



ABN 21 254 813 645
Royal Adelaide Showground
Goodwood Road, Wayville
PO Box 108
Goodwood SA 5034

P 08 8212 4157
F 08 8231 7095
E info@merinosa.com.au
W www.merinosa.com.au

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION SITE TRIAL NEWS – AUGUST 2018

DIARY DATES

August 31st 2018
2019 Sire nominations open

September 17th 2018
2019 Sire nominations close

September 24th 2018 (TBC)
Mid-side sampling, shearing,
post shearing visual scoring –
2017 Progeny

September 24th 2018 (TBC)
Tip shearing – 2018 Progeny

2019 SITE HOST

We are pleased to announce McPiggery, Lameroo will be the 2019 SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial Site. To compliment the new site host, the Committee will be looking for a local ram breeder(s) from the region to act as the 'Breeder Representative' for the SA Site. Please contact Roger Fiebig fielbighh@activ8.net.au or Anna Cameron acameron@yalumba.com should you wish to be involved.

As McPiggery run an early AI program, 2019 Sire nominations will be open Friday August 31st 2018. Nominations will close Monday September 17th 2018.

FIELD DAY

The inaugural Field Day for the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial held at Keyneton Station on 22nd June 2018 was well attended by over 150 people. The 2017 drop progeny of 16 leading Stud Merino Sires was on display in sire groups, together with results from measured and visual assessments.



Stephen Kellock of Kelvale Poll, Hansi Graetz of Pepper Well Poll, and Emma Shattock, Elders

Presentations also supported the day: Roger Fiebig (Site Chairman) and Joe Keynes (2017 & 2018 Site Host) discussed the trial process together with the season and stock management. Ben Swain (AMSEA Executive Officer) gave an informative talk on what Sire Evaluation is, how the data is analysed, and how the results are to be interpreted. Simon Walker (SARDI Affiliate) gave an update on the current AI Research Program, and Geoff Linden (AWI) discussed the results of interviews with wool growers in relation to moving to a non-mulesed Merino enterprise.



2017 drop progeny in individual sire lines ready for inspection



Roger Fiebig (Site Chairman) addressing attendees

SITE UPDATE

At the start of Summer, lambs were fed beans through self-feeders due to the lower summer feed availability. Acknowledging the winter drought in other regions, the seasonal conditions at Keyneton have continued to be tough following very little summer rainfall and a late and short winter break which occurred late June. In June, the lambs were returned to paddock feed, however were placed back in to containment after the Field Day on self-feeders with beans and then pellets from July until mid-August. They are now on short paddock feed and will remain there until shearing.

2017 SIRE ENTRANTS

The 2017 drop progeny are due to be shorn late September, however as the period between mid-side sampling in May and shearing is too long, the mid-side sampling will be repeated. This will occur the day before shearing, collecting the traits ‘micron’, ‘yield’ and ‘urine’. At shearing, ‘Greasy Fleece Weight’ will be recorded, and as the shorn progeny come out of the shed, post shearing visual classing will occur. The visual traits to be documented include ‘shoulder/back’, ‘body wrinkle’ and ‘body weight’. Volunteers will be needed to assist with these tasks.



Mid-side sampling, Classing and EMD/FAT assessment, May 28th, 2018



2017 drop progeny, August 2018 (Photo courtesy of Georgie Keynes)

Worm Egg Count have been taken throughout the season, displaying low worm burdens, with the most recent test in mid-August at 50 eggs per gram. This result, as with previous tests, was well below the threshold required by AMSEA for conducting individual worm egg counts. As such, the 2017 drop progeny have been drenched and mustered out to the hills at Keyneton Station.

Once final data collection has occurred at shearing, AMSEA will develop and release a report for our site.

2018 SIRE ENTRANTS

There was solid interest in the site from both SA and interstate ram breeders again in 2018, with 16 sires being accepted. CIDR's were inserted on the 4th January, removed and PMSG shots given on the 16th & 17th January, and AI occurred on 18th & 19th January across two very hot days. On 9th March at day 50 (from AI), the ewes were scanned as 50% pregnant.

Lamb marking occurred on the 9th & 10th July 2018, at which time visual traits were also recorded and tissue sample units were collected. Overall, there were 495 lambs from 523 ewes (94%). The breakdown included 212 twins from 165 ewes, and 283 singles from 358 ewes. The average breech cover was visually assessed as 2.5/5 or 50%, and the average breech wrinkle was visually assessed as 1.7/5, or 34%. This indicates the lambs are reasonably plain. The lambs were weaned and drenched August 28th 2018. Weaning weight was 26kg.



Insertion of CIDR's on 4th January 2018 (Photo courtesy of Bill Walker)



AI day on 18th January 2018 (Photo courtesy of Bill Walker)



Pregnancy scanning at Keyneton Station 9th March 2018 (Photo courtesy of Georgie Keynes)





Lamb marking, trait recording and collection of TSU's at Keyneton Station, 10th July 2018



Weaning 28th August 2018 (photo courtesy of Georgie Keynes)

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION SITE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Roger Fiebig
Site Owner	Keynes Family
Data Manager	Georgie Keynes
Classer	Bill Walker
Industry Service Provider	Michelle Cousins
Breeder Representative	Hansi Graetz
Finance & Administration	Jennifer Light
Site Coordinator	Anna Cameron
AMSEA Site Representative	Stephen Lee

SPONSORS, CONTRIBUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

As a non-profit site, our sponsors provide a very important contribution, and we would like to acknowledge their generous support of the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Site in 2017 & 2018. We would also like to thank those individuals, and/or businesses whom have volunteered their time in helping the site run as smoothly as possible throughout the year, whether that be in the form of providing labour, or helping with specific tasks as required by the AMSEA protocols. One of those business's that must be acknowledged is Keyneton Station, who importantly offered to be the host site for the first Merino Sire Evaluation Site in SA, as well as volunteering their own time in planning and labour.



Greg Heeny 0475 948 880



Emma Shattock 0427 388 365



Mary Chirgwin 0418 898 505



Margie Trowbridge 08 8756 6065



Jennifer Light 08 8212 4157



Paul Cousins 0427 922 108
Michelle Cousins 0407 607 899

CLASSINGS P/L - MURRAY BRIDGE SA
- MERINO BREEDING ADVISORY -
- WOOL TESTING LABORATORY -

Bill & Rose Walker 0428 973 804



Keynes Family 0428 648 235

