

# NEWSLETTER

August 2022



**ASHMORE RAMS**

Genetics that Perform

## WELCOME

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

## Latest News

The past 12 months has been another rewarding year at Ashmore. Strong demand and pricing for prime lambs has flowed through to strong demand for Ashmore genetics from commercial and stud clients across the nation.

Alongside this, the combination of terrific grain prices and excellent yields means many sectors of agriculture will enjoy a positive few years which is great to see and be a part of.

You will note our logo and branding has undergone a few changes and we now operate as Ashmore Rams. We have also upgraded our website ([www.ashmorerams.com.au](http://www.ashmorerams.com.au)) and welcome you to have a look.

We recently took the plunge to start a breeding program involving one of the shedding breeds, namely the UltraWhite. We have done this alongside our White Suffolk offering to supply rams to industry which require minimal intervention i.e. no shearing, crutching or tailing.

There is a lot of opinion and misinformation surrounding the shedding breeds largely fueled by the record prices some of the sheep have been making. We decided to put out a Frequently Asked Questions document to aid our clients and others who are unsure what to make of all the hype. In compiling this document, we spoke with meat processors, AWEX representatives and reviewed research papers to provide constructive information.

This paper is available on our website or we can email a copy to anyone who would like it.

## On the road to Gundagai...

Troy had a quick 2000km round trip in the truck back in May in between sowing pasture and crops to deliver a load of lambs to Gundagai Meat Processors (GMP). GMP have a probe that measures marbling (IMF) at chain speed as well as a DEXA unit which measures lean meat yield on each lamb.

The processing of our 130 fully recorded, pedigreed ewe lambs generated valuable data for IMF%, lean meat yield and dressing % across 15 sires which will aid our selection for these traits along with ASBVs from LAMBPLAN using genomic testing.

GMP really are setting the benchmark with their innovative grid which rewards producers who get genetics and nutrition right to produce the highest quality lambs.



*Some of the Ashmore lambs processed at Gundagai Meat Processors in May this year.*

Troy Fischer: 0456 230 099

Nette Fischer: 0439 933 111

[www.ashmorerams.com.au](http://www.ashmorerams.com.au)



# NEWSLETTER

August 2022



**ASHMORERAMS**

Genetics that Perform

## Data Quality Distinction

We have always known the value of collecting high quality data and its importance in generating highly accurate ASBVs. Sheep Genetics have recently established a data quality score for each flock which rates each flock on:

- Amount of data e.g. number of animals and how many traits recorded
- How complete the data is e.g. animals or pedigree missing
- How quickly that data is submitted to LAMBPLAN
- How effective the data is e.g. is the flock linked to other flocks, are the contemporary groups large enough and with a range of sires to allow comparisons

We are a data driven business so our motto is to collect as much data as possible, on as many animals as possible and

submit that data as quickly as possible for evaluation.

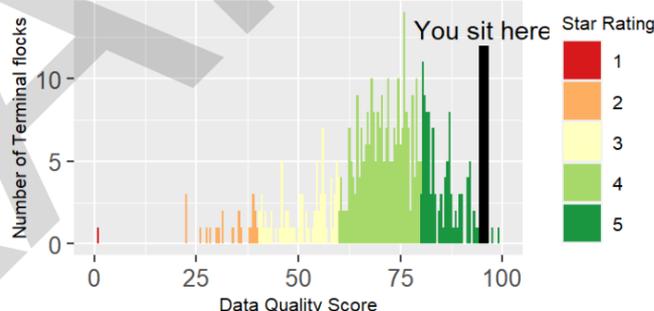
Pleasingly, our stud ranks in the top handful for data quality out of the all the terminal flocks across Australia achieving a 5 star rating. This reflects us going the extra mile to tag 1300+ lambs at birth, record date of birth, sire and dam pedigree as well as 20 odd traits on each lamb throughout its life.

So what does this mean for our clients? It means that the data we collect and provide to LAMBPLAN will produce ASBVs that are highly accurate and hence performance in the progeny of our rams is reliable. Studs that don't collect date of birth and full pedigree can't expect the same level of reliability in their data.



Data Quality Score: 95.4

★★★★★  
5 star



Your Data Quality Score (DQS) is an overall indicator of the quantity, quality and timeliness of your data.



Troy Fischer: 0456 230 099

Nette Fischer: 0439 933 111

[www.ashmorerams.com.au](http://www.ashmorerams.com.au)



# NEWSLETTER

August 2022



**ASHMORERAMS**

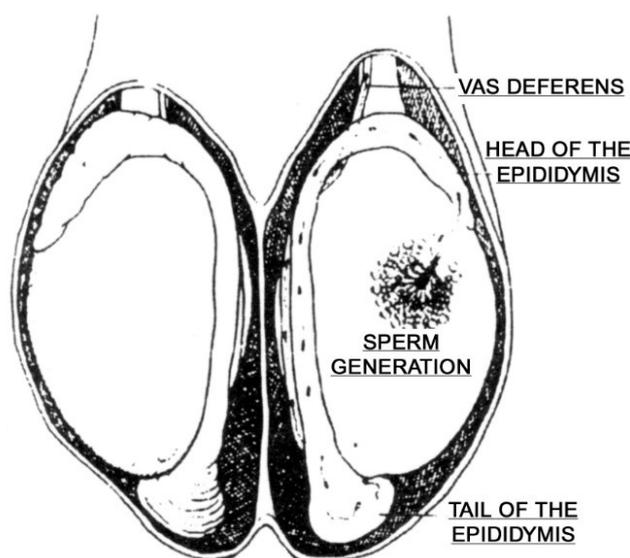
Genetics that Perform

## Getting the most out of your rams—Q&A

Three years ago we published a Q&A about some of the most common questions we get asked by clients about rams. We regularly get asked these questions so we thought we would publish this again as it is really valuable information.

### **Q: What are the possible causes of swollen testes in rams? If I see this, what should I do?**

A: Trauma/fighting, Hernia, Brucellosis, *Actinobacillus seminis* (a bacterial infection) and *Histophilus ovis* (also a bacterial infection). If you observe swollen testes, isolate the ram(s) immediately and call a vet as the last three issues are highly contagious.



Your rams' testes produce the only thing that is passed on to their progeny—semen which contains DNA! An annual check is important to ensure they're in good working order.

### **Q: How many years should I expect out of my rams?**

A: 4 productive years. By 5 years old 50% of rams suffer significant arthritic degeneration of the spine and hips that prevents high rates of service as well as decline in semen quantity and quality. Therefore if your ram team is getting older, you may need to join at higher % of rams to ewes. Another consideration is genetic merit of the rams. Each year our ram's genetics improve, for example the speed of growth of the lambs from rams 5+ years ago won't be as fast as the current crop. The good news is an average Ashmore ram is 4 years ahead of the breed average. Ultimately, how long to hang onto your rams is a personal choice.

### **Q: What are the most common causes of death in rams? Sometimes they just lay down and die!**

A: Clostridial disease (rams need 6 monthly vaccination), overfat, fighting injury, grain poisoning, disease (e.g. pneumonia), urinary calculi

### **Q: What are the most common causes of breakdown in rams and how can I prevent these?**

A: Lameness, Arthritis, Age, Poor hind leg conformation, Testicular problems, Poor health (worms, infection, low condition score), Trace elements, Vitamin A

### **Q: What pre joining checks & procedures can I do before putting the rams in with ewes?**

A: 12 weeks before joining do the 5 "T"s: Teeth, Torso, Testicles, Tossle, Toes. Do they have a sound mouth, sound feet, condition score 3.5-4, sound penis, symmetrical testicles with no lumps and springy like a tennis ball, free in scrotum.

8-10 weeks prior to joining (no closer) – undertake shearing, drenching and vaccination

8 weeks before joining lupin supplement of up to 1 kg/day

Troy Fischer: 0456 230 099

Nette Fischer: 0439 933 111

[www.ashmorerams.com.au](http://www.ashmorerams.com.au)



# NEWSLETTER

August 2022



**ASHMORERAMS**

Genetics that Perform

## Ashmore Ram Sale 2022

This year's ram team are shaping up to be our best offering yet. We would like to outline a few important things to note in relation to this year's ram sale.

This year rams will be penned for inspection from 10:30am as per normal but they will not be put through the ring as part of the auction. There will be a large TV screen with a video of each lot as they come up for auction. We encourage you to not leave your selections until the point of entry in the ring as this will not take place like previous years.

Details of the sale are:

- At Ashmore, 1460 Wasleys Road, Wasleys SA
- 26th September 12.30pm, SA (CST) time
- Inspection from 10.30am
- 200 rams, Average TCP index >148
- 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 for the purchasers convenience and to minimize biosecurity risk



*This year's sale team will include 200 rams in the top 20% of all terminal rams on LAMBPLAN.*

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

- Over 30 years of measured performance
- Commitment to quality data—5 star rating
- Leading LAMBPLAN stud
- Excellent structure
- Elite eating quality genetics
- Rams are guaranteed
- Free of OJD, Brucellosis, Footrot, Lice
- Free delivery on flock rams

**Ashmore Ram Inspection Day - Sunday 4th September**

**Ashmore Ram Sale, 1460 Wasleys Rd, Wasleys - Monday 26th September**

200 Rams with average Terminal Carcase Production Index in top 20% of Terminals

Troy Fischer: 0456 230 099

| Nette Fischer: 0439 933 111

[www.ashmorerams.com.au](http://www.ashmorerams.com.au)

