



# LAMPATA POLL MERINOS

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 2021**

Welcome to you all, 2020 was an excellent year for Lampata sheep production and breeding. Solid demand, new clients, and a great season for selling wool and sheep. The cropping season was brilliant also.

## 35TH ANNUAL RAM SALE

**TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021 INSPECTION 11AM. SALE 1PM.**

## 80 Poll Merino Rams Available

### **SHEEP**

Now to the business side. We decreased our flock numbers to 1875 ewes, Both stud and commercial for 2021. We have continued to run all our old ewes separate (6 1/2yo) to let us push our genetic turnover rate in both our stud a commercial flocks. Rejuvenating the pastures has been a priority yet a challenge for 2021 due to the late break and dry profile only receiving 55mm to the end of May of which only 9 for April / May combined. The ewes were scanned with a conception rate of 142.2%. The top stud flock scanned 146% and the remainder of the stud at 136%. The commercial flocks were 142% and 150%. The overall splits were 52.5% twin bearing, 37.3% single bearing.

### **LAMBING 2021**

Our lambing period was very dry considering the previous few years. We averaged 96%, ranging from 91% in the old ewes to 97% in the stud ewes (based on total ewes mated). These results are pleasing, considering the feed on offer during the lambing period.

This season we trialed lambing some twin bearing ewes in the containment feedlot with interesting results. We had two pens of 50 ewes in pens designed to hold 500hd. They were fed an adlib balanced ration of grain and hay.

The results were pleasing compared to their respective mobs in the paddock.

Most noticeable was the condition of the lambs and ewes at lamb marking where they were put back into pasture with the other ewes. Survival of lambs in the feedlot was better than thought as we had heard of others having horrible experiences, There was roughly 15-20% increase in lamb survival in containment compared to their respective mobs in the paddock. The lambs will be monitored at weaning to see if they are still heavier and will be monitored as yearlings when we are collecting fleece and body data. Due to the tougher season, we also marked early and have about 40 late lambs yet to be marked and counted.



## CONTAINMENT MANAGEMENT

All young stock were put into containment pens to maintain feed and soil cover for the autumn as we knew that it would be needed for the lambing ewes. This has become a major part of our enterprise as an increase in ground cover has speed the recovery from short term drought immensely. The ewe lambs and pregnant ewes were fed a ration mix and the ram lambs were put on lick feeders after classing and shearing.

## 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 \$185 / head "on property". The annual off-shears returned \$300 / head for 263 1½ year old ewes and \$295 / head for 231 respectively, which was pleasing. The sale was run in conjunction with Auctions Plus and normal auction in Lameroo due to Covid19. 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

COVID 19 has caused volatility in the wool market. We have continued with our six-monthly shearing as a management tool for the 20th season now. Our ewe hoggets are now shorn as lambs in September, again in March with all other sheep. 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.

**All sheep are being supplementary fed due to the poor season and are continuing to show and prove their resilience. We are very proud of what they have done in decile one season and with careful management and monitoring we believe we can still extract even better results from them.**



**Lampata Poll Merinos are within top 5% in breach wrinkle according to our Flock Profile Report results conducted in September 2020.**





## RAMS

The rams were shorn early this year on March 4th and classed Feb 4th visually. They weighed 58.2kgs and the micron was 19.1, with a 3.3 SD, 17.3% CV and cut 3.5kgs for 6 months, yielding 57% under paddock conditions (entire draft), which varied dramatically up to shearing. The length was 60mm. 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 2020 and gained some new clients at our annual ram sale. The rams were penned differently with some being tethered on halters. It was pleasing these clients came our way after discussions on our future and what they can expect from using Lampata rams.

## CROPPING 2020-2021

The season has been extremely poor so far, with rainfall only at 100mm (just 9mm for April/May). 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 2020. Our harvest in 2020 was one of our best in many years.

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 medics this season.

## MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

We purchased a new Te Pari sheep handler this year, replacing our older Te Pari. 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 classing our flock.

## FAMILY

On the family front, Bruce and Gaylia have moved to Lameroo in 2020 and 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.

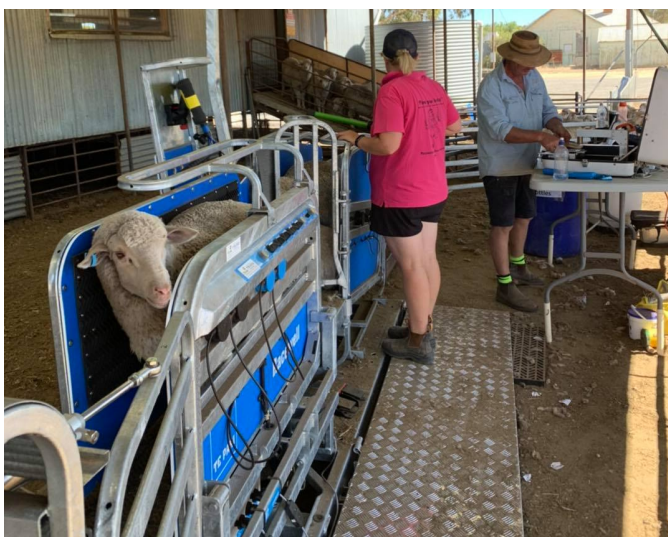


Double top priced rams Lot 13 and lot 20: Thomas and Robert Pocock, Lampata Poll Merinos, Boyd Packer, Mundulla, Nalang Farms, Steve Doecke, Elders Keith, Jarryd Finch, Elders Lameroo, Bruce Pocock, Lampata Poll Merinos, Ray and David Elleway, Kielpa.



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.

We have also purchased a clay delver to help with our soil amelioration program, we are aiming to improve the carrying and production capacity of shallower sands.







**We wish all our clients the best for the remainder of 2021 and a prosperous 2022!**

## **CONTACT US**

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