

Trial News

Elders Balmoral Victoria Sire Evaluation

Summary of Pregnancy Scanning Results for Elders Victoria Sire Evaluation 2006 drop

"Tuloona", 5th May 2006

Sire Identity	Sire Colour	Ewes with singles	Ewes with twins	Ewes with triplets	Dry Ewes / Pregnant to Backup	Missing at scanning	No of tags used at AI	No of lambs expected	% lambs out of ewes present for scanning
Avington 03-086	Maroon	27	11		21		59	49	83%
Bindawarra 0400	Purple	24	15		19	1	59	54	93%
Goodwood BW1143/01 *	White	27	9		22	1	59	45	78%
Hazeldean 1.10014	Blue with white	35	9		14	1	59	53	91%
Hyfield 3723	Black	31	11		16	1	59	53	91%
Kerrsville SY 21108 *	Grey	30	13		16		59	56	95%
Melrose TD696-03	Olive	16	4		38	1	59	24	41%
Merinotech Vic 041629	Blue with black	19	10		30		59	39	66%
Pastora Blk 800	Light green	28	17	1	12		58	65	112%
Pleasant Park HS Blck tag	Orange	26	14	2	17		59	60	102%
The Mountain Dam 04/NAH015	Yellow	28	9		22		59	46	78%
Toland Poll Yellow 1474	Pink	26	5	2	26		59	42	71%
Tuloona Pastoral Co 2047	Dark green	27	7		24	1	59	41	71%
Windarra 04/0236	Red	20	10		29		59	40	68%
No ewes with each type of pregnancy		364	144	5	306	6	825	667	
No of lambs expected from AI		364	288	15	0	0	667		
Conception rate to AI							81%		

* Link Sire



A Word From Our Chairman

Tom Silcock



The Elders Balmoral Sire Evaluation Committee is to be congratulated for their input and support that keeps our Site as one of the most active and leaders in Australia.

Thank you to those that keep putting in so well and to all the Committee for their comradeship. Special thanks to our Secretary, Tania Rentsch for her assistance and ongoing enthusiasm.

Our Committee continues to maintain pressure to ensure the results generated from our site provide practical relevance to our site and participants. In a world of science and theories, this can be challenging.

Thank you to Sue Jarvis and Stephen Silcock for representing our site at the recent National Meetings.

Our gratitude is extended to the Cant family for their generosity in hosting the last two trials that are well underway. Barry Mathews (Manager) has been a very energetic member of our Committee.

With the first lambing due shortly at our new trial and host property, Tuloona, we thank Michael Craig for making his property available.

At a time when seasons and wool markets could all be better, we thank Elders for their support and fantastic participation as we strive to find ways to better the industry in such a great collaborative way.

Tom Silcock

Update on 2004, 2005 & 2006 Drops

2004 Drop

First assessment report has been published (available on request)
Second visual assessment, mid-side sampling and shearing have been completed
Body weighing to be completed later this month

2005 Drop

First visual assessment, mid-side sampling and shearing have been completed
Body weighing to be completed later this month
First assessment report to be published later this year.

2006 Drop

Brecon Breeders completed the AI in March
Ewes are now in their lambing groups (sire groups, twins & singles)
Lambing due to start 4 August 2006

Arundale Host property 2004-2005



The past 3 months have seen the paddocks turn from bare brown to green in April, May to a yellow-brown in June. But thankfully showers in the past few weeks have brightened things up, the feed is starting to grow again and the stock are still in good condition after being supplementary fed through this period.

On March 18th to progeny from each sire of the 2004-05 drops were taken to the Balmoral show, a lot of interest was shown in this display.

The Trial Field Day was held at Arundale in April with David Sackett as the key speaker and 1100 sheep from 32 sires on display. A very successful day with approximately 50 people attending.

Both groups were classed, mid-side sampled and drenched in June with the shearing being completed in early July.

Barry Matthews

Participating Studs in 2006

Avington	Hazeldean	Hyfield	Bindawarra	Melrose	Pleasant Park
The Mountain Dam	Toland Poll	Windarra	Merinotech	Tuloona	
	Kerrsville	Goodwood	Pastora Black		

Tuloona Pastoral Company Host Property 2006 - 2007

Here at Harrow the season has gone from amazing to depressing with the driest May and June period on record, and thrown in, a run of 12 frosts. Feed carts have been pulled out again and our 06 Sire Evaluation Ewes have been fed up to 3kg grain per week in the month prior to lambing. On diminishing feed the ewes have maintained a condition score of 3+ and the ability to target feed for twinning ewes has come in very handy. The average conception rate at ultra sounding was 81%. The ewes are broken up into their sire lambing groups, 28 paddocks in total with singles and twins for each sire. The ewes will commence lambing around the 4th August and hopefully the season is showing signs of turning round.

Michael Craig

*Results for each assessment from 1998
– 2004 are available on request.*

Norbrook 

Elders VP Victoria Sire Evaluation Group Committee Contacts

Tom Silcock (Chairman) Ph 03 5388 2238 Fax 03 5388 2235

Robert Plush	Ph/Fax 03 55750208
Robert Close	Ph 03 5570 4238 Fax 03 5570 4234
Sue & Hugh Jarvis	Ph. 03 5574 3298 Fax 03 5574 3299
David Whyte	Mobile 0407 347 203
Stephen Silcock	Ph. 03 5574 3202 Fax 03 5574 3239
Colin & Jill Frawley	Ph 03 5578 6334
Barry Matthews	Ph 03 5570 1314 Fax 03 5570 1311
Michael Craig	Ph 03 55881395 Fax 03 55881394

Tania Rentsch (Manager) c/- David Rendell & Assoc
Office Ph 03 55721419 AH 03 55765051
Fax 03 55721417 Mobile 0409 895 556
Email: manager@balmoralbreeders.com

Classing of the 2005 Drop Elders Victoria Sire Evaluation Group

Over the years having been an interested follower and sometimes helper of the Sire Evaluation it was a pleasure to be asked back to the Balmoral District to class the 2005 drop Sire Evaluation group of sheep.

Credit must go to the host property 'Arundale' where Barry Matthews and his team have done a wonderful job in presenting the sheep in a manner that was a credit to them.

As we all know seasonal conditions have not been favourable across Southern Australia in recent times and the Balmoral area has not been immune to these conditions.

The 2005 drop was born into some pretty harsh conditions with a short spring and a dry summer. The vast majority of the drop were very even in size and were in very good condition. It was amazing to see that most of the sheep were quite similar although they came from 15 different sires. Environment and management must have played a large role.

The approach was to look at the 2005 drop on a commercial basis so that they fitted the criteria of what the host property 'Arundale' were trying to achieve.

Wool types were in the range of mostly 64S to 70S with mainly best topmaking types and some spinner's types. The brightness and evenness of the

wools were good with most showing very good character all over the animal.

The overall makeup of most of the drop was of good shape, outlook, depth and constitution. Very few had shoulder, wither or back problems. The feet were quite good overall with most being score 3 or better.

There were limited amount of culls with most of the sheep going into the flock criteria and some put up into the tops.

Overall using the classing criteria set down by the group made it easy to do the classing of the sheep.

I am sure that some of the sheep that this year were classed as flocks could next year go up into the top group.

I was very pleased with the group and look forward to how they present next year.

Once again I would like to thank the committee, hosts and all that helped during the classing day.

Elliot Lindley
District Wool manager
Elders Ballarat



Table 1. 2005 drop 1st Assessment - Summary of Classer's Grades

Classer: Mr Elliot Lindley, June 14th, 2006

Sire name	Tops %	Flocks %	Culls %	No of sheep assessed
Connewarran 30134	17	58	25	36
Goodwood 0056	6	81	13	31
Goodwood BW1143/01	12	79	9	34
Gringegalgona ZAC0011/01	24	76	0	25
Hannaton 202	18	65	18	34
Hazeldean Zachary 0.12946	10	79	10	29
Kilfeera Park 3.21	16	79	5	19
Kilfeera Park 6.275	0	72	28	18
Kurra-Wirra BLK38	18	61	21	33
Nerstane N78	43	52	5	21
One Oak OO No 2 3001	17	75	8	36
Ruby Hills 0188	3	69	28	32
The Grange 201112	19	63	19	27
The Mountain Dam SN77	13	70	17	23
Windarra 010838	19	62	19	21
Average	15	69	15	419



David Rendell & Assoc.

Beef Sheep

Vet Consultant

Tri-Solfen Mulesing Spray Trial

A trial was conducted by David Rendell & Associates on five Hamilton district properties in spring 2005 in collaboration with Hamilton DPI and The Hamilton and Alexander College

Lambs were weighed and randomly allocated to 2 groups control (untreated) and treated with "Tri-Solfen".

These lambs were weighed 4 - 5 weeks later.

A total of 950 lambs were in the trial.

No significant weight difference or mortality was recorded between the treated and untreated groups, with 9 (1.9%) missing at the second weighing in the treated group and 8 (1.7%) in the untreated control group.

The consensus of observations was that pain relief is probably occurring for the first few hours at least and that this difference is subtle and difficult to measure. Assessing level of pain relief with the spray is confounded by:

- * Male lambs having an elastrator ring on scrotum which leads to marked discomfort that is not affected by the use of the mulesing spray. In this trial there were both male and female lambs.
- * Marked range in pain response in untreated lambs.

The blood loss is markedly less with a 1-2 cm spread of blood onto adjacent skin versus 2-10 cm spread where unsprayed.

One collaborator reported a visually marked improvement in healing in the treated group at 13 days post mulesing.

Acknowledgements:

The substantial assistance of collaborating properties

Matt Crawford - Woodside

Mark Wootton & James Brown - Jigsaw Farms

Simon Ross - North Gums Peshurst

Mark Wendelborn - Toolang Past Company

John Maggs - DPI

Collaborating investigators Dr David Champness and Rachel Eats DPI Hamilton

Assistance with weighing by Ag Science students from The Hamilton & Alexander College

Supply of product and support from Animal Ethics manufacturers of "Tri-Solfen".



Hamilton College students Chris Day, Kate Cumming and Sam Anderson with David Rendell identifying prior to weighing the lambs at the North Gums trial.

For Further information contact David Rendell

170 Mt Baimbridge Rd
Hamilton 3300

Tel (03) 5572 1419 mobile 0417 352 321
Fax (03) 5572 1417

Email: drendell@bigpond.net.au



Forward auction contract provides a simple approach to risk management

Elders Auction Forward presents woolgrowers with a new and simple contract to more easily implement their risk management strategies according to Elders Hamilton based district wool manager Michael Connolly.

And it still allows them to use the auction system for the marketing of their clips.

Michael says Elders has been a pioneer of the wool risk management industry since the end of the reserve price scheme and the forward auction contract is the latest step in a vital part of the industry.

“Auction is a tried and true part of the wool business and very important to many of our producer clients so it has been one of our goals to combine that demand with the benefits of hedging,” Michael says.

“This program combines the best of both auction and forward selling,” he says.

“Its contract has been set out in very clear and easy to understand style and it is readily accessible to all growers without the hassle of margin calls or bank guarantees.

“Any member of the Elders wool team can help facilitate this contract and provide any advice or guidance you need.”

Michael says wool is still shorn and consigned as usual, and even part clips can be done without having to decide in the shearing shed which bales to deliver.

He says by using Elders Auction Forward growers can control the price of their wool but remain within the auction system.

“Their clips can still be tested and then the best fit for the contract can be determined,” Michael added.

“And using the new contract does not change grower access to essential Elders support services such as shearing and merchandise advances,” he says.

Michael says by using Elders Auction Forward growers can lock in a price up to two years in advance, plus the option to alter their nominated auction date if they choose.

He says users of Elders Auction Forward also have the flexibility to deliver any lines of wool and their premiums and discounts are determined by the auction system itself.

After the sale the grower receives one direct proceeds payment at settlement along with an easy-to-understand statement.

In Elders Auction Forward the final settlement price is simply the contract “base price” plus the performance of an individual clip against the relevant micron price guide (MPG) on auction day. This is referred to as the basis.

The forward settlement price is simply the base price plus the basis.

For example, if a grower hedges 2000 kilograms of 21 micron wool using an Elders Auction Forward contract with a chosen maturity date of October 23, the week they generally sell at auction, they can lock in an auction forward base price of 1025 c/kg.

The average clean price received in the auction is 963 c/kg and the AWEX 21 MPG is 950 c/kg.

By subtracting the MPG from the average auction price the grower has a 13 c/kg basis.

The settlement price is determined by base price plus basis – in this case 1025 c/kg + 13 c/kg – to arrive at a settlement price 1038 c/kg.

In a falling market the client has been protected by their locked in forward price and benefited from a further 13 c/kg premium which totals a 75 c/kg return above the auction price on the day.

Michael says using the same quantity under the same conditions in a rising market allows the grower to access the better prices through the same equation and puts their final settlement price 15 c/kg ahead of the auction price.

“This is an innovative and exciting option that combines the tradition of the auction system, that has been a cornerstone of our industry for more than 100 years, with the surety of a controlled cashflow situation,” he says.

“It is all about working with our clients to help them maximise their returns.”

Further details are available from

Michael Connolly, Elders district wool manager, on (5572266).

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