



2011 Sale Rams

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The previous 12 months will certainly go down in the history books as a year to remember. I am almost certain that everyone reading this would have experienced one of the wettest spring and summers that they can remember.

Never before in my farming career have prices for the commodities that we produce been so buoyant. Demand for lamb, mutton and wool has pushed values to historic highs.

I am sure that everyone who persevered with their stock through the last disappointing few years was hoping for some upward movement in wool prices. No one could have predicted that it would happen to the extent that has been seen. All indicators show that the wool prices we are seeing at present will persist well into the future.

Clients who have sold wool in the past few months have seen their wool clips double in value. From a stud perspective, it is pleasing to see that the emphasis that we have placed on fibre diameter reduction and wool style in the past is now paying off for all of our ram clients. The drive to maximise the profitability of our bloodline continues at full speed.

Last year we saw a 25% increase in ram sales. Half of this increase was due to larger ram orders from existing clients the remaining half from new business. We are working as hard as we can to increase our stud ewe base to cope with any future rise in demand.

We will be offering 800 2010 drop rams for sale this spring.

I would like to thank Craig Wilson, John Driscoll and Pat Drew for their support and friendship. Lastly I would like to acknowledge your continued support, friendship and loyalty.

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Open Day 16th September 2011

Once again we will be holding our Open Day at Pastora on the 16th of September. This year we will display our AI ewes for the first time, along with their progeny.

Stud rams will also be penned as well as a random selection of both of our commercial grades. The commercial rams will be for sale on the day to any prospective new clients.

I must emphasise to our existing clients and to those who selected rams last year at the field day, please contact myself or your representative to organise selection on a different date. We feel that ram selection should be a pleasant experience, without pressure and with the time to make good decisions.

The introduction of a helmsmen auction for stud rams worked well last year. This provided an opportunity for stud breeders and commercial clients to purchase high quality specially selected poll rams. Blue Chip Livestock will conduct this auction again and we will offer ten rams under this system.

By no means am I endeavouring to move away from private selection of our grade rams. I believe that apart from breeding quality sheep, time spent on an individual basis in the yards selecting your rams is one of the most important parts of our business.



2 - Pastora Newsletter

Micron Testing & Fleece Weighing

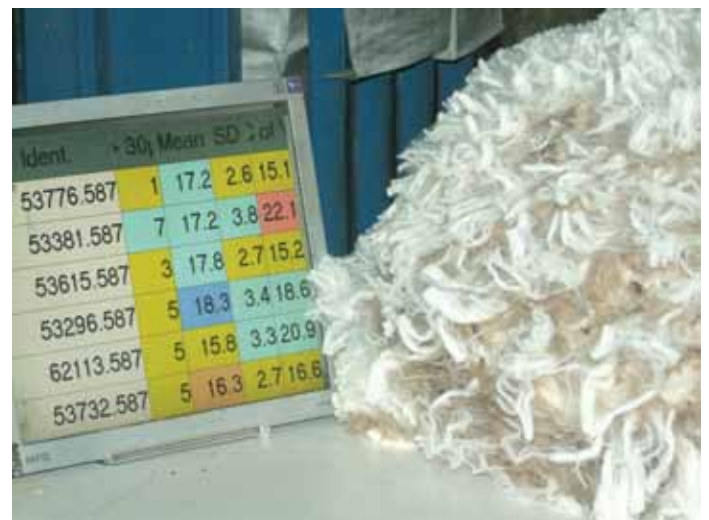
As standard practice, our stud ewes are micron tested prior to classing at about 15 months of age. In the past a micron tag is then placed in the sheep's ear which they carry for life.

To test the accuracy of this method we decided, with the aid of an in shed micron tester, to retest all the breeding ewes at shearing in June. These ewes are now lambing. The cross referencing from their old micron tags to the new measurements will occur once the lambs are weaned. Fleece weights were taken from all these ewes at shearing as well.

The wool from all 3400 ewes was sold in July averaging \$70 per head (11 months growth). Given the range of values from any given flock I would expect the better ewes are cutting in excess of \$100.



At the next classing each sheep will be given a monetary value according to its micron and fleece weight. We will rank them accordingly. The ewes with highest values per head will be identified and added to our elite group for use with our best rams.



Ident.	30	Mean	SD	Vol
53776.587	1	17.2	2.6	15.1
53381.587	7	17.2	3.8	22.1
53615.587	3	17.8	2.7	15.2
53296.587	5	18.3	3.4	18.6
62113.587	5	15.8	3.3	20.9
53732.587	5	16.3	2.7	16.6

Westblade Scholarship



A scholarship honouring my late father is in the process of being established. The key objectives of the Westblade Scholarship inc. are to maintain the extraordinary qualities that Dad displayed throughout his life.

To get the Scholarship underway a fundraiser was held during the Merino Challenge dinner at Temora on Thursday April 7th, 2011.

It was a huge success and raised \$30,000 at short notice. It was great to see people bidding on items to well above their value and donations of items streaming from the floor as the auction progressed.

This Scholarship is for a young person with an interest in the sheep and wool industry and will provide them with the tools to gain a better understanding of the industry and the potential exposure to related employment. The successful nominee will be announced at the Peter Westblade Memorial Merino Challenge (PWMMC) dinner held at Temora in March 2012 and will receive mentoring plus training and be provided with opportunities and resources.

To make the scholarship an annual event the committee is seeking further donations.

Anyone wishing to donate can do so by making their donation to the Westblade Scholarship at any Moses and Son Branch. In addition smaller lots of wool (butts and bags) can be donated to the scholarship through your nearest Moses and Son branch.

Electronic Identification

All of our stud ewes were tagged with micro-chip tags before shearing in June. We have purchased a touch screen indicator, tag reader, bar code printer and scanner. We are also investigating software programs which will best suit our needs. This equipment will allow us to record the full pedigree data gathered from our elite group of ewes more accurately. We are now tracing each lamb to its mother and father in this group.

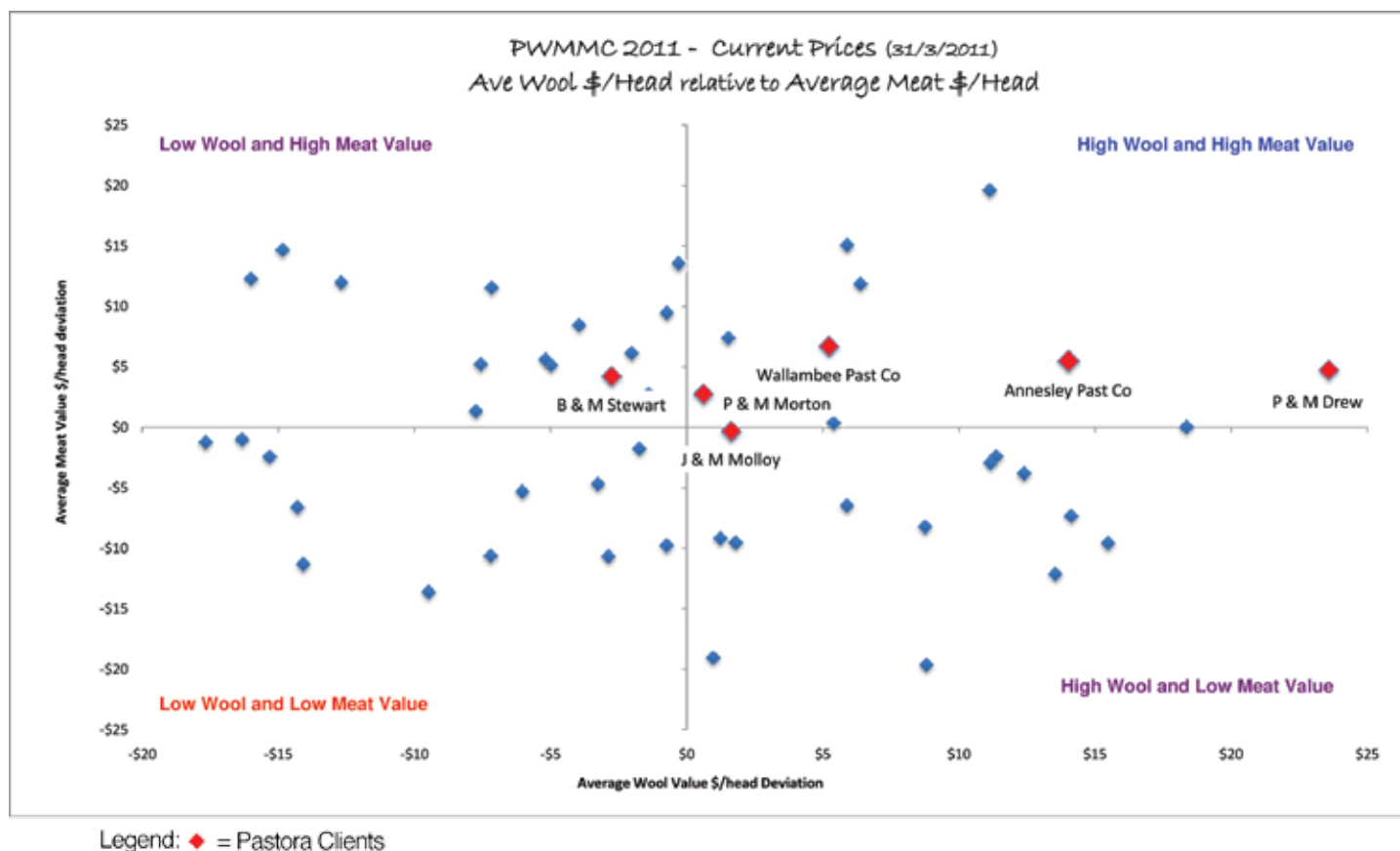
In addition, this equipment will aid in the recording of the DNA data collected from our syndicate matings to identify the sires. It will also simplify the traditional data that has always been recorded i.e. fleece weight, body weights, micron and conception.

Wether Trials

Currently three Pastora clients are participating in the Bookham wether trial. After the first shearing they are placed 5th, 10th and 28th. There are 33 teams competing in this trial. In addition, two teams are participating in the Ovens Valley wether trial in north east Victoria. Out of 25 teams they are placed 2nd and 9th after the first shearing.

Thank you to everyone that has entered sheep in these trials. I can't think of a better way to show how our genetics can perform.

Merino Challenge



The table above shows the outstanding results that Pastora clients achieved in both the meat & wool challenges.

The first shearing of the Peter Westblade Memorial Merino Challenge was conducted on the 7th and 8th of April 2011. The trial consists of 50 teams of 30 wethers sourced from most of the major wool growing regions of Australia. Two groups of 750 wethers made up the meat and wool challenge components of the PWMMC.

The wool challenge wethers were run at a stocking rate of 12 wethers per hectare. The net profit per hectare within the 50 teams ranged from \$479 up to \$965 which was achieved by Pat & Marion Drew's team, 102% higher than the bottom team.

IF YOUR AGRONOMIST TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD GROW 102% MORE CANOLA OR WHEAT, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



Client News

The highest individual wool price that I have seen reported so far this year has been achieved by **Duncan Clowes from Milthorpe**.

Duncan's wool microned 16.7u and yielded 76% with a staple strength of 43. This resulted in a wool price of 1946 cents per kilogram greasy. Duncan breeds his own rams but based primarily on Pastora genetics. He currently has wethers entered in the Merino Challenge at Temora. The average micron of his team was 16.6u with a fleece value of \$78.15 per head. These results gave him third highest wool value in the trial using the spot price at the time of shearing. Well done mate it appears that you are better at growing quality wool than you are at finding your way to a wether trial!!



Above right: Duncan Clowes

Damien and Bryony Hosie recently sold the wool off their ewe weaners to an average price of \$54.20 per head. These young ewes were only nine and a half months old at the time of shearing. Their full wool results are listed on the table below.

Lot no	Ref no	Bales	Description	Mic	VM	SD Yield	Staple Test Information						Greasy Kg	Clean Price	Sale Price
							SL	COV	SS	T	M	B			
302	188244	4	AAAM	16.5	0.9	69.1	83	771	39	23	51	26	771	2,732	1,888
303	188243	2	AAAM	16.4	1.0	67.8	76	370	40	22	69	9	370	2,662	1,805
901	188242	3	M PCS	15.8	1.3	71.2	68	441	32	43	51	6	441	1,952	1,390
Total sold		9	Av net kg/bale	176		Av gross/bale	3,041		Av gross/kg	1,730	cents				

Damien and Bryony currently have wethers entered in the Bookham wether trial and are placed tenth after the first shearing. Given that merino studs hold four positions in the top ten at this trial the Hosies are right up there as commercial producers. Well done.

Rick and Pam Martin from Borambola sold the wool off all their adult sheep for an average price of \$2200 per bale. The top fleece line was 17.6 micron, yielded 74.6 and sold for 1395 cents per kilo or \$2645 per bale. This wool sold on the 13th of January when the market was at much lower levels than present. Well deserved considering the effort that the Martins have put into their stock.



Pastora ewe weaners joined at seven months of age due to lamb 20th August.



Above: Left to right: Jacinta, Hayden, Jeremy, Owen & Luke

Upcoming Events

Open Day

16th September, 10.00am onward
Helmsman auction commencing at 12.30pm
Pastora Woolshed

Henty Field Day Display

20th, 21st & 22nd September
Merino Stud Breeders Tent
Next to the eastern entrance

Orange National Field Day Display

18th, 19th & 20th October
Located in the shearing Shed

Private Ram Selection

Mid September onward

On farm inspection

Welcome all year round

