

ASHMORE
WHITE SUFFOLKS
Genetics that Perform

NEWSLETTER

August 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to our Newsletter, produced to keep our greatly valued clients informed of our latest developments and progress.

Ashmore Ram sale 2020—what you need to know...

With the disruption created by COVID19 many people have been asking whether there will be a ram sale in 2020. The unequivocal answer is YES! The show will go on.

The ram sale will have to adhere with COVID19 health protocols as recommended by the Department of Health. These protocols have become more flexible as the number of cases have dropped in SA, however we will monitor this carefully if anything changes. We plan to implement the following for our 2020 ram sale to ensure it happens safely and for those that cannot attend they can still view and assess the rams before and on the day of the sale.

- 1.5m distance in the seating between people from different businesses
- Auctions Plus for every ram with video/audio stream
- Photos of physical attributes of every ram
- Free delivery of every flock ram incl interstate buyers (ourselves personally or transporter if borders stay closed)
- Virtual field day via zoom 5 Sept to view the rams
- Lunch served as normal, no self serve facilities



Stud Expansion in 2020

In 2020 we have increased our ewe numbers in response to sustained demand for Ashmore rams long after we have sold out. This is positive feedback reinforcing that we are producing a quality product, backed by guaranteed performance.

This year we will almost double in size compared to the last 2 drops with around 1200 lambs weighed, tailed and tagged on the day they are born. This is a significant undertaking and with the workforce ageing an investment in footwear technology has improved the speed of the shepherds!



Troy and Nette have added footy boots to the tagging kit in 2020!

In addition to growing the number of Ashmore ewes joined we also purchased 90 elite stud ewes from Langley Heights Stud, Oberon NSW. Langley Heights has been at the top of White Suffolk Performance breeding for over 30 years so it was a genuine once in a lifetime opportunity to select 90 elite ewes out of this flock to compliment our own ewes.

Out of the 950 lambs born in the last 6 weeks, there have been 4 assisted births which we believe reflects our focus on lambing ease within our flock. Our ewes are a condition score higher than we would like but the lambs are still popping out easily and almost hitting the ground running literally, hence the footy boots!

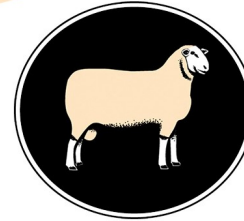
Troy Fischer: 0456 230 099

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Changes to LAMBPLAN indexes

Carcase Plus (C+) has been an important index to the sheep meat industry, however we now know that it is negatively impacting eating quality. To overcome this, Carcase Plus and the Lamb2020 indexes were retired in March 2020 and replaced with a new index called TCP (Terminal Carcase Production). TCP and LEQ (Lamb Eating Quality) will be presented in our 2020 sale catalogue

What is the new TCP index?

Indexes aid in the selection of animals for use within a breeding program when there are a range of traits of economic or functional importance. Using indexes in your ram purchasing decisions allows you to make balanced progress towards more profitable sheep for your production system.

The TCP index (Terminal Carcase Production) has been created to assist producers to achieve both gains in their major production traits, post-weaning weight (PWT) and carcass eye muscle depth (EMD), as well as maintaining key eating quality traits of shear force (tenderness) and intramuscular fat (marbling).

How to use the TCP index?

If you were familiar with the former terminal indexes, it is worth noting that the scale of index values is different for the TCP index. To assist in comparing rams, Sheep Genetics recommended to use a percentile band table as reference. We will have this in our sale catalogue. The

bottom figure below gives a guide on the range in index values for terminals.

As you can see from the table below, Ashmore rams stack up extremely favourably on the new TCP index. As we have been selecting for production and eating quality traits for a number of years now, we are well ahead of the breed average for all key traits and indexes.

Aside from index what else should I look at?

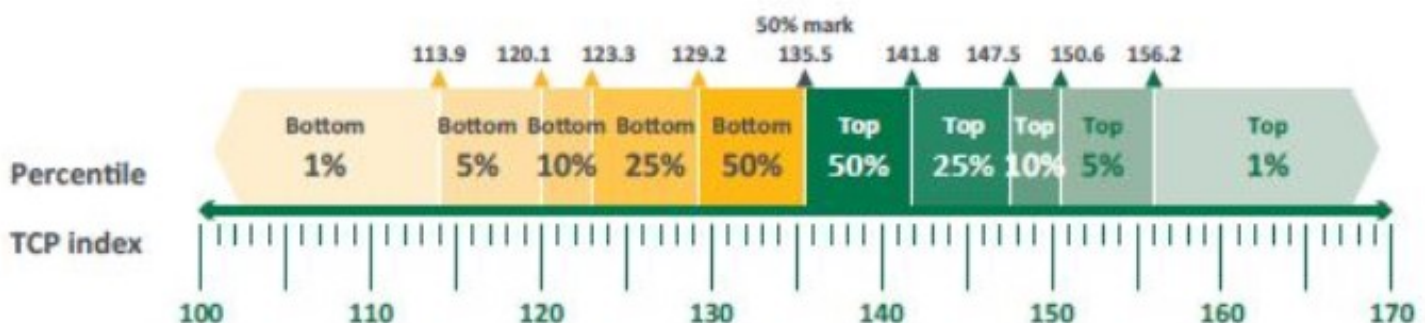
Indexes are a useful tool to rank animals but you can still have two animals with the same index value with very different breeding values and one may suit your operation and the other may not. So its important to look at the traits for each animal to ensure they align with the direction you are trying to head.

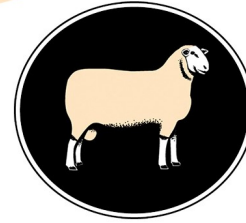
An animal that is well balanced across the range of traits that suit your operation may be a better option than an animal that is say top 1% for one trait but heading in the wrong direction for other traits that are important to you.

There is limited space for all the individual traits and indexes on our catalogue but we are only too happy to run a custom report with any index and individual breeding value you like.

Likewise, if you ever need assistance in interpreting ram sale catalogues, ASBVs or defining what your breeding objective is, please don't hesitate to contact Troy on 0456 230099 or troyfischer@bigpond.com

2019 Drop ASBVs	BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD	IMF	SF5	DR%	TCP	LEQ
Ashmore Average	0.36	10.5	16.6	-0.2	2.4	-0.3	0.5	2.3	150	148
Terminal Average	0.35	8.9	14.2	-0.5	1.6	-0.5	2.9	1.8	135	129





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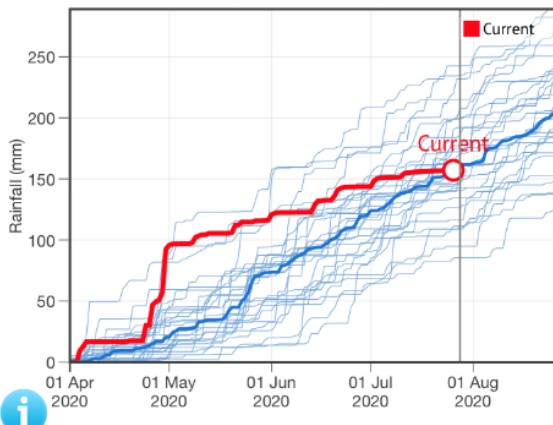
Seasonal Seesaw

2020 provided a terrific break to the season with 85mm in April. Our pasture base this year was sown dry in early April and was a mix of Grenade CL Wheat, Hallmark CL Lentils and volunteer medic. We are super impressed by the early bulk produced by the Grenade and the Hallmark. The quantity of feed on offer is exceptional for this time of year allowing us to box up smaller mobs post lambing into a 2500DSE mob which provides terrific grazing pressure.

In contrast to the past few starts, we have early sheep feed, very good crop establishment and probably our best ever lamb survival. Since April we have had 69mm across May/June/July with plenty of frosts and a dry August forecast.

Who knows how the season will pan out, but as one client said, the tough years like 2018 and 2019 make you a better farmer. However, we do hope those that continue to miss out get a good drop soon, its definitely your turn.

Rainfall Apr-Jul 2020 (MALLALA)



With the China Barley Tariff unfolding towards the end of our seeding program we made a last minute decision to swap out barley for Hurricane and Hallmark lentils. Its our first time growing lentils as a crop so a learning curve for 2020. Time will tell if it was the right decision!

New faces at Ashmore

In line with the expansion of our operation we have taken on two employees. Merv Crossman has come on board with a wealth of experience. He originates from the Eyre Peninsula and has held senior roles in the grain industry as well as farming his own sheep and cattle.

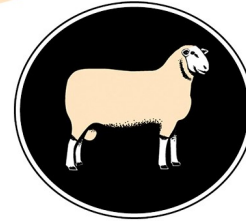


Merv pictured with the new feed yard and grain troughs he and Troy built.

We have also taken on Jodie Day who is doing a Certificate 3 in Ag whilst at school. Jodie's family are long term volume buyers at Ashmore and have supported us to grow to where we are today. We have found employing an apprentice really rewarding and anyone interested in what's involved, feel free to give Nette a call.



Jodie helping process our ewes pre lambing



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OJD found in Mid North of SA

It has been reported that a small number of properties in the Mid North Region of SA have been found with Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) from sheep brought in from interstate. The more relaxed interstate trading rules means "buyer beware" has never been more important and if you buy in sheep, we recommend ensuring the NVD/Health statement is seen BEFORE stock arrive on property – or better still even before you purchase them.

Last year, as a service to clients in OJD affected areas, we commenced vaccinating all our lambs for OJD. So all Ashmore Rams sold this year are vaccinated. We will continue to test for the presence of the disease and participate in the MAP program, however, vaccination just adds another level of protection if our rams are exposed to the disease at their purchasers' property. We have been testing for OJD for over 20 years now and have been MN3 status (the highest status possible) since 2002.

We are due to vaccinate the 2020 drop of lambs (both sexes) in a couple of months. As such we have put an order in for the OJD vaccine – Gudair. We have requested a discounted rate and asked if we can pass this same discounted rate onto our ram clients, for any that may be affected by this or those who are considering vaccinating as a preventative. Landmark Gawler have been kind enough to offer 250ml Gudair at a discounted price.

Please note we are not receiving any commission from this, we just wanted to share the cheaper rate with our clients as a thankyou for supporting us over the years. The OJD vaccine - Gudair is through Landmark Gawler. You just need to contact either Nette on 0439933111 or Karyn Reynolds of Landmark to purchase your vaccine. Karyn's mobile is 0467715713.

On top of vaccinating for OJD, we vaccinate all rams for Scabby Mouth, Tasvax 8 in 1 and routinely test for brucellosis and have never had lice or footrot. Hence the risk of bringing a sheep health problem onto your property is extremely unlikely from an Ashmore Ram.

Preview of Ashmore Ram Sale

Our ram sale is fast approaching, creating a very busy, but rewarding period in our yearly work program. We have some extremely exciting high performance rams on offer this spring. The very top rams sit around 164 on the new TCP index which puts them in the top 1% of all terminal rams. The average TCP index for our sale team is 150 placing at least half of our sale rams in the top 5% of all terminal sires.

Details of the sale are:

- At Ashmore, 1460 Wasleys Road, Wasleys
- 28th September 1pm, inspection from 11 am
- 200 rams, Average TCP index >150
- Includes specially selected stud ram offering
- Auctions Plus including audio and video streaming will be used on entire ram offering so that clients who cannot attend the sale can still bid themselves
- Catalogues & excel version available on our website and hard copy posted in early September
- Photos of each ram available upon request on USB

If you have never been to our sale, here are some of the reasons our clients keep returning:

- Over 25 years of measured performance
- Commitment to quality data
- Leading LAMBPLAN stud
- Excellent structure
- Elite eating quality genetics
- Rams are guaranteed
- Free of OJD, Brucellosis, Footrot, Lice
- Free delivery on flock rams
- Ashmore roast lamb and gravy rolls!

Ashmore Ram Sale, 1460 Wasleys Rd, Wasleys - Monday 28th September

200 Rams with average Terminal Carcase Production Index over 150 for sale

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