

# Trial News

## Elders Balmoral Victoria Sire Evaluation

The committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Thank-you to everyone for their support in the last 12 months.

### 2005 drop - 2nd Evaluation – Summary of Results

Table 1. MERINOSELECT Index Options and Classer's Grade

Sire Identity	No of progeny	MERINOSELECT Index Options				Classer's Grade %		
		Merino		Fine		Tops %	Flocks %	Culls %
		3.5% MP	7% MP	14% MP	10% MP + SS + WEC			
Connewarran 30134	36	110	109	105	99	13	71	16
Goodwood 0056	31	108	111	111	113	4	71	25
Goodwood BW1143/01 *	34	105	113	118	105	10	87	3
Gringegalgon ZAC0011/01	25	108	101	95	99	4	88	8
Hannaton 202	34	93	95	98	94	18	65	18
Hazeldean Zachary 0.12946	29	111	107	103	121	21	68	11
Kilfeera Park 3.21	19	101	95	91	69	5	63	32
Kilfeera Park 6.275 *	17	76	68	67	76	13	63	25
Kurra-Wirra BLK38	32	75	79	86	68	9	48	42
Nerstane N78	21	104	105	106	108	14	71	14
One Oak OO No 2 3001	36	101	98	96	90	6	78	17
Ruby Hills 0188	32	74	84	96	98	6	74	19
The Grange 201112	27	140	140	132	136	7	67	26
The Mountain Dam SN77	23	85	86	89	96	4	74	22
Windarra 010838	21	110	110	109	110	15	80	5
Average	28	100	100	100	100	10 %	71 %	19 %

- 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.

### Entries for 2008

We have had a fantastic response from breeders for the 2008 trial. The committee and host property owners reserve the right to evaluate the entries, mainly for their suitability for the host property flock. After this evaluation it is the arrival of the registration form, blood sample from the ram and availability of semen that dictate the final list of rams for the trial. The registration form is on the back page, please send it in ensure your ram is considered.

Fax to 03 55765051

### AMSEA Central Test Sire Evaluation - Sire Registration Form

**1. Central Test Sire Evaluation site details for the ram being entered**

1a. Location & drop being entered Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Drop: \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Other Location & Drop the ram has been entered: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Ram details**

2a. Ram's flock and common name: \_\_\_\_\_

2b. Ram's year of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

2c. Ram's ear tag or on-farm record number: \_\_\_\_\_

2d. Ram's 16 digit code (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

2e. Is semen available for sale (circle): Yes / No

2f. Has a blood sample been taken (circle): Yes / No If No, Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2g. Ram's wool type (circle): Superfine / Fine / Medium

**3. Owner details - Owner and contact for inquiries about the ram, plus owner(s) permission**

3a. Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

3b. Contact: First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

3c. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3d. Town and Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

3e. Phone and Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

3f. Fax: and email \_\_\_\_\_

3g. Does the Owner of the ram at the time of entry give permission to enter the ram into this CTSE site:

Yes **or** No (circle) Owner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3h. Does the Owner of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in *Merino Superior Sires*:

Yes **or** No (circle) Owner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3j. Does the Owner of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in Sheep Genetics reports:

Yes **or** No (circle) Owner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Breeding details - only fill in points (4d) to (4h) if different to the details in 'Owners details' above.**

4a. Breed of flock: \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details)

4b. Breeder: \_\_\_\_\_

4c. Flock Code: Registered: \_\_\_\_\_ Unregistered: \_\_\_\_\_

4d. Contact: First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

4e. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

4f. Town and Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

4g. Phone and Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

4h. Fax and email: \_\_\_\_\_

4i. Does the Breeder of the ram give permission to enter the ram into this CTSE site:

Yes **or** No (circle) Breeders signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4j. Does the Breeder of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in *Merino Superior Sires*:

Yes **or** No (circle) Breeders signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4k. Does the Breeder of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in Sheep Genetics Australia:

Yes **or** No (circle) Breeders signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Pedigree details (Mandatory)**

5a. Sire of Ram entered: \_\_\_\_\_

5b. Sire of Sire of Ram: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**6. Signature of entrant**

I believe all the above details to be true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. CTSE Site Committee representative**

I have checked all required details are listed.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sire	Bodyweight as deviation from average bodyweight - weighing 1	Bodyweight as deviation from average bodyweight - weighing 2
A	-0.4	-0.5
B	1.4	1.8
C	-0.7	-0.9
D	-0.5	-0.6
E	2.1	3.5
F	-0.4	-0.4
G	-3.0	-3.3
H	0.9	0.4
I	-3.3	-3.3
J	-0.1	-0.8
K	3.2	2.9
L	3.8	4.2
M	-2.9	-2.8
N	0.9	0.7

The important conclusions that come from this analysis are:

- Some progeny groups stick closely together at all times, some stay together some of the time, and some groups seem to have no bond with each other ever.
- This can lead to biases in data collected if there is a trend in any direction for the trait during a period of data collection. This is a particular concern with the collection of bodyweight data. This trend can be eliminated by ensuring that complete gut emptying has occurred before body weighing commences.

Susan Jarvis

### Thank-you to our Sponsors

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



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Results for each assessment from 1998 – 2005 are available on request or from our website

[www.balmoralbreeders.com.au](http://www.balmoralbreeders.com.au)



Table 2. Major Measured Traits – Estimated Breeding Values

Sire Identity	Estimated Breeding Values							
	GFW %		CFW %		FD µm		WT kg	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Connewarran 30134	-2.4	8.9	1.7	10.3	0.6	0.6	-2.0	1.8
Goodwood 0056	0.4	-5.8	7.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.4	-3.0	-1.5
Goodwood BW1143/01	-4.2	-5.2	2.4	-4.1	-0.6	-0.8	-1.8	-0.1
Gringegalga ZAC0011/01	10.7	4.4	9.6	2.3	0.6	0.6	2.5	0.3
Hannaton 202	-9.3	-3.5	-7.2	-2.4	0.2	0.7	3.6	2.6
Hazeldean Zachary 0.12946	7.7	13.3	1.8	10.4	-0.7	-0.2	-3.2	-0.2
Kilfeera Park 3.21	6.0	-4.2	4.4	-4.5	0.2	0.0	5.5	0.3
Kilfeera Park 6.275	-9.2	-3.4	-5.7	-1.9	1.9	1.6	-1.3	-0.5
Kurra-Wirra BLK38	-7.2	-15.8	-10.2	-15.9	-0.2	-0.2	4.5	1.4
Nerstane N78	12.1	-1.9	6.4	-4.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.8	-3.1
One Oak OO No 2 3001	3.5	1.4	5.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	-1.2	0.1
Ruby Hills 0188	-19.4	-8.0	-19.8	-7.4	-0.9	-1.1	-3.7	-1.2
The Grange 201112	14.3	15.3	13.4	15.6	-0.4	0.0	2.2	0.4
The Mountain Dam SN77	-7.6	-5.3	-7.0	-4.5	0.5	-0.4	-1.0	-0.2
Windarra 010838	4.9	10.2	-1.8	7.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	0.1
Average	2.8 kg	4.5 kg	2.0 kg	3.3 kg	16.1 mm	17.1 mm	28.2 kg	42.0 kg

Table 3. Other Measured Traits – Estimated Breeding Values

Sire Identity	Estimated Breeding Values								
	CV %		Curvature deg/mm		Staple Strength N/ktex		Staple Length mm		WEC %*
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	
Connewarran 30134	-1.4	-0.7	-9.8	-8.7	4.0	0.0	1.1	3.5	57.1
Goodwood 0056	-0.1	1.0	-4.0	-5.0	1.2	-2.9	1.1	-2.9	-9.1
Goodwood BW1143/01	-1.7	-2.0	-3.3	-1.3	2.0	2.4	4.6	4.9	57.0
Gringegalga ZAC0011/01	1.9	1.7	6.5	6.4	0.0	4.5	4.2	2.8	-18.1
Hannaton 202	-2.4	-1.3	-0.1	-1.2	4.0	3.3	-3.1	-0.8	8.1
Hazeldean Zachary 0.12946	1.9	1.4	-2.3	-3.9	-4.1	-3.5	6.1	8.9	-70.2
Kilfeera Park 3.21	1.6	1.3	2.4	2.4	-5.5	-4.3	-8.9	-10.1	83.3
Kilfeera Park 6.275	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	1.6	2.4	-5.9	-8.0	-40.4
Kurra-Wirra BLK38	-0.3	0.2	-0.9	0.5	-1.2	0.1	-10.9	-8.3	44.6
Nerstane N78	-1.3	-2.0	5.5	4.9	-4.6	-2.4	8.9	8.9	-26.8
One Oak OO No 2 3001	1.2	1.0	-4.3	-3.2	0.3	-0.7	5.0	3.0	30.2
Ruby Hills 0188	1.4	0.3	9.2	9.4	2.1	1.0	-6.0	-5.4	-11.1
The Grange 201112	-1.2	-0.9	-9.0	-9.0	3.8	1.1	-3.6	-3.1	8.8
The Mountain Dam SN77	-0.3	0.0	9.2	8.1	-2.5	-1.1	-4.1	-3.2	-35.7
Windarra 010838	-0.5	-0.4	0.2	-0.4	-0.8	0.4	11.5	10.2	10.3
Average	22.0 %	20.4 %	86.6 deg/mm	85.8 deg/mm	32.0 N/ktex	33.2 N/ktex	66.6 mm	85.6 mm	543 epg

“Every Cloud has a Silver Lining”



07 Progeny

This year’s mild winter and below average spring rain has proven that every cloud does have a silver lining with excellent merino and 1<sup>st</sup> Xs weaning weights here at Tuloona, particularly the 07 Sire Evaluation Progeny. They averaged 30.8 kg at 14 weeks of age, achieving an impressive average daily growth rate of 280 grams per day. The highest weight was 44.4 kg, achieving an outstanding average daily growth rate of 380 grams per day. The lambs look ‘fresh’ and ‘sappy’ and we look forward to growing them out slowly over the coming summer as we target a mid winter weight of around 36kg. Leaving the lambs on the ewes for an additional 2 weeks has not harmed the ewes with their average condition score exceeding 3 plus, all ewes are condition scored and managed accordingly after weaning.

06 Progeny

The 06 Sire Evaluation Progeny are progressing well, with one committee member commenting that they may have to go Jenny Craig as they look “Obese”, perhaps everything is relative. An obviously great aspect of having good growth rates during our critical feed supply period is minimising our feeding costs over summer, while also keeping our reserves up our sleeves for our next potential risk of a late autumn break.

AWI Pegging trial

Here at Tuloona a certified pegging trial has been completed and the results are very encouraging. The pegged progeny weaned 3kg heavier than conventionally muelsed 07 weaners run right next door on similar pasture at the same stocking rate.

What does this anecdotal evidence mean? Muelsing is highly stressful to animals and perhaps the alternatives to muelsing that we are required to investigate to keep our ‘product customer focus’ can also provide the grower with real productivity gains. How much does it cost to put 3kg on a spring drop weaner over summer?

The AWI pegged progeny will be on display at our field day in April where we encourage you to look at the results for yourself.

Michael Craig  
Tuloona



2006 results will be available in the next newsletter



Wool Market Update

The wool market continued throughout 2007 in a positive fashion with prices remaining at levels well above those of 2006, this can be attributed to decent short term global demand and fear over shortening supply. The current situation is one that has not been experienced before, with back to back droughts reducing an already low greasy supply, demand seeming to hold (or at least fall at a slower rate than supply) and big movements in exchange rates.

Sale volumes for the 2007/08 season thus far are lagging behind those from last season by approximately 11%, however last season’s quantities were propped up by a large amount of store wool entering the auction system. Fresh wool production has decreased by around 8%. This reduction may be exacerbated by the below average seasonal conditions experienced in many regions which could force a further decline in sheep numbers and therefore wool supplies in the second half of the selling season.

Long term demand signals are mixed, whilst wool is being viewed positively at a retail level for its clean and green characteristics, volumes of retail orders may be conservative given an expected consumer demand slowdown as a result of a continued downturn in economic conditions in key markets. This along with increased top stocks in Asia may result in lower demand for wool at some stage in the autumn.

19 micron range

The 19 MPG has traded in the 1170 – 1240 range for the last quarter of 2007. A characteristic of this period has been the abundance of drought affected tender wool types with high mid breaks on offer. This has resulted in better types with good tensile strength being keenly sought after.

21 micron range

The 21-MPG remains around the 1000 cent level. Greasy wool prices continue to hold up on limited supplies and firm demand. The exchange rate has bedevilled exporters and processors over the last few months with its increased volatility as evidenced by large, quick changes.



(See our last newsletter for the First article on this subject)

In an article in the previous EVSE newsletter, I presented data that suggested that groups of lambs that had spent the first two weeks of their life together in sire progeny lambing groups might have developed some form of bond that caused them to tend to stay closer to each other than what might have been expected. The issue was that there was a trend for bodyweight to decrease over time during the weighing period, and that could have led to some bias in data collected. The decision was made by the Management Committee to reweigh these animals on another occasion and to ensure that there was a minimum of 4 hours off feed to allow for complete gut emptying. So what happened this time?

The table below shows that, as with first body weighing session, some groups of animals stayed together much more closely than did others.

Sire	Body weighing 1			Body weighing 2		
	Average Weigh Order	Difference from Mob Average	Average BWt	Average Weigh Order	Difference from Mob Average	Average BWt
A	260.0	-5.9	31.5	236.8	-26.7	34.7
B	243.6	-22.3	33.3	287.6	24.1	37.0
C	271.1	5.1	31.1	311.8	48.3	34.3
D	266.6	0.6	31.3	266.1	2.6	34.6
E	288.7	22.8	34.0	265.4	1.9	38.7
F	269.4	3.5	31.4	288.9	25.4	34.8
G	266.1	0.2	28.9	258.8	-4.7	31.9
H	233.8	-32.2	32.7	224.4	-39.1	35.5
I	257.0	-8.9	28.5	244.9	-18.6	31.8
J	289.6	23.7	31.7	255.0	-8.5	34.3
K	271.7	5.8	35.0	296.8	33.3	38.1
L	270.6	4.6	35.6	215.5	-48.0	39.4
M	284.1	18.2	28.9	292.7	29.2	32.3
N	249.7	-16.2	32.7	253.3	-10.2	35.8
Average	265.9	0.0	31.8	263.5	0.0	35.2

For example, the second time they were weighed the progeny of Sire C, with an average weigh order of 311.8, tended to be weighed much later than progeny of Sire L, which were weighed early (average weigh order of 215.5). The interesting thing to note from this data is that the sire progeny groups that stayed closer together on the first weighing occasion were not necessarily staying close together at the second body weighing. Perhaps they are just “Mates of Convenience”, and not “Mates for Life” However there are a couple of sire progeny groups that did show very similar behaviour on both weighing occasions. Progeny of Sire H were weighed earlier than average and progeny of Sire M were weighed later than average on both occasions.

Weighing the sheep a second time after complete gut emptying was necessary, as there had been a significant decrease in bodyweight during the first period of weighing. This did not occur the second time the sheep were weighed, so any grouping behaviour caused no bias in the bodyweight data. A careful examination of the data shows that the tendency to stick together in their sire progeny group and to be weighed late on the first body weighing occasion might have biased downwards the bodyweights for progeny of Sire E. Similar effects can be seen for other sire groups.

