December 2016

Balmoral Sire Evaluation Group

Trial News

www.balmoralbreeders.com.au

In this edition:

From the Chairman

As we call for entries to our next trial, we welcome the return to a wet season in Western Victoria, where those with experience of farming more than 20 years ago, welcome a return of much forgotten norms, while those with less than 20 years in the game, are learning a whole new set of experiences.

With so many wet days, many recent genetic infusions are being challenged and tested. Our trial sheep are exhibiting more fleece rot and dermatitis than I can recall seeing previously, while some are standing up well. We have gone from a massive feed and water shortage last year, to an abundance of both. Shearing and crutching has seen many delays, but I'm sure we will all look back and remember this year as one that produced a great drop of sheep. Highs in sheep and wool sales along with a great season will give us all one of the best.

Congratulations to all for an 81% lambs born to ewes joined in this years AI program. This is the last of our Merino Ewe Life Time Productivity Trial (MLP) lambings. We will be naturally joining last year's MLP ewe progeny, in the first of 5 years of MLP natural joining at Tuloona.

At the same time we have moved host properties yet again, to Mark and Jane Bunge's property "Kooringal", further south on the Coleraine /Harrow road.

Following our committee AGM, we thank Hugh Jarvis for many years as my site Deputy Chairman and look forward to still having his experienced wisdom at a committee level, but welcome Mark Bunge in to that role. We also welcome new committee members again, as the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) grows from strength to strength.

Tom Silcock and Rosey Leeming taking TSU samples from the 2015 progeny in November for DNA profiling.

I am privileged to have been recently re elected to my 6th term as Chairman of AMSEA.

Nationally, we currently have 9 trials operating, with a new one in South Australia joining shortly. Trial sites continue to be involved with the development of cutting edge technology and our site continues to engage in add on opportunities, giving committee members the use and experience of cutting edge equipment.

It is certainly an exciting time to be involved in the Merino industry and we always welcome new members as we continue to run Australia's biggest AMSEA trials.

Wishing all breeders a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a productive 2017.

Tom Silcock

Trial property update:
2015 & 2016 trials: Tuloona Pastoral Company, Harrow

Michael Craig, owner, "Tuloona"

Like everyone in western Victoria winter was wet and cold, with one of the wettest winters on record.
Despite the challenges of managing in the wet, the future of having water and feed reserves gives us optimism.
The wet conditions created some challenges for the current drop of lambs in terms of dermatitis. While in the 2015 drop progeny, a rare sight on Tuloona's sheep has shown up, green wool and fleece rot.
The plan is not to try to doctor it up and hide any problems, so when you come to the field day next March, expect to see the result of these obscure seasonal conditions created from the out cross with the Tuloona fine wool base and the sires within the trial.
The sheep are also being run under normal commercial sheep operation conditions, which will mean they will be presented in good commercial conditions, as the seasonal conditions allow.
For the 2016 Foundation Ewes of the 1632 pregnant AI ewes, 1803 lambs were marked.
After some initial "bloom loss" from some trying conditions during lamb marking, the lambs are progressing well and reached the target of weaning in early December at 12 weeks of age at an average of 25kg.
All lambs have received Eryvac and 6-in-1 vaccinations, and the ewe portion also received a Gudiar vaccination.
For management one of the long term challenges of the MLP progeny will be the variation in breech scores compared to where the Tuloona flock is after ceasing mulesing in 2007 and undergoing a long term genetic selection path.
As the progeny will be evaluated over 7 years joining, it will be interesting to observe whether the high breach score animals have lower fertility rates, which would correlate with what can be shown in the Tuloona flock with life time recording.

Michael Craig

2016 trial	Actual	*Budget*	Variation
Ewes Joined	2209	*2205*	0.2%
Ewes Preg Tested Lamb	1632	*1544*	5.7%
Feotuses Scanned	2451	*1852*	32.3%
Lambs Tagged	1803	*1667*	8.2%

2016 trial	Scanned	Tagged	Loss
Singles	858	734	14.5%
Twins	1512	1030	31.9%
Triplets	81	39	51.9%
Total	**2451**	**1803**	**26.4%**

Weaning occurred on December 5 with lambs hitting the 25kg target weaning weight. ABOVE: 2016-drop singles. BELOW: 2016-drop twins.

ABOVE: AWI MLP project manager, Anne Ramsay, and Tuloona manager, Sean Harvey (right) drafting and weighing lambs at weaning.

2015 trial results

Full results are available online at
http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/topic/Elders_Vic_2015

Table 1. AMSEA Index Values and Classer's Visual Grade

The index values reported are based on measured traits FBV performance with varying emphasis on fleece weight, fibre diameter, body weight, staple strength and worm egg count. The highest performing sires for each trait (trait leaders) are highlighted by shading.

Breeders flock, Sire name	Number of progeny	AMSEA Index Values				Classer's Visual Grade	
		Dual Purpose Plus	Merino Production Plus	Fibre Production Plus	Wool Production Plus	Tops % P	Culls % P
Billandri Poll, 130087	41	91	98	97	105	16	-3
Bogo, 111424	50	101	96	102	92	-12	3
Bundaleer Poll, 13V741	54	88	87	92	87	-7	-7
Bundilla, 111265	37	133	119	99	129	28	-8
Centre Plus Poll, 207316	44	101	102	110	96	-19	22
Darriwell, 130941	49	91	102	99	104	5	14
Glenpaen, 120042	49	85	110	111	102	-12	7
Greenfields Poll, 130599	48	100	109	105	109	-10	22
Hazeldean, 11.43	56	120	117	108	118	28	-13
Kurra-Wirra, SR5681	48	63	76	85	80	-8	28
Leahcim Poll, 090918	59	91	78	88	77	-9	1
Leahcim Poll, 123153	40	110	95	100	90	-4	-5
Merinotech WA Poll, 100081	54	110	107	113	100	-1	-9
Mokanger, 120092	37	97	99	99	101	-28	14
Moojepin, 100248	48	142	110	95	121	-17	15
Mumblebone, 130389	29	94	88	94	86	-12	-5
Mumblebone, 130850	27	117	104	101	102	43	-28
Nareeb Nareeb, 130380	45	80	105	104	107	23	-11
Nerstane, 130467	44	81	97	95	100	-8	3
One Oak No. 2, R56	57	84	85	86	89	-5	5
Roseville Park, 140019	33	90	90	92	91	-4	-10
The Mountain Dam, 11/ESA004	57	108	98	100	98	-2	-15
Tuckwood Poll, 121021	48	125	128	113	129	4	-7
Yalgoo, 120043	57	99	97	107	89	13	-11
Yiddinga, 130374	48	102	101	102	99	-1	-5
Average performance	**46**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**27**	**28**

The Merino Lifetime Productivity Project is being undertaken in partnership between the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association Incorporated (AMSEA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). AMSEA and AWI would like to acknowledge those entities who also contribute funding, namely Woolgrowers through sire evaluation entry fees, site committee in-kind contributions, and sponsors of AMSEA. A special acknowledgement is also made to the Australian Government who supports research, development and marketing of Australian wool.

2015 trial results

Full results are available online at
http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/topic/Elders_Vic_2015

Table 2. Major Measured Traits and Classer's Visual Grade

Breeders flock, Sire name	Number of Progeny	Flock Breeding Values (deviations) GFW % Y^	CFW % Y	FD µm Y	WT kg W	WT kg P	WT kg Y	Classer's Visual Grade[1] Tops % P	Culls % P
Billandri Poll, 130087	41	9	9	0.7	-0.1	-0.6	-2.1	16	-3
Bogo, 111424	50	-8	-10	-1.2	-0.8	-1.5	-0.6	-12	3
Bundaleer Poll, 13V741	54	-7	-9	-0.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.6	-7	-7
Bundilla, 111265	37	12	15	0.7	2.7	4.7	7.5	28	-8
Centre Plus Poll, 207316	44	-4	-5	-1.2	-1.4	-2.0	-1.4	-19	22
Darriwell, 130941	49	3	4	0.2	1.0	0.7	-0.2	5	14
Glenpaen, 120042	49	1	-2	-1.4	-0.6	-1.3	-2.0	-12	7
Greenfields Poll, 130599	48	6	8	-0.6	-0.8	-1.4	-2.0	-10	22
Hazeldean, 11.43	56	5	5	-0.3	1.6	2.8	5.2	28	-13
Kurra-Wirra, SR5681	48	-2	-2	-0.2	-2.9	-5.6	-7.1	-8	28
Leahcim Poll, 090918	59	-12	-12	-0.4	-0.6	-1.6	-2.3	-9	1
Leahcim Poll, 123153	40	-9	-9	-0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	-4	-5
Merinotech WA Poll, 100081	54	1	2	1.0	-2.2	-2.8	-2.5	-1	-9
Mokanger, 120092	37	3	5	-0.4	-0.6	-1.8	-2.5	-28	14
Moojepin, 100248	48	10	10	2.3	3.2	6.6	9.7	-17	15
Mumblebone, 130389	29	-7	-7	0.7	-1.0	-1.5	-2.4	-12	-5
Mumblebone, 130850	27	-3	-3	1.3	2.6	4.8	4.5	43	-28
Nareeb Nareeb, 130380	45	5	5	0.5	1.2	2.0	0.3	23	-11
Nerstane, 130467	44	5	2	-0.5	-0.8	-2.0	-1.4	-8	3
One Oak No. 2, R56	57	-3	-4	-1.0	-1.3	-2.3	-2.6	-5	5
Roseville Park, 140019	33	-5	-6	0.3	-0.2	0.2	-0.3	-4	-10
The Mountain Dam, 11/ESA004	57	-2	0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.8	-2	-15
Tuckwood Poll, 121021	48	11	13	0.6	2.9	4.5	5.4	4	-7
Yalgoo, 120043	57	-7	-8	-1.5	-1.3	-2.1	-2.6	13	-11
Yiddinga, 130374	48	-4	-3	1.1	-0.4	0.0	0.8	-1	-5

^ W = Weaning (42 to 120 days); P = Post Weaning (210 to 300 days); Y = Yearling (300 to 400 days); H = Hogget (400 to 540 days); A = Adult (540 days +) .
1 Classer's Visual Grade is expressed as the percentage deviation of average Tops% and Culls%.

Table 3. Other Measured Traits

Breeders flock, Sire name	Number of progeny	Flock Breeding Values (deviations) FDCV % Y^	SL mm Y	SS N/ktex Y	CURV deg/mm Y	FAT mm Y	EMD mm Y	WEC % H
Billandri Poll, 130087	41	1.1	0.1	-1.1	-8.4	-0.5	-0.2	-32
Bogo, 111424	50	0.2	-9.0	-3.7	8.7	0.0	0.3	-10
Bundaleer Poll, 13V741	54	-0.2	-9.7	-3.1	5.3	-0.4	-0.3	-3
Bundilla, 111265	37	0.5	3.6	-5.2	-1.4	1.2	0.9	34
Centre Plus Poll, 207316	44	-0.5	1.6	-1.0	1.3	-0.3	0.0	-35
Darriwell, 130941	49	0.4	-4.0	0.7	-0.2	-0.7	-0.9	34
Glenpaen, 120042	49	1.2	-11.7	-0.2	10.3	-1.4	-2.1	68
Greenfields Poll, 130599	48	1.9	-0.6	-1.0	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	54
Hazeldean, 11.43	56	0.5	4.7	-2.3	2.2	0.2	-0.1	11
Kurra-Wirra, SR5681	48	1.8	-8.0	-4.1	0.5	-0.5	-0.8	-9
Leahcim Poll, 090918	59	-0.3	-0.2	-1.5	2.7	0.3	0.9	-19
Leahcim Poll, 123153	40	-1.1	5.5	1.6	-3.6	1.2	1.3	-13
Merinotech WA Poll, 100081	54	-2.7	9.4	14.3	-3.0	1.1	1.1	-28
Mokanger, 120092	37	1.5	-8.3	-3.2	1.5	0.0	0.2	12
Moojepin, 100248	48	-1.2	24.9	1.9	-13.0	1.5	2.0	-38
Mumblebone, 130389	29	-1.4	3.6	4.9	-5.3	0.3	0.7	-22
Mumblebone, 130850	27	-2.6	6.7	7.5	-2.4	0.3	0.7	-24
Nareeb Nareeb, 130380	45	0.3	0.6	0.9	-4.0	-1.6	-2.3	-20
Nerstane, 130467	44	0.8	2.4	-5.1	-0.7	-0.9	-1.5	50
One Oak No. 2, R56	57	2.5	-13.6	-8.9	11.2	-0.6	-0.2	42
Roseville Park, 140019	33	-0.3	0.8	0.2	-1.3	-0.1	-0.4	14
The Mountain Dam, 11/ESA004	57	0.1	4.3	-1.2	-3.5	0.3	1.1	-7
Tuckwood Poll, 121021	48	0.1	7.9	3.7	-7.1	0.0	-0.3	63
Yalgoo, 120043	57	-0.9	-8.4	-1.6	11.2	0.3	0.5	-22
Yiddinga, 130374	48	-1.6	-2.8	7.3	-0.1	0.5	0.0	-21

^ W = Weaning (42 to 120 days); P = Post Weaning (210 to 300 days); Y = Yearling (300 to 400 days); H = Hogget (400 to 540 days); A = Adult (540 days +).

Collecting DNA samples

has never been more easy, efficient and cost effective!

Hassad's Breeding Program Administrator, Meredith Andrews has been using the Allflex TSU since 2013. "Since moving DNA sampling of 3000 progeny annually from blood cards to the Allflex TSU's, the job has become so much easier, more accurate and more efficient. The applicator is simple to use and we have not had a single retest requested from the lab due to contamination.

The speed of processing lambs has greatly increased as we FlockTag, RapIDTag and TSU. The 2D barcode ensures error free linkage of the TSU to the animals RFID tag. Using a 2D barcode scanner, RFID stick reader and an XR3000, we record the data and send an electronic file to the lab, eliminating human data entry errors, illegible writing or pieces of paper splashed with blood.

We couldn't recommend the TSU to sheep breeders highly enough and we certainly could not imagine going back to using blood cards. The TSU is tried and trusted", said Meredith.

Meredith Andrews
Breeding Program Administrator
Raby Stud, Hassad Properties,
Warren, NSW

Scientific advancements in the mapping of livestock genomes along with continued development of affordable diagnostics has changed the sampling industry – making it easier and quicker for producers to use diagnostics for a range of applications including parentage verification, genetic selection and BVD screening.

Allflex has worked with the country's leading biotechnology companies, livestock genetic testing labs and leading livestock producers to develop a unique device for collecting tissue samples. The result is the Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU) by Allflex.

Allflex maintains its commitment to innovation, quality and performance in the TSU by providing:

- ***Fast, high performance sample collection***...Samples can be collected in seconds with minimal animal restraint. A single-squeeze motion collects a sample with minimum distress to the animal.
- ***Clean, uncontaminated sampling***...The genetic material is sealed in a specially designed preservative.
- ***Minimize retesting***...Tissue samples contain a large quantity of high quality DNA for genetic analysis yielding excellent lab results.
- ***Sample Integrity***...The TSU is fully sealed and positively identified with both a 2D barcode and ID panel.

Tissue Sampling Applicator

The TSU applicator is an ergonomic sampling plier which allows quick loading and sampling, most animals are not aware a sample has even been taken. The sharp cutter assembly includes a double acting system that ensures the sample is always pushed in and sealed into the sample tube.

Proven & Trusted

Allflex

Identify the Difference

2017 trial property introduction: Kooringal Pastoral Company, Coleraine

"Kooringal" is 21 kilometres North of Coleraine in what you would call typical "Dundas tableland redgum country" with an annual rainfall of 685mm.
Our family have been here for 90 years and I am the 3rd generation to run this farm with my wife Jane and my son Sam when he is home.
We run around 11000 merino sheep, lambing down approximately 5000 ewes to merino lambs and 600 ewes to a terminal sire for a lamb job as well 1100 cattle. We run a very similar sheep operation to most of the previous host farms in that we autumn shear and spring lamb.
We have been breading our own rams for over 30 years, mainly by bringing in semen from proven sires from sire evaluation trials or merino select. We have a strong focus on objective measurement for our replacement ewes and rams. All breeding sheep are micron tested and fleece weighed with the rams also WEC tested, body weighed and testicular measured and then put into our customised breeding index to maintain fleece weight, reduce micron, reduce worm output and to have a positive effect on reproduction.
Our sheep are now cutting over 5 kilograms of 17-to-18 micron wool.
I have been on the committee of the Balmoral sire evaluation trail for about 10 years now and have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the trials at the various host farms and look forward road testing some of the best merino genetics in Australia on my own flock. I see this as one of the biggest benefits of hosting a sire evaluation trial. Having the opportunity to see which sires or blood lines will perform on my own flock will go a long way to see which direction I should be going with my future breeding program.
I look forward to seeing you all, over the next couple of years as we host the 2017 and 2018 drop sire evaluation.

Mark Bunge

Growth of the 2016 trial progeny:

Lambmarking the 2016 trial progeny occurred in September in in the middle of one of the Victorian Western District's wettest winters. Despite the trying conditions, the committee were able to rig up a covered area (RIGHT) for the lambs to be marked and tagged in the paddock to avoid unnecessary stress on the animals.
BELOW: The lambs on September 20 at lambmarking aged approx. 4 weeks.

RIGHT: The lambs were brought in during the first week of November for their 6-week booster vaccinations where all lambs received 6-in-1 and Eryvac vaccinations. The ewe portion also received a Gudair vaccination.

2017 Elders Balmoral Sire Evaluation AMSEA trial entry form

Sire Entry Form

1. Site details for the sire being entered

Site & year being entered Site: ..... Year : .....

Other sites & years the sire has been entered: .....

Has the sire been genotyped: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

2. Sire details

Sire's stud/flock name: .....

Sire's identification: .....

Sire's stud/flock code: ..... Sire's year of drop: .....

Breed of stud/flock (Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details): .....

Sire's 16 digit code [*see sample code below right:*] __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ __ __

Is the sire currently alive: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is semen available for sale: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Example 16 digit code: 50 - 4697 - 2014 - 140012
(Breed - Flock - Year of drop - On-farm ID)

Sire of sire (16 digit code): [*see sample code above right:*] __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ __ __

Grandsire of sire (16 digit code): [*see sample code above right:*] __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ __ __

3. Owner details - Owner and contact for enquiries about the sire, plus owner(s) permission

Owner: .....

Contact: First name: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

Town: ..... Postcode : .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Fax: ..... Email: .....

Does the owner of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: ☐ Yes ☐ No Initial: .....

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: ☐ Yes ☐ No Initial: .....

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* ☐ Yes ☐ No Initial: .....

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

4. Breeder details - only fill in section 4 if the breeders details are different to the owners details in section 3.

Breeder: .....

Contact: First name: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

Town: ..... Postcode : .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Fax: ..... Email: .....

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: ☐ Yes ☐ No Initial: .....

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: ☐ Yes ☐ No Initial: .....

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* ☐ Yes ☐ No Initial: .....

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

Note: Sires entered will be included in the AMSEA database and managed by AMSEA.

5. Signature of entrant

I believe all the above details to be true: ..... Date: .....

6. Stud/flock details – if you are a first time entrant of sire evaluation please provide a short summary of your stud/flock's history and breeding objective.

.....

.....

.....

Version 6: 18 November 2015

Australian National Merino Sire Evaluation Association Executive Committee (AMSEA)

Tom Silcock (Chairman) – Elders Balmoral (VIC)
Jock McLaren (Deputy Chair) – New England (NSW)
Matthew Coddington – Macquarie (NSW)
Sally Martin – MerinoLink (NSW)
Phil Toland – North East Victoria
Flea McShane – Tasmania
Bill Sandilands – Yardstick (WA)
Brett Jones – Muresk/Pingelly (WA)
Neil Judd – AWI
Richard Apps – MLA
Ben Swain – Executive Officer

Thank you to our Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors and appreciate their participation. Please support these businesses.

Elders Victoria Sire Evaluation Group Committee Contacts

Tom Silcock	Chairman	03 5388 2238 0419 882 239
Mark Bunge	Deputy chair	03 5579 7224
Michael Craig	Treasurer	03 5588 1395
Nick Falkenberg		0407 559 680
Hugh Jarvis		03 5588 6356
Tom Sweeny		0419 362 173
Andrew Howells		0418 846 291
David Whyte		03 5572 2266
Jim Farran		03 5585 1888
Richard Beggs		03 5577 8222
Richard McShane		03 5574 2367
Tony Kealy		03 5586 5252
Steve Cotton		0447 352 321
Peter Mecham		0408 279 823
Sean Harvey		0417 869 674
Dale Bruns		0458 899 918
Rosey Leeming		0408 704 243
Russell Macgugan		0438 314 390
Scott Davis		0419 783 987
Hamish Dickson		0427 446 499
Tom Waldron		03 5570 8359
Daniel Rogers		03 5388 2257
Elise Kealey		0448 600 525
Jonno Hicks		03 5392 2366
Anthony Close		0437 085 217
Duncan Pixley		0437222433
Amy Tierny		0427 555 027
Michael Todd		

Liz Mecham (Secretary)
Mobile 0407 015 059
Email: petelizmecham@bigpond.com
Correspondence to: 247 King Street, Hamilton, 3300

Ben Swain (Data Manager) Ph 02 6743 2306

www.balmoralbreeders.com.au