



LAMPATA POLL MERINOS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Welcome to you all, 2019 was an excellent year for Lampata sheep production and breeding. Solid demand, new clients, and a great season for selling wool and sheep.

34TH ANNUAL RAM SALE

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2020 INSPECTION 11AM. SALE 1PM.

80 Poll Merino Rams Available

SHEEP

Now to the business side we decreased our flock numbers to 1930 ewes, both stud and commercial for 2020. This involved keeping our 6½yo in a separate flock and retaining a small portion of the ewes purchased in 2018. Consequently, rejuvenating the pastures has led to a reduction in flock size.

The ewes were scanned with a conception rate of 150% and it was decided to restructure the stud ewe flocks and select 200 of the best visually. The top stud flock scanned 151% and the remainder of the stud at 158% and 148% respectively.

The commercial flocks were 144% and 155%.

LAMBING 2020

Our lambing period was fantastic considering the previous few years. We averaged 111% ranging from 103% in the old ewes to 118% in the stud ewes (based on total ewes mated). These results are pleasing, considering we still lose a considerable percentage of twins through mis-mothering, in utero and to vermin, despite baiting extensively for foxes. The twins averaged 58% per flock scanned, 35% scanned single and we had a high number of triplets born. The percentage of dry ewes was 7%.



SHEEP SALES

The wether lambs were sold in August last year just after weaning as we have done in previous years. A draft of cull ram lambs was sold in May for \$195/ head "on property". The annual off-shears returned \$326 / head for 300 1½ year old ewes and \$312 / head for 200 respectively, which was extremely pleasing.

The ewe hoggets were purchased by new and repeat buyers, showing confidence in our selection. We are delighted our clients also had good results in the Lameroo market and Naracoorte BL 1st cross sale. The current prices being paid are outstanding and producers are happily accepting them.

SHEARING MANAGEMENT

COVID19 has caused volatility in the wool market. We have continued with our six-monthly shearing as a management tool for the 19th season now. Our ewe hoggets are now shorn as lambs in September, again in late April and early September prior to sale of the surplus stock in October.

Lambing is certainly easier, and we have little fly trouble. The increased costs are reduced by not having to crutch and there is more wool grown. We are managing to get acceptable length wools and the VM needs to be below 1% if possible.

The Lampata clip details will be posted as they have been in previous years at the ram sale.

CONTAINMENT MANAGEMENT

All young stock was put in containment pens, being fed with a trail mix for the ewe lambs and feeders for the rams after classing and shearing. We are still feeding hay and grain to some stock. Season-wise we consider ourselves fortunate compared to the experience clients from other areas have told us. Our underground water supply is priceless to us as we do not have to cart or pump water.

There has been a learning curve about feeding sheep in confinement with us achieving a good result and benefiting from great advice and support from suppliers and animal health advisors. We have managed to gain 357gms/ day with the rams on lick feeders.

The ewe lambs have been fed a set ration / day of 500 gms of barley and 1.5 kg/day of vetch and canola hay and have moved forward very nicely. So far, out of 1300 sheep in confinement, we have only had two casualties. The ewe lambs will be weighed and classed in the coming days. The types of licks and additives used is important, especially to reduce acidosis in both lots and urinary calculi in the rams.



RAMS

The rams were shorn on April 15th and classed the day before visually. They weighed 58.2kgs and the micron was 19.4, with a 3.6 SD, 18.5% CV and cut 4.1kgs for 7 months, yielding 50.9% under paddock conditions, which varied dramatically up to shearing. The length was 72mm. Full details will be available at the sale. The ewe lambs were shorn at the same time and were OFDA measured and fleece weighed and then placed into confinement pens after shearing.

We had a good ram selling season for 2019 and gained some new clients at our annual ram sale. It was pleasing these clients came our way after discussions on our future and what they can expect from using Lampata rams.



Lampata's Thomas, Courtney and Robert Pocock, Elders auctioneer Steve Doecke, Gaylia Pocock, holding grandson Hugo, Bruce Pocock, Elders Lameroo's Jaryd Finch and buyer Ben Hunt, Nalang Farms, Bordertown.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

VIEW OUR 2019 RAM SALE REPORT ON OUR WEBSITE

www.lampata.com/sales

MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

The usage of the RFID technology has certainly improved record keeping and accuracy. Classing of sheep on performance and visual traits is fantastic as is auto drafting. The ewe hogget classing used to take two days, now we complete it in just under one day. We still need to modify our sheep yards to take full advantage of the Sapien technology system.

We also had help from Paul Cousins and Rachel Chirgwin from Cousins Merino Services, to undertake measurement, testing and our flock restructuring.

CROPPING 2020

The season started extremely well, with our first major rain in January and again on Anzac Day. The year has been very good so far, with above average rains. Given the seasonal rainfall instability we can experience we were mindful to stockpile barley from harvest on farm and were fortunate to cut and store a significant quantity of replacement hay in 2019.

It was decided to increase our program and focus more on our sheep feed and hay resulting in us sowing wheat, barley, vetch, lupins and lucerne this season. A large quantity was sown to a mixture of cereals and vetch for hay and grazing to help prepare some paddocks for future cropping and pasture renovation. The technology, management and seeding techniques have come a long way in recent years. We use a combination of fertiliser and liquid additives at seeding, with no till machinery.

FAMILY

On the family front, Bruce and Gaylia have moved to Lameroo.

Robert, Courtney and the boys live on the farm now. The next generation has moved forward, and we are delighted to see them thrive and continue to build upon our family's long farming history.

THANK YOU

Finally, to Ian and Wendy Turner, a big thank you for your input over many years. Your business "Superior Selections" has been of great benefit to us and journalistic abilities at managing our promotions have been much appreciated.

We welcome Tegan Buckley, Mallee Marketing, as our new PR and Marketing Manager.

We wish all our clients the best for the remainder of 2020 and a prosperous 2021.

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