

Trial News

Field Day

Managing Mulesing Alternatives
(Clip, Snip or What?)

18 April 2008

Display 2:00 pm Presentation 4:30 pm
BBQ & Refreshments 5:30 pm



Venue:

Tuloona Pastoral Company
South of Harrow (signs will be erected)

Display includes:

2006 drop progeny
2007 drop progeny
Clips vs Mulesing display

Presentations:

Ian Evans (AWI Blowfly Project Manager) - Update on research and alternatives

Chris Wilcox (Executive Director of National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Aust.,) - Feedback from processors and growers' options.

Our Chairman - Tom Silcock

We welcome our new host property "Mokanger" and its owners' Mark & Carolyn Rayner, along with their Manager Shane Arnold. Shane has joined our Committee along with other new members.

At our Field Day on the 18th April, Ian Evans will speak on other trials he is involved with and their results. Chris Wilcox (previously Chief Economist at the Woolmark Company) will talk on his recent overseas trip to the International Wool Textile organization conference held in China where implications of mulseing were on the agenda for discussion with processors. He will provide growers with feedback and the options available to them.

Publication of Merino Superior Sires 13

The publication of Merino Superior Sires 13 (MSS), scheduled for release in January 2008 has been extensively delayed due to a number of concerns raised by industry participants in relation to the MerinoSelect analysis, the most recent involving the Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) trait. Whilst MSS does not report NLW as a trait, its influence on those indexes which are reported in MSS was of a significant concern to prevent the publication of MSS until such time as SG was confident with the results. It is hoped we will have this report available at our Field Day on the 18th April.

Future Publications

Timing of the publication of future editions of MSS, commencing with MSS14 will be significantly altered and brought forward to October of each year (MSS14 will be published in October 2008). This proactive response to user feedback is aimed at making MSS more valuable to ram breeders as a selection tool by making it available well before joining decisions are made in the majority of areas.

Second Evaluation 2005 & First Evaluation 2006 reports
are now available either on request or from our website
www.balmoralbreeders.com.au

2008 Trial News

The host property is Mokanger Pastoral, Cavendish

Ewes have been selected and sponging has been completed.

The AI dates are set for 9/10 April 2008.
Brecon Breeders are the service providers

The following Stud's have committed a ram to the 2008 trial
(a list of the rams identifications will be published after the AI days)

Glendemar
Mokanger
Windarra
Goodwood
Yalgoo Partnership
Kerrsville
Cressbrook
Kurra Wirra
Yiddinga Holdings
Avington
The Mountain Dam
Koorinal
Gringegalgona
Centre Plus
Pendarra
Connewarran

Tuloona Host property 2006—2008

Both the 06 & 07 progeny are progressing well, despite the dry and dusty conditions here at Harrow. Hopefully the anticipated autumn rains will wash out the dust problems. Train feeding and good weaning weights have been the key to minimising ill thrift and minimising the feeding rates. Weaners are on a dusty stubble with a weekly ration of 1.7kg of lupins and barley, with 7kg of good quality pit silage (10ME, 18 Pr). The rising 2 year olds are on a standard ration of 1.5 kg of Barley and 6kg of average quality silage, with feed on offer in the paddock (a sacrifice paddock) at less than 500kgDM with very low digestibility.



Hopefully the next challenge ahead of us will be the perennial autumn break problem; managing the animals plain of nutrition and resulting staple strength, while also maximising pasture rest periods and hence pasture growth.

Michael Craig
Tuloona

Mokanger Host property 2008 - 2009

The new host property “Mokanger” is situated 10 kilometres east of Cavendish. Owned by Mark and Carolyn Rayner and managed by Shane Arnold, Mokanger Pastoral runs a specialist fine wool Merino flock of 23,000 sheep. The average adult micron is around 17 micron.

In 2007 Mokanger measured 624mm of rain, slightly above the long-term average of 600mm.

Sheep are rotationally grazed. Pastures are mainly perennial pastures with Cocksfoot and Phalaris and sub clover being the main species. 120 ha of Lucerne and chicory are also planted, where the lambs are weaned in December.

The Mokanger fine wool flock base has been influenced since 2000 by the introduction of Yalgoo and Cressbrook genetics working to achieve long term goals of 16-micron, heavy cutting, plain bodied sheep using the 20% + staple strength index.

The main Mokanger shearing takes place in May, with lambing commencing mid September. Lambs are shorn at six months and then at 18 months, this mob is fleece tested and from then on run in micron groups. Sheep are supplementary fed during summer/autumn with silage and grain. Currently ewes are in condition score 3 and being fed to maintain weight.



Shane Arnold



The mulesing debate has once again hit headlines world wide.

This has prompted the Australian Wool Exchange Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) to propose the introduction of a grower Mulesing Status field into the wool sale catalogues. The implementation of the mulesing status field is expected to occur by July 2008.

If the proposal goes ahead, growers will have the option to declare two forms of mulesing status according to AWEX. These are as follows:

*Any mob(s) in the shearing that is non – mulesed and/or
Whether the Owner/Manager has ceased the practice, or does not perform, surgical mulesing on the nominated property.*

This declaration refers only to the practice of surgical mulesing, and is relevant to all breed types.

The information provided by the grower will then be translated into sale lot information and catalogues.

Each sale catalogue lot will be identified with one of the following (or similar) three mulesing status codes:

Mulesing Status Code	Title	Declaration/Definition
NM	Non Mulesed	Wool from sheep that have not been mulesed
CM	Ceased Mulesing	The Owner/Manager has <i>ceased the practice, or does not perform,</i> surgical mulesing on this Property
ND	Not Declared	Mulesing Status has not been declared.

These Codes are applicable to all wool categories, however initially interlots and bulk class lots will carry the Not Declared code.



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David Rendell
& Associates
Vet Consultant



*Results for each assessment
from 1998 – 2006 are
available on request or from
our website*

www.balmoralbreeders.com.au

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Table A – **MERINOSELECT Index Options and Classer's Grade**
2006 drop - 1st Evaluation

Sire Identity	No of progeny	MERINOSELECT Index Options				Classer's Grade %		
		Merino			Fine 10% MP + SS + WEC	Tops %	Flocks %	Culls %
		3.5% MP	7% MP	14% MP				
Avington 03-086	48	89	91	96	74	42	46	13
Bindawarra 0400	39	128	122	111	118	59	23	18
Goodwood BW1143/01 *	34	100	104	106	118	24	65	12
Hazeldean 1.10014	45	127	124	116	116	13	71	16
Hyfield 3723	42	126	123	117	119	21	69	10
Kerrsville SY 21108 *	44	91	92	95	105	27	70	2
Melrose TD696-03	19	89	88	90	84	11	58	32
Merinotech Vic 041629	34	82	88	95	101	38	47	15
Pastora Black 800	55	54	62	78	82	9	53	38
Pleasant Park HS Blck tag	44	124	111	98	82	30	50	20
The Mountain Dam 04/NAH015	32	103	100	97	52	31	53	16
Toland Poll Yellow 1474	34	113	111	107	118	29	62	9
Tuloona 2047	35	63	72	86	77	20	57	23
Windarra 04/0236	31	113	113	110	113	45	52	3
Average	38	100	100	100	100	28	55	16

* **Link Sires** — these sires provide the “link” between other accredited Sire Evaluation Sites and Years and have participated in evaluation of their progeny across more than one site.

Classer's Grade is expressed as a percentage of a sire's progeny.

Balmoral Show Display



Sponging ewes for the 08 trial



From left Graeme Rogerson, Shane Arnold, Jeff East, Adrian Menzel and Tom Silcock

Tables 1 & 2– Measured and scored assessments – 2006 drop – 1st Evaluation

Table 1. Major Measured Traits – Estimated Breeding Values and Classer’s Grade

Sire Identity	No of progeny	Estimated Breeding Values				Classer’s Grade		
		GFW	CFW	FD	WT	Tops	Flocks %	Culls %
Avington 03-086	48	-11.0	-8.9	-0.5	-0.6	42	46	13
Bindawarra 0400	39	14.9	18.5	0.5	4.4	59	23	18
Goodwood BW1143/01 *	34	-4.0	0.8	-0.1	-2.1	24	65	12
Hazeldean 1.10014	45	16.9	20.7	0.7	-0.9	13	71	16
Hyfield 3723	42	11.5	11.8	-0.2	6.1	21	69	10
Kerrsville SY 21108 *	44	-3.7	-5.6	0.0	-0.9	27	70	2
Melrose TD696-03	19	-5.4	-3.1	-0.1	-5.3	11	58	32
Merinotech Vic 041629	34	-14.2	-12.7	0.1	1.0	38	47	15
Pastora Black 800	55	-29.2	-29.4	-1.4	-7.7	9	53	38
Pleasant Park HS Blck tag	44	22.8	20.2	0.6	-2.5	30	50	20
The Mountain Dam 04/NAH015	32	4.4	-1.7	0.2	5.5	31	53	16
Toland Poll Yellow 1474	34	4.9	4.0	0.6	8.2	29	62	9
Tuloona 2047	35	-20.2	-21.6	-0.4	-6.1	20	57	23
Windarra 04/0236	31	13.0	7.5	0.2	1.0	45	52	3
Average	38	3.6	2.5	15.9	35.2	28	55	16

Table 2. Other Measured Traits – Estimated Breeding Values

Sire Identity	No of progeny	Estimated Breeding Values				
		CV %	Curvature deg/mm	Staple Strength N/ktex	Staple Length mm	WEC %*
Avington 03-086	48	-0.2	3.2	-4.5	-1.3	97.4
Bindawarra 0400	39	0.0	-6.5	0.7	1.8	-26.1
Goodwood BW1143/01 *	34	-0.6	-4.6	5.4	2.1	-53.1
Hazeldean 1.10014	45	-1.2	-8.6	6.1	7.5	17.1
Hyfield 3723	42	0.1	-5.2	0.1	0.3	-12.9
Kerrsville SY 21108 *	44	-0.8	2.5	-1.5	0.2	-56.4
Melrose TD696-03	19	1.6	3.9	-1.0	-7.2	30.4
Merinotech Vic 041629	34	-1.7	3.0	1.9	-0.3	-44.4
Pastora Black 800	55	2.4	3.9	-3.1	-12.9	-34.5
Pleasant Park HS Blck tag	44	1.9	-11.6	-5.7	5.4	98.9
The Mountain Dam 04/NAH015	32	0.2	1.5	-4.0	-0.7	214.0
Toland Poll Yellow 1474	34	-1.9	2.2	-0.7	12.2	-65.5
Tuloona 2047	35	0.1	11.2	3.1	-9.2	35.0
Windarra 04/0236	31	0.0	4.6	3.4	2.5	-4.9
Average	38	20.4	92.0	35.7	72.8	255

* Percentage reduction in average WEC (see page 4)