

What, where, when

What: Yorke Peninsula Auctions and Field Days

Where: On-property

When: July 27, August 10, 16 and 17

Participating Studs

- 1 July 27 North Cowie
- 2 Aug 10 Orrie Cowie
- 3 Aug 16 Limevale
- 4 Aug 17 Babirra
- 5 Aug 17 Carricowie

Strong season keeps price hopes high

The Yorke Peninsula Merino Breeders extend a warm welcome to breeders and visitors to the 2011 field day events that include general displays and auctions.

Variable seasons have created a demand for bloodlines which have a proven track record in producing early maturing sheep with greater returns under easy management programs.

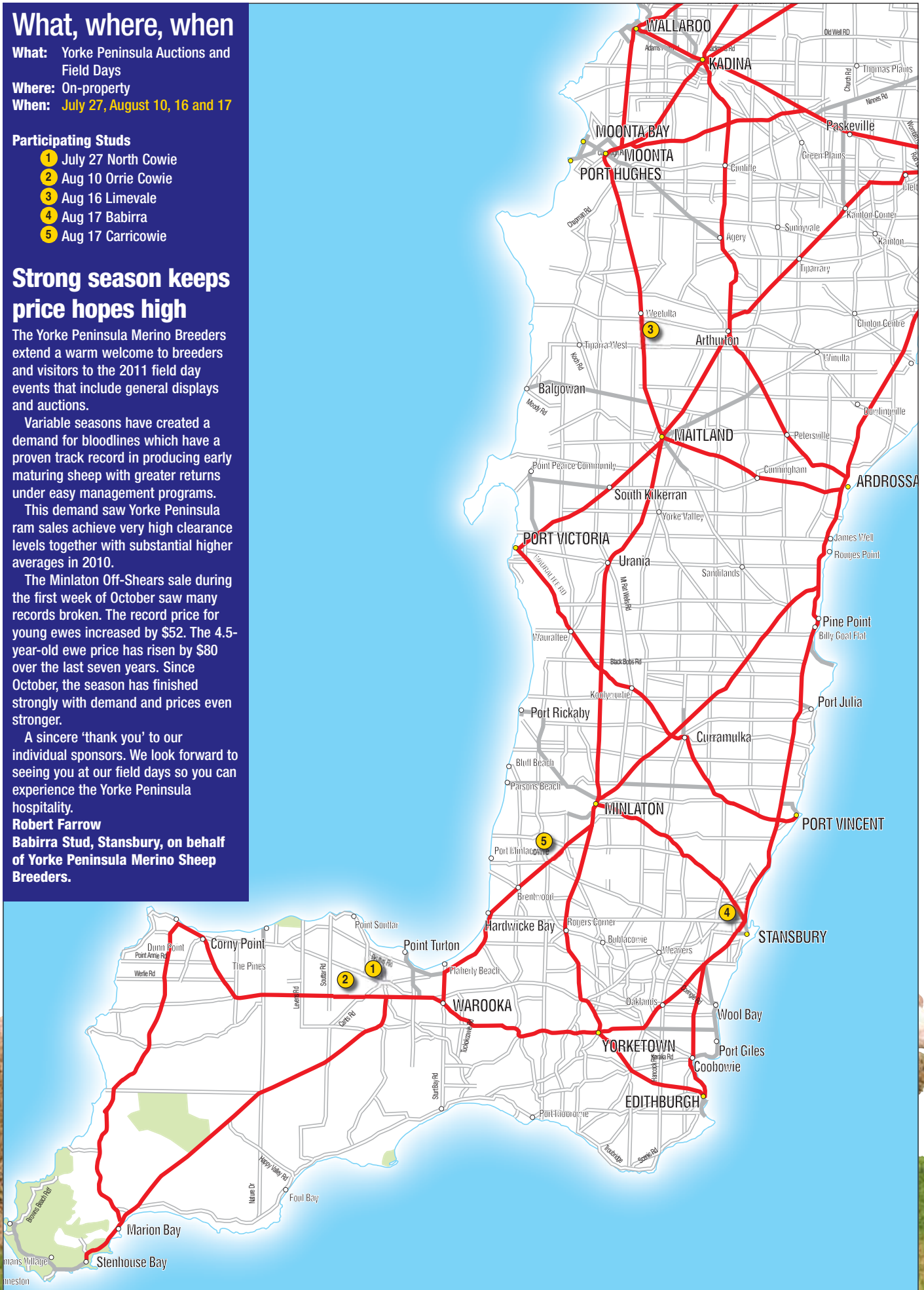
This demand saw Yorke Peninsula ram sales achieve very high clearance levels together with substantial higher averages in 2010.

The Minlaton Off-Shears sale during the first week of October saw many records broken. The record price for young ewes increased by \$52. The 4.5-year-old ewe price has risen by \$80 over the last seven years. Since October, the season has finished strongly with demand and prices even stronger.

A sincere 'thank you' to our individual sponsors. We look forward to seeing you at our field days so you can experience the Yorke Peninsula hospitality.

Robert Farrow

Babirra Stud, Stansbury, on behalf of Yorke Peninsula Merino Sheep Breeders.



BABIRRA

The aim of breeding large-framed, early maturing sheep with soft, nourished wools has always been paramount at Babirra. A progeny-testing young sire at seven months really quickens the valuable gains from genetics and provides the stud master and client with early performance details on the next generation. Many of Babirra's clients have reported excellent sales of wether lambs and young ewes at local markets. Rams are weighed at seven to eight months when early maturing features are recognised. The stud takes wool samples and has results available for clients to peruse before sale day. Babirra continues with its AI strategy of using Moorundie Park B100 to take advantage of his excellent wool which is bright and stylish. This year's sales team will include progeny from Moorundie Park M384 bought for \$10,500 from the 2009 Adelaide Ram Sale. Also in the sale team will be progeny from Moorundie Park Reserve Sire K1, a ram that has bred uniformly with true pure wool wherever he has gone. In the 2010 Adelaide Sale, Babirra bought A069 from Moorundie Park. The stud looks forward to having his offspring in its paddocks in the not too distant future. An inspection day will be held on August 10, a week before Babirra's sale on August 17. Current test results will be available and the stud can help with selection if required.

CARRICOWIE

Carricowie Poll Merino stud was established in 1984 with mated stud ewes from Orrie Cowie stud. The stud is renowned for breeding big-frame sheep with heavy-cutting, well-nourished soft white wool of a medium quality. Each year, Carricowie runs an artificial insemination program using some of the top genetics in Australia to meet its objectives which are to improve wool cut and quality while reducing micron on a big, plain-bodied sheep. The Blyth family of Robin, Judith, Bronte and Lee look forward to welcoming clients and friends to their on-property sale on August 17 at 2.30pm. This year's sale will feature progeny of Glenville W10-35, Nyowee PK2-66, Collinsville 007 and Moorundie Park K1. All rams will be 14-15 months old and paddock run. An inspection day will be held a week before the sale on August 10 with all current tests available, and the family will be free to discuss client requirements.

LIMEVALE

Limevale prides itself on producing big-frame sheep with soft, free-growing wool suitable for the modern wool industry. The rams are bred to perform well in very harsh conditions and showcase the best that Yorke Peninsula rams have to offer. The stud's annual ram sale is on Tuesday, August 16, at 1.30pm. Studmaster Gavin Adams will offer 60 rams in the main and mini-auction, all June-July drops. Enquiries to inspect are welcome.

NORTH COWIE

North Cowie Merino and Poll Merino Studs were founded in 1978 as a result of the splitting of Orrie Cowie between the Murdoch family. Vic Murdoch retained the Orrie Cowie name and Roger and Garry Murdoch formed North Cowie. In 1991, Garry and Gwen took over the ownership and running of North Cowie and it remains with them to this day. In 1987, North Cowie began selling rams with an on-property auction and the sale was held in mid July each year. The stud's Merino and Poll Merino sale was the first to take off in South Australia each year. This year, North Cowie's ram sale will be held on July 27 at its property at North Cowie, 10 kilometres west of Warooka on Yorke Peninsula. North Cowie, in its early years, was very active on the show circuit, participating at numerous country shows and at the Royal Adelaide Show. The highlight was being awarded the 1990 grand champion fleece of Australia in the national Fleece competition. With their oldest son Joseph now home on the farm, they plan to re-enter the show circuit in the near future. For the first time, the stud will be displaying at Burra for the SA Stud Merino Field Days in March this year. North Cowie's focus is breeding large-framed, plain-bodied sheep that carry stylish, bright, white, nourished wools in the 19-21 micron range. It aims to help clients get more dollars a hectare from their sheep enterprise. In 2010, 600 Poll and 800 Merino ewes were mated. Sires from North Cowie, Orrie Cowie and Minta studs have been used in the Merino flock. For the Poll Merino flock, they used rams from Glenville, Kamora Park, Collinsville (JC&S 6 purchased for \$7700 in 2009) and most recently B133, purchased for \$15000 from Moorundie Park at the 2010 Royal Adelaide Show Ram Sale. The stud also bought 100 3.5-year-old stud ewes from the Kongal Park dispersal sale in November 2010 and Poll ram Nyowee 058 purchased by Kongal Park in 2009 for \$6200. North Cowie sheep have proved that they can perform well

in all environments, from high rainfall areas to drier zones in South Australia and New South Wales. The stud prides itself on producing today's easy care, plain-bodied Merinos with quality wool that is available at affordable prices. The stud looks forward to catching up with you at Burra in March and at its on-property sale in July.

ORRIE COWIE

Over its long and successful history, Orrie Cowie Merino and Poll Merino studs have been noted for their ability to breed big-framed, heavy-cutting sheep that perform in all environs and carry well-nourished, bright, stylish and soft handling wools. Principals Dennis and Heather Dalla continue to receive positive feedback from Orrie Cowie ram buyers all over the country on the improvement in wool cuts and quality that they are now getting. The stud's wool cuts are impressive. With a shift to summer shearing, the Orrie Cowie sheep cut an average 8 kilograms of fleece wool over all stud and commercial lines with a maximum 21.2 microns, down to hoggets at 17.5µ. Staple strength averaged near 40 newtons per kilotex. Orrie Cowie is addressing the total needs of sheep producers by applying rigorous objective selection pressure on early growth, carcase and maternal traits. This provides valuable selection information to back up 45-plus years of stud experience. A feedlot in operation at Orrie Cowie is not only a commercial enterprise in its own right but a suitable testing station for the Orrie Cowie genetics. Last year, pure Merino lambs carrying Orrie Cowie genetics outperformed other Merino lines, selling at \$120 for 23.5kg dressed carcasses, while early 2011 sales have topped at \$145. New genetic lines have been introduced on a needs basis and in 2009, Orrie Cowie bought three top Poll Merino rams to increase the genetic pool in this breed. Nepowie 16, a son of Belka Valley Max, and the top-riced Radnor ram, were added and brought in excellent results. Homebred sires 'True Blue' (sold to Northwich stud in Western Australia for \$10,000) and 'Big Bruce' (sold to Bruce McCarthy for \$7000) have both bred exceptional progeny at Orrie Cowie. The stud describes its breeding principles under the motto of "The Right Wool with the Right Genetics on the Right Body". It believes this aptly describes the rams they are producing – productive and profitable easy care sheep capable of rapidly improving carcase and wool quality in the flocks of their users. The Orrie Cowie display at Burra will include a cross section of successful families within the stud. Their renowned size, structure, constitution and wools are especially evident in the 2011 sale rams. The annual ram sale is on Wednesday, August 10, on-property at Warooka.

