

NEWSLETTER

August 2021

WELCOME

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

2021 Season....Jekyll and Hyde?

2021 started out very dry in the mid north of SA with all our pasture dry sown in April and almost all our crop dry sown in May. The season didn't break until June 7 here just as lambs started dropping into pretty grim conditions i.e. brown paddocks.



Hogget ewe lambing onto close to zero FOO

Our ewes were fed to maintain condition score in confinement and then continued to be fed grain and hay in the paddock during lambing to avoid pregnancy toxemia. All ewes were managed the same regardless of single, twin or triplet with a daily intake target of halfway between single and twin according to the Lifetime Ewe Management recommendations. This keeps all lambs in the same Lambplan group for comparison and whilst we decimated our haystack, we are pleased to say we had zero preg tox. The ewe's first taste of pasture with decent food on offer (FOO) was 20th July.

We have heard reports of tough lambing results this year with lamb and ewe losses across the mid north of SA in particular. This is likely due to nutrition factors both pre lambing and lack of feed in lambing paddocks resulting in exposure, pregnancy toxemia, among other things. Whilst

we don't proclaim to be experts, we are only too happy to help if you want to discuss how we our feed ewes pre and post lambing in tough years.

Our lambing report card below for the year to date (YTD) shows our results so far with another 300 stud lambs expected in August. With adequate nutrition, good management as well as good genetics, results like these should be achievable out of merino ewes also.

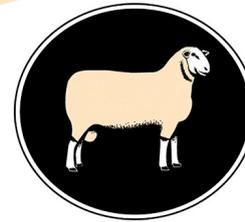
Metric	Result	%
Adult Ewes Joined	875	
Ewes Scanned Dry	33	4%
Foetuses Scanned	1214	139%
Ewes Lambed (YTD)	635	73%
Lambs alive (YTD)	953	92%
Lambs DAB (YTD)	83	8%
Mortality Post Birth (YTD)	59	6%
Assists (YTD)	3	0.3%
Ewe Mortality (YTD)	13	1%

Since the heavens opened it hasn't really stopped with 60 mm for June and 95mm for July which has us set up for terrific yield potential in our crops and solid pasture growth once the sacrificial lambing paddocks fully recover.

This year we have taken on another lease farm (300ha) at Hamley Bridge which is 15km north of our home block. This new block allows us run 100% of our Wasleys property as pasture. This year we sowed a third to each of Wheat/Lentils mix, Canola/Barley mix and straight Barley. All our varieties are IMI tolerant giving us the flexibility to take grasses and certain broadleaf weeds out of our pastures.



We broadcast barley in front of the seeder and then sowed the canola creating a zero row spacing pasture which looks to have fantastic weed competition and overall bulk.



NEWSLETTER

Balancing growth and birth weight

It's no secret that growth is the most important trait in a prime lamb terminal sire and for good reason. Weight is the basis on which you get paid and how quickly you can turn your lambs off is a large driver of cost of production. All growth traits are positively correlated which means if you select to increase one growth trait e.g. post weaning weight, then inadvertently you will be increasing growth in other traits like adult weight and birth weight. This is because the traits are positively genetically correlated.

What to look for?

Genetic differences in liveweight reflect the growth potential of an animal at key times when animals are typically marketed. Weight is generally quoted at different time periods including: Birth weight (BWT), Weaning (WWT), Post-weaning (PWT), Yearling (YWT), Hogget (HWT), Adult (AWT)

How is this measured?

Animals are weighed at multiple time periods. Because of the relatively close correlation between weights at different ages, ASBVs for other ages can be calculated from one or two weights. For improved accuracy of the estimation of an animal's weight across the ages, animals should be weighed at as many of the key times as possible. Ashmore rams are generally weighed at birth, weaning, post weaning and yearling prior to sale.

What do the numbers mean?

Weights are measured in kilograms and ASBVs are quoted in kilograms. ASBVs are deviations from the average of animals in the database in the 1990 drop. So an animal with a PWT ASBV of +16kg will be genetically 16kg heavier at post-weaning age than the average in 1990. A ram with a PWT ASBV of +16kg will pass half of this benefit onto his lambs, that is +8kg liveweight, with the other half of course, coming from the ewe.

Can I see it?

The bigger sheep will tend to be the high growth sheep. But remember, birth type, age of dam and nutrition have

big impacts on growth and it is easy to overlook a twin born lamb, particularly one from a maiden dam.

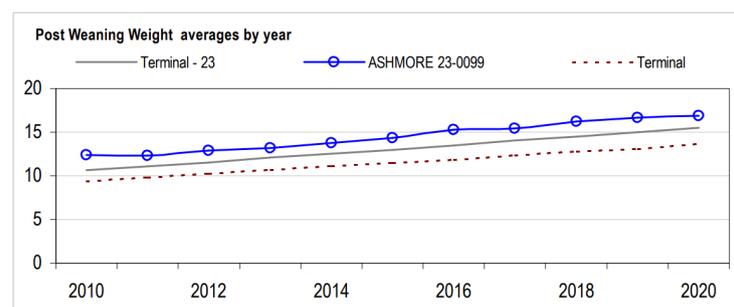
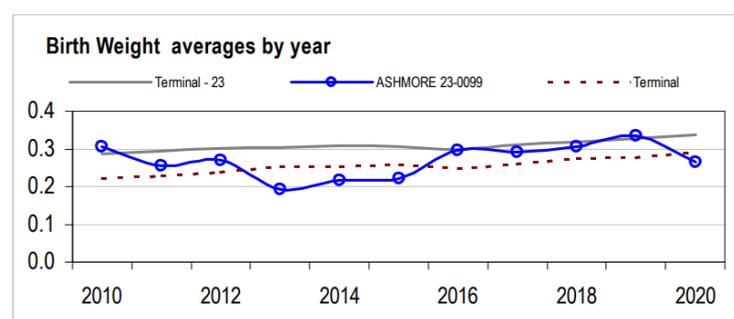
What's in it for me?

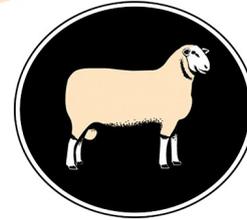
The main reason to select for higher growth potential is so that lambs reach heavier weights at younger ages. This allows lambs to be either marketed sooner (at the same weight) or be marketed at heavier weights (at the same age) compared with low growth lambs. Each 1kg increase in PWT ASBV results in around 8 less days to reach 45kg.

What else changes if I just selected for growth?

There are what we call correlations, generally if growth goes up lambs are marketable at earlier age, however lamb birthweight can also go up, which can lead to dystocia especially in maiden and smaller frame ewes or in an exceptional season—lambs simply get too big.

The way to manage these correlations is by selecting animals based on a balance of traits that you are interested in. In this case keeping birthweight constant whilst increasing growth. We call these curve benders and although it is a challenge to have low/moderate birthweight and also high growth, this is something we have been focussing on for 30 years.





ASHMORE
WHITE SUFFOLKS
Genetics that Perform

NEWSLETTER

Introducing new rams with old

When taking your recently purchased rams home, to avoid injury and potentially even death, we recommend new rams be boxed up with old rams in a small enough pen so they can't fight. Do not allow them to get a run up! Leave them there until they no longer want to fight (18-36 hours)—if you let them into a bigger yard and fighting begins, lock them up again. Likewise follow the same procedure when taking them out from joining ewes, especially if they have been running with different mobs. It doesn't matter if your ram team is 5 rams or 100 rams we recommend either keeping the new rams separate or integrating them straight away whichever is most practical.



Ashmore stud rams the day they were taken out from ewe joining, enough room to sit down and stand up only

Ashmore Ram Sale 2021

We would like to outline a few important changes to this years ram sale.

We are increasing the number of Rams offered to 250 to provide a greater selection and ensure there are enough rams available for a range of budgets. Last year, a number of clients left without their requirements so we hope to remedy that this year with a larger offering.

This years ram team will be our largest ever offering but will also include some of the highest performance rams in Australia. In the 1 August LAMBPLAN run, out of 24,000

White Suffolk rams born in 2020, 15 of the top 20 rams on the TCP index were sired by Ashmore genetics including the first and second ranked rams. These results haven't happen by accident—they reflects decades of careful selection backed by excellent data quality and focusing on the traits that matter.

Details of the sale are:

- At Ashmore, 1460 Wasleys Road, Wasleys
- 27th September 12.30pm, SA (CST) time
- Inspection from 10.30am
- 250 rams, Average TCP index >150
- Auctions Plus including audio streaming will be used on entire ram offering
- Catalogues & excel version available on our website with hard copy posted early September
- Footage of physical attributes of every ram on Auctions Plus
- Free delivery of every flock ram incl interstate buyers (ourselves personally or transporter if borders stay closed)
- COVID safe plan will be in place

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 27th September

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

Troy Fischer: 0456 230 099

| Nette Fischer: 0439 933 111

| Brian Fischer: 0428 826 568

www.ashmorewhitesuffolks.com

