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Message from Tim Westblade

With rainfall patterns improving, the prospects of a better spring are increasing which is a welcome reprieve on the past few seasons.

Lamb and mutton prices are at an all time high. With the national sheep population at 68 million and average National lamb marking percentage at 78% it will take years for sheep numbers to rebuild. Surplus sheep sales should therefore remain buoyant well into the future. Our sheep are well-placed to reap the rewards of these high prices considering the average lambing percentage of Pastora flocks last year was 99.5%.

Fourteen of our clients are currently entered in wether trials throughout NSW & VIC. As we do little formal advertising the success of our stud is directly linked to the quality of sheep in the trials. I openly encourage client participation and question the quality of stock from studs that do not enter these trials. One such trial recently launched by Craig Wilson and Moses and Son is named in memory of my father, "The Peter Westblade Memorial Wether Trial". Several of our clients have entered this trial. It will be interesting to see the results over the next two years as they are compiled.

Last year's Open Day was a huge success for us with more than 100 people in attendance throughout the day. This year's Open Day, 17th September will be run in much the same format.

We strongly encourage those who selected rams last year at the Field day to contact either myself or your representative to organise a private selection after the field day.

The 2 grades of rams on offer at the Field day, will be a random selection of the sale rams and this allows new clients to purchase on the day.

Lastly I'd like to thank all those people who helped me in some way throughout the year. Your help is invaluable and important to the continued success of Pastora Poll Merino's.



Crowd inspecting the wethers entered in the PWMWT at Collingullie, August 2010



2009 drop sale rams taken mid August 2010

*Semen purchased from
Coromandel Poll Merino
Stud...107 lambs now on the
ground by Sir Thomas 7.002*



*Ewes with 2010 drop lambs. Photo mid
August 2010*

*DNA Technology will
compliment our selection
system to maximize
genetic gain.*



*From L to R: West Wyalong
Ewe Comp winners Graham
and Colin Reid with some of
their winning ewes.*

AI Program

Breeding Values are currently being compiled from the AI Program completed in January 2009. We inseminated ewes to several of our rams and 2 external rams. It was pleasing to note that our rams have compared well to the external genetics. The progeny of this program will be for sale this spring with ASBV data available.

Last November our stud consultant Craig Wilson and I visited several Poll merino studs in Western Australia. We decided to use semen from Coromandel Sir Thomas 7.002. This ram will provide us with great linkage to the wider industry. In January we inseminated 100 ewes with this semen and now have 107 lambs on the ground.

Progeny Testing

Past progeny testing has been conducted at Pastora using either AI or single mating. Both methods can come with associated problems in regards to lambing percentages.

Over its history Pastora has been using syndicate mating to maximise the number of lambs per ram. The introduction of DNA technology will allow us to identify/cross-match our elite ewes and rams and given time it will speed up the genetic gain that we currently receive.

Gene Marker Technology is also on the horizon and Pastora is well placed to add this to our selection process.

Ewe Competitions

Once again congratulations to **Colin & Graham Reid** who won the West Wyalong Ewe Comp earlier this year with a line of maiden ewes. The wool of their maiden ewes averaged 18.82 micron cutting 7.6kgs. The Reid's also achieved a lambing percentage of 101%.

Damien & Bryonny Hosie finished second in the Henty Ewe Comp. A great result on their first attempt. Their entire breeding ewes cut 6.5kgs of wool with fleece lines averaging 17.9u. They also achieved a lamb marking percentage of 118%.

Steve Jarvis and Lydia Whittmann took out top ten in the Boorowa Ewe Comp. Their maiden ewes yielded 68.3% & measured 16.6 micron at their most recent shearing.

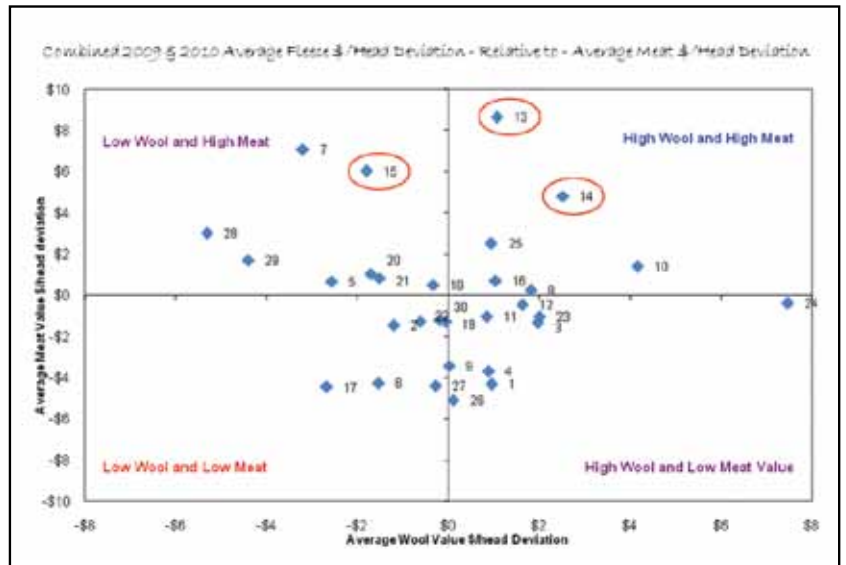


Wether Trials

Pastora clients continued to achieve outstanding results, most recently in the Craig Wilson Livestock Wether Trial 2008-2010 run at Paling Yards, Taralga, North of Goulburn.

Consisting of 30 teams of 30 wethers the trial was designed to evaluate teams both per head and in terms of net returns per hectare. Given high stocking rates the constitution of the Pastora blood teams was excellent. Carcass traits again shone through with all of the Pastora teams in the top four.

The wether trial at Paling Yards was the largest and most comprehensive trial in the nation and it is very pleasing to see the Pastora clients continuing to excel in commercial conditions.



Teams 13, 14 and 15 are client's sheep and they highlight the Pastora balance of meat and wool values.

Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre Lamb & Sheep Sale 10/06/2010

Merino Lambs	Agents	No.	\$/HD	Micron	GFW	Fleece Value	Total Value
Keajura Pastoral Co. Tarcutta	(Elders)	96	\$130	17.6			
L & H Terlich, French Park	(HLB & Co.)	95	\$127	17.8	3.86kg	\$25.28	\$152.28
T P Westblade	(HLB & Co.)	133	\$126.20	15.7	3.54kg	\$24.63	\$150.83
Driscoll JT, The Rock	(GJ Hulm)	91	\$126.00	17.0	3.9kg	\$26.30	\$152.30
Kelenlea Partners, The Rock	(H. Francis)	126	\$125.60	17.15	3.83kg	\$26.10	\$151.70

Taken from The Rural, Week ending Friday, June 18, 2010, Micron, GFW, Fleece Value & Total Value added. This table shows the top five price result from the June 10 Wagga sale. All are Pastora bloodline sheep.

Matt & Geoff McLean of Boree Creek are consistently achieving outstanding results with their surplus sheep. They recently sold their CFA ewes through the wagga sale yards for an average of \$122. The results of their wether lambs sold over the hooks are listed on the table below (skin values included in total price).

Year	Average Age	Dressed Wt.	Price/Kg	Price
2008	8mths	22.1kg	2.66	\$66.32
2009	8.5mths	20.05kg	3.29	\$70.22
2010	8mths	24.1kg	4.08	\$107



L to R: Hayden, Jeremy, 'May' (the dog), Jacinta & Luke checking out the 2010 drop lambs!

Upcoming Events

Open Day

17th September, 10am to 2pm
Pastora Woolshed

Henty Machinery Field Days

21st, 22nd & 23rd September
Merino Stud Breeders Tent

Orange National Field Days

19th, 20th & 21st October
Located in the Shearing Shed

Private Sales

Mid September onwards

On farm inspections welcome all year round

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*You are invited to the
Pastora Poll Merinos
Open Day, on
September 17.*



"I wonder if Mum & Dad would notice if I took one home"