

BARWON



Poll Dorset and White Suffolk Stud

Summer 2010

Welcome

Harvest is over, 2009 is over, and the weather is what it is. The Barwon harvest was a disappointing affair, going on tediously with interruptions by ineffective rain events.

For those who haven't heard, Rob had an accident at harvest and he has spent the past month in and out of hospital and is slowly recovering from spinal surgery. Rob hopes to catch up with you at the February sale.

I am regularly asked by clients about buying feeder lambs for finishing. I have done a bit of research and now have a list of contacts who may be able to assist you with the supply (or sale) of lambs. Please feel free to call me so that I can put you in touch with the producer.

I have included a short survey with this newsletter to help us update the mail list. I would appreciate it if you could take the time to fill it in and return it.

I wish you a healthy, happy, successful and wet 2010 and hope to catch up with you on Friday 5th February.

*Mark Yates,
Studmaster.*

New decade, new goals

At the beginning of a new decade it is a good time to look at some big picture issues for your business and have some in depth analyses done. It is a great idea to write your goals down.

Goals should be SMART (specific, measurable, agreed on, realistic, timely). In a farming business, it is good to get each member of the business to write their short term (5 year) and longer term (10 year) goals down. This will then lead you to the issues that need to be reviewed, which could include:

- Time of lambing: implications on workload, feed availability and most importantly economics
- Target market

- Lamb finishing: pasture versus feedlot
- Preg-testing: nutrition for singles and multiples
- Scanning ewes for early and late drop to split mob for feed and management issues

Let's get technical

Grain growers regularly seek advice on a range of management issues when growing a wheat or canola crop. Dairy farmers seek advice on the nutritional management of their herd. But prime lamb producers are less inclined to seek out advice on flock health or nutrition management.

Is it because we are meant to know what to feed each mob? Are we meant to know all there is to know about lamb survival? Many producers have embraced LambPlan but don't really understand what the Carcass+ Index and the associated statistics really mean.

It is time to educate ourselves and seek out advice from the professionals who are in touch with the researchers. You should be thinking about:

- Lamb survival
- Optimising lambs weaned and at what age
- Weaning methods
- Assessing feed availability
- Supplementary feeding and the economics of quality versus quantity (e.g. straw, hay, cereal grain, lupins, pellets)
- Balancing feed rations: energy and protein
- Using feed quality testing and interpreting results
- Feed supplements and their use (e.g. licks, blocks)

2010 Autumn Ram Sale

Friday 5th February at 10:30 am



Sale Offering

R. Yates & Co. will be offering over 180 specially selected rams
Approximately 140 Poll Dorset and 40 White Suffolk
Lambplan figures will be available on sale day or one week prior by request.

Selling Agents



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