length	0.12
	0.00
Staple strength	0.07
	0.00

A Upper value represents correlation with fleece character measured at 10 months of age
B Lower value represents correlation with fleece character measured at 16 months of age.

Note that CV of Fibre Diameter, Staple Length & Staple Strength have very low Genetic Correlation.

The Leahcim data we have to date indicates that there is a positive impact on productivity by increasing follicle density.

These results are

Progeny Trial	Av follicle density	YIELD	MICRON	GFW
Leahcim 152775	92	66.5	17.1	2.75kg
Link sire Y	75	60.5	17.5	2.43kg

- Increased wool weight
- Decreased micron
- Increased yield

These two sires have no comparison ASBVs for yield and are the same on Ycfw, but Yfd for 152775 is -1.2 and Sire Y is +0.2 6 months wool measurements

There was only limited progeny in this comparison. The variations within one management group for wool raw data this year are: Yield: 17 % GFW: 87% Micron: 8.7 micron

Quiz to challenge you – True or False

The volume of any cylinder with identical length will vary depending on the diameter.

Answer: **True**

As you increase the diameter you increase volume at varying rates and micron variation in wool is no different.

The chart following shows the micron (diameter) using 18 micron as the average, the volume % variation either side and the fleece weight variation.

Wool	Volume % increase or decrease	Clean fleece weight variations
15 micron	< 50%	2.4kg CFW
17 micron	< 18%	3.94kg CFW
18 micron	average	4.8%kg CFW
19 micron	> 19%	5.7kg CFW
21 micron	> 60%	7.86kg CFW
25 micron	> 154%	12.9kg CFW

Notice that the volume % increases at a greater rate as the diameter increases.

If these sheep had the same follicle density this shows the clean fleece weight variation you would achieve per sheep.

The sheep would need the:

- Same surface area
- Same fibre length (NOT STAPLE LENGTH)
- Cylindrical fibres (round)
- Washed (same yield)

We have every reason to believe this volume % and fleece weight variation to be true!

How many sheep breeders look at?

- Length verses curvature
- Micron compared to fleece weight
- Wool surface area
- Individual Yield
- Follicle Density

Can it all be achieved with ASBVs? We believe so and won't it be great when we can select sheep with follicle density ASBVs.

Poll Merino genetics

Through sheep genetics sheep breeders have the ability to search pedigrees, data and accuracies. This selection tool adds credibility to studs that use it and allows the industry to make real genetic valuations. Last year 152775 represented Leahcim in the Keynton Sire Evaluation trial and performed very well.

This year AMSEA used Leahcim 132624 as a link sire and he performed as his ASBVs would suggest; good for Fat, Muscle and above average on fleece weight. Kelvale (SA stud that is serious about ASBV's and traceability) has entered in the Keynton trial and their ram 160088 has performed very well.

After doing a search on sheep genetics you can see his progeny match his ASBVs. Within sheep genetics we also have the ability to check his pedigree and accuracies (grandsire Leahcim 070033). Well done Stephen and family for showing how genetic selection can advance production.

Leahcim 173114 is our entry in this year's trial so we will look forward to his performance results.

The Leahcim rams for this year's sale represent many new sires' progeny for the first time. The Sires and SOD (Sire of Dam) information in the graph below shows that by using the MateSel breeding program Leahcim is maximising our genetic diversity of pedigree.

Top Poll Merino Sires

Tag	Sire	SOD	YWT	PFAT	PEMD	YCFW	YFD	YFDCV	YSL	SHRF5
152775	122899	101259	11.2	0.8	0.3	18.1	-1.2	-1.9	8.1	0
153207	132298	CP7300	5.6	0.5	0.9	28.2	-0.1	-1	18.2	-0.4
153234	132624	101508	6.2	0.7	1	19.5	-0.6	-1.4	14.2	-1.1
162058	142072	101202	7.2	0.9	1.2	15.2	-1	-1.7	10.2	-0.5
163716	142003	123002	7.7	0.4	0.1	22.4	-1.2	-2.1	14.4	-1.2
163788	132624	CP7538	9.3	0.8	0.8	17.1	-1.1	-0.3	11.9	-1.5

Leahcim is extremely pleased with the balance of Meat, Wool and eating quality trait that we have achieved with this year drop of rams which is evident in the next graph..

Top Progeny

Tag	Sire	SOD	YWT	PFAT	PEMD	YCFW	YFD	YFDCV	YSL	SHRF5
182033	163788	132722	9.2	1.1	1.8	24.5	0.6	-0.6	18.5	-1.0
182068	163716	142090	9.4	0.3	0.4	23.2	-0.3	-2.0	16.6	1.2
182159	163716	123153	7.7	0.6	0.9	19.8	-0.7	-2.4	19.1	-0.7
182177	153207	122995	7.1	0.9	1.5	23.6	0.0	-2.2	20.6	0.8
182259	163716	132624	8.4	0.4	0.5	31.4	-1.0	-1.5	11.1	-0.6
182282	163788	132009	8.7	0.8	1.8	17.0	-0.7	-0.1	11.1	-0.2
182430	152775	123002	11.0	1.1	1.2	15.4	-1.2	-2.3	7.4	-0.3
182638	143567	123139	8.1	0.6	0.8	21.4	0.0	-1.4	13.4	0.6
183172	152775	132624	11.6	0.6	0.5	26.9	-0.6	-1.4	14.0	1.0
183200	153234	13NAM005	8.6	0.5	0.8	19.3	-0.7	-1.5	15.0	-0.1

■ Top 10% of industry

China Trip

Sponsored by the ANZ bank, I was privileged to be one of 27 producers and 12 ANZ staff who travelled to Beijing, Hoe-Hot and Shanghai in China and finished the tour in Singapore. The tour covered both meat and wool with the producers coming from all states of Australia and with varying environments and interests. The ANZ staff and their organisation of the tour was outstanding. There were many features on the tour and here are a few interesting facts worth sharing

- Only saw 3 birds (crows) over the 3 weeks while travelling thousands of kilometres through three countries.
- Over 250,000,000 people in China were hospitalised or sought medical assistance over the last 12 months due to water and food contamination
- 62% of China's meat consumption comes from pork. If we took all the pork produced in Australia, the Chinese would consume that in 17 hours.
- The Singapore Harbour has 1000 ships there every week. From those ships 9000 shipping containers are unloaded every 24 hours. If those containers are placed end on end, it would stretch 145 km.

After the tour finished Rosemary joined me for some holidays plus I spent some time with the MLA staff and increased my understanding of the South East Asian region.

During the tour we had several presentations, plus visited breeding operations, wet meat markets, wool processing, food service providers, cargo and product management and much more.

The standout messages for me were:

- South East Asia is a friend that we need as a major importer of our products.
- Environmental care must be a priority for future generations
- Animal welfare and traceability are becoming increasingly important if we want our products (both meat and wool) to be promoted in South East Asia.
- The practice of mulesing is not acceptable by retailers, top end restaurants and woollen processors and merchants. No brand wants to be associated with this procedure.
- Australia has a reputation for a high-quality product and consumers want the providence story.

White Suffolk - Refocus

Driven by limited supply and strong export demands, the prime lamb industry is experiencing the highest values ever seen.

Leahcim's White Suffolk genetics have dramatically changed over the last 5 years with influences from outside genetics and within flock assessment and focus. The flock has seen a dramatic shift in the growth, fat and muscle traits plus identification of sires with leading LEQ (lamb eating quality) traits.

The selection balance for carcase and eating quality traits along with visual structural traits has made breeding terminal genetics more challenging and yet interesting at the same time.

Leahcim has always prided ourselves on structural soundness and adaptable genetics for a wide range of environments. The current drop of Leahcim White Suffolks ticks all the boxes for carcase, LEQ, structure and outstanding breed features, with diverse pedigrees.

L180415 would be the most appealing and impressive carcase ram ever bred at Leahcim.

All with different sires, L180001, L180117 and L180428 are all trait leaders for LEQ and carcase data.

By using Matsel for our mating selections, it has allowed us to breed top genetics consistently, even with a wide diversity of pedigrees.

With low paddock feed reserves and our awareness of environmental management, many of our young sheep were confinement fed from February to May. This has allowed the sheep to express their full genetic potential without impacting our property or land care negatively.

Leahcim has also made the commitment to DNA all the sheep (White Suffolks and Poll Merinos) for parentage, and 15K genomics assessment. Both males and females have full phenotype data added to the genomics. This information maximises the data accuracies and traceability on the sheep we offer to our Leahcim clients.

Sheep Genetics, single step analysis technology also allows a deeper and more accurate assessment of ALL Leahcim genetics.

Genetics to consider

Top White Suffolk Sires

Tag	Sire	SOD	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	SF5	IMF	LEQ	C+
150097EM	130269ASH	110120GP	11.8	18.4	0	2.3	-4.1	0.3	170.7	218
170137EM	110548HF	130198EM	10.2	15.2	-0.5	3.3	-0.9	0.2	158.4	216
160012	122261BD	110660	14	20.3	-1.6	0.5	3.6	-0.6	142.4	216
160026	140306EM	108323PEN	11.2	17.6	-0.3	3	4.1	-0.5	143	223
160503	150236	130363	10.9	15.7	-0.1	4.1	3	-0.6	144.6	228

Top Progeny

Tag	Sire	SOD	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	SF5	IMF	LEQ	C+
180001	150097EM	130517	10.3	16.3	0.1	2.9	-1.5	-0.1	154	214
180117	170137EM	140214	11	17	-0.4	3	1.1	-0.3	152	221
180335	160503	122261BD	10.5	15.4	0.2	3	0.7	-0.3	141	212
180415	160026	130517	11.4	17.1	-0.8	2	5.4	-0.6	136	212
180472	160012	150232	13.9	20	-0.9	1.3	4.9	-0.5	141	221

■ Top 10% of industry

If you are considering using White Suffolk sires or genetics, we believe these offer the best breed type and performance traceability genetics in Australia!

2018 Sales

The following are sale reports from our 2018 ram sales

Leahcim rewarded for industry leading genetics

A big crowd that included 58 registered bidders gathered at the Michael family's Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale on Tuesday 11th September and obviously liked what they saw. Fifty three buyers from four states were successful in purchasing from one to twenty of these industry leading rams, culminating in an outstanding total clearance of all 235 11 to 14 month old paddock prepared rams, topping at \$15,000 and averaging \$2731. This was an increase of \$4000 in top price and \$485 in average price on last year's top result.

They were presented with a full range of Merino Select figures, with a vast majority ranking in the top percentiles for one or more traits.

In welcoming people to the sale, senior principal Andrew Michael stated that if we want to call the Merino a dual-purpose sheep breed, then we have to be serious about the carcase yield and eating qualities of our sheep, as well as wool quality.

"Eating quality will play a big part in this industry in the very near future and it is important that breeders are addressing this," he said.

To support his point, besides their outstanding wool figures, every one of the 235 rams in this sale catalogue was positive for fat, and 96% were positive for eye muscle depth, with readings up to +3.3.

Another point of attraction for buyers was the 85 progeny of Leahcim 152775, the sire Leahcim entered in the Merino Evaluation Trial run at the Keynes family's Keyneton Station, where it has scored so well amongst 15 other industry sires. These 85 averaged \$3075, or 12.6% above the overall sale average and included the sale topping ram.

That top priced ram, Leahcim 173122 attracted a lot of pre-sale interest and for good reason. Well balanced and structurally correct, it was +0.6 for fat, +1.0 for EMD, while having a yearling growth EBV of +11. Add to that an outstanding free growing and well defined wool with +13 for yearling staple length and a staggering +31.1 for yearling clean fleece weight and it is not hard to see why all the seedstock producers in attendance gave it more than the 'once-over'.

Winning the bidding was repeat Western Australian buyers, Trudy Pengilly and her son Thomas from Penrose Poll Merinos, Esperance.



The underbidders, Ray and Brad Schroeder, Gunallo stud, Murrayville were ultimately one of only five bidders who went home empty handed.

The Woolford family, Karawatha Park, Kimba negotiated a share in the sale topper, plus purchased two others at \$2800 and \$5200 later in the sale.

To underline the depth of quality on offer, their \$5200 purchase, L172594 by L142062 with a YSL of +15 and a YCFW of +20.5, was just 14 lots from the end of the sale.

Penrose backed up their top purchase with three more outstanding lots at a \$7950 average. Lot 30, L173166, also by L152775 had figures that lit up the page everywhere, with the Pengillys pushed to the sale's third top price of \$9200 before securing it as one of their four purchases.

Thomas Pengilly said the family has been chasing a balanced dual purpose animal for a good while now and has been sourcing genetics from Leahcim on and off for several years.

"You can return to the same quality again and again, with the consistent depth right through the offerings."

"We are looking for a blend of quality wool on rams with good carcase attributes and the figures that back them up. When you look at the sheep, it is important to look up and see the figures that support what you are visually seeing and feeling," Thomas said.

Western Australian breeders were very prominent, with four others also hitting the buyers' list. Paul Goerling, accompanied by his mother Jane, Lukin Springs stud, Boyup Brook purchased three rams at a \$6933 average. Paul purchased the two top priced rams last year and was not far off this year.

His top selection was L172702, sired by L153234, purchased for \$13,000. Like the sale topper, it had good growth, was positive for fat and muscle, plus having impressive wool figures of +17 for yearling staple length and +28.4 for yearling clean fleece weight.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd purchased L173358, another L152775 son for \$5800 for Scott Welke, Westwood Poll Merinos, Cascade, WA.

Phillip Foss, Bruce Rock was another strong repeat buyer who was determined to get the rams he wanted without compromise this year. He was successful on nine rams, paying to a top of \$3800 and averaging \$3067.



Pictured (above) post sale are Leahcim's Eloise Guest (left) and Rosemary Michael (centre) with WA buyers Jane and Paul Goerling, Boyup Brook (three rams) and Phillip Foss, Lake Grace (nine rams).

Pictured (left) with the two \$15,000 and \$13,000 top priced rams at the Leahcim Poll Merino sale at Snowtown are (in ring) Trudy Pengilly, Penrose Pastoral Esperance, WA who purchased the top priced ram held by Leahcim's Alistair Michael, and Paul Goerling, Lukin Springs stud, Boyup Brook, WA who purchased the second top priced ram. On the dais are Thomas Pengilly, Dion Woolford, Karawatha Park, Kimba who purchased a share in the top ram and Landmark auctioneers Richard Miller and Gordon Wood.

Rounding out the WA buyers was Shepwock Downs, Gibson with seven rams at a \$3257 average, topping at \$4000.

There were 13 rams that sold for \$5000 or better, while a further 15 sold above \$4000, emphasising the strong middle ground in this sale which helped push the sale average well up from last year. Eight stud breeders were successful in their bidding and were included in this range, Richard Harkness, Superior Wool Merinos, Tintinara (one at \$4400), Keller Bros, Ramsgate, Tintinara (one at \$5600) and Robin Schwarz, Pindari stud, Waterloo (one at \$5600) were South Australians amongst them, along with Bruce Michael, Murrayfield Station, Bruny Island, Tas (one at \$5400), who brought a third state into the buyers' list.

Including Western Australia's Foss family, twenty seven percent of the rams went to five prominent volume buyers who stood out above the others.

Adam Henniker, representing repeat buyer Paspaley Pearls was the biggest volume buyer with 20 rams. Buying through Elders Gunnedah, he had Miles Cockington, Elders Minlaton assisting him in his buying quest. He paid to \$2800 and averaged \$2105 in patient bidding to a budget.

Peter and Sue Atkinson, Atkinson Livestock, Harrogate and buying through Landmark Kingscote were exceptionally strong and consistent bidders, purchasing 15 rams for their Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island properties. They paid to \$4400 and averaged \$3160.

Dianne Johnson and her manager Travis Cooper, Arapunya Investments Pty Ltd, Mintaro and buying through Landmark Clare purchased 11 of the very best rams on offer, bidding to \$5000 three times and averaging \$3818 in very select buying.



Leahcim's Alistair Michael (centre) is with the three highest volume buyers; Adam Henniker, Paspaley, Gunnadah (20 rams to \$2800), Dianne Johnson, Arapunya Investments, Mintaro (11 rams to \$5000) and Sue and Peter Atkinson, Harrogate (15 rams to \$4400).

Also buying through Landmark Clare was PJ & JM Hayes, Redhill. They were successful on nine rams at a great value \$1067 average.

Again AWN Goulburn agents Denis Hewitt, Pat McNeill and Cassie Baile were in attendance, bidding on behalf of 10 NSW producers from that region. They were accompanied by two of these clients, the Collins family, K & A Grazing, Crookwell who have been buying at Leahcim for many years and Scott and Tristan Kensit, Hollywood Pastoral, Crookwell.

These two purchased five rams to \$4000 and six rams to \$3800 respectively. Waroo Pastoral, Goulburn (seven to \$1400) and Anna Samuels, Dubbo (six to \$1800) were the most prominent of the others. Collectively the group purchased 41 rams and along with Paspaley, saw 61 rams going east to the fourth state represented in the buying list.



Ten AWN Goulburn, NSW clients purchased 41 rams at the sale. Amongst them were the Collins family, K & A Grazing, Crookwell with five rams to \$4400. Family members, Ryan, Kevin, Kristie, Heather and Steven are with their AWN agent Cassie Baile (second left).

Other than those already mentioned, a further three buyers purchased seven rams each; three more with six rams each, and three more with five rams each.

In a first for Leahcim, the sale was connected to the Auctions Plus network, but such was the bidding strength in the sale shed, only the bare minimum of competition was forthcoming via the network on this occasion.

In summing up the sale, Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood said, "We are not seeing thirty to forty thousand tops to push that average up. It was just a really strong sale right through from go to whoa."

"A lot of buyers here are using the extensive and high accuracy data on these rams really well. The figures are stacking up and when you look over the pens you can feel the carcass traits and bulk of wool is there."

"Plenty of commercial producers are seeing the value in spending that four to five thousand on a ram that is going to take their flock forward; fill bales and get those lambs on the ground up and about."

"A lot are now looking at mating ewe lambs to increase numbers, so to get that early growth and built in constitution, that fat that allows them to do well in a tough season is so important", he said.

In thanking buyers, Alistair Michael said, "It was a great result. We have the greatest clients who keep returning so we are very happy with that outcome."

"The fat and muscle selections have resulted in sheep that can handle the dry conditions like this year, allowing us to get these paddock raised young rams up for sale with good growth and presentable condition."

Sale Summary: 235 offered & sold to \$15,000 & averaged \$2761
Agents: Landmark Clare Auctioneers: Gordon Wood & Richard Miller

White Suffolks top at \$2400

There was strong interest from both local South Australian and interstate producers at the Leahcim White Suffolk sale on the Friday following the highly successful Poll Merino sale.

A combination of strong top end competition and great value buying through the very even quality offering of 130 rams ultimately saw 121 rams clear at auction, topping at \$2400 and averaging a solid \$943.

Post sale, senior Leahcim principal Andrew Michael described the result as, "Terrific".

"With the short supply of replacement breeding ewes and the uncertainty of the season, I was rapt with that result," he said.

"In years like this, getting a good clearance is the biggest challenge, so to clear 93% at auction was very pleasing."

"Our wonderful group of loyal clients were also joined by a handful of new clients which was also pleasing in a year like this," he said.

Regular buyers of the very best Leahcim White Suffolk genetics, Paul and Yvonne Wurst were again very strong and determined bidders on the top lots. They purchased two of the very best at a \$2050 average, including the \$2400 top priced ram. This June 2017 drop ram had a wonderful and balanced set of Lambplan figures culminating in a Carcase Plus index of 202 and backed up by outstanding phenotype.

For a long time, the Wursts have taken on board the philosophy that to breed the best, they need to source the best genetics they can.

"We feel this ram has all the attributes we are looking for, including good muscling, and will fit into our operation very well. It always pays to buy good rams," Yvonne Wurst said.

Interstate demand accounted for the second top price, with Grant and Debbie Bingham, Iveston stud, Williams, WA successfully bidding \$2100 for a late August drop twin ram with a Carcase Plus index of 211.

Michael Whiting, Shepwok Downs, Gibson, WA went to \$1400 while the Hewitt family, Crookwell went to \$1300 for one of four rams they secured at an \$825 average.

The top end buying was supported by big volume buyers in particular, who collectively purchased 57 rams and had a huge impact into the clearance rate.

Comeback Pastoral, Kangaroo Island purchased 18 rams to \$800 and at an extreme value average of \$653 to be the biggest volume buyer. Long term regular buyer, Craig Bell, Bono Station, Menindee, NSW chimed in with 16 to \$800 and at a \$687 average.

Locals, Adam and Leanne Jamieson, Adalis Pastoral, Snowtown purchased 13, going to \$1200 and averaging \$858, while Tom Hawker, Anama Holdings, Clare purchased 10 to \$900 and at a \$700 average.

Andrew Michael said there were two standout sires that had greatly influenced this sale.

"These were two of the highest ranked rams in the country for lamb eating quality"

"We're placing a real focus on selection for eating quality and believe that will be a key requirement in the future," he said.

Sale Summary: 121 of 130 rams sold to \$2400 & averaged \$943
Agents: Landmark Auctioneer: Gordon Wood



Paul and Yvonne Wurst, Apila, who purchased the \$2400 top priced White Suffolk ram.



Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood (right) with Alistair, Andrew and Rosemary after a successful White Suffolk sale



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