



21st Annual Ida Vale Production Sale

15th October 2014 1pm
Kojonup Showgrounds

72 White Dorper Rams

30 Dorper Rams

87 White Suffolk Rams



Brucella ovis accredited flock OVAC # 276
All rams OJD vaccinates
ALL RAM PURCHASES RECEIVE A BOTTLE OF
WINE TO CELEBRATE OUR 21ST SALE.



IDA VALE'S BREEDING PROGRAM

The Ida Vale breeding program aims to breed profitable sires for commercial prime lamb production with structural soundness and confirmation. We do this by utilising practical experience, industry knowledge, LAMBPLAN and by observing our own prime lambs from an 8,000 shedding ewe flock.

Ida Vale uses LAMBPLAN to provide accurate information on the genetic merit of individual animals in our flock. In LAMBPLAN, performance and pedigree information is combined to give Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's). ASBV's are calculated from systematic combinations of performance information on individuals plus their relatives. They are expressed as the difference between an individual's genetic merit and the genetic base to which the animal is compared.

Australian Sheep Breeding Values are provided in this catalogue for six main traits:

Birth Weight (BWT): estimates the genetic difference between animals in live weight at birth.

Weaning Weight (WWT): estimates the genetic difference between animals in live weight at 100 days.

Post Weaning Weight (PWWT): estimates the genetic difference between animals in live weight at 225 days.

Fat (PFat): estimates the genetic difference of GR fat depth at 45kg live weight.

Eye Muscle Depth (PEMD): estimates the genetic difference of eye muscle depth at the C site in a 45kg live weight animal.

Worm Egg Count (PFEC): estimates the genetic difference in animals in worm burden at 225 days of age.

SELECTING AN INDIVIDUAL RAM USING ASBV'S FOR YOUR MARKET SPECIFICATIONS

Step 1. Understand your market requirements / specifications

Example:

Market Specifications: 22 - 24 Kg carcass and 2 fat score, positive muscling

Marketing Option: Over the Hook on the Grid

Dams: Medium framed Merino ewes

Step 2. Select the most appropriate ASBV's for your market requirements.

It's **extremely important** to check the individual ASBV's to select your ram(s):

* Birth Weight EBV (BWT)

This trait is becoming increasingly important as birth weight is positively correlated with post weaning weight. This means as post weaning weight ASBV's increase there tends to be a slight increase in birth weight ASBV's. To overcome this phenomenon producers should aim to select rams with lower birth weight ASBV's compared to the current years terminal sire average.

* Weaning Weight ASBV (WWT)

The higher the ASBV figure the better for superior earlier growth (100 days) of lambs.

* Post Weight ASBV (PWWT)

The higher the ASBV figure the better for superior later growth (225 days) of lambs.

* Post Weaning Fat ASBV (PFAT)

The general rule is the higher the growth rate of the ram the less emphasis may be placed on Post weaning fat.

Factors where **increasingly positive ASBV's** for fat are possibly required;

- Extremely lean dams e.g. Finns and East Friesians.
- Lambs have trouble "finishing" at the desired market weight

Factors where **increasingly negative ASBV's** for fat are possibly required;

- Fatter type dams e.g. Crossbreeds
- Lambs are commonly marketed at 8 – 11 months of age
- Heavier carcass weights (24+ Kg DWT)
- Lambs often receive a discount due to excessive fat.

Note: Please ensure your selected ram(s) fit into your target market as each individual producer's requirements will be slightly different depending on their individual circumstances.

***Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth (PFAT)**

This trait is especially important for producers involved in over the hook (OTH) sales of elite carcasses that require a positive grade for muscling. They will need to select animals with above average post weaning eye muscle depth ASBV's compared to the current years Terminal Sire average in an effort to help meet the market specifications.

***Post Weaning Worm Egg Counts (PWEC)**

This trait is especially important for producers who wish to decrease their future reliance on chemicals. Select those animals with a *negative* PWEC.

Step 3. Check if an Index is appropriate to your market requirements.

* Lambplan's LAMB 2020 places 8% of selection index on Birth Weight, 24% on Weaning Weight, 25% on Post Weaning Weight, 9% Post Weaning Weight 22% on Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth and 12% on Post Weaning Worm Egg Count. This selection index ranks animals on their ability to produce heavy, lean and well muscled progeny suitable for the **elite lamb market** ~ lambs greater than 22 kg carcass weight with a fat score of 2 – 3 where worms may be of significant challenge to lamb production. Progeny are expected to be marketed at **5 - 8 months** of age. Ida Vale now selects and breeds using this selection index.

* Lambplan's **Carcass PLUS** places 65 % of the emphasis on Post Weaning Weight, 5% is placed on Post Weaning Fat and 30% is placed on Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth. This selection index ranks animals on their ability to produce heavy, lean and well muscled progeny suitable for the **elite lamb market** ~ lambs greater than 22 kg carcass weight with a fat score of 2 – 3. Progeny are expected to be marketed at **5 - 8 months** of age.

- If one of the above indices is similar to your target market you can use this Index to help screen your previously selected rams. Select those with *higher* values.
- If your production system is **significantly different** (i.e. requires *positive* fat ASBV's, earlier or later turn off, lighter or heavier carcass weights) go to step 4.

Step 4: Final assessment

The ASBV figures are important and an index (LAMB 2020 or Carcass Plus) can be useful, but they are only a tool in helping you select the best ram(s) suited to your production system. Therefore, you should always check that the animal meets your requirements for maturity pattern, conformation and structural correctness.

Finally, remember if you are unsure **please don't hesitate to ask**.