

Trial News

Elders Balmoral Victoria Sire Evaluation

Tuloona Host property 2006—2007



Tuloona 06-07 Host Site Update & On-Farm Alternative to Mulesing Trial

With the excellent start to the season things are finally looking good. Feeding has paid off and production is kicking into gear. The 06 Sire Evaluation progeny have been classed, mid-side sampled and shorn, producing excellent quality, bulky fleeces. The condition of the sheep have dropped slightly off-shears to around 2.7 condition score and their next major activity is body weighing and individual worm egg counting.

The next drop of Sire Evaluation progeny commenced lambing on the 28th July and they have been drafted up into 23 different paddocks and are being hand fed accordingly. The progeny of the trial will be run as a control group that are conventionally mulesed, compared with animals that have had pegs applied as part of AWI's on-farm trial work looking at alternatives to mulesing. Tuloona's participation in the trial work is expected to continue over the next three years, with intrademics being used next year, in the lead up to the phasing out of mulesing by 31th December 2010. The goal of the program is to help wool growers understand the alternatives and see the actual results for themselves before this critical change for our industry.

Michael Craig

Tuloona Pastoral Company

A Word From Our Chairman

Tom Silcock

President's Report



With the completion of classing and shearing of the two current trials, many helpers have shared their enthusiasm, skills and time at 4 working bees. Once again the Elders representatives have worked in well with tackling both the classing and wool typing. Thank you to everyone who has helped out.

Tania has been busy not only keeping our Committee organized, but organizing Bendigo and Sheepvention displays, along with all her other day to day activities.

Over the last 6 months, many industry organizations have been consulted to achieve an agreed industry acceptance on sheep trait classing/scoring. It has now been accepted that scores will range from 1 to 5 with 1 being best and 5 being worst. The scores will be accompanied by pictures to provide a guide for industry consistency. These should be available publicly, shortly.



Trial calendar:

2006 progeny WEC - 30 July
2007

2005 & 06 progeny body weighting
- Early Aug

Display at Bendigo Sheep Show incorporated
with the Victoria Stud Merino Breeders
20-23 July 2007

This display will also be at SheepVention

*Results for each assessment
from 1998 – 2005 are available
on request.*

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Classing of the 2005 Drop Elders Victoria Sire Evaluation Group July 2007

It was good to be back at Arundale to class the 2005-drop sire evaluation sheep. The sheep were presented in an outstanding manner, and once again credit must go to the host property Arundale where Barry Matthews and his team have done an exceptional job to have the sheep in fantastic condition.

Once again the criteria of classing of the 2005-drop was to fit in with the basis of the Arundale flock, whereby the majority of sheep are for commercial wool growing.

Even though the wools were a little dusty compared to other years, the wool was of good character and bright in appearance.

Wool types were in the range of 64's – 74's mainly best top-makers to spinners.

It was clearly evident that the drop had matured well with most showing good shape, outlook, depth and constitution, and with a limited number showing shoulder and feet problems.

It is interesting to see that the percentage of sheep going into the flock structure had only altered by 2% going from 69% to 71%. The percentage of tops has dropped from 15% to 10%, and the percentage of culls has risen from 15% to 19%.

It goes to show how a flock structure may change over a twelve-month period with animals getting closer to adulthood.

Being a year older it had given the sheep the opportunity to show their best attributes.

I would like to thank the Sire Evaluation Committee for giving me the opportunity to participate in the program, and I am sure that Arundale will successfully reap the genetic benefits of the flock in years to come.

ELLIOT LINDLEY
Premier Wool Manager
Elders Ballarat

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Newsletter Email

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manager@balmoralbreeders.com.au



David Rendell &
Associates

Vet Consultant

Animal Health Management

Merino Weaner Management

Weaner enteritis or infectious scours colloquially known as coccidiosis but more likely caused by *Yersinia* or *campylobacter* bacteria is very common at the moment.

The major underlying cause of all weaner problems, including enteritis, is inadequate nutrition.

If the 'tail' of your lambs are scouring, weak or dying then consider drafting them off and preferentially feeding them.

Currently

24kg weaners on 800kg DM/Ha of green pasture need ~1kg of grain to survive

32kg weaners are OK on 500 kg DM/Ha pasture without grain

Most weaners are currently on less than 1000Kg DM/ha and thus most lighter weaners will need grain feeding to survive. Target for merino weaners at the end of winter is 30 kg so it is quite wasteful feeding grain to weaners currently 28Kg + even if on 500 kg DM/Ha

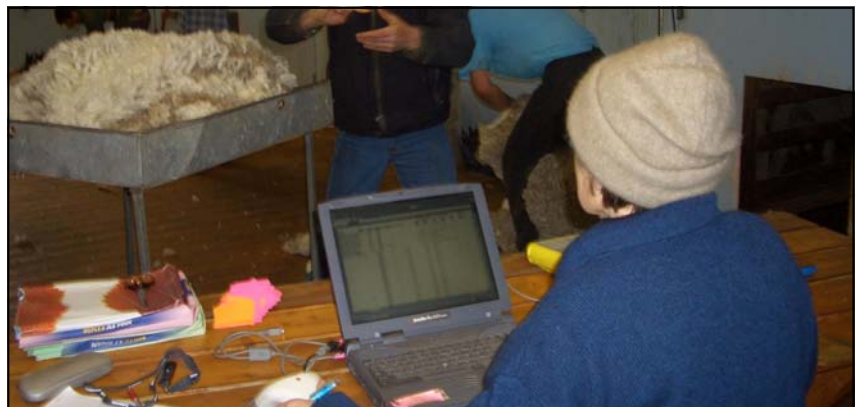
So by all means treat the 'tail' of weaners with antibiotic drenches if they have an out break of enteritis (crook and scouring) but at the same time draft off those lighter than 25 kg and if unable to place this 'tail' on a paddock with 1200 kg DM /Ha high clover content pasture, then you will need to feed grain.

For further information contact:

David Rendell & Associates Ph (03) 55721419



**Shearing Days
16/17 July 2007
Arundale and Tuloona**



2005 Progeny Group Classing

The classer, Mr Elliot Lindley, visually assessed each sire group. Evenness of each group was scored from 1 (most even) to 5 (highly variable). General comments were also noted by the classer on each progeny group. The classer did not know the identity of the sire of each group at the time of classing.

Sire Name	Sire Colour	Percentage tagged as		Score for Evenness	Comments on Evenness
		Singles	Twins		
Hannaton 202	black	37%	63%	1	Overall size even, given percentage twins. A few smaller ones. Wool type fairly even, with good nourishment. Very few feet problems - generally good feet. Good depth of body.
Kurra-Wirra BLK38	blue with white	54%	46%	2	Good size. Some with muffled faces. Generally good feet & good conformation. Even for wool type. Look to be productive.
Nerstane N78	brown	50%	50%	2.5	Good conformation & depth of body. Even for wool. Appear productive.
Windarra 010838	dark green	56%	44%	2.5	A few sheep not up to standard, but also some outstanding sheep. Wool type even. Feet good. Conformation good. Look to be productive.
Kilfeera Park 3.21	grey	60%	40%	3	Some conformation faults, eg, bad shoulders. Look fairly productive. Wool type fairly even. A few muffled faces.
Hazeldean Zachary 0.12946	khaki	47%	53%	2.5	Fairly even for size. Some conformation faults, eg, shoulders. Some sheep showing hockiness. Small number of muffled faces. Wool type fairly even. Look to be fairly productive.
The Grange 201112	light blue	55%	45%	3	Uneven in size. Some shoulder problems & some feet problems. Variation in wool type from 74s to 60s.
Goodwood 0056	lime green	58%	42%	2	Wool type even. Conformation quite good with one exception. Feet good, & also good legs.
Kilfeera Park 6.275	orange	47%	53%	3	Some shoulder problems. Wool type even. Some variation in length of staple.
One Oak OO No 2 3001	pink	41%	59%	3	A bit uneven in size. Wool type ranges from 74s to 60s. Conformation quite good. One sheep with shoulder problem.
Ruby Hills 0188	red with black	55%	45%	3	Some shoulder, feet and other conformation problems. Wool type even. Some range in size. Some sheep very productive, others not.
Connewarran 30134	red with white	44%	56%	3	Uneven for size. Wool type ranges 70s to 60s. Some feet problems.
The Mountain Dam SN77	violet	36%	64%	3	Fairly even size, although tend to be smaller sheep (probably due to percentage twins). Even visual wool type. Small amount of conformation fault, eg, hockiness.
Goodwood BW1143/01	white	65%	35%	1	Even size. Size is good. Look to be fairly productive. Wool type even - mostly 70s to 64s. Good feet & conformation.
Gringegalgonna ZAC0011/01	yellow	46%	54%	2	Very even for size. Good feet. Good conformation. Even for wool type.

Stud breeders - sick of human error in reading tags & inefficiencies in recording???

Course on Use of RFID (electronic) Tags & Associated Equipment

24th October 2007

- 1 Precision sheep management - brief overview of opportunities & strategies
- 2 Equipment to remove human error and provide efficiencies.
 - a) RFID (electronic) types
 - b) RFID tag readers
 - c) Weighing equipment
- 3 Data collection systems
- 4 Data Handling
 - a) Downloading data
 - b) Uploading data
 - c) Raw data cleaning (Vlookup, etc)
- 5 Practical
 - a) Fleece weighing – generate barcodes & record weight
 - b) Body weighing- put systems together
 - c) Setting up Blue-tooth
 - d) Other trouble-shooting exercises

Interested people please contact the manager

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Elders

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