BALMORAL BREEDERS

TRIAL NEWS

JUNE 2026

INSIDE

Balmoral Breeders

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our winter newsletter edition.

First of all, I wish to apologise for the lack of newsletters over the last year. We have got a "big one" this time to make up for missing our summer edition.

As I look back to what I wrote about in the last issue I am pleased to write that the second half 2025 season has turned out to be one of the better ones in our part of the country. With good spring rains the grass growth has been exceptional. Farmers have managed to refill their hay sheds, produce ample silage, and still have enough surplus grass to last through the summer. The one concern is the availability of dam water which was only partially restocked over the spring. With some good rains in early May we seem to be off to a reasonable break this year.

It has also been very pleasing to see a good lift in the wool market as well as the lamb/mutton job which has lifted everyone's sprites.

The last few months are usually the busier period for our committee, with classing, field day and AI programs. I am pleased to report that all these events have gone very well thanks to our hard working committee and host sites. Keep a look out for a report on these various activities as you read this newsletter.

With our commitment to measure meat eating quality traits for our entrants going forward this has meant classing all the 2024 drop in July 2025 to get a reading on them before the wether portion are sent away for slaughter. We had our first experience of sending some of the committee to "TFI Stawell" to help with the data collection and see firsthand the trial wethers getting tested for MEQ. While we are still grappling to get accurate data from this first run, it was a great learning experience, and we are determined to fine tune if for future years. See article in this issue.

It has been a rewarding experience to be working with the team from Federation University to help develop a saliva anti body test to measure sheep worm resistance. The team have been collecting saliva samples as we collect faecal samples on the 2024 drop. The hope is to have a better way to test for natural worm resistance. On the subject of worms, we are pleased that AMSEA have reduced the threshold to 100 EPG for collecting WEC data. Hopefully this will reduce animal welfare issues and make it much easier to get to the trigger level to proceed with testing.

Mark Bunge Chair and owner of the 2026 & 2027 Trial host property Kooringal

It is with pleasure that we welcome the new host property 'Kooringal" for the 2026 and 2027 joining's. We have included an introduction article in this issue. It has been pleasing to see strong interest in participating in our 2026 trail. Under the excellant guidance of our new entry convener Gary Simpson we have filled up with very little effort and have joined 25 sires this year.

At our recent AGM, the incumbent executive was voted back in for another term, and we welcome new committee member Fiona Cameron. I'm also please to welcome Kym Lyons as Deptuty Chair and Gary Simpson as Trial Entry Manager.

Planning is under way and a date set for our next field day at Warooka and Kooringal on 2nd of April 2027, so get it in your diaries nice and early.

Mark Bunge, Balmoral Breeders Chair

2026 Trial Entrants Balmoral Breeders

KOORINGAL, 240016
PENROSE POLL, 240257
GRINGEGALGONA POLL, 240516
KERIN POLL, 232350
THE MEADOWS, 240043
GLENWOOD, 240035
ROSEVILLE PARK POLL, 240581
KARDINIA, 241617 (DOHNE)
LEAHCIM POLL, 233461
TURKEY LANE, 240103
GLEN HOLME, 237772 (DOHNE)
KIANDRA POLL, 242450
KOONIK DOHNE, 245672
OLD COBRAN POLL, 240119
KURRA-WIRRA, 210538
KURRA-WIRRA, 240681
YALGOO, 240500
BUNDILLA POLL, 242448
BURNBRAE POLL, 230022
MOORALLA POLL, 240062
MUMBLEBONE, 242034
MOOJEPIN, 241526
GREENDALE, 240901
WIRINGA PARK POLL, 220450

AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL SHEEP BREEDERS

MLP RESULTS SEMINAR – BALMORAL

Thursday, 23 July 2026 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Balmoral Recreation Reserve, Harrow Rd BALMORAL VIC 3407

After 10 years of AWI- and industry-funded trials, join us for a one-day industry seminar to hear the results of the Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project.

- Discover what drives your sheep's lifetime performance and profitability and how to apply the new insights to your breeding and selection program.

- Hear the economic analysis from over 2 million trial data points from five MLP trial sites across Australia, as well as the discoveries and newly created industry tools. Balmoral was the host of the biggest 7-year MLP trial site with the greatest number of sires analysed.

- Hear from national leaders in research and MLP presenters. Take the opportunity to listen to the industry experts firsthand and the opportunity to ask any questions you have.

REGISTER NOW TO HEAR ALL OF THIS AND MORE!

Visit wool.com/events or scan the QR code to register.

There is no charge to attend this event but please register for catering numbers.

If you'd like more background or the MLP results to date, please visit www.wool.com/MLP

KOORINGAL SITE REPORT

Welcome to our first "Kooringal" site report as site host for the 2026 and 27 joining's for Balmoral Breeders.

First of all, I would like to thank the Balmoral Breeders committee to entrust us with the next 2 years joining's. From a host site perspective, it is a magical opportunity to road test the best merino genetics on your own ewes and to see how the various sires might benefit our own flock as well as the flocks of every other wool breeder that might be using rams from the studs the have entered this year. It also gives us as hosts, connections to like minded breeders and exposure to that leading sheep breeding principles that Balmoral breeders and AMSEA bring with them.

The first process for us was to class up the 2026 foundation ewes to go into the AI program. Tom Silcock and Gary Simpson came in February to class out 1480 ewes out of our 3 and 4 year old ewes. They took out anything that was not good enough as well as anything that was too good to get an even line.

The AI program started in late March with the CIDR insertion and then the AI was done over 2 days in early April. 1393 ewes were successfully joined to 25 sires which all ran very well thanks to lots of help from the hard working committee. We now look forward to seeing the pregnancy scanning results in a few weeks time.

It has been very pleasing to see a reasonable Autunm break this year after two very poor autumns. Having received 40mm at the start of May, then a week of warm weather and then 18mm a week later the green feed is starting to jump away. Hopefully we can put the feed cart away shortly.

Mark and Sam Bunge

Mark Bunge at Kooringal - Balmoral Breeder Chair

WAROOKA SITE REPORT

After a very dry start to 2025 and an extremely late break, we finally had a good finish to Spring and start to Summer.

As a result, we were able to stop supplementary feeding for a short period. While we had good pasture growth in Spring, little rain in December meant that the dry feed held its quality, but it didn't seem long before the grain trailer and silage cart were out of the shed again. We are currently still feeding, but with 57mm of rain over the first three weeks of May and the end May now in sight, hopefully the end of feeding is as well. I hope the rain continues as stock water is becoming an issue. Two years of little or no runoff means water storages are very low.

The sheep:

2024 Drop

- Whole group joined starting 19 th Feb for 5 weeks.
- Ewes shorn 1 st April following the March field day and removal of rams. The average greasy fleece weight for the mob was 4.8kg with 9 months growth.
- Preg scanning result was 123% with 88% in lamb.
- Researchers from the University of New England tested the mob for methane emissions in late April. This was an interesting process to be involved with, and I look forward to the results.
- Wethers were killed in October 2025 with an average curfew body wt of 51.1 Kg.
- They had a top of 82 Kg and a bottom of 31.1 Kg. See results in report.

2025 Drop

- Currently being run as two management groups. Ewes and wethers. Both are on a barley/pea mix in lick feeders and silage.
- Classing, side sampling and dag scoring are scheduled for late May. Plan is to shear in early June and prepare the wether mob for MEQ testing.
- WEC levels have been monitored but have not yet reached the threshold for testing.
- Fat and muscle testing will be conducted post shearing.

Thanks to all who have volunteered time to help run the numerous testing activities and field days. The trial wouldn't happen without your help.

Kym Lyons

MERIDIAN PARTNERS WITH NUMBER 8 BIO

TO LEAD ON-FARM TRIAL OF NEW METHANE-REDUCING BOLUS FOR GRAZING SHEEP

Meridian Agriculture is pleased to be running a commercial trial of the BetterFeed Bolus, an intra-ruminal bolus developed for grazing livestock by Australian agritech company **Number 8 Bio**. The bolus is designed to sit in the rumen and fully degrade over 5 months, suppressing methane-producing microbes (methanogens). By reducing methane production, which represents up to a 12% loss of energy for the animal, more of the nutrients the animal eats can be converted to an energy source that supports growth, body condition and wool. The bolus is designed specifically for grazing systems where daily feed-additive delivery is impractical.

The trial is being run on "Warooka" Melville Forest property in the Southern Grampians, with 60 Merino ewe lambs monitored over six months using a C-Lock GreenFeed unit for measuring emissions in the paddock. Four bolus formulations will be compared against an untreated control, measuring methane output, growth rates, and wool characteristics under real Victorian grazing conditions.

Meridian's Andrew Speirs is acting as Principal Investigator, drawing on the firm's agronomic expertise to ensure the trial reflects real-world Victorian grazing conditions. Kym and John Lyons, along with their staff, are also heavily involved in running this trial. Their active interest in the potential to reduce methane emissions while increasing productivity has been a key driver of the trial being conducted on their property. The project is also supported by contract research group EpiVets and the Victorian Government through the On-Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot, delivered by Agriculture Victoria. Results will be shared with industry on completion.

If effective, bolus-delivered methane reduction could give Victorian woolgrowers and prime lamb producers a practical, low-handling pathway to cut emissions while maintaining productivity.

To learn more about BetterFeed, visit number8.bio or contact the Number 8 Bio team.

Kym Lyons at Warooka with the C-Lock GreenFeed unit.

HOST PROPERTY

Kooringal is located 20 Km north of Coleraine in southwest Victoria in a 670mm winter/ spring rain fall dominated area.

We have been running merinos on our family farm for over 100 years. Currently managed by Mark and Sam Bunge, the business runs 34,000 DSE's split between merino sheep and trade cattle.

The sheep flock is self-replacing, with 5000 ewes joined back to merinos and 2000 joined to terminals.

Wethers are normally retained until at least 3 years of age. With an average micron of 16 and wool cut approximately 4.8 Kgs per head. We have been breeding our own rams for over 30 years with genetics being introduced through AI programs every 2 or 3 years. We have used genetics from Nerstane, Yalgoo, Turkey Lane and Tallawong using a 10%-micron breeding index with a weighting on WEC.

All ewes have been micron tested and fleece weighed at least once in their life. Selection is based on both objective measurements and subjective appraisal.

Our flock has been unmulesed for the last 6 years and is RWS accredited.

The sheep are run under true commercial conditions of stocking rates around 18 DSE.

Kooringal - new Trial Host Property

2026 TRIAL ENTRANTS

Kooringal 'The Bunge Mark' is an outstanding next-generation sire embodying our breeding goals. He pairs high-yield, premium superfine wool with the resilience to thrive and reproduce in Southwest Victoria's challenging climate—the perfect combination for demanding conditions

Penrose 240257 is the Pengilly family's first sire evaluation entry from Esperance. This exceptional sire boasts Top Index YCFW and very good YEMD. He breeds resilient, fast-maturing lambs with improved eye muscle and fat, while cutting 18-micron, 80mm fleeces in eight months.

Gringegalgona 'Gold' 240516 enters for his ultra-bright, high-volume, superfine wool. His strong reproduction and early growth drive industry-leading indexes. Gringegalgona Merinos focuses on easy-care, non-mulesed ewes, giving producers ultimate market flexibility and rapid restocking capabilities across any seasonal transition.

Kerin Poll 'The Paradigm Shift' 232350 entered Balmoral with historic Merino Select data, including PWWT 18.43. A grass-fed freak, he weighed 86kg at seven months and cut 42% more wool than contemporaries. Time will tell if he can breed these elite traits.

The Meadows 'Jake' 240043 delivers elite fleece weight, positive growth, and low WEC. He matches our high-rainfall goals: early maturing, deep bodied, and highly fertile. Decades of selection ensure this ram perfectly balances high productivity with crucial animal welfare traits.

Glenwood Merinos 240035 is an SRS® sire built for highly profitable, easy-care genetics. He combines great structure, density, and length with rapid early growth and high fertility. This balanced ram is physically structured to perform and thrive in any environment.

Roseville Park 'RP24-0581' epitomises our breeding objective for balanced wool, growth, reproduction, and disease resistance. Perfect for six-month shearing and unmulesed management, this ram features ideal structure, high IMF, and stylish, waterproof 16.7-micron wool. He ranks in the breed's top 5% across all production indexes.

Kardinia Dohne 'KD24.1617' stands structurally correct with impressive growth, muscling, and a deep, wide butt. Exemplifying Kardinia's ideals for fertility and meat traits, he features excellent loin fat and highly stylish white wool, testing 15.9 microns post-weaning and 17.3 micron at 18 months.

Leahcim 233461 was selected to benchmark our global genetics in the Balmoral trial. He combines superior welfare traits with exceptional carcass growth and productive white wool. His elite ASBVs rank in the top 5% for growth (WWT, PWWT, YWT, CWT) and top 10% for PWEC and ERA.

Turkey Lane 24-0103 represents the forward direction of our breeding program, combining productive performance with functional, resilient traits. He exemplifies our clear focus to lower micron and increase wool cut without compromising on wrinkle, worm resistance, or stylish wool structure.

Glenholme Dohne 237772 maybe our best-ever bred Dohne sire. His exceptional growth rate, carcase shape, wool cut, and staple length optimize income while reducing labour. A top choice for any breeder, his yearling progeny are already deeply impressive.

Kiandra 242450 was selected to benchmark his breeding values, classing grades, and progeny-test eating quality. Featuring excellent carcass shape and sound structure, he is a highly safe, reliable ram choice to use across all ewe bases.

Koonik Dohne "Bill" 245672, is a balanced, high-indexing ram from our top bloodline, ranking among the database's elite. Embodying our criteria—looks good, tests well—Koonik's latest evaluation entry benchmarks these exceptional Dohne genetics directly against today's Merinos.

Greendale Merinos 240901 is a commercially focused, data-driven sire bred for proven profitability. Backed by elite ASBVs, this ram ranks in the top 1% for fleece weight and fibre diameter, perfectly embodying the stud's commitment to measured, high-performing livestock.

Old Cobran Poll "Mr Muscle" 240119 embodies the modern Australian Merino, combining exceptional wool quality with high growth and carcass performance. Structurally sound and non-mulesed, this Sire entrant delivers genuine commercial relevance and functionality for today's productive sheep industry.

Kurra-Wirra "Bald Head" 240681, an ET-bred son of top donor Mrs Perfect, is a premier dual-purpose sire. Ideal for feedlot-finished enterprises, he delivers outstanding early growth, carcase merit, and structure, combined with excellent wool length, strength, and quality.

Yalgoo 240500 mirrors the exceptional style of his sire, 220573, yet stands out with lower fiber diameter and superior growth. Plain and muscular, this ram boasts ultra-luxury, high-crimp wool with incredible lustre. His impressive data perfectly matches his physical excellence.

Bundilla 242448 displays excellence in stance, structure, and impressive wool. Moving the data dial up across all traits—including EBWR and LDAG—he reliably passes on our renowned maternal traits. With exceptional early semen sales, this ram is a window to the future.

Burnbrae Poll 230022 is an industry leader in production, welfare, and reproduction, with 1,000+ progeny. Inheriting footrot resistance from both lines, his dam pedigree consistently achieves a 150%+ weaning rate, targeting a 10% fleece weight-to-joining ratio on twin-rearing ewes.

Mooralla Poll 240062 combines proven Burnbrae genetics, offering exceptional growth, negative YFD, and balanced YEMD, YFAT, and YCFW. This standout entrant maintains a high-rainfall fleece alongside top 10% worm egg count performance, delivering highly resilient, profitable data to the 2026–27 Balmoral trials.

Mumblebone 242034 injects cutting-edge modern meat and easy-care genetics into the evaluation. Expect this naturally plain-bodied entrant to push the dial forward on early growth, superior carcass yield, and robust wool performance in a non-mulesed management system.

Moojepin 241526 represents a highly resilient dual-purpose package. This Western Australian entrant uses data-driven genetics to optimize modern profit traits, specifically targeting high weaning rates, excellent muscle and fat depth, and bright wool that stands up to seasonal stress.

DROP UPDATE

Balmoral Sire Evaluation Trial
2024 Drop Results

Excerpt from the ***Balmoral 2024 Drop Hogget and Yearling Assessment Merino Sire Evaluation Site Report***.
Visit merinosuperiorsires.com.au to download the report or for more information.

Breeders flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	AMSEA Index Values				Number of Progeny	Classer's Visual Grade *Hogget*	
		Fine Wool	Wool Production	Sustainable Merino	Merino Lamb		TOPS %	CULLS %
Anderson Poll, 220594	24	91	95	102	98	10	26	-24
Arapiles Plains Poll, 23B379	41	73	85	83	91	15	4	-16
Calcookara Poll, 220349	51	56	63	78	84	25	-18	18
Clovernook Poll, 200113 (Link Sire)	34	104	107	108	103	8	-	-
Connewarran, 020297	41	88	87	86	87	22	-13	-9
Curlew Poll, 220928	52	78	70	90	97	29	-19	4
Deep Dene Poll, 220159	25	110	110	106	103	10	-13	17
Egelabra, 200014	15	93	104	103	105	7	-	-
Forest Springs Poll, 200102 (Link Sire)	44	112	107	114	112	19	4	9
Forest Springs Poll, 210169	43	113	113	107	109	19	-12	19
Glenlea Park Poll, 220164	44	92	89	95	94	20	-7	-8
Gringegalgona Poll, 210834	32	122	120	111	100	16	15	14
Kerrsville Poll, 210798	36	99	102	95	95	13	-7	8
Kiandra Poll, 221648	35	135	131	136	132	21	6	1
Kurra-Wirra, 200427 (Link Sire)	35	107	116	124	112	14	6	-16
Kurra-Wirra, 210538	41	125	129	120	111	15	24	-16
Nyowee Poll, LS683	51	74	76	88	96	18	-11	22
Nyowee Poll, PKB11	38	107	115	93	94	18	-6	10
One Oak Poll, O18010	37	106	104	92	96	19	-2	3
Stud Park South Poll, 859333	42	96	93	93	99	17	6	-6
Toland Poll, 201242	43	73	69	95	103	17	-16	1
Trefusis Poll, 210106	33	102	96	89	91	17	-18	18
Wallaloo Park Poll, 220960	41	101	105	111	111	19	4	3
Wando Estate, 21M209	26	107	102	110	104	13	39	-7
Yarrawonga, 210958	24	99	97	98	102	8	-	-
Progeny group average	**37**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**16**	**21**	**25**

Number of Progeny at Weaning

Number of Progeny at Hogget Classing

Hogget = 449 to 660 days (15 to 22 months)

Index information can be found in the Site Report and at merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources.

CLASSING RESULTS

Update for the ***Balmoral 2025 Drop Yearling Classing Results.*** A full Site report will be published once the Yearling stage data collection has been completed and be available at merinosuperiorsires.com.au.

Breeders flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Classer's Visual Grade *Yearling* TOPS %	Classer's Visual Grade *Yearling* CULLS %
Anderson Poll, 200504 (Link Sire)	34	18	-19
Anderson Poll, 220417	45	3	-1
Billandri Poll, 210979 (Link Sire)	38	-12	21
Egelabra, 212749	21	-8	26
GRASS, 192021 (Link Sire)	36	-1	4
Gelton Poll, 230121	28	-4	3
Glen Holme Poll, 230104	34	3	-12
Greendale, 220025	49	-6	11
Greendale, 233641	36	-8	16
Hazeldean, 000440	36	-7	10
Karbullah Poll, 220706	39	-2	-11
Kerin Poll, 230421	40	4	-1
Koonik Dohne, 224487	43	-16	0
Kurra-Wirra, 230939	30	25	-26
Leahcim Poll, 233079	27	1	-4
Mooralla Poll, 220599	31	-2	-17
Ridgway Poll, 230187	32	22	-1
Yalgoo, 230050	35	-9	2
Progeny group average	**35**	**18**	**26**

CARCASE & MEAT RESULTS

The 2024 drop wethers were processed through Thomas Foods Internation (TFI), Stawell with the aim of collecting a range of Meat Eating Quality (MEQ measurements).

Unfortunately, due to a range of factors a full set of data was not able to be collected on all the wethers processed. This has led to significant gaps in the results able to be published in this report.

In order to protect the integrity of the results, sire groups where records from less than 10 wethers were captured for particular traits has not been published.

Please keep in mind the results published here are raw data and they have not been adjusted for factors that may improve the accuracy of its interpretation for genetic evaluation purposes such as birth and rear type, age of dam and management group. Persons should take particular care using raw data for genetic evaluation.

HCW:	Hot carcase weight (kg)
Yield:	Carcase yield relative to pre slaughter live weight (%)
GR Fat:	Fat depth (mm) at the 'GR' site, located 110 mm from the carcase midline over the 12th rib
DEXA:–	
Lean:	Percentage of lean meat as measured by dual energy x-ray absorptionmetry (%)
Fat:	Percentage of fat as measured by dual energy x-ray absorptionmetry (%)
Bone:	Percentage of bone as measured by dual energy x-ray absorptionmetry (%)
MEQ:	Meat Eating Quality as measured by MEQ Probe technology
MSA:	Meat Standard Australia grade calculated by the MSA Sheepmeat model calculator

The highest performing 3 (or more if equal) sires for each trait (trait leaders) are highlighted by shading.

For further information in relation to the results please contact Mark Bunge on 0409 962 248 or mbunge5@gmail.com

Results table on page 10.

CARCASS AND MEAT QUALTY RESULTS 2024 DROP

2024 Drop – Carcase and Meat Eating Quality

Breeders flock, Sire number	Progeny No Processed	Hot Carcase Weight: Progeny No*	HCW (kg)	Yield (%)	GR Fat: Progeny No*	GR Fat (mm)	DEXA: Progeny No*	Lean (%)	Fat (%)	Bone (%)	Meat Eating Quality: Progeny No*	MEQ	Meat Standards Austalia: Progeny No*	MSA
Anderson Poll, 220594	10	5	-	-	10	18.8	5	-	-	-	7	-	5	-
Arapiles Plains Poll, 23B379	13	9	-	-	13	10.0	9	-	-	-	9	-	8	-
Calcookara Poll, 220349	17	15	26.9	49.3	17	12.3	15	63.7	19.4	16.7	13	5.0	13	54.6
Clovernook Poll, 200113 (Link Sire)	22	19	26.0	46.0	22	13.0	19	62.2	20.9	16.7	19	5.1	18	54.9
Connewarran, 020297	14	10	26.9	47.3	14	13.5	10	62.7	20.8	16.4	11	5.0	10	54.9
Curlew Poll, 220928	21	16	26.0	47.5	21	13.3	16	62.8	20.5	16.6	14	5.3	14	55.1
Deep Dene Poll, 220159	13	8	-	-	13	13.4	8	-	-	-	9	-	7	-
Egelabra, 200014	7	4	-	-	7	-	4	-	-	-	6	-	4	-
Forest Springs Poll, 200102 (Link Sire)	24	20	29.2	45.5	24	17.1	20	59.8	23.6	16.4	19	6.0	17	55.9
Forest Springs Poll, 210169	18	15	25.2	45.0	18	15.2	15	62.0	20.9	17.0	16	5.6	14	55.5
Glenlea Park Poll, 220164	16	11	28.0	45.9	16	13.0	11	64.0	19.3	16.5	12	4.9	9	-
Gringegalgona Poll, 210834	14	12	28.9	44.9	14	13.9	12	61.8	21.6	16.4	12	5.2	10	54.6
Kerrsville Poll, 210798	21	12	27.5	48.5	21	13.1	12	63.2	19.8	16.8	13	5.4	11	55.2
Kiandra Poll, 221648	14	12	32.3	49.3	14	20.6	12	57.6	26.1	16.1	11	6.4	11	56.4
Kurra-Wirra, 200427 (Link Sire)	16	13	28.8	44.9	16	15.5	13	60.8	22.3	16.7	11	5.9	10	55.6
Kurra-Wirra, 210538	21	15	31.0	48.4	21	17.2	15	60.3	23.5	16.1	13	5.9	12	55.4
Nyowee Poll, LS683	28	22	25.0	46.6	28	12.6	22	64.6	18.2	17.0	23	4.7	20	54.3
Nyowee Poll, PKB11	16	14	23.4	43.9	16	12.1	14	64.8	17.7	17.3	11	4.7	11	54.2
One Oak Poll, O18010	14	8	-	-	14	10.3	8	-	-	-	9	-	7	-
Stud Park South Poll, 859333	22	17	26.0	46.1	22	11.2	17	65.1	17.8	17.0	14	5.2	13	54.6
Toland Poll, 201242	25	18	26.5	45.9	25	14.5	18	63.1	20.0	16.8	16	5.3	13	55.1
Trefusis Poll, 210106	9	6	-	-	9	-	6	-	-	-	6	-	5	-
Wallaloo Park Poll, 220960	17	13	30.2	47.9	17	15.5	13	61.1	20.0	15.2	14	5.1	13	54.8
Wando Estate, 21M209	11	5	-	-	11	15.0	5	-	-	-	8	-	5	-
Yarrawonga, 210958	10	9	-	-	10	16.3	9	-	-	-	9	-	8	-
Progeny Group Average	**17**	**12**	**27.5**	**46.6**	**17**	**14.0**	**12**	**62.6**	**20.5**	**16.6**	**12**	**5.3**	**11**	**55.0**

Number of Progeny is records collected for each trait.

This publication contains raw data which has not been adjusted for factors that may improve the accuracy of its interpretation for genetic evaluation purposes such as birth and rear type, age of dam and management group. Persons should take particular care using raw data for genetic evaluation.

Flock Profile

Benchmark your flock. Buy rams with confidence.

What is a Flock Profile

A Flock Profile provides commercial producers with a genetic benchmark of how their flock compares to industry. It involves genotyping 20 randomly selected animals (usually a subset of young classed in ewes) to estimate your flock's genetic merit, with results directly comparable to the Sheep Genetics database.

What are the benefits of a Flock Profile

- Understand your flock's genetic strengths and weaknesses and use this to set a breeding objective
- Benchmark your flock against industry using MERINOSELECT Percentile Bands
- Buy rams with confidence to drive genetic gain in your flock

How to use a Flock Profile

1. Collect DNA samples from ~20 animals
2. Send to a genomics lab for genotyping
3. Receive a Flock Profile benchmark against industry
4. Define your breeding objective
5. Use Flock Profile to help identify rams with ASBVs that align with your goals

Key Points

- Flock Profile is a whole-flock benchmarking tool (not for ranking individual animals)
- Re-test every 3-5 years or after major changes to your ram source
- Flock Profile is currently available for Merino animals (coming soon for crossbred animals) for a range of production traits including; wool quality and quantity, growth, carcase, health, reproduction and welfare

Getting Started

Contact Sheep Genetics or a genotyping provider to begin your Flock Profile and start benchmarking your flock against the industry

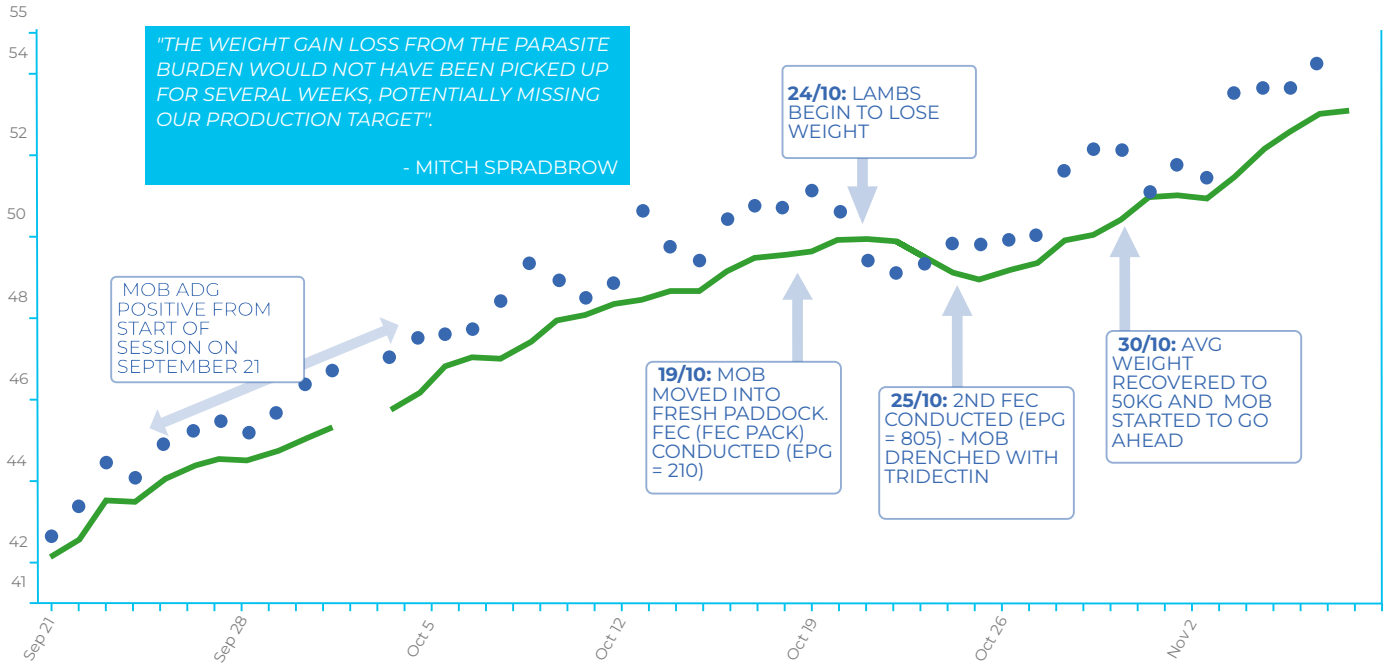
Benchmark today and improve tomorrow

DATA DEEP DIVE: PRIME LAMBS (PASTURE)

OPTIWEIGH
MAKING IT BETTER

SUMMARY: Mob was performing well from September 19 onwards. Moved to new paddock on 19/10 and FEC tested (EPG = 210). They began losing weight immediately, second FEC conducted showing significant increase (EPG = 805). Mob drenched, and approx 7 days later had regained lost kg.

PRODUCER	MITCH SPRADBROW
REGION	CENTRAL WEST NSW
STOCK	576 MERINO X LAMBS
VIEW	WEIGHT OVER TIME (WEB)
PERIOD	SEPT 21-NOV 7
MODEL	PASTURE-BASED PRIME LAMB PRODUCTION
ATTRACTANT	MOLASSES BLOCK



2026 BALMORAL AMSEA TRIAL CARCUS ANALYSIS

Last year as reported in this newsletter, the Balmoral Breeders group had partial success in tracking all 2024 drop wether carcasses through TFI Stawell.

Disappointingly, not all sheep had the data recorded against them. This year, in the hope to utilize improved carcass tracking to obtain a more complete analysis of all the 2025 male drop, negotiations are underway to utilize the JBS Bordertown abattoir.

It is the groups intention to obtain carcass meat yield and Inter Muscular Fat (IMF) as well as a Meat Standards Australia (MSA) to predict meat eating quality.

From our big number of annual sires entered, our group keenly seek to identify both best performing wool cut and quality, growth rate, fertility and carcass trait merino genetics. All profit drivers are important to our industry bottom lines and as a group we are keen to see our better carcass quality sheep recognized and not financially penalised.

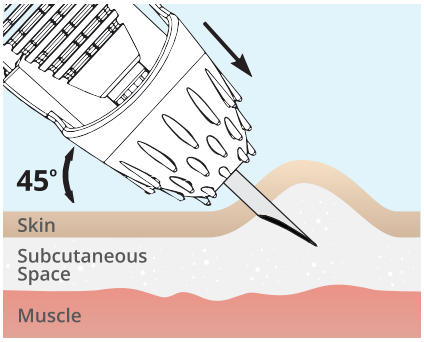
BEST PRACTICE SHEEP VACCINATION

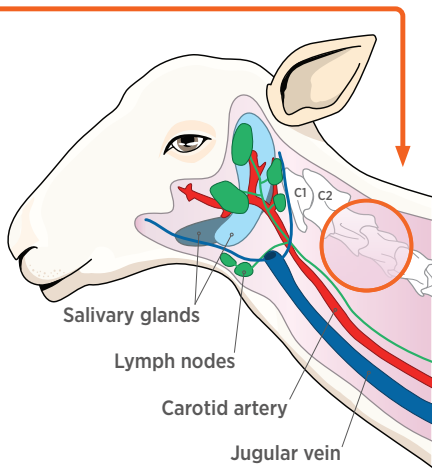
Most vaccines for sheep in Australia are designed to be **injected subcutaneously** (under the skin). These include **GlanEry**®, the **Glanvac**® range, **Eryvac**® and **Gudair**®**.** It is important to give vaccines correctly to ensure an adequate immune response to protect the animal from the effects of disease. Failure to give vaccines as per label directions may result in minimal or no protection and therefore lead to **lost productivity, illness, death, injury, carcass damage and/or animal welfare issues.**

Traditional vaccination techniques have a high risk of unintentionally administering vaccines into muscle tissue. This results in increased risk of carcase trimming and other side effects such as painful abscesses, loss of condition and even neurological damage or "staggers" in certain cases.

Zoetis recommends the following techniques for best practice vaccination:

- Effectively restrain lambs in a lamb cradle, restrain weaners and adult sheep in a sheep handler or tightly in a sheep race.
- Always use a **18G, 6mm (1/4 inch)** needle and vaccinate **subcutaneously** (under the skin).
- Administer vaccines to **lambs and short wool sheep** using a 6mm needle at a 45 degree angle.
- For **sheep with significant wool cover** vaccinate with a 6mm needle at a 90 degree angle.
- Use a shrouded applicator to self tent the skin for a subcutaneous vaccination (single handed vaccination).
- Administer the vaccine on the side of the neck, **approximately 1/3 of the way from the ear towards the shoulder** (see diagram). This avoids critical anatomical features.
- Change needles as required, approximately every 50-100 sheep.
- Replace any bent, damaged or soiled needles immediately.
- Thoroughly clean and maintain the vaccinator as per manufacturers instructions.
- Gudair® vaccination should be given on the opposite side of the neck to GlanEry®, Glanvac® and Eryvac® products.





By vaccinating at the correct site, using the right equipment and approach, sheep producers can maximise vaccine efficacy and minimise the risk of adverse reactions.

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BALMORAL SIRE EVALUATION

Surging market will create contrasts

Balmoral is home to Australia's longest running – and largest – Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association trial and is about to stage its 28th consecutive event.

Above: Rosie Leeming and Paul Quin observing the 2025 drop at Warooka.

Clockwise from top left: 2025 Warooka drop. Mark Bunge and Nick Falkenburg at 2026 Field Day. Balmoral Breeders team during MEQ testing. Balmoral Breeders MEQ test tags.

And when it goes on show next year you won't only see the two lamb drops making up the latest two-year trial, you will be able to access the ever increasing mountain of data generated by the program.

Balmoral Breeders field day committee member Tom Silcock says the trial is running 50 different sire groups with lambs of two different ages.

Tom says next autumn people will be able to see lambs born this year alongside those rising 18 months.

He says they will also have the chance to see processing data from the 2025 wether portion of the trial while the ewe lambs from the same drop will be there in full wool.

"The data will include the carcase yield of the lambs and their eating quality, which is what the business is all about," Tom explains.

"Balmoral Breeders is committed to providing a successful and well-regarded contribution to the continuous genetic improvement of the Australian Merino wool and sheep industry," he says.

"And do that by evaluating and promoting leading sires suited to fine wool production in western Victoria."

Balmoral's trials are linked with Merino sire evaluation programs in progress throughout Australia, providing the opportunity for objective comparisons to be made between rams from different studs by evaluating their progeny.

The progeny are all run under the same environmental conditions, with the male progeny being marked.

This evaluation is an accredited sire evaluation program run under the guidelines of the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association.

During each two-year program, established guidelines are followed to enable an accurate and fair comparison of the Merino rams entered, allowing the results to be published in the Merino Superior Sires report.

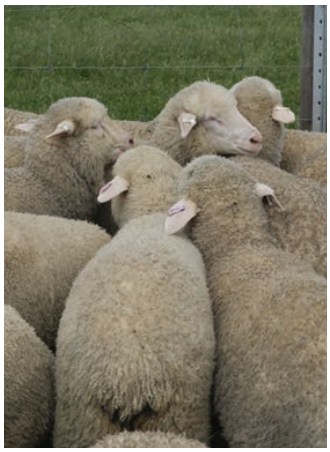
"Last October was our first attempt to conduct a complete wether lamb carcase analysis and we made that decision off the back of the fantastic performance of our committee member Rick Luhrs had in a recent win in Lambex," Tom says.

"A win we believe proves the merit of good Merino genetics and when we combined that with great management of trial wethers by hosts John and Kym Lyons, to achieve good weight gains across the board, well, as a committee we decided to have the 2024 drop killed and assessed at TFI Stawell.

"But unfortunately we lost about 25 per cent of the data we wanted on the chain," he says.

Committee members joined with industry experts, which had been engaged to ensure a full and smooth collection of kill data.

However, Tom says a known challenge is the ability to retain individual carcase identification as bodies pass quickly along the chain, while individual



treatments can also disrupt consistent data collection.

He says unfortunately, these challenges, even with the committee's best endeavours, did compromise this year's results.

"This part of the process was new to our trial, trying to capture all the relevant wether lamb carcase analysis," Tom adds.

"Being able to accurately assess the meat-eating quality and carcase performance is the next progression of the genetic evaluation of Merinos," he says.

"At our site seminar on July 23 we will also be presenting a decade of performance data from the AWI funded Merino Lifetime Productivity Project.

Story: Andrew Mole, **Photos:** Celia Dymond

From top: Gary Simpson, Fi and Darren Cameron from Koonik Dohnes, Balmoral Breeders crew at Warooka viewing the 2025 drop, Rosie Leeming and Paul Quin, Tom Silcock, Mark Bunge and Michael Craig, Tom checking out the 2025 drop, Kym and John Lyons from Warooka, Gary Simpson, Andrew Michael from Leahcim Merino Stud and Clive Silcock.

From top: Balmoral Breeders field day presentation, crew at Warooka checking out the 2025 drop, Anthony Close at this years Field Day. Checking out the flock at 2026 Field Day, Field Day at Warooka, Balmoral Balmoral Breeder commitee member and Zoetis representative Ashely Read at this years Field Day.

Photos from our 2026 Field Day.

Balmoral Breeders team, Gary Simpsoon, Bernie Duggan, Mark Bunge, Kym Lyons and Rosie Leeming at Warooka, classing in May.

BALMORAL SIRE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

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Kym Lyons - Deptuty Chair
Gary Simpson - Trail Entry Manager
Michael Craig - Treasurer
Celia Dymond - Secretary
Fi Cameron
Anthony Close
Michael Close
Richard Currie
Scott Davis
Bernie Duggan
Nick Falkenberg
Colin Frawley
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Tony Kealy
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Ian Murray
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Ashley Read
Clive Silcock
Tom Silcock
Wayne Whale
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Marina VanAken

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Balmoral Breeders

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