



plevna
merinos

MODERN MERINOS SINCE 1979

CONTACT information

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For your diary

**Plevna merinos
inspection day**
Thursday, 12 September
3pm-5pm

Plevna Merinos ram sale
Thursday, 19 September
10am inspection
12pm BBQ lunch
1pm sale begins



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For all of the up-to-date
Plevna Merinos news and
happenings.

WOOLPRESS

EWES-LETTER + INVITATION

2019

Hello and welcome to our 2019 newsletter. 2019 has deteriorated seasonally further on from 2018. Australia's sheep flock has fallen a further 6.8% in twelve months, the largest year on year decline since 2008. According to MLAs 2019 sheep industry projections the forecast for the next twelve months is a further increase year on year decline of 11% (8.5 million head).



Demand

Despite the drought both lamb and mutton prices have reached record highs. Focusing on demand, MLA projects the outlook to looking positive. This makes this drought different to many we have endured in the past 100 years.

Wool Prices

Wool prices peaked at 2116 cents in August last year. As a result of a perfect storm in wool market fundamentals – low supply and strong demand. The drought has further restricted supply by 12.1% to 300 million kgs. To put this in perspective our prices had doubled in a four year period. The current level of 1497cents per kg is still in the top 25% of prices in the last decade. It has lost 17% of its season opening value of 1754 cents. The ongoing trade tensions between the USA and China, uncertainty in Europe over Brexit have all contributed to the decline in prices.

On Farm

2019 has seen the upgrade of our data collection and accuracy. We are one of the few ram breeders which are now single joining our female base. This will give us individual parentage of all our stud progeny. This over time will vastly increase the accuracy the ASVBs.

There are many claims from studs that are unsubstantiated by an overall low level of data collection. ►



2018 RAM SALE



PLEVNA CLIENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A Plevna client north of Tullamore had a great sale with his 2018 August drop wether lambs.

Sold in late may/early June at 9 months of age.

Av 55 to 60kg tops at \$250
Av \$230 over whole drop.

An estimate of \$35 wool was also produced.

One of the strongest results for Merino lambs at that time.

Plevna clients also recieved strong prices for surplus ewes sold due to worsening drought conditions.

MAT AVEYARD

sold 220 5 & 6 year old ewes scanned in lamb to twins for \$248

PHIL MCCOSKER

scanned his 4.5year old ewes 222 were scanned with 215 (97%) being wet.

215 went to Hilston on Auctions plus for \$236.50

A great result for Phil.

Greg Miller, Phil's agent, commented that the modern style sheep were attracting plenty of competition. The fecundity of Phil's flock and the Plevna bloodline allows for quick flock rebuilding when the rains do return.



ALAN LARKINGS INSPECTING THE 2018 RAMS

Sheep bred with transparency

Research recently resurfaced from the Trangie research station in 1961 comparing the nutrition of two groups of rams. Relevant to today's breeding practices. (Knight, N and Dunn R.B 1964)

Group one: "the Stud plane" were fed a stud show feed for the first two years.

Group two: "the Trangie plane" were grown out on native pasture for the same time frame. (Same genetics used)

Results

Group one cut 52% more wool in the first twelve months and weighed 66% heavier. The Stud Plane only benefit was that it improved the appearance of the rams and they produced more wool at their first mature shearing.

The following year group two (Trangie Plane) improved considerably.

Most of all the two groups of rams were progeny tested by joining them as three year olds with Merino Ewes. There were no difference between the two groups of fifteen month old progeny.

The down sides were and are many.

- Housing and concentrated feeding caused over fatness
- Sheep which do not thrive in their environment often go to pieces when they are taken out of their protected environment.
- Exaggerated production figures

We now know there are a few other issues with production fed sheep such as infertility and lack of hardiness (early breakdown).

2018 Ram Sale wrap up

2018 was our 6th annual ram sale.

The Helmsman sale was conducted by Elders Rural Services and Rob Hellyer Livestock with a grade sale average of \$1250.

A substantial increase of \$300 from 2017.

The top price of \$3200 was paid by Anthony, Margaret and John Simmons of Curyo. Thank you to all our buyers.



© MURRAY BALL, FOOTROT FLATS



GRAHAM & NEVILLE JONES OF TULLAMORE

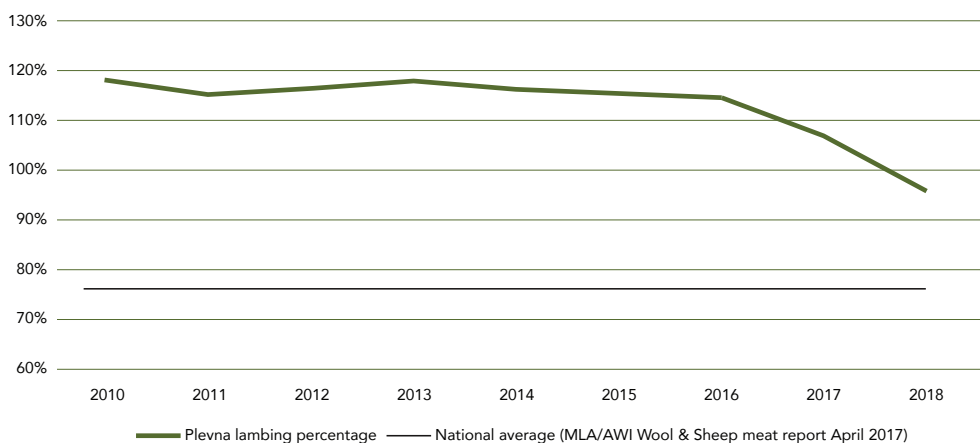


Inspection day

We are having an inspection day on Thursday, 12 September from 3-5pm. This is an opportunity to have a look at our 50 top Plevna blood 2019 Sale Rams, Sires, Ewes & Lambs. Rams will be tied in their lot numbers with individual

objective measurements available. This gives the opportunity to come & make some selection decisions or just have a look without the business of a sale being conducted. Catalogues will be available on the day or on our website.

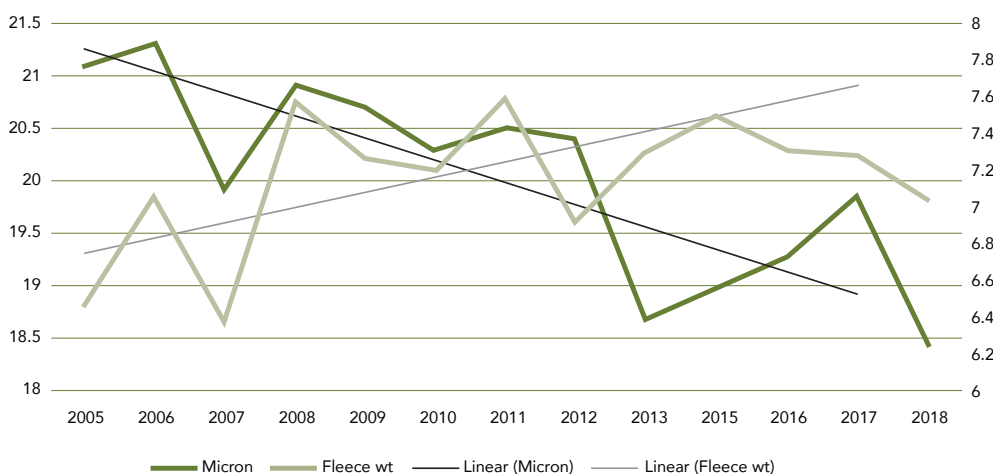
Plevna lambing percentage vs national average



Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lambing %	119	115	117	118	116	115	114	107	96

NOTE: NATIONAL AVERAGE 77% (MLA/AWI WOOL & SHEEP MEAT REPORT APRIL 2017)

Flock average, fleece weight & fibre diameter trends



Years	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Micron	21.1	21.3	19.9	20.9	20.7	20.3	20.5	20.4	18.7	19.2	19.8	19.2	19.8	18.4
Fleece kg	6.46	7.05	6.38	7.56	7.27	7.2	7.59	6.92	7.296	7.5	7.27	7.241	7.3	7.05

NOTE: 2016 WOOL FIGURES – WE ARE SHEARING 6 MONTHLY. THE COMBINED WOOL WEIGHTS ARE 3.14KGS (MAY SHEARING) & 4.1KGS (DECEMBER SHEARING) COMBINED WEIGHT = 7.24KGS.

7TH ANNUAL HELMSMAN RAM SALE

Thursday 19th September 2019
Inspections from 10am
Sale 1pm onwards

HOW THE HELMSMAN SYSTEM WORKS

The rams are individually penned or tied with their ASBV's on a card above them. There is also a printed catalogue available.

Inspections take place prior from 10am till 1pm.

Assistance with selections Boyd Aveyard, Rob Hellyer, Jake Lebroque & Steve Quirk. Reserve price starts at \$800.

Once buyers are registered bids are placed by paper slip to a team member, the bid is then placed upon a board where all lots are listed.

The sale will be completed once bidding has been finalised. The sale will be conducted by Jake Lebroque & Paul Jameson of Elders Livestock & Rob Hellyer of Rob Hellyer Livestock & Property.

For more info contact
Boyd Aveyard 0428 921 087.



SALLY CAPELL AND JEMALONG WOOL'S STEVE QUIRK AT 2016'S SALE



RAM SALE + INSPECTION DAY

INSPECTION DAY THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

- Ram inspection 3pm – 5pm
- Rams will be in lot numbers.



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RAM SALE THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Heavy cutting commercial sheep

- **FLEECE WEIGHTS:**
Long term average of 19.8 micron 7.3kg in adult ewes.
- **FERTILITY & GOOD MOTHERING:**
High percentage of lambs weaned to ewes joined. Our stud ewes must rear lambs as a maiden to retain their place in the stud.
- **COMPETITION WINNERS:**
First place in the Ted Little Ewe Trial – twice in the last 5 years

7th annual helmsman sale

- Offering our top 45 Poll merino rams & 5 horned rams
- Inspection from 10am. Inspections prior to the sale by appointment.
- BBQ lunch 12pm
- Sale commences 1pm
- For more information, call Boyd Aveyard 0482 921 087.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Flock to contract further in line with high sheep slaughter
- Fewer lambs which will limit winter & spring supply
- Surplus Sheep will be in record demand
- Our land will take time to recover, get rid of unproductive animals
- If joining to terminals, make sure they get 2nd tier ewes.
- Call Boyd if you would like assistance with classing of young ewes or sorting of joining groups.



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