

# LEAHCIM NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter No.18

July 2020

## White Suffolks & Poll Merinos

### Welcome

Who would have imagined the environmental, health and economical changes the world has experienced over the previous twelve months? The seasonal variations from the South East to the Station have been dramatic with the station experiencing two exceptionally good rain events this year, filling the dams, regenerating the blue bush and natural herbage. The South East is having a great start to the season while some of our Snowtown properties are really lacking moisture and plant growth.

The dramatic decline in the wool market, both volume and price will have many sheep producers wondering where to from here. Prior to the corona virus the price premium for unmulesed, low vegetable matter, high yielding, sub 19.5-micron wools were quite pronounced and has continued since the price fall. With Australia being the last country in the World that still muleses lambs (both merinos, some maternal and terminals), access and supply of unmulesed wool that is higher than 19.5-micron is well supplied compared to sub 19.5-micron.

Within this newsletter we will cover why selecting genetics that require no mulesing, are highly productive and meet our customers' future demands is a priority at Leahcim.

We believe our philosophy of "Breeding for the Future" has never been so important, and will inevitably be rewarding for Leahcim and our clients. Focusing on carcase performance and meat-eating quality traits in both the White Suffolk and Poll Merino flocks has seen animals emerge that are some of the best performers within the industry. The research work on the Follicle Density identification and correlations at Leahcim would be some of the most exciting and rewarding assessment ever undertaken at Leahcim, and I would suggest that it will totally change the way we view wool productivity.

We look forward to catching up with all our loyal clients at our upcoming Workshops, Field Days and Ram Sales in the next few months.

The Michael Family

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We encourage you to regularly check our website for updated information

**[www.leahcim.com.au](http://www.leahcim.com.au)**

## Leahcim's 2020 Calendar of Events

- ★ Sheep Industry Focus Workshop at Snowtown – Thursday 13th August
- ★ Leahcim Snowtown Sale Inspection Day – Wednesday 2nd September
- ★ Classings Classic – Monday 7th September
- ★ Leahcim Snowtown Poll Merino Sale – Tuesday 15th September
- ★ Leahcim Snowtown White Suffolk Sale - Friday 18th September



## Sheep Industry Focus Workshop - Industry of the Future

Leahcim is excited about hosting a focus workshop that will evaluate “Where To From Here” for the sheep industry. It will be held on August 13th at Hummocks Station in the Function Centre (45 Barunga Homestead Rd, Snowtown), or if numbers attending exceed COVID 19 restrictions, and we need a larger venue it will be held at Leahcim (2 km away). The event will also be live streamed. Hummocks Station has accommodation and a caravan park which may help people if travelling large distances. We targeted a group of speakers that will inform and guide producers towards a horizon of sheep breeding that is rewarding, exciting and sustainable.

People attending will need to register to assist with catering and COVID 19 restriction compliance.

**Register at:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sheep-focus-workshop-industry-of-the-future-tickets-112389600320>

### Agenda (Subject to Change)

9:00 am to 9:30 am	<b>Registrations</b>
9:30 am to 10:00 am	<b>Jason Strong - Managing Director MLA</b> MLA Investments until 2025 focusing on delivering “fewer, bigger, bolder” programs
10:00 am to 10:20 am	<b>Professor Mark Hutchinson - Director, Centre for Nanoscale Bio-Photonics, Adelaide Uni</b> Livestock wellbeing to increase productivity and superior market access through alignment with consumer expectations
10:20 am to 10:50 am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10:50 am to 11:20 am	<b>Robert Herrmann - Mecardo Managing Director</b> Focusing on pro-active risk analysis and management within the sheep industry.
11:20 am to 11:40 am	<b>Alistair Michael - Leahcim</b> Breeding more fibers per square millimeter to increase quality and quantity
11:40 am to 12:00 pm	<b>Elise Bowen - Sheep Data Management</b> Working towards a more productive, efficient and profitable sheep industry
12:00 pm to 12:30 pm	<b>Jason Trompf - Sheep Consultant</b> Sheep producers succeeding at climate smart farming
12:30 pm to 1:05 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:05 pm to 1:15 pm	<b>Jane Kellock - SA Sheep Industry Working Group Chair</b> Sheep Industry Blueprint review and priorities for producers in the next 10 years
1:15 pm to 1:40 pm	<b>Tim Leeming - Paradoo Prime</b> Precision lambing to achieve profitable outcomes
1:40 pm to 2:00 pm	<b>Dr Stephen Lee - Senior Researcher – Adelaide University, Roseworthy Campus</b> SA Sire Evaluation Trial results, including latest eating quality results
2:00 pm to 2:20 pm	<b>Jordy Kitscke - MEQ Co-Founder and CEO</b> Objectively measuring meat eating quality
2:20 pm to 3:00 pm	<b>Rob Clayton - Nutrien Ag Solutions Managing Director</b> Solutions to a thriving sheep, meat and wool industry
3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Q &amp; A With all Presenters</b>

### Sheep Industry Focus Workshop Partners

Many thanks to all the partners for wanting to assist in the workshop:

Livestock SA	Leahcim
SA Sheep Industry Blueprint	Hummocks Station Tourist Park & Function Centre
PIRSA	Thomas Elder Consulting
Nutrien Ag Solutions	ANZ Bank

### Centre Pivots

Last year saw the installation of two 20 hectare pivots to Panlatinga. The circles were delved, levelled, sown to oats and cut for hay, which was a huge success. The decision was then made to utilise the circles for a summer crop, and Pronto Sorghum was sown in December. With the warm weather, and big sprinklers watering the crop, it was the perfect formula for growing sorghum. One circle was cut for hay, and the other grazed. Luke can report that strip grazing, in sorghum that is 7 feet high, is an educational experience when you forget to shut a gate, and requires man and horse power to find all of the ewes. We are looking forward to sowing the pivots down to permanent pasture (fescue and clover) in August this year.

## Why Selecting Genetics with ASBV's is so Important

Leahcim has been involved in many industry trials to benchmark how our sheep compared to other sheep genetics from all regions of Australia. The AMSEA and MLP data are all now included in the Sheep Genetics data base which gives the latest ASBV information great credibility and transparency. In last years newsletter we included data from the Temora MLP trial where 090918 was used as a link sire (as well as two other sites), which showed how well he had performed for reproduction, growth, fat and muscle, with exceptional breech and body wrinkle reduction.

The data below is the latest AMSEA results and information from the South Australian Sire Evaluation Trial run at McPiggery, Lameroo. The sires of Anderson 160390 (has been used at Leahcim), Wallaloo Park Poll 172070 and Leahcim 173114 are sires with extremely high accuracies on their ASBV performance within Sheep Genetics which is reflected in the data below. The table below clearly shows that the sires entered in this trial from performance recorded genetics have excelled with no nasty surprises.

Breeders flock, Sire name	No of Progeny	Adjusted Sire Means												Traits above Average
		GFW kg Y	CFW kg Y	FD µm Y	FDCV % Y	SL mm Y	SS N/ktex Y	W kg W	W kg P	W kg Y	FAT mm P	EMD mm P		
Anderson Poll, 160390	42	5.5	3.7	18.3	16.1	115.2	25.9	30.8	50.5	54.1	3.3	30.9	8	
Calcookara Poll, 170400	35	5.8	3.6	16.8	18.4	98.1	22.0	29.8	49.6	54.5	3.0	29.1	5	
Challara Poll, 150245	48	5.2	3.2	17.3	17.7	113.8	25.6	29.9	47.4	51.3	3.3	30.5	4	
Flairdale Poll, 170070	39	5.4	3.3	16.6	20.1	98.4	22.3	29.3	46.6	51.0	2.9	28.0	1	
Greenfields Poll, 160079	46	5.3	3.3	17.0	17.7	93.6	26.7	30.2	46.5	49.3	2.9	28.4	2	
Gunallo Poll, 170295	26	6.1	3.7	17.8	17.8	106.9	26.2	30.2	50.4	52.4	3.1	29.0	5	
Hilton Heath Poll, 150817	51	5.8	3.8	18.1	18.7	103.3	28.8	29.7	47.4	51.8	3.1	28.9	3	
Kelvale Poll, 170004	55	5.2	3.3	18.0	16.4	124.0	26.8	29.0	47.5	52.0	3.1	31.0	4	
Leahcim Poll, 173114	39	5.6	3.6	17.8	16.2	112.9	28.1	31.5	50.2	54.0	3.2	30.6	9	
Malleetech Poll, 177141	45	5.5	3.5	18.5	17.9	102.1	32.8	28.7	45.4	50.3	3.1	30.0	2	
Moorundie Poll, NE73	29	5.8	3.7	17.1	20.0	99.8	23.6	31.0	48.4	49.9	3.0	28.2	4	
Pepper Well Poll, 177031	42	5.8	3.4	17.9	17.2	109.6	29.1	29.5	48.4	50.6	3.2	29.4	5	
Pimbena Poll, 170509	40	5.7	3.5	17.4	16.7	113.3	29.2	31.6	53.7	58.2	3.1	28.5	7	
Ridgway Poll, 170005	50	5.7	3.5	17.6	17.1	100.9	27.6	30.4	50.5	55.9	3.2	30.1	7	
Roemahkita Poll, 160018	37	5.7	3.3	17.1	17.1	97.6	25.5	30.5	48.7	53.6	3.0	29.5	5	
Wallaloo Park Poll, 172070	42	5.7	3.6	18.0	17.9	106.6	27.0	29.7	49.6	54.4	3.2	29.7	8	
<b>Progeny group average</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>29.5</b>		
		kg	kg	µm	%	mm	N/ktex	kg	kg	kg	mm	mm		

Leahcim has always focused on a balance of Meat and Wool productions. Leahcim 173114 performance within our Leahcim 2019 progeny reflected the results shown below with a productive balance of Meat and Wool on sheep that do not require mulesing.

### Choose Your Breeding Goal

#### AMSEA Sire Comparison – ASBV Data 21.6.20

173114 balanced production for high quality, high productive meat combining very good wool production on unmulesed progeny.

Leahcim Sire 173114	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YSL	YFD	EBWR	IMP	SFS
	9.2	0.4	0.5	26.2	16.8	0.00	-0.9	-0.18	-1.1
Percentile	10%	50%	30%	10%	10%	70%	5%	40%	10%

**94% Accurate on Data**

Sire high carcass growth (poor eating quality). Very high wool production on mulesed progeny.

AMSEA Industry Sire	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YSL	YFD	EBWR	IMP	SFS
	11.4	-2.3	-1.7	35	17.5	-0.2	-0.2	-1.2	5.9
Percentile	5%	90%	90%	1%	5%	70%	30%	90%	90%

**93% Accurate on Data**

## High Performance Genetics

Leahcim offers genetics that are of the highest level for measured Quality, Traceability and Repeatability with our clients production and profitability driving Leahcim's breeding philosophies. With Australia's sheep flock at low levels, reproduction and breeding sheep that are both profitable and match what our consumers and customers require, can be sourced at Leahcim with an enormous amount of accurate data and confidence.

Leahcim have invested in data measurements through Sheep Genetics data for over thirty years, which has given us some of the most accurate and largest data information in Australia. The addition of large numbers of follicle density measurements over the last four years to fine tune wool, skin quality and production will take Leahcim and our clients to the next level of advanced profitable and ethical breeding.

Leahcim has Not Mulesed any sheep since 2004 and with increased demand and premiums for Non Mulesed wools at \$1 to \$4 per kg, and increasing, identifying genetics that can achieve Non Mulesed status has become particularly important.

Leahcim and our related genetics have close to 50% of all the trait leaders in Sheep Genetics data base for breech wrinkle reduction, many of those sheep are above breed average for fleece weight, with a micron reduction of greater than YFD -0.7, plus trait leaders for meat ASBV's. Leahcim's data is available on the Sheep Genetics website and will be available for every sheep for sale in 2020.

All Leahcim sheep are genomics tested for parentage identification and production traits to allow us to select for hard-to-measure traits to maximise traceability and productivity.

## Where To From Here?

- The long-term ramifications of no action on mulesing in Australia.
- Leahcim building evidence of high value wool production on a mulesed free animal.
- Australia's sheep Brucellosis Accreditation.
- Sheep industries MLP data now in Sheep Genetics which will add huge accuracies to many traits including number of lambs weaned and adult fleece weights.

Over the last ten years Australia has forfeited our premium wool price of \$1 per/kg over all the other wool producing countries. Our premium was because of our wool quality and reputation. Today's wool price sees Australia receive \$1 per/kg less than those countries. This \$2 per/kg reduction in price over the whole Australian wool clip is having a massive effect on the returns received by all wool producers.

The world demand for unmulesed wool has seen our premium eroded, and with Australia producing only 15% unmulesed wool, our reputation as the world leader by the retailers and customers has been tarnished.

An area of great concern is the mulesing of first cross ewes which will eventually, totally erode our trust of animal management for both MEAT and wool production within Australia.

Over the last few months, we have voiced our concerns to MLA, industry bodies, agents, and many leading producers. At some of the premier first cross ewe sales close to 100% of the ewes and ewe lambs are mulesed. The sad and only reason given for mulesing first cross ewes is that they sell for \$30 - \$60 more, "No Welfare Reason".

With Australia negotiating a new trade agreement with the EU and UK, Australia's position on mulesing and non-compulsory use of pain relief could see New Zealand negotiate to retain nearly 100% of that market.

Leahcim and many of our clients have ceased mulesing and these genetics are achieving high demand and a premium.

- Can anyone clarify why these first cross ewes need mulesing?
- How can we convince AGENTS to promote, not discount unmulesed sale ewes?
- The wool market is paying a premium for unmulesed wool.

## Follicle Density

Last year we conducted our own research program of processing over 600 skin biopsies.

We believe that as seedstock producers we have the moral obligation to deliver a product of the highest quality possible. This moral obligation extends beyond the productivity of the commercial producer, it follows every fleece through processing to the retailer, and finally the consumer, as with every carcass. If processors remain profitable and consumers have a positive experience, the whole industry benefits.

When we look at wool production there are only a few contributing factors that affect it.

1. Surface area for wool production
2. Thickness of the fibers
3. Length of the fibers
4. Number of fibers

There are a couple of ways we can "cheat" to improve wool production; increasing the surface area and increasing the diameter are 2 common ways. The problem with these is that quality is compromised.

Hence, using tools to ensure the quality of the product we produce is vital. Follicle density testing enables us to ensure animals produce a fleece of high quality and quantity, on an animal that can be run under conditions that ethically suit the consumer.

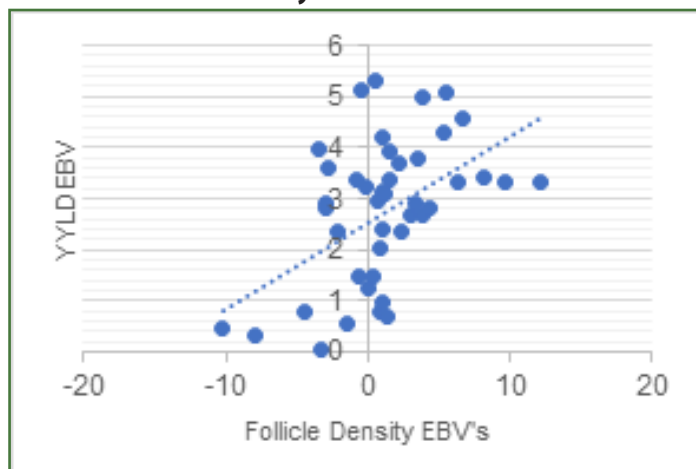
At Leahcim we have undertaken over 1200 skin biopsies for analysis over the last few years. This data has been



entered in the Sheep Genetics database to take any external factors out. The outcomes we concluded are:

Increasing follicle density will increase yield, see diagram below:

### Yield to Follicle Density Correlation



This is the sires that have high data accuracies used at Leahcim within the last 5 years, showing the correlations between increasing follicle density and the correlation with yield.

There is a sweet spot in follicle density, where the wools are pristinely white, exhibiting the perfect balance between wax and sweat glands. Ensuring the animal can handle all weather conditions. Increasing follicle density will decrease micron.

Every trait we look at in a merino breeding operation will have a tradeoff. Much like Newtons Law "every action has an equal and opposite reaction". Therefore, it is crucial to measure these opposite reactions to find curve benders.

Negative correlations when selecting for high follicle density are shortening of the staple, and increasing breech cover and wool on the points. We will cover the impacts of breech cover in a following article.

High follicle density will decrease micron and staple length, it will also have a negative impact on fleece weight. So we need to identify animals that sit at a balance point that suits our breeding objectives. 162058 is an example of proven performance in wool production, due to his high follicle density:

View all traits	YWT	AWI	YEMD	YEAT	YCFW	ACFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	IME	SHEARFS
LEAHCIM POLL-162058	10.1 96%	7.9 89%	1.2 90%	1.0 84%	19.0 96%	14.2 83%	-1.2 98%	-1.9 97%	8.9 97%	0.79 85%	-4.3 75%
Averages	4.7	3.8	0.4	0.1	14.2	12.5	-0.9	-0.6	6.3	-0.24	1.2
View Percentiles											

Compare him with this sire:

View all traits	YWT	AWI	YEMD	YEAT	YCFW	ACFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	IME	SHEARFS
LEAHCIM POLL-143567	8.3 96%	6.1 92%	1.7 92%	0.9 89%	22.7 97%	12.1 91%	-0.2 98%	-1.4 98%	8.8 98%	-0.60 77%	0.3 69%
Averages	4.7	3.8	0.4	0.1	14.2	12.5	-0.9	-0.6	6.3	-0.24	1.2
View Percentiles											

From the preliminary analysis through SG, 162058 has a follicle density EBV of +10 fibers per square mm, with a 95% accuracy, whereas 153567 has a follicle density EBV of -8 fibers per square mm, with a 96% accuracy. Wool cut

between the two is basically the same at yearling, however, 162058 is a full micron finer and doesn't lose wool cut over time. The actual yield difference has been an average of 6.5% over the last 2 years of progeny tested. Note, the trait leading eating quality of 162058 is an added bonus, there are no negative correlations between follicle density and eating quality, or carcass traits.

What we have learnt in our opinion, is that it is quite easy to breed animals that have a false fleece weight at an early age. This is done through high micron and long staple length, the problem is the ability for these animals to handle weather and poor fleece weight at age. There is a dieback of follicles as animals get older. One ram we sampled lost around 20 fibers per square millimeter in one year. We believe that is why the long stapled high micron, creamy wools fail to cut wool at an older age. They might only have 60 fibers to start, and could loose a similar number of fibers each year. Whereas, if an animal starts with 120 fibers and looses 20 each year, it will cut higher fleece values as it gets older.

Growing wool can be compared to growing trees in a forest. To produce a straight tree of quality you would plant them close together on flat ground with good soil structure. To increase the growing area of the trees on the same acreage we would have to have steep hills, however, this would lead to some trees being in the valley and some being on different facing slopes, producing trees of varying quality. Much like the wrinkly thick skinned sheep who produce high cv wools due to the erratic seating of the follicle in the skin.

This data is only within our gene pool. We believe that if we started to look at the vast variety of genetics within the merino industry we would find an even greater variety in results. It is a great tool to help us identify superior genetics, one we will continue to carry out and learn as we go.

## Ewe Lamb Joining

Due to the droughts we have seen many producers try their hand at mating ewe lambs this season to increase lamb numbers. This is something we have practiced at Leahcim for well over a decade. The benefits are extremely rewarding, decreasing the genetic interval and decreasing mature ewe size to increase carrying capacity are massive positives, as well as just more lambs on the ground.

However, there has been a few "keyboard warriors" on social media platforms, saying how it is stressful on the animals, affecting them long term and producers should get an extra lamb out the other end of their life. Whilst mating ewe lambs might not be for everyone, we believe if done properly it only has positive long term affects on the ewes.

Below is a table illustrating this, and this is common across all years.

<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>0</b>	87%	107%	135%
<b>1</b>	100%	114%	145%
<b>2</b>	119%	125%	156%
<b>Not joined</b>	75%	108%	128%

The table above shows the 2016 drop ewes and how many lambs they reared as a ewe lamb in 2017 (left hand column). It then shows how those ewes conceived over the next 3 joinings showing no detrimental impact.

## Leahcim White Suffolks

### Sire Profiles and Visual Aspects

As stated in the 2019 newsletter, Leahcim White Suffolk's have refocused our breeding objective placing a higher emphasis on selecting genetics for top end red meat-eating quality, while maintaining carcass attributes and structural correctness and mobility.

Below are two new sires used in an AI program in January 2020:

1. Felix 170761 has exceptional balanced ASBV's for BWT, PWWT, PEMD, PFAT and outstanding for PWEC. Combining those figures with top of the chart for intermuscular fat (Imf) and shear force (Sf5) plus a pedigree that has No Leahcim siblings related to him, Felix 170761 combined with our own leading sires will help us achieve our breeding goals.
2. Somerset 170147's carcass ASBV's also match our breeding objective with exceptional muscle (+5.3) and fat (+0.8), yet is absolutely brilliant for lean meat yield. To have such high PEMD and positive fat ASBV's is extremely rare, so we believe Somerset 170147 will combine well with our selected Leahcim ewes.

We would like to touch on why combining visual selection is especially important when combined with data. Somerset 170147's sire is Hayelle 140195 which is a sire Andrew gave Champion to at Hamilton Sheep Vention in 2015 (Andrew hasn't judged WS since).

Mind you, Alistair told Andrew that he has always advocated when selecting sires, ASBV's are extremely important, this ram had NONE (so do you think Alistair gave Andrew some grief).

Hayelle 140195 had raw data information available for the judging which was of some assistance, but that can be dangerous because the show sheep are all prepared under different conditions. 140195 was exceptionally well structured with visual appearance of muscle and was well prepared for the show.

When Somerset 170147 came up with exceptional performance ASBV's combining with a pedigree of structural correctness, we felt very confident this sire would breed well.

You can be lucky, previously I purchased a ram that also looked exceptional, and was SHOW fed that had NO figures and all his progeny were low performance and culled. We will only take MEASURED risks when selecting sires.

With the introduction of four outcross, non related sires over recent years, Leahcim White Suffolk's will provide greater genetic diversity for all terminal and maternal breeding programs for our clients. This will see our clients produce a premium product, combined with the best performing Leahcim genetics.

## Ovine Brucellosis Accreditation

Over the last year we have had several of our clients contact us regarding issues with Ovine Brucellosis (OB). OB is a bacterial infection that occurs only in sheep, and can have a massive impact on reproduction within a flock.

Leahcim have been tested negative and accredited for over 40 years. OB is transmitted by rams serving other sheep in succession and the bacteria then spreading through the flock. The bacteria will sterilise the ram by infecting the testicles epididymis leaving the ram infertile, and over a few years can reduce the flock's pregnancy rates down to less than 25 percent.

There are several ways OB can infect your flock, from neighbouring rams, or in some cases it can come from purchasing rams that are untested, or second-hand used rams from sale yards or other flocks.

OB will not persist in the ewe portion of a flock for more than 30 days and has no effect on the ewe. Buying rams that are not tested, or are cheap from Livestock Exchange might be one of the biggest mistakes you could make in your breeding program.

One of those clients that contacted me this year blamed the drought for lowed conception rate until he tested his rams and his infection was traced back to straying infected neighbours' rams.

We had a case a number of years ago from a client that had always purchased Leahcim White Suffolk rams and he said his lambing percentages had declined to lower than 40 percent. We went and inspected the rams he had purchased from Leahcim for enlarged or hard epididymis which is the effect of OB and most of them showed signs. In a back pen in the shed there was another four rams which the owner said he purchased two years prior out of the livestock exchange just to use as backups. All his rams went to slaughter and with the massive loss to reproduction those cheap backup rams became extremely expensive.

## Breech Scoring

After noticing at preg scanning the amount of bare breech ewes heading out the twin side, it was worth looking at some data in this field.

Breech Score				
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
107%	102%	98%	92%	60%

The table above shows the preg scanning results of our 2018 dropewes being joined in November 2019 as hoggets in comparison to their breech scores. We did not mate any ewe lambs last year due to poor seasonal conditions, so these 500 ewe hoggets are a good data set to examine.

It is known that wool on the points will decrease number of lambs weaned. Research in South America conducted by the late Brian Jefferies, concluded that there was a massive negative trend between increased face cover and number of lambs weaned.

As breech cover is correlated with face cover, we thought it would be useful to put actual numbers to this theory from our own findings.

## 2019 Sales

### Leahcim Poll Merino

#### Sale Summary

	2019	2018	
<b>Offered</b>	247	235	Thank you to all clients for purchasing Leahcim Genetics.
<b>Sold</b>	243	235	
<b>Top</b>	\$8,400 (x2)	\$15,000	
<b>Av</b>	\$2,419	\$2,761	



Pictured with the two \$8400 top priced rams at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale are auctioneers Richard Miller and Gordon Wood in the dais, Alistair Michael holding the ram purchased by Hannaton Merinos, Kaniva, and Paul Goerling, Lukin Springs, Boyup Brook, WA holding the ram he and his wife Jenny purchased.

### Leahcim White Suffolk

#### Sale Summary

	2019	2018	
<b>Offered</b>	132	130	Thank you to all clients for purchasing Leahcim Genetics.
<b>Sold</b>	123	121	
<b>Top</b>	\$2,400	\$2,400	
<b>Av</b>	\$916	\$943	

## Poll Merino Sale Teams

It is often we hear, it will be our best offering of rams ever, but without data to back this up it is simply a statement subject to an opinion. We thought it would be interesting to compare the ASBV averages of the poll merino sale group from this year to last year and 8 years ago (oldest accessible electronic dataset), to see if we really are offering our best team ever.

Top 280 ram averages by sale year:

Sale Year	YWT	YFAT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YSL
2020	8.8	0.8	0.9	19.7	-0.9	12.5
2019	8.2	0.7	0.8	18.8	-0.8	11.9
2012	4.8	0	0.1	12.5	-0.7	9.5

Without data, we are simply another sheep stud with an opinion of having great sheep.

## 2020 Sales

On the 2nd of September from 10am to 3pm, Leahcim will be holding an inspection day of our Poll Merino and White Suffolk sale rams.

Both the Inspection Day and Ram Sales may be subject to changes with COVID 19 restrictions, but we will keep people informed as the events get closer.

### Leahcim Poll Merino

The table below shows the sires that will feature in the 2020 Leahcim Poll Merino Sale:

Tag	YWT	YFAT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YFD-		YSL	SF5	DP
						CV	YSL			
162058	10.1	1.0	1.2	19.0	-1.2	-1.9	8.9	-4.3	157	
173088	10.2	1.2	2.5	23.2	-0.2	-1.0	11.4	-0.2	152	
173122	12.7	0.1	-0.2	42.5	-0.3	-1.3	12.4	-0.1	175	
173114	9.2	0.5	0.4	26.2	0.0	-2.7	16.8	-1.1	149	
173253	9.9	1.5	1.5	16.3	-0.9	-1.5	9.0	-0.9	153	
173721	14.2	1.1	1.6	20.0	-0.4	-1.6	11.6	0.9	165	

### Leahcim White Suffolk

The table below shows the sires that will feature in the 2020 Leahcim White Suffolk Sale:

Tag	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	LMY	IMF	SF5	TCP
160503	11.4	16.2	-0.2	4.3	5.4	-0.8	4.2	154.8
180096	9.7	15.1	-0.3	2.6	3.2	-0.1	-0.7	152.7
180110	11.6	16.8	-0.3	2.0	3.5	-0.1	1.6	146.6
180117	11.4	18.0	-0.9	3.2	5.0	-0.5	0.4	165.0
180317	12.1	17.7	-0.6	3.0	4.8	-0.4	2.4	155.5

The table below shows outside sires used in 2020 joinings:

	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	LMY	IMF	SF5	TCP
Felix 170761	10.4	17.2	-0.5	2.6	3.1	0.1	-3.5	157.3
Somerset 170147	10.0	16.1	0.8	5.4	4.3	-0.7	0.2	162.0



## Calcium & Lambing Loose Lick

This year saw us trial the use of a loose C&L lick from Salt Distributors in Snowtown. Two mobs of merino ewes, (singles and twins) were started on the lick a month before lambing and will continue until weaning. After weaning, the lambs will continue on the lick. To understand the effect of the C&L lick, two other mobs were run as controls and did not receive any lick.

At lambmarking, there was a noted 9% difference in marking rate between the two groups of ewes. It was also noted that the ewes that had received the C&L lick, seemed to have higher milk production as their lambs were much more forward, and the ewes were carrying less dag.

From these observations, the decision was made to run all of the White Suffolk ewes on the C&L lick. With lambing well underway, Luke has noticed that the number of ewes with rickets is nearly nil, compared to other years where this could be up to 5%.

## Leahcim Wool To Yarn

October 2019 shearing at Panlatinga, Luke and Alistair hand picked a bale of what they classed as the best fleeces from the mixed aged ewes. The wool tested at Classing's by Rose Walker was 17-micron, 95mm staple length, 72% yield, CV 16.4, SD 2.8, CF 99.7% and CURV 83.4 with 8.5 months wool growth.

The fleece was baled, and in December 2019 Andrew & Rosemary took the bale to EP Robinson's in Geelong, Victoria for scouring. In early January 2020, the scoured wool was transferred to Cashmere Connections at Bachas Marsh, Victoria. Here at Cashmere Connections, Trish and Charles Easson carded, combed, and gilled the scoured wool. The combed tops were then rolled into 10kg balls.

From Cashmere Connections, the combed top balls have gone to the Wangaratta Mill for spinning. This is where COVID 19 caught up with it! But, as I type this, our wool should be awfully close to being put through the spinning

machines. The wool will be spun onto cones in 4ply and 8ply, and we have also kept 40kgs in tops.

We are excited to see the finished product of our Leahcim Wool To Yarn and hope we can have some on display, and for sale at our upcoming days. We also welcome you all to come and see our wool and other products, in the newly renovated, soon to be open shop at Hummocks Station when you are visiting Leahcim, enjoying a stay at Hummocks Station or just passing through.

## Hummocks Station

The beginning of 2020 saw an exciting amount of bookings for the year ahead at Hummocks Station. Sadly, little did we know, but by late March, due to COVID 19, we were closing our doors for an unknown amount of time.

On the bright side, this gave us the opportunity to make a few changes and finish off a few projects around our beautifully established Hummocks Station. We were extremely excited when, in early May, Mr Marshall made the announcement that South Australian Tourism was able to open once again. So, on May 11th, Hummocks Station was once again open for business.

The support we have had since re-opening has been incredible! Not only are our guests supporting us, but our local IGA, Newsagency and Hotel are all enjoying the support too. The extra customers are helping our small town through these difficult times, and we are pleased to say our bookings are well and truly back on track.

We are currently restoring the old Hummocks Station Trap Shed to its original state, and this will soon become the site of our new reception area and shop. As it develops, our dream is to put some of the products we produce at Leahcim into the shop. Focusing for a start on wool, then moving onto skins, meat, and wine later down the track.

The originality of Hummocks Station drew us in right from the very beginning, adding another exciting aspect to the Michael family here at Leahcim.



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