

# South Australia Merino Sire Evaluation Site Report

2025 Drop  
Yearling Assessment

Within-Site Results  
May 2026

Conducted by

South Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Trial Committee

Under the auspices of



With support from



## Foreword

### South Australia Merino Sire Evaluation

Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) trials provide the opportunity for objective comparisons to be made between rams from different studs by evaluating their progeny for sheep type, structure, wool production and carcass traits. The progeny are all run together in the same environmental conditions that typify SA Merino production with all male progeny marked. The SA site was established in 2017 and is important for South Australia's Merino industry given no other public Merino sire evaluation trials occur in SA. The site will make an important contribution to genetic improvement for Merinos in SA. Supported by Merino SA, the trial is an accredited sire evaluation program run under the rigorous design, recording and data evaluation protocols of AMSEA.

Turretfield Research Centre at Rosedale are generously hosting the 2024-2027 Drops of the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial. This follows Keyneton Station, Keyneton who hosted the inaugural 2017 Drop followed by the 2018 Drop, the McMahon family at McPiggery Lameroo, who hosted the 2019 and 2020 drops, and the Eckert Family of Mentara Park, Malinong who hosted the 2021 and 2022 drops. There is significant interest in the site from both SA and interstate ram breeders, with the quality of rams entered of very high calibre.

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. We would also like to thank those individuals and/or businesses, including Merino SA and many industry service providers who have volunteered their time, service and/or product in helping the site run as smoothly as possible throughout the year.

Stephen Kellock  
Chairman  
South Australia Site Committee

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## Disclaimer

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## 2025 Drop Yearling Assessment

The information in this Site Report provides the results of the assessment of the 2025 drop, including the Yearling assessments of the sire's progeny performance for measured and visually assessed traits.

The Yearling midside fleece assessments were completed at 10 months of age with 10 months of wool growth and shearing was completed at 10 months of age with 10 months of wool growth.

### Visual Trait Assessment and Site Breeding Objective

#### Visual trait assessment

Classer's Grade: Paul Cousins

Visual Trait Scores: Paul Cousins and Bill Walker

#### Site Breeding Objective used to assess the Visual Classer's Grades

The Breeding Objective used by the classer/s when selecting the Classers Tops, Flock and Cull grades is described below. The Breeding Objective for both measured and visual assessed traits was developed by the site committee in consultation with the classer prior to the grading.

Rams will be capable of producing progeny with 18-21 micron fleece at 12 months with at least 4kg of wool from 8 months growth from an easy-care plain bodied sheep. In addition, progeny should be capable of achieving 22-25kg carcase weight at 10-12 months of age. Ewe progeny will be fertile and capable of high natural conception rates when first mated at 18 months.

In regard to Classer's Visual Grades the expectation is at the start of grading that there will be a ratio of 25% Top, 50% Flock and 25% Cull. However, the sheep performance relative to the above breeding objective determines the final proportion allocated to each grade.

### Sire Codes and Pedigrees

Sire Code	Breeders flock, Sire number	Sheep Genetics ID	Poll	Sire of Sire
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	609302-2020-200055	PP	Gunallo Poll, 170295
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	601336-2022-220349	PP	Calcookara Poll, 200112
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	609207-2022-220078	PP	Centre Plus Poll, 707350
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	601414-2023-230554	PP	Gunnegalderie, 202258
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	600815-2023-233079	PP	Leahcim Poll, 203349
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	609533-2023-233446	PP	Malleetech Poll, 211336
7	Mumblebone, 233720	500063-2023-233720	PP	Mumblebone, 180919
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	601226-2022-220689	PP	North Ashrose Poll, 181260
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	601470-2023-230173	PH	Ella Matta Poll, 170274
10	Pimben Poll, 220611	601048-2022-220611	PH	Flairdale Poll, 190212
11	Richmond, 220339	505021-2022-220339	PP	Benefield Poll, 200055

## Sire and Owner Contact Details

Breeder's flock, Sire number Sire ID #	Contact Details
<b>Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)</b> 609302-2020-200055	<b>Brenton Smith</b> 1491 Ferns Road, Cowell SA 5602 M: 0427 285 039, E: info@calcookara.com.au
<b>Calcookara Poll, 220349</b> 601336-2022-220349	<b>Brenton Smith</b> 1491 Ferns Road, Cowell SA 5602 M: 0427 285 039, E: info@calcookara.com.au
<b>Curlew Poll, 220078</b> 609207-2022-220078	<b>AC, AM, BA &amp; E Kealy</b> 1583 Patyah Road, Edenhope VIC 3318 M: 0448 600 525, E: elisekealy@gmail.com
<b>GullenGamble Poll, 230554</b> 601414-2023-230554	<b>Max Edwards</b> Westcourt, 1931 Renshaw McGirr Way, Walmer NSW 2820 M: 0448 600 007, E: westcourt2820@yahoo.com
<b>Leahcim Poll, 233079</b> 600815-2023-233079	<b>Scott Welke</b> RMB 9146 Cascade Rd, Esperance WA 6450 M: 0427 792 044, E: scott@westwoodfarms.net.au
<b>Malleetech Poll, 233446</b> 609533-2023-233446	<b>David and Harley Smith</b> 976 Geranium South Road, Geranium SA 5301 M: 0427 857 722, E: david@malleetech.com
<b>Mumblebone, 233720</b> 500063-2023-233720	<b>Chase Ferguson</b> PO Box 528, Tintinara SA 5266 M: 0439 280 775, E: coleburrafarms@outlook.com
<b>North Ashrose Poll, 220689</b> 601226-2022-220689	<b>Tom Ashby</b> PO Box 17, Gulnare SA 5471 P: (08) 8845 2155, M: 0427 452 107, E: ashby@activ8.net.au
<b>O'Brien Poll, 230173</b> 601470-2023-230173	<b>Darren O'Brien</b> PO Box 310, Wudinna SA 5652 P: (08) 8681 2019, M: 0419 772 173, E: dobandjodie@gmail.com
<b>Pimbena Poll, 220611</b> 601048-2022-220611	<b>Leslie and John Hamence</b> 3596 Ten Chain Rd, Wirrulla SA 5661 P: (08) 8626 8002, M: 0428 268 002, E: pimbena@bigpond.com
<b>Richmond, 220339</b> 505021-2022-220339	<b>Hansi Graetz</b> PO Box 3, Keyneton SA 5353 M: 0427 790 676, E: pepperwell1@gmail.com

**(Link Sire )** Sire evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g. *Merino Superior Sires*.

Link sires are a vital sire evaluation component as they provide the 'genetic link' between sire evaluation sites located across Australia, allowing all sires entered to have their performance reported relative to each other in the annual Merino Superior Sires. An AMSEA link sire must have at least 25 progeny assessed at their 1st sire evaluation assessment.

# The 16 digit Sire ID is a unique number for all sheep.  
 - 2 for the breed of the flock, e.g. Merino (50), Poll Merino (60), Dohne (51)  
 - 4 for flock code, AASMB Registered flock code or unregistered code.  
 - 4 for year of drop & 6 for tag# used in the breeder's records.

### Host Property and Ewe Base

Turretfield Research Centre, Rosedale are generously hosting the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial for the 2024-2027 drops. Run under the auspices of SARDI and PIRSA, the site receives an average 425mm rainfall in a winter dominant pattern. The Turretfield Research Centre ewe is purposely bred from Leahcim and Mernowie bloodlines to be highly fertile, plainer bodied, and they are a good expression of South Australian Merinos. They have a mature weight of 75-85kg and produce approximately 19 micron wool at 60% yield depending on the season. The ewes mated for the 2025 drop trial were sourced from a rising 3-4 year old age group and were classed prior to joining to ensure an even line. The Turretfield Research Centre is a non-mulesed site.

### 2025 Drop Summary

The site evaluated 11 rams including 1 link sire. 57 ewes were joined to each sire via AI on 28 & 29 November 2024. The ewes were pregnancy scanned on 24 January 2025 with a resulting conception rate of 62% from the AI program. 53% of the pregnant ewes were scanned as carrying multiple fetuses. At this time, the ewes were running as 1 mob. Just prior to lambing, the ewes were further split into single-bearing mobs of 45 ewes and twin-bearing mobs of 34 ewes. Ewes grazed dry pasture as well as being fed supplementary hay, grain and peas until weaning.

The first cohort of lambs born from the 11 rams occurred in late April. During lambing, daily checks were undertaken and all lambs that were deemed to be 24 hours old were weighed, sexed and tagged (when there was no negative impact on bonding). Lamb marking took place on the 21 May 2025, with visual traits fibre pigmentation, non-fibre pigmentation, recessive black, random spot, breech cover and breech wrinkle recorded. Sire pedigree was established by DNA testing. There were 449 progeny generated across the 11 rams. The average marking breech cover was visually assessed as 3.6 (from a range of 1-5, as per the Visual Sheep Scores publication), and the average marking breech wrinkle was visually assessed as 2.1 (from a range of 1-5, as per the Visual Sheep Scores publication). Following lamb marking, lambing mobs were kept in the same lambing mobs until weaning. At lamb marking the lambs were treated with BUTEC, GlanEry 7in1 B12 and CliK to the docking site and purses.

Progeny were weaned at 12 weeks of age on 23 July 2025, at which time they were also drenched and vaccinated with GlanEry 7in1 B12. Weaning weights were assessed, with an average weaning weight of 20.4kg live weight. Progeny then ran together on grass based pasture in one mob and due to dry conditions, supplementary feeding of barley and cereal hay has continued into May 2026, and will continue until there is enough paddock feed available.

The progeny was crutched in October 2025 with dag and crutch cover scored. In November the progeny received an application of CliK on the breech and backline as fly control. On 6 March 2026 visual classing was undertaken with the following traits recorded; mid-side fleece sampling: yield, fibre diameter, fibre diameter coefficient of variation, fibre diameter standard deviation, curvature, comfort, staple strength and staple length. Visual classing: fleece rot, wool colour, wool character, dust penetration, staple structure, random spot, face cover, jaw, hocks, front legs, pasterns, front toes, back toes and Classer's Visual Grade.

The progeny were shorn on 11 March 2026 with greasy fleece weight measured and urine stain recorded. Within two weeks post shearing visual classing traits shoulder/back, body wrinkle, breech cover, breech wrinkle and random spot were recorded, and an off-shears weight was taken. Post shearing vaccination, drenching and back-lining were undertaken at post shearing visual classing. Carcase scanning and weight of the progeny was undertaken on 2 April 2026, with the progeny still running as one mob at this stage. Late April the progeny were split into sex groups and run as two mobs. Once 85% of the wether portion reaches 50+kgs, a selected portion of the wether component will be assessed for their Meat Eating Quality traits.

The remaining ewe component of the 2025 Drop will be taken through to their adult assessments in March 2027, including mid-side sampling, visual classing, greasy fleece weight at shearing and post shearing visual traits. WEC has not been collected as minimum testing thresholds have not been reached.

Gary Grigson  
Turretfield Research Centre  
Rosedale, South Australia

## Assessment and Management Program

Activity	Date/s	Age	Wool
<b>Selection of ewes</b>	October 11, 2024		
<b>Allocation of ewes for mating</b>	November 28-29, 2024		
<b>AI program</b>	November 28-29, 2024		
<b>Pregnancy scanning</b>	January 24, 2025		
<b>Allocated to lambing paddocks</b>	April 8, 2025		
<b>Lambing: start – finish</b>	April 22 - May 2, 2025		
<b>Marking, tagging, pigmentation and breech scoring</b>	May 21, 2025	3 weeks	
<b>Lambing mobs boxed into a single management group</b>	July 23, 2025	12 weeks	
<b>Weaning</b>	July 23, 2025	12 weeks	
<b>Even Up Shearing</b>	Not conducted		
<b>Crutching</b>	October 16, 2025	5.5 months	5.5 months
<b>Worm egg count (W)</b>	Threshold not met.		
<b>Fat and eye muscle scanning (Y)</b>	April 2, 2026	11 months	
<b>Mid side fleece sampling (Y)</b>	March 6, 2026	10 months	10 months
<b>Visual trait scoring (Y)</b>	March 6, 2026	10 months	10 months
<b>Shearing (Y)</b>	March 11, 2026	10 months	10 months
<b>Body Weight (W)</b>	July 23, 2025	12 weeks	
<b>Body Weight (PW)</b>	November 12, 2025	7 months	
<b>Body Weight (Y)</b>	April 2, 2026	11 months	
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	The progeny have been supplementary fed barley and cereal hay since birth 2025 though to May 2026 due to dry conditions, and will continue to be supplementary fed until there is enough paddock feed available		
<b>Drench</b>	July 23, 2025 and March 23, 2026		
<b>Fly treatment</b>	Preventative flystrike treatment: Clik at lamb marking 20-21 May 2025 to docking site and purses. Clik to breech and backline November 2025. An off-shears Spinolab to backline 20-23 March 2026		
<b>Field day or public display</b>	June 12, 2026		

## Explaining the Different Types of Results Reported

**Raw Data** » **Adjusted Sire Means** » **Flock Breeding Values**

Merino Sire Evaluation produces a variety of result types which are all connected. The types of data produced include **Raw Data**, **Adjusted Sire Means**, **Flock Breeding Values** and **Indexes**. Initial measurements taken during sire evaluation assessments are used as the first level of results (Raw Data), then adjustments are made to increase the selection accuracy and better enable the comparison of results and sires (Adjusted Sire Means and Flock Breeding Values and Indexes).

Generally, AMSEA publishes **Adjusted Sire Means**, **Flock Breeding Values** and **Indexes** in Site Reports as they offer a higher level of accuracy. Visual Traits were historically reported as **Raw Data**, however Adjusted Sire Means are now available for these traits and visual traits will now be presented in this format.

### Raw Data

Raw data; unadjusted results as measured in the yard, paddock or wool testing facility.

### Adjusted Sire Means

These are raw data results that have been adjusted for the effect of sex, birth type/rear type, age of dam, dam source, age at measurement, the number of progeny a sire has and management group(s).

### Flock Breeding Values (FBVs)

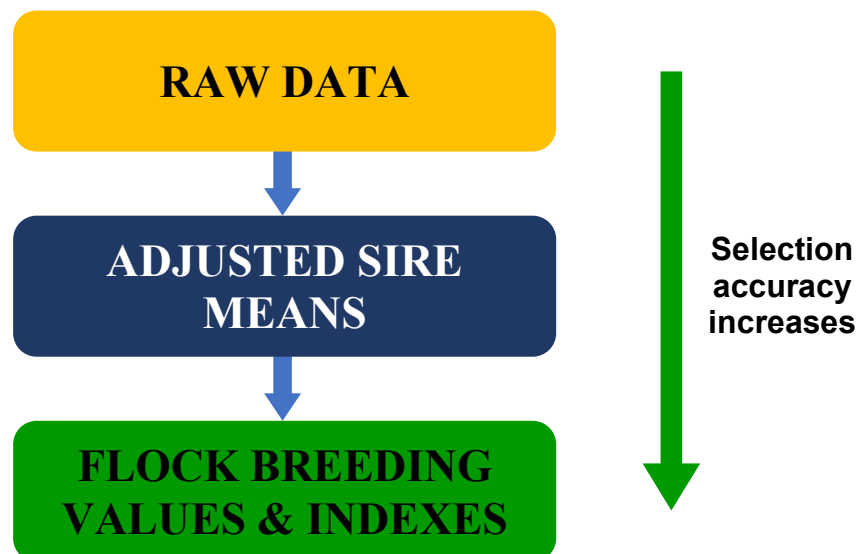
These results have been adjusted in the same way as Adjusted Sire Means, then further calculations have also been made to account for the level of heritability of a trait (some are more heritable than others) and correlations between traits.

FBVs are within site and within drop. As such they do not include data from other sources as is the case with Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), which are reported in Merino Superior Sires.

### Indexes

A breeding index is the combination of breeding values into a single value that reflects a certain emphasis on those traits.

For more information about each Index see the page in this report titled 'Index Options'.



## Understanding the Results - Classer's Visual Grade & Visual Traits

<b>Breeders flock, Sire number:</b>	Identity of the breeder's flock and the sire's number or name.			
<b>Number of progeny:</b>	The number of progeny a sire had at weaning. Average number of progeny is included.			
<b>Trait Leaders:</b>	The highest performing sires for each trait (trait leaders) are highlighted by shading. Curvature is the possible exception when for many breeders the optimum score is in the middle of the range therefore trait leaders have not been highlighted.			
<b>Age at assessment:</b>	M	Marking - 14 to 39 days (2 to 6 weeks)	Y	Yearling - 300 to 449 days (10 to 15 months)
	W	Weaning - 40 to 149 days (6 weeks to 5 months)	H	Hogget - 450 to 659 days (15 to 22 months)
	P	Post Weaning - 150 to 299 days (5 to 10 months)	A	Adult - 660 days or older (22 months or older)
<b>Classer's Visual Grade:</b>	<p>A classer grades all progeny as either Tops, Flocks or Culls based on their visual assessment of all traits relative to the site's Breeding Objective. The percentage deviation from the average of Tops and Culls is presented in this report. Average percentage of Tops and Culls for the entire drop is also included.</p> <p>Classer's Visual Grade is reported as <b>Adjusted Sire Means</b>. Results which have been adjusted for all available information on sex, birth type, rear type, age of dam, age of measurement, the number of progeny a sire has and management group(s), in order to improve the accuracy. No account is made for trait heritability or genetic correlations between traits that can further improve the accuracy.</p> <p>More detail on who completed the Visual Grade Classing/Scoring and the site's Breeding Objective is available earlier in this report.</p>			
<b>Visual Traits:</b>	<p>The following description of trait scores is a summary of the detailed word and diagrammatical description of these scores in Version 4 (2024) of the Visual Sheep Scores booklet that is available free from AWI or at <a href="http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au">www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au</a>.</p> <p>For the majority of breeding objectives a lower score would be considered favourable and a large difference below the average performance is preferable. Staple structure and Face are the possible exceptions when for many breeders the optimum score is in the middle of the range therefore trait leaders are not highlighted.</p> <p>Visual traits are reported as <b>Adjusted Sire Means</b>. Results which have been adjusted for all available information on sex, birth type, rear type, age of dam, age of measurement, the number of progeny a sire has and management group(s), in order to improve the accuracy. No account is made for trait heritability or genetic correlations between traits that can further improve the accuracy.</p> <p>A selection of visual traits are also reported as <b>Flock Breeding Values (FBVs)</b>. Results which are calculated from data recorded within-site and within-drop and express the expected genetic performance of a sire relative to another sire in the evaluation (when mated to the same standard of ewes). FBVs improve the accuracy of sire results because they account for the association between traits, the heritability of the trait, and non-genetic affects such as birth and rear type, sex (see adjustments listed earlier), and the number of progeny a sire has in the analysis. FBVs are calculated using all measured assessments up to the stage which is reported.</p>			

Fleece rot:	FLROT	The severity of fleece rot from <b>1</b> (no fleece rot), <b>2 and 3</b> (bands of bacterial staining but no crusting), and <b>4 and 5</b> (bands of crusty fleece rot).
Wool colour:	COL	Greasy wool colour scored from <b>1</b> (whitest) to <b>5</b> (yellow).
Wool character:	CHAR	Definition and variation of crimp between and along the staple scored from <b>1</b> (well defined and regular) to <b>5</b> (undefined and large variation).
Dust penetration:	DUST	Degree of dust penetration from <b>1</b> (only tip <6%) to <b>5</b> (71 to 100% of staple).
Staple weathering:	WEATH	The deterioration due to light and water from <b>1</b> (least, <6% of staple) to <b>5</b> (most, 71 to 100%) reflect the depth and degree of deterioration.
Staple structure:	SSTRC	The size and diameter of each staple from <b>1</b> (<6mm) to <b>5</b> (>30 mm).
Fibre pigmentation:	FPIG	The percentage of dark fibres on any part of the sheep from <b>1</b> (0 pigmented fibres at any site) to <b>5</b> (71 to 100% pigmented fibres at one or more sites). This trait does not include random spot or recessive black.
Non-fibre pigmentation:	SPIG	The percentage of pigmentation on the areas not shorn from <b>1</b> (0 pigmentation at any site) to <b>5</b> (71 to 100% pigmented area on one or more bare skin sites, <b>and/or</b> 71 to 100% of the total hoof area).
Recessive black:	BLACK	Recessive black is identified by relatively symmetrical markings on both sides of the face. There are two scores <b>1</b> (no recessive markings) and <b>5</b> (recessive markings). This trait does not include random spot or fibre pigmentation. Only the percentage of progeny for each sire who scored 5 are reported for Recessive black and Random spot.
Random spot:	SPOT	Random spot (spot) is identified by rounded wool or hair spot/s, not symmetrical. There are two scores <b>1</b> (no spot/s) and <b>5</b> (spot/s). If both sides of the face or body are spotted the sheep should be scored as a recessive black.
Jaw:	JAW	The alignment of the lower jaw and its teeth relative to the top jaw from <b>1</b> (very well aligned) to <b>5</b> (heavily undershot or overshot).
Hocks:	HOCK	Angulation of the hock joints in relation to the feet from <b>1</b> (square) to <b>5</b> (extreme angulation).
Front Legs:	FLEGS	Orientation of the front legs and feet from <b>1</b> (square) to <b>5</b> (extreme inward or outward orientation).
Pasterns:	PASTERN	Angulation of the pastern joint from <b>1</b> (no angulation) to <b>5</b> (extreme angulation).
Front Toes:	FTOES	Direction and degree of growth on the front toes from <b>1</b> (straight and normal) to <b>5</b> (long and opened or rolled over).
Back Toes:	BTOES	Direction and degree of growth on the back toes from <b>1</b> (straight and normal) to <b>5</b> (long and opened or rolled over).
Back/Shoulder:	BACK	Conformation of the back and shoulder from <b>1</b> (very square) to <b>5</b> (very dipped or high).
Face cover:	FACE	Wool cover on the face scored from <b>1</b> (open face) to <b>5</b> (fully covered face).

Body wrinkle:	BDWR	The degree of body wrinkle from <b>1</b> (no wrinkle) to <b>5</b> (extensive wrinkle).			
Neck wrinkle:	NKWR	The degree of neck wrinkle from <b>1</b> (no wrinkle) to <b>5</b> (extensive wrinkle).			
Breech wrinkle:	BRWR	Degree of wrinkle at the tail set and hind legs from <b>1</b> (nil) to <b>5</b> (extensive).			
Breech cover:	BCOV	Size of natural bare area around the breech from <b>1</b> (large) to <b>5</b> (no bare).			
Crutch cover:	CCOV	Size of natural bare area in the pubic and groin from <b>1</b> (large) to <b>5</b> (no bare).			
Dag:	DAG	Degree of dag adhering to the breech and legs from <b>1</b> (nil) to <b>5</b> (extensive).			
Urine:	URINE	Degree of urine stained wool in the breech area, including the hind legs from <b>1</b> (nil) to <b>5</b> (extensive).			
<b>Visual Traits reported as Flock Breeding Values (FBVs):</b>	EBRWR:	Early Breech Wrinkle	LBRWR:	Late Breech Wrinkle	
	EBCOV:	Early Breech Cover	LBCOV:	Late Breech Cover	
	ECOL:	Early Wool Colour	LCOL:	Late Wool Colour	
	EFROT:	Early Fleece Rot	LFROT:	Late Fleece Rot	
	ECHAR:	Early Wool Character	LCHAR:	Late Wool Character	
	EDAG:	Early Dag	LDAG:	Late Dag	

**FBVs for Visual Traits are reported as 'Early' or 'Late'. Stage codes are divided into early or late as follows.**

#### Wool Traits

ECOL:	Early Wool Colour	LCOL:	Late Wool Colour
EFROT:	Early Fleece Rot	LFROT:	Late Fleece Rot
ECHAR:	Early Wool Character	LCHAR:	Late Wool Character
<b>Early</b> stages include Post Weaning and Yearling		<b>Late</b> stages include Hogget and Adult	

#### Other Traits

EBRWR:	Early Breech Wrinkle	LBRWR:	Late Breech Wrinkle
EBCOV:	Early Breech Cover	LBCOV:	Late Breech Cover
EDAG:	Early Dag	LDAG:	Late Dag
<b>Early</b> stages include Marking and Weaning		<b>Late</b> stages include Post Weaning, Yearling, Hogget and Adult	

**Table 1. Adjusted Sire Means - Classer's Visual Grade**

A classer grades all progeny as either Tops, Flocks or Culls based on their visual assessment of all traits relative to the site's Breeding Objective. The percentage deviation from the average of Tops and Culls is presented in this report. Average percentage of Tops and Culls for the entire drop is also included.

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny*	Classer's Visual Grade	
			Yearling	
			TOPS %	CULLS %
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	31	-6	-5
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	35	3	-7
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	49	-14	-1
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	-2	17
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	-12	-7
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	-10	12
7	Mumblebone, 233720	46	-4	16
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	42	-4	11
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	7	-16
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	44	33	-21
11	Richmond, 220339	44	10	2
<b>Progeny group average</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>

\*Number of progeny is as at the Yearling classing event.

**These Classer's Visual Grade were collected from both ewe and wether progeny of the sires. Please see pages 8-10 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Adjusted Sire Means.**

**Table 2. Adjusted Sire Means - Visual Traits - Wool Quality and Pigmentation**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Wool Quality - Yearling					Pigmentation - Marking			
			FLROT	COL	CHAR	DUST	SSTRC	FPIG	SPIG	BLACK % Score 5	SPOT % Score 5
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	1.3	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.9	1.0	1.1	0.0	3.0
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	1.2	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.6	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	1.2	3.1	3.4	2.7	3.2	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	1.0	2.7	2.9	2.6	3.0	1.3	1.0	0.0	0.0
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	1.6	3.4	2.8	2.7	3.1	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	1.7	3.4	3.5	2.9	3.3	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	1.3	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.9	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	1.6	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.9	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	1.3	3.2	3.1	2.8	3.1	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	1.4	3.0	2.9	2.6	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
11	Richmond, 220339	43	1.4	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.2	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
	<b>Progeny group average</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

These visual traits were collected from both ewe and wether progeny of the sires.  
Please see pages 8-10 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Adjusted Sire Means.

**Table 3. Adjusted Sire Means - Visual Traits - Conformation**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Conformation - Yearling								
			JAW	BACK	FACE	BDWR	PASTERN	HOCK	FLEGS	FTOES	BTOES
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	1.0	1.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.0	1.3	1.2
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	1.1	1.0	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.2	1.0	1.5	1.6
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	1.2	1.0	1.9	2.3	1.8	2.6	1.0	1.1	1.4
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	1.4	1.0	2.0	2.1	1.5	3.2	1.1	1.4	1.6
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.0	1.2	1.4
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	1.0	1.0	2.1	2.2	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.4	1.6
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	1.0	1.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.7	1.0	1.3	1.5
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.9	1.0	1.2	1.4
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	1.0	1.0	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.0	1.3	1.2
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.0	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.3
11	Richmond, 220339	43	1.0	1.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.4	1.5
<b>Progeny group average</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>

**These visual traits were collected from both ewe and wether progeny of the sires.  
Please see pages 8-10 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Adjusted Sire Means.**

**Table 4. Adjusted Sire Means - Visual Traits - Breech**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Breech						
			BRWR	BCOV	CCOV	DAG	BRWR	BCOV	URINE
			<i>Marking</i>		<i>Post Weaning</i>		<i>Yearling</i>		
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	1.9	3.9	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.9	1.8
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	2.2	3.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	3.1	1.8
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	2.2	3.4	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.8	1.4
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	2.0	3.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.9	1.6
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	1.9	3.7	2.0	1.9	2.0	3.2	1.6
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	2.0	3.6	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.7	1.6
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	2.0	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.8	1.7
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	2.3	3.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	3.2	1.8
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	2.0	3.9	2.6	2.2	2.0	3.2	1.7
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	2.2	3.6	2.6	2.0	2.1	3.0	1.7
11	Richmond, 220339	43	1.8	3.5	2.6	1.5	2.0	2.8	1.4
<b>Progeny group average</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>

These visual traits were collected from both ewe and wether progeny of the sires.  
Please see pages 8-10 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Adjusted Sire Means.

**Table 5. Flock Breeding Values – Visual Traits**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Flock Breeding Values							
			EBRWR	LBRWR	EBCOV	LBCOV	ECOL	EFROT	ECHAR	LDAG
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	-0.41	-0.40	0.51	-0.07	0.03	-0.01	-0.26	-0.66
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	0.27	0.19	-0.12	0.18	-0.52	-0.28	-0.90	0.50
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	0.27	0.22	-0.49	-0.36	-0.05	-0.25	0.71	-0.52
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	-0.14	-0.06	0.09	0.00	-0.64	-0.51	-0.22	0.26
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	-0.24	-0.27	0.18	0.40	0.49	0.33	-0.30	-0.13
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	-0.04	-0.04	-0.11	-0.41	0.62	0.56	0.94	0.32
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	-0.07	-0.03	-0.15	-0.24	-0.29	-0.15	0.15	0.48
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	0.53	0.68	-0.05	0.36	0.50	0.36	-0.32	0.31
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	-0.06	-0.17	0.41	0.34	0.20	-0.08	0.22	0.21
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	0.32	0.05	-0.04	0.11	-0.18	-0.01	-0.17	-0.02
11	Richmond, 220339	43	-0.42	-0.16	-0.23	-0.30	-0.17	0.04	0.15	-0.74

**These Flock Breeding Values were calculated using both the ewe and wether progeny of the sires. Please see pages 8-10 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Flock Breeding Values.**

## Understanding the Results - Measured Traits

<b>Breeders flock, Sire number:</b>	Identity of the breeder's flock and the sire's number or name.			
<b>Number of progeny:</b>	The number of progeny a sire had at weaning. Average number of progeny is included.			
<b>Trait Leaders:</b>	The highest performing sires for each trait (trait leaders) are highlighted by shading. Curvature is the possible exception when for many breeders the optimum score is in the middle of the range therefore trait leaders have not been highlighted.			
<b>Measured Traits:</b> Abbreviation, trait and the (units reported)	Measured traits are those assessed via a standardised collection and testing process completed by an independent, accredited and recognised service provider. Measured traits include the following:			
	GFW:	Greasy fleece weight (percentage)	WT:	Body weight (kilograms)
	CFW:	Clean fleece weight (percentage)	EMD:	Eye muscle depth (mm) at the 'C' site
	FD:	Fibre diameter (micron)	FAT:	Fat depth (mm) at the 'C' site
	FDCV:	Fibre diameter coefficient of variation (percentage)	WEC:	Worm egg count (% deviation in worm burden of sire's progeny)
	SL:	Staple length (mm) at the mid-side		
	SS:	Staple strength (N/ktex) at the mid-side		
	CURV:	Fibre curvature (degrees)		
<b>Age at assessment:</b>	M	Marking - 14 to 39 days (2 to 6 weeks)	Y	Yearling - 300 to 449 days (10 to 15 months)
	W	Weaning - 40 to 149 days (6 weeks to 5 months)	H	Hogget - 450 to 659 days (15 to 22 months)
	P	Post Weaning - 150 to 299 days (5 to 10 months)	A	Adult - 660 days or older (22 months or older)
<b>Adjusted Sire Means</b>	Sire means are the average performance of all the progeny of a sire adjusted for the progeny's birth type, rear type, age of dam, management group and the number of progeny a sire has in the analysis. Adjustments improve the accuracy of the result and adjustments are based on the actual influence of these factors on the drop. No account is made for trait heritability and genetic correlations between traits. The overall progeny group mean is also reported.			
<b>Flock Breeding Values (FBVs)</b>	FBVs are calculated from data recorded within-site and within-drop and express the expected genetic performance of a sire relative to another sire in the evaluation (when mated to the same standard of ewes). FBVs improve the accuracy of sire results because they account for the association between traits, the heritability of the trait, and non-genetic affects such as birth and rear type, sex (see adjustments listed earlier), and the number of progeny a sire has in the analysis. FBVs are calculated using all measured assessments up to the stage which is reported. For more information: <a href="http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources">www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources</a> .			
<b>Indexes</b>	<p>The indexes reported are based on measured traits FBV performance with varying emphasis on fleece weight, fibre diameter, body weight, staple strength and worm egg count.</p> <p>The indexes reported are the FW, WP, SM and ML. These indexes are the same as the MERINOSELECT indexes of that name but account for the fact that not all traits are currently collected as part of standard sire evaluation trials. Further information about Indexes is available earlier in this report and at <a href="http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources">www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources</a>.</p>			

**Table 6. Adjusted Sire Means - Wool**

Sire Code	Breeders flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Adjusted Sire Means						
			GFW	CFW	FD	FDCV	SL	SS	CURV
			kg	kg	µm	%	mm	N/ktex	deg/mm
			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	4.5	3.1	17.0	18.4	100.2	32.3	49.2
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	4.4	3.1	17.6	17.4	105.1	36.9	47.1
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	4.4	3.0	16.7	18.6	93.0	35.7	54.9
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	4.3	3.1	16.8	17.7	96.1	40.7	56.2
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	4.2	2.9	16.6	18.3	89.6	34.2	50.4
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	4.0	3.0	17.3	18.5	91.6	41.0	56.4
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	4.1	3.0	16.1	17.5	92.3	33.3	54.1
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	4.3	2.8	16.5	18.6	89.2	36.6	56.2
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	4.4	3.1	17.0	18.6	100.6	32.0	50.0
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	4.3	3.0	17.1	17.7	90.6	38.6	49.7
11	Richmond, 220339	43	4.2	3.0	16.6	19.7	96.3	31.1	52.5
	<b>Progeny group average</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>52.6</b>
			kg	kg	µm	%	mm	N/ktex	deg/mm

**These Adjusted Sire Means were calculated using both the ewe and wether progeny of the sires. Please see page 16 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Adjusted Sire Means.**

**Table 7. Adjusted Sire Means - Weight and Carcase**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Adjusted Sire Means				
			WT kg			EMD mm	FAT mm
			W	P	Y	Y	Y
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	19.7	36.3	40.1	24.1	2.2
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	21.0	34.5	37.6	23.8	2.1
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	20.4	37.2	40.5	24.4	2.4
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	20.2	36.0	38.7	22.9	2.1
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	20.1	37.0	41.1	25.6	2.4
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	20.7	35.9	39.7	25.2	2.3
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	20.5	37.0	41.1	24.8	2.4
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	20.7	36.4	38.7	23.3	2.1
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	20.9	39.1	41.5	25.6	2.3
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	20.7	39.2	42.1	24.6	2.3
11	Richmond, 220339	43	19.8	37.7	40.0	25.0	2.3
	<b>Progeny group average</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>
				kg		mm	mm

**These Adjusted Sire Means were calculated using both the ewe and wether progeny of the sires. Please see page 16 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Adjusted Sire Means.**

**Table 8. Flock Breeding Values - Wool**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Flock Breeding Values						
			GFW % Y	CFW % Y	FD $\mu$ m Y	FDCV % Y	SL mm Y	SS N/ktex Y	CURV deg/mm Y
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	8	6	0.3	0.1	9.2	-3.3	-6.1
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	7	4	1.4	-1.3	17.1	3.0	-9.8
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	5	1	-0.4	0.6	-3.6	-0.2	4.2
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	2	5	-0.1	-0.7	0.4	6.3	5.6
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	-3	-5	-0.4	-0.1	-7.0	-1.5	-2.9
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	-9	-3	0.8	0.1	-6.0	7.1	6.5
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	-9	-2	-1.4	-1.1	-5.1	-3.6	3.5
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	-1	-12	-0.5	0.6	-9.3	1.6	6.1
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	3	4	0.3	0.6	9.1	-5.6	-3.6
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	-1	0	0.4	-1.0	-7.0	4.1	-3.7
11	Richmond, 220339	43	-1	3	-0.4	2.3	2.3	-7.9	0.2

**These Flock Breeding Values were calculated using both the ewe and wether progeny of the sires. Please see page 16 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Flock Breeding Values.**

**Table 9. Flock Breeding Values - Weight, Carcase and WEC**

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	Flock Breeding Values					WEC %
			WT kg			EMD mm	FAT mm	
			W	P	Y	Y	Y	
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	-1.3	-1.0	-1.2	-0.5	-0.2	Worm Egg Count not reported as thresholds not met.
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	0.5	-4.6	-5.9	0.5	0.1	
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	-0.5	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.5	
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	-1.2	-1.9	-2.5	-1.7	-0.3	
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	0.5	1.1	2.4	1.2	0.3	
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	0.8	-1.9	-1.8	1.0	0.5	
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	-0.6	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.4	
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	0.3	-0.7	-2.2	-1.6	-0.5	
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	1.0	3.6	4.0	1.1	-0.4	
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	0.9	3.6	4.1	-0.9	-0.8	
11	Richmond, 220339	43	-0.5	1.7	1.5	1.0	0.4	

**These Flock Breeding Values were calculated using both the ewe and wether progeny of the sires. Please see page 16 for a full description of trait names and an explanation of Flock Breeding Values.**

# MERINOSELECT Indexes

## A guide from Sheep Genetics

### Why use a selection index?

Indexes are an important tool to drive genetic improvement in ram breeding programs. Each index combines multiple measured traits, or ASBVs, into a single value that reflects a certain production emphasis on these traits. A range of traits are included which are of economic or functional importance. Collectively, these traits make up the “breeding objective” of the index which aims to improve profitability in commercial sheep enterprises.

Indexes are useful because they balance genetic improvement appropriately across a range of traits with the emphasis of each individual trait determined by its relative importance to a selection approach for a particular style of production system.

“ Appropriately designed indexes are central to the goal of breeding more profitable sheep.

However, it is recommended that the performance of individual measured and visually assessed traits also be used in conjunction with indexes.

### Choosing the right index

This report includes four indexes based on four commercial production systems, these are outlined in the figure below.

<b>Fine Wool (FW)</b> The majority of the income is from the wool clip, with a strong focus on reducing micron.	<b>Wool Production (WP)</b> The majority of the income is from the wool clip, with a strong focus on increasing wool production.
<b>Sustainable Merino (SM)</b> The majority of the income is from the wool clip, and sheepmeat production is balanced.	<b>Merino Lamb (ML)</b> The majority of the income is from sheepmeat production, particularly lambs, with some income from the adult ewe wool clip.

“ When selecting on these indexes the long-term responses will vary depending on the traits measured, available pedigree, use of genomics, flock structure and selection emphasis on the index.

The changes in individual traits from using an index depend on the information you record in your flock. If you want to improve, or even just maintain a trait, you must record it to ensure breeding values are sufficiently accurate for the index to do its job.

For detailed explanations and further information on indexes visit:

[www.sheepgenetics.org.au](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au)

*Sheep Genetics have resources available for both ram breeders and ram buyers.*

**Table 10. AMSEA Indexes**

The indexes reported are the FW, WP, SM and ML indexes. These indexes are the same as the MERINOSELECT indexes of that name but account for the fact that not all traits are currently collected as part of standard sire evaluation trials. Further information about Indexes is available earlier in this report and at [www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources](http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/resources). The average value for all indexes is 100.

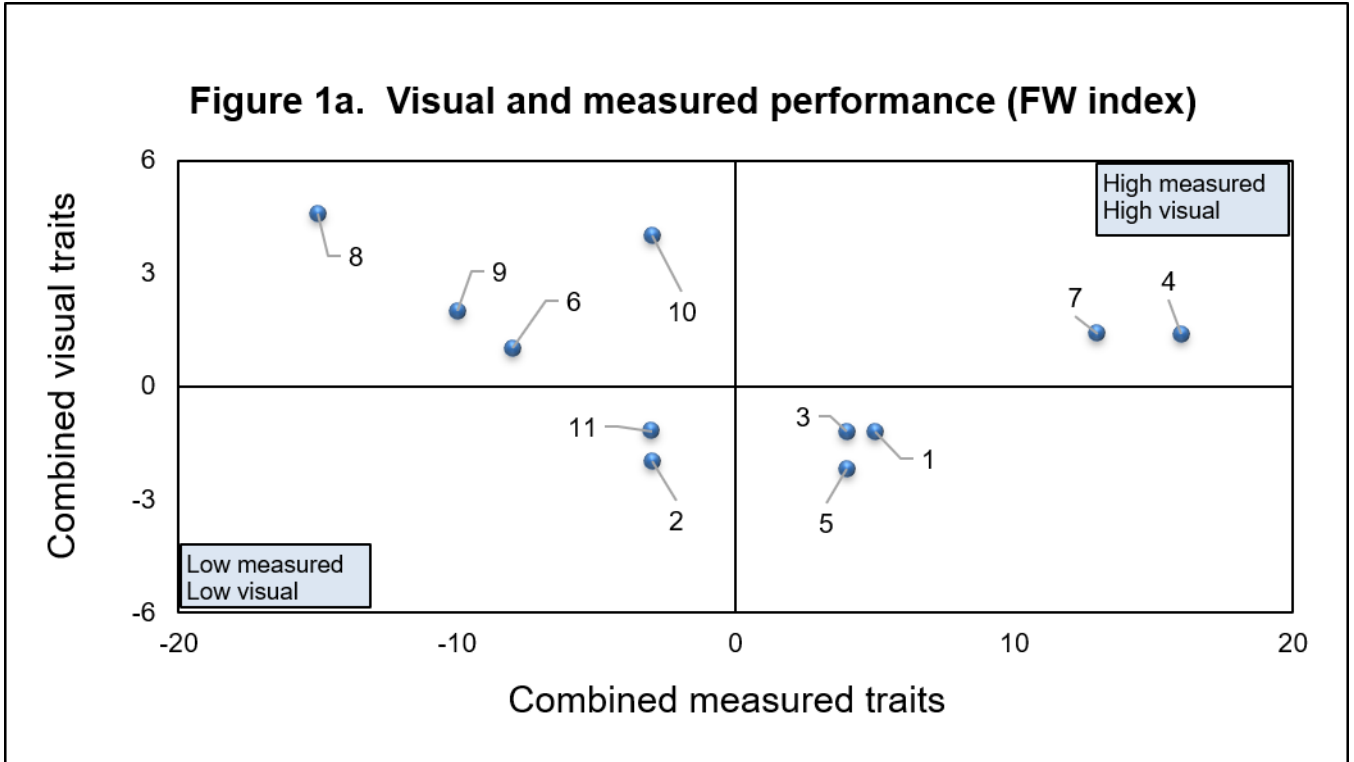
Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire number	Number of Progeny	AMSEA Index Values			
			Fine Wool	Wool Production	Sustainable Merino	Merino Lamb
1	Benefield Poll, 200055 (Link Sire)	34	105	107	105	102
2	Calcookara Poll, 220349	34	97	98	96	95
3	Curlew Poll, 220078	47	104	104	103	102
4	GullenGamble Poll, 230554	30	116	114	99	99
5	Leahcim Poll, 233079	34	104	103	105	102
6	Malleetech Poll, 233446	41	92	93	94	96
7	Mumblebone, 233720	44	113	105	101	102
8	North Ashrose Poll, 220689	41	85	82	84	91
9	O'Brien Poll, 230173	35	90	94	105	105
10	Pimbena Poll, 220611	42	97	100	97	97
11	Richmond, 220339	43	97	99	111	108

**These indexes were calculated using both the ewe and wether progeny of the sires.  
Please see page 21 for a description of the Indexes published.**

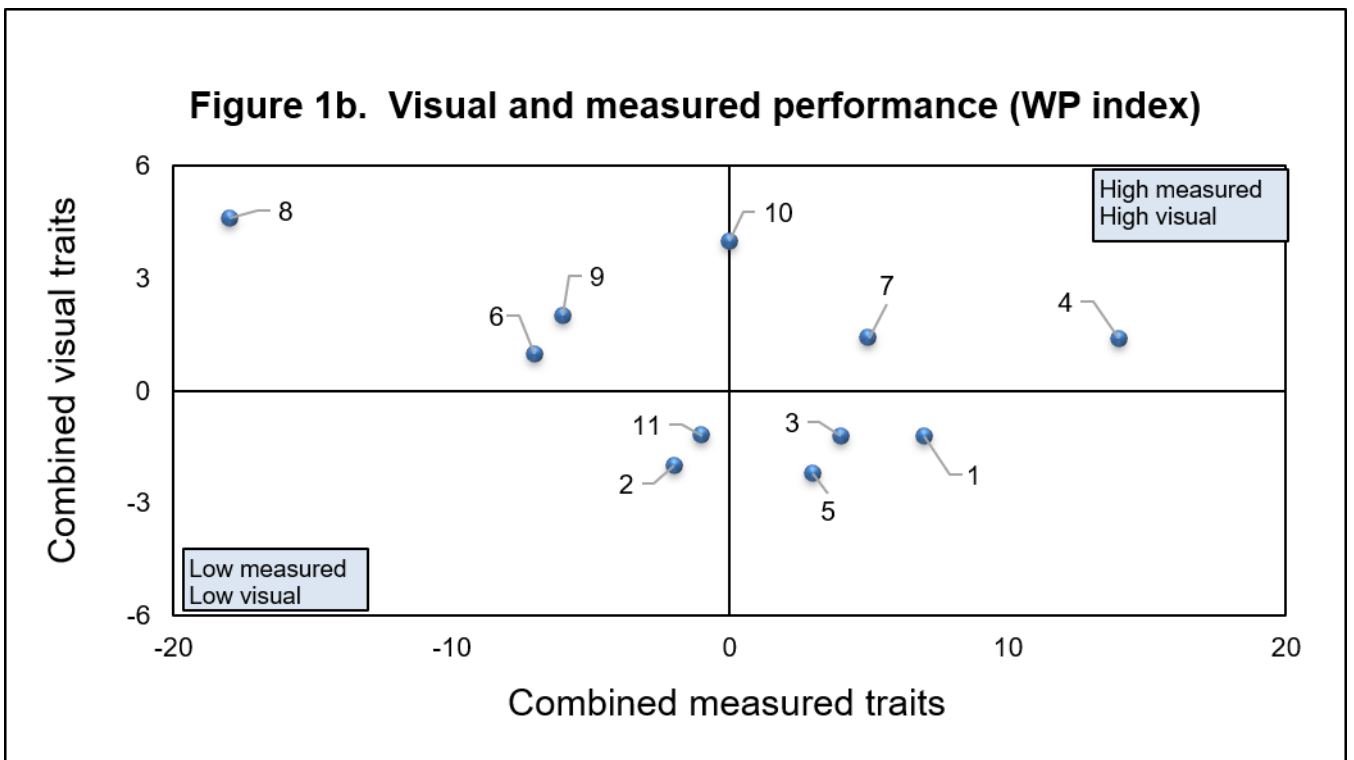
## Combined Measured Traits and Visual Performance

The following figures use the same sire codes as Table 2 to locate sire performance for a variety of trait combinations. The blue boxes describe the high and low performance quadrants of results for the traits, as does any text accompanying the figure.

**Figure 1a. Combined measured traits (FW index) and combined visually assessed traits for the site objective.**



**Figure 1b. Combined measured traits (WP index) and combined visually assessed traits for the site objective.**



Combined visual traits are derived from Classer's Visual Grade via the following formula:  

$$\text{Tops\%} - \text{Culls\%} / 5$$

Figure 1c. Combined measured traits (SM index) and combined visually assessed traits for the site objective.

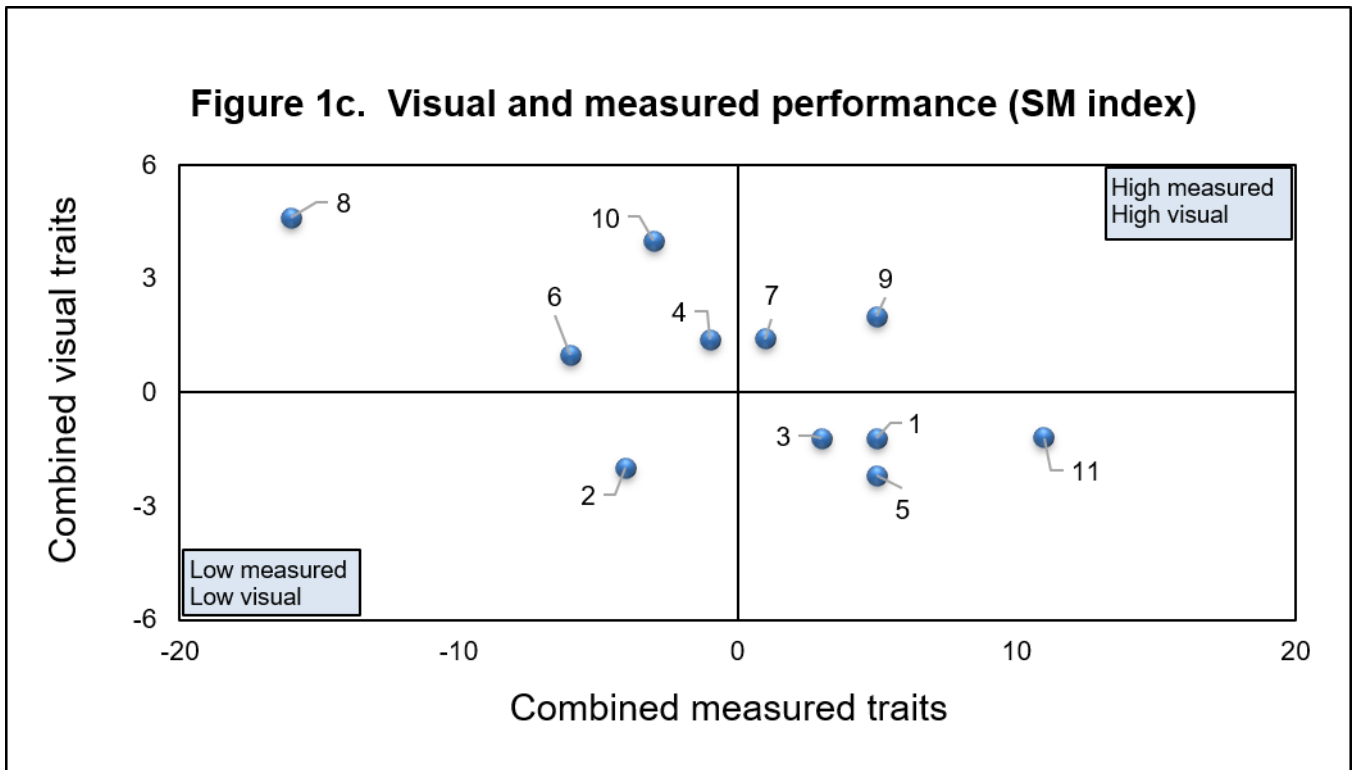
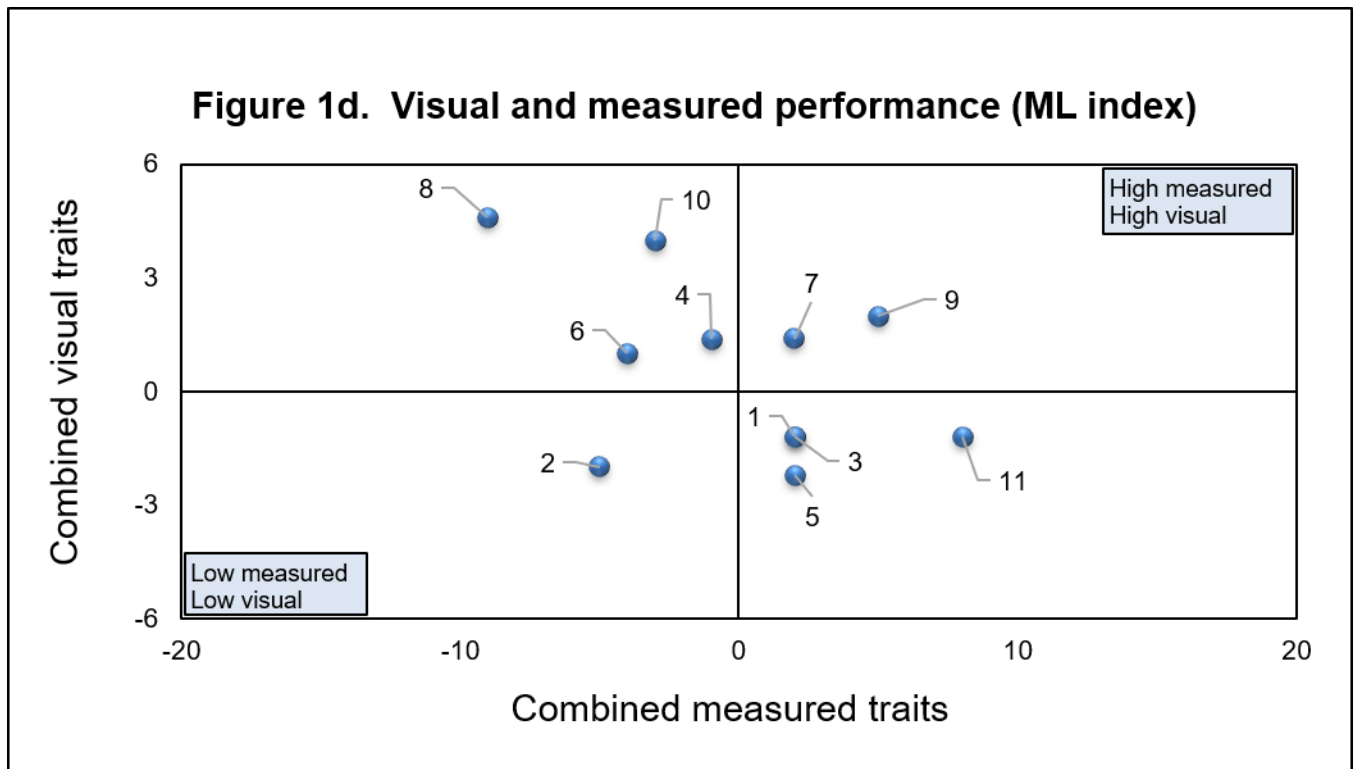


Figure 1d. Combined measured traits (ML index) and combined visually assessed traits for the site objective.



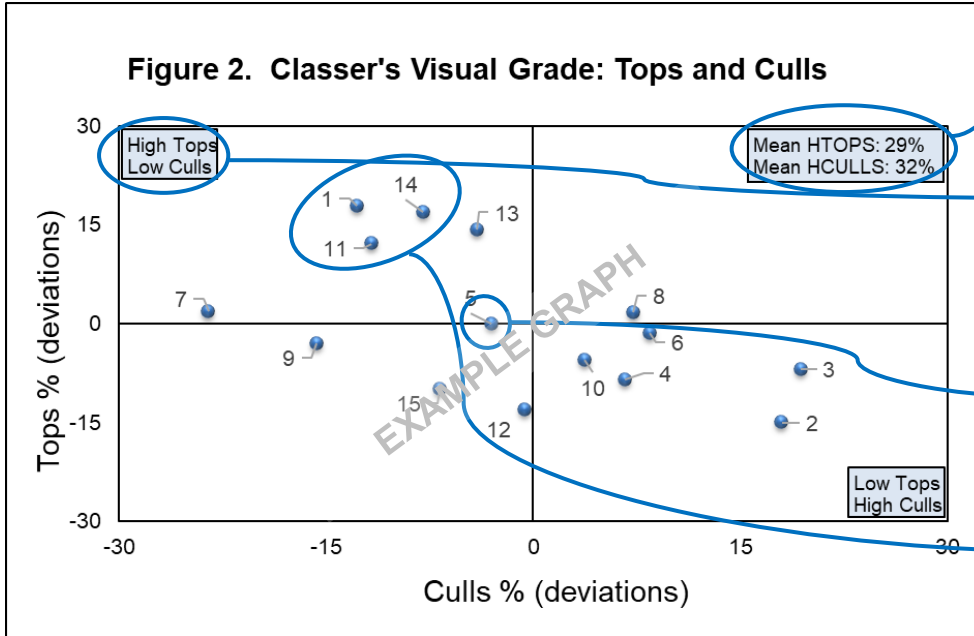
Combined visual traits are derived from Classer's Visual Grade via the following formula:  

$$\text{Tops\%} - \text{Culls\%} / 5$$

## Understanding the Results - Summary Graphs

The following quadrant graphs summarise sire results for trait combinations of particular interest to industry. Sire codes are as per Table 2. The blue boxes describe the high and low quadrants of results for the traits, generally placed within the highest performing and the lowest performing quadrants. Progeny group averages are also reported for the graphed traits. Further descriptions are included in the accompanying text.

### Explanation of a quadrant graph:



Progeny group averages: in this instance for Tops / Culls.

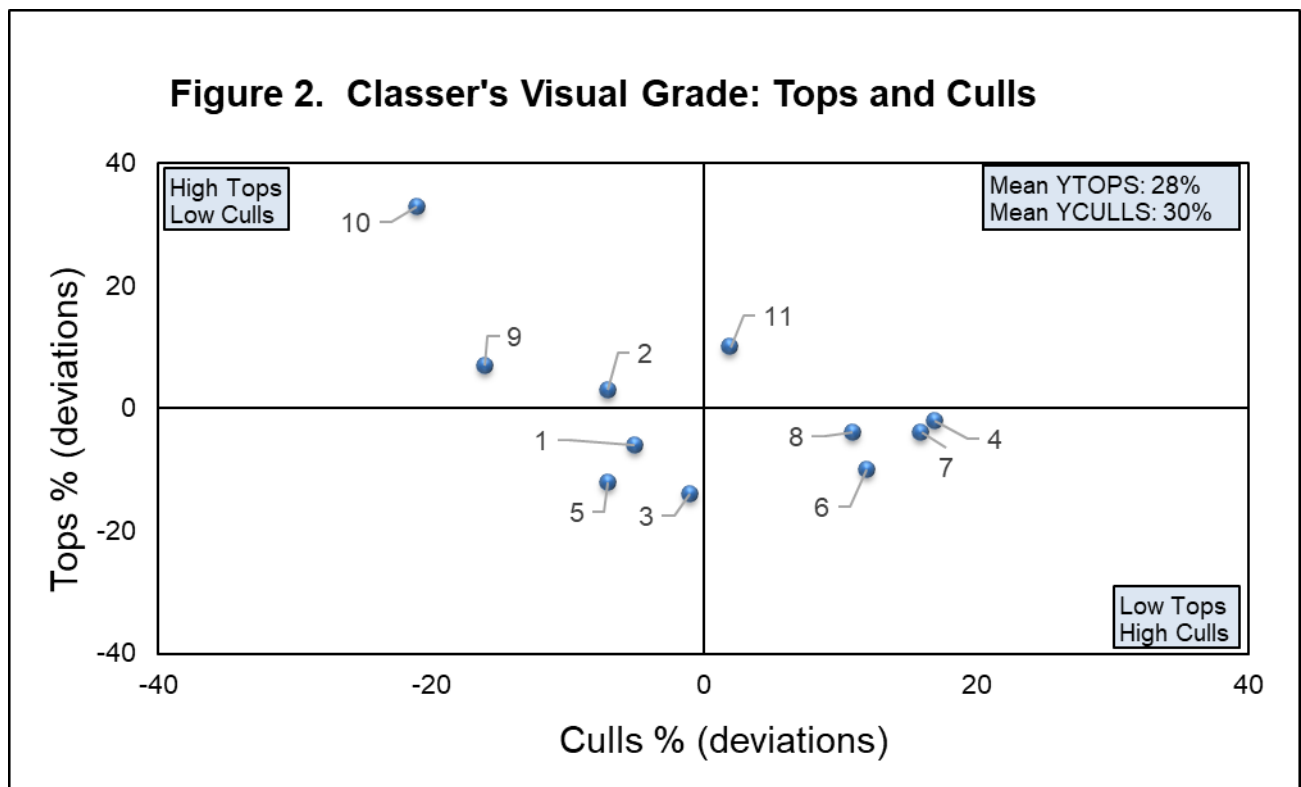
For this figure, this top left quadrant reports the most favourable performance (High Tops and Low Culls). Different quadrants will be the most / least optimal for different trait combinations.

This sire is performing close to the progeny group average.

These sires are recorded in the extreme portion of the most optimal quadrant for this set of traits (Top / Culls).

### Figure 2. Classer's Visual Grade - Tops and Culls

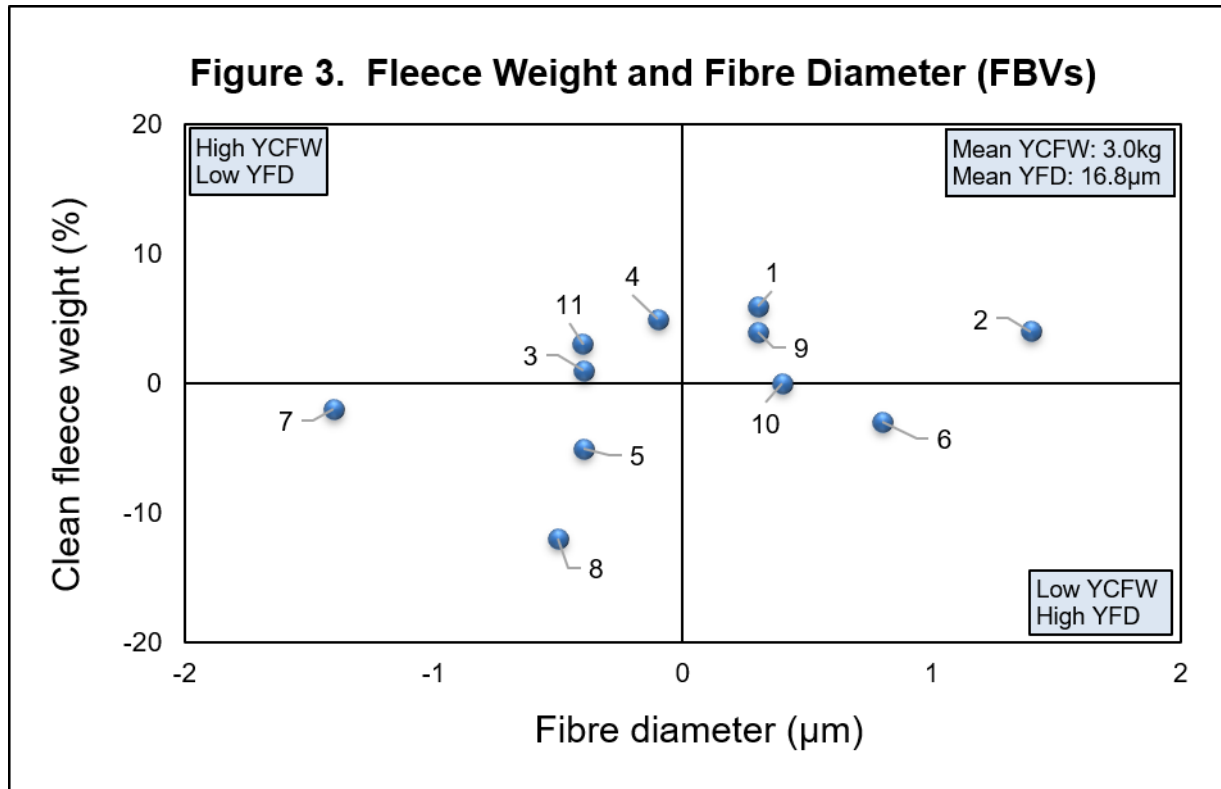
The graph describes performance for Classer's Visual Tops Grade on the side axis and Culls Grade on the bottom axis. Sires that have above average Tops and below average Culls are in the top left hand quarter.



## Summary Graphs

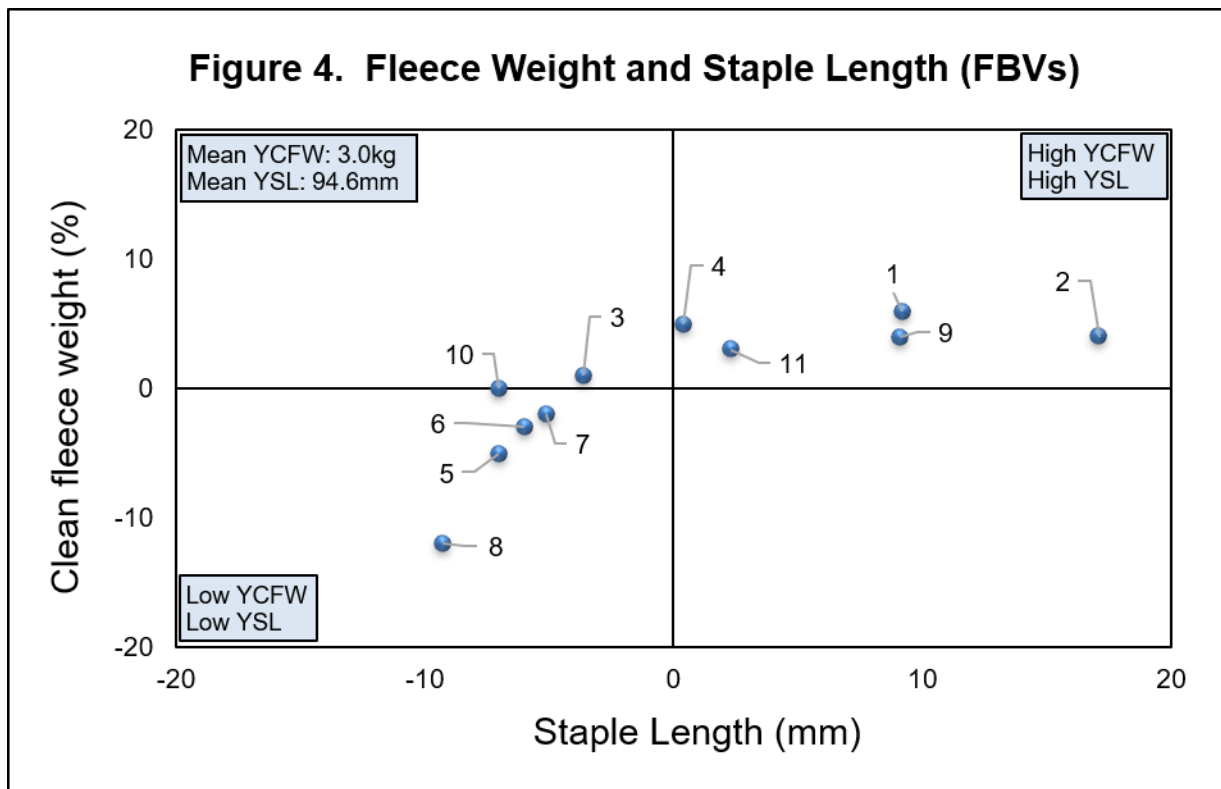
**Figure 3. Fleece Weight and Fibre Diameter (FBVs)**

The graph describes performance for clean fleece weight (CFW) on the side axis and fibre diameter (FD) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for fleece weight and below average fibre diameter are located in the top left hand quarter.



**Figure 4. Fleece Weight and Staple Length (FBVs)**

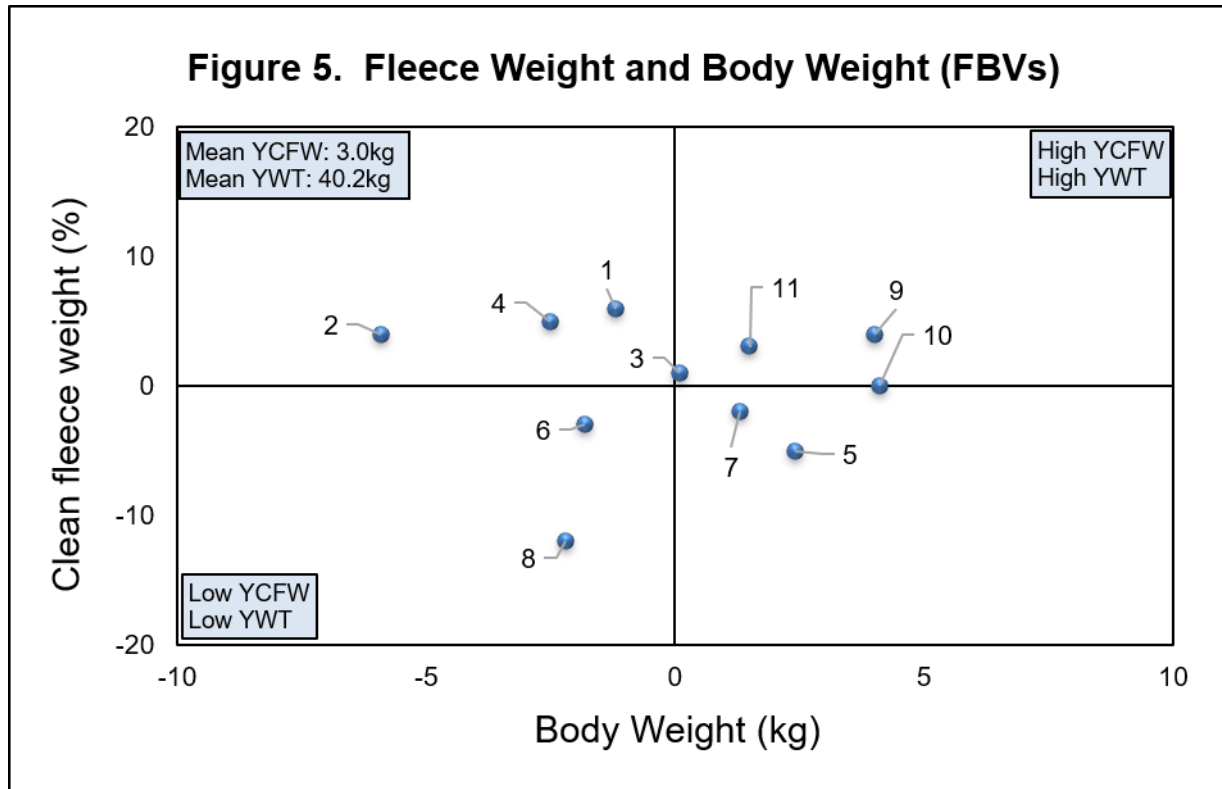
The graph describes performance for clean fleece weight (CFW) on the side axis and staple length (SL) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for fleece weight and above average for staple length are located in the top right hand quarter.



## Summary Graphs

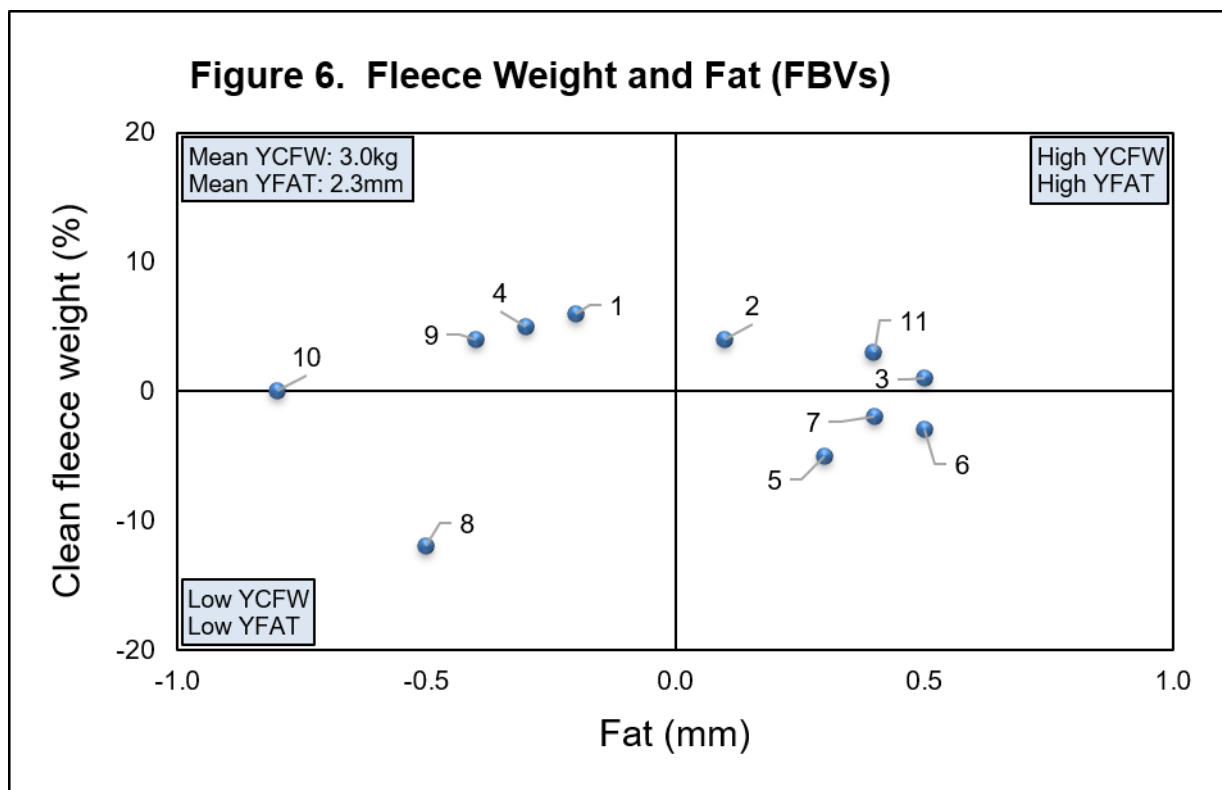
**Figure 5. Fleece Weight and Body Weight (FBVs)**

The graph describes performance for clean fleece weight (CFW) on the side axis and body weight (WT) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for fleece weight and above average for body weight are located in the top right hand quarter.



**Figure 6. Fleece Weight and Fat (FBVs)**

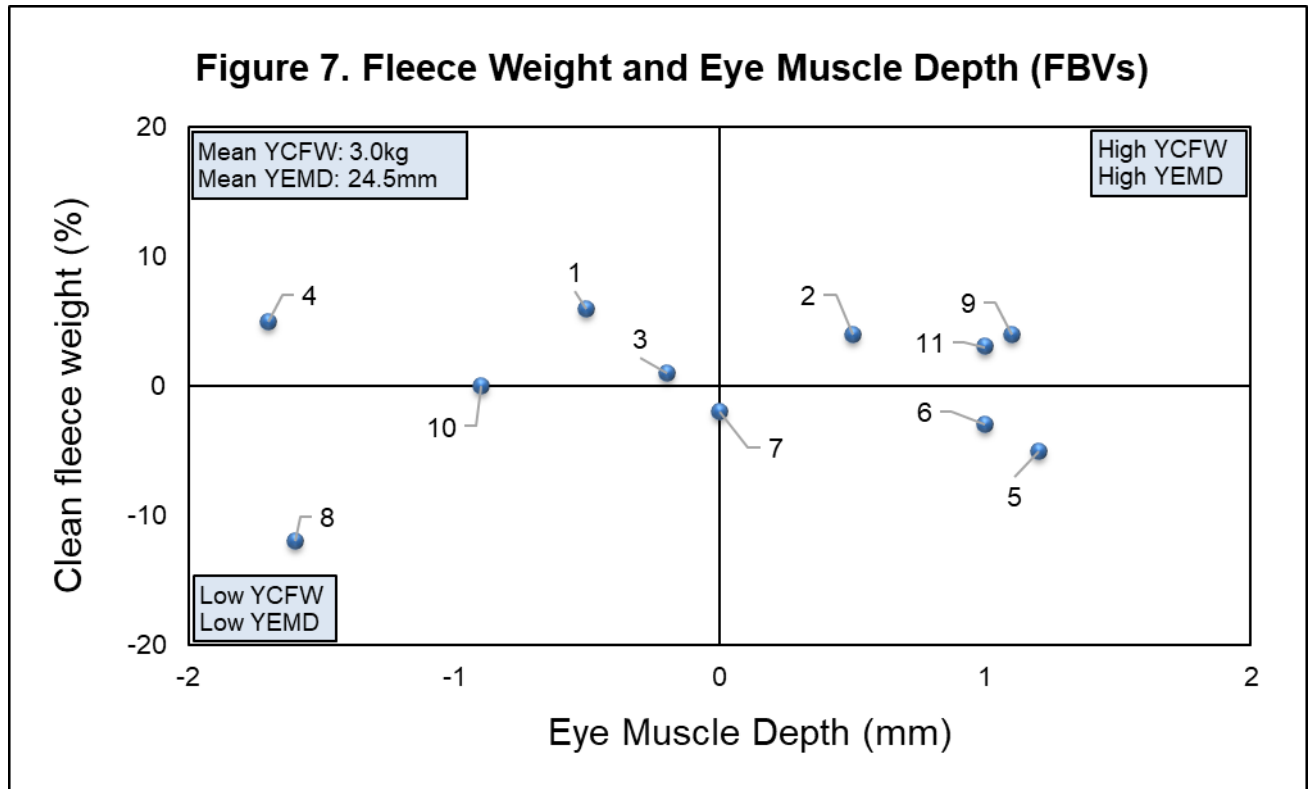
The graph describes performance for clean fleece weight (CFW) on the side axis and fat depth (FAT) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for fleece weight and above average for fat are located in the top right hand quarter.



## Summary Graphs

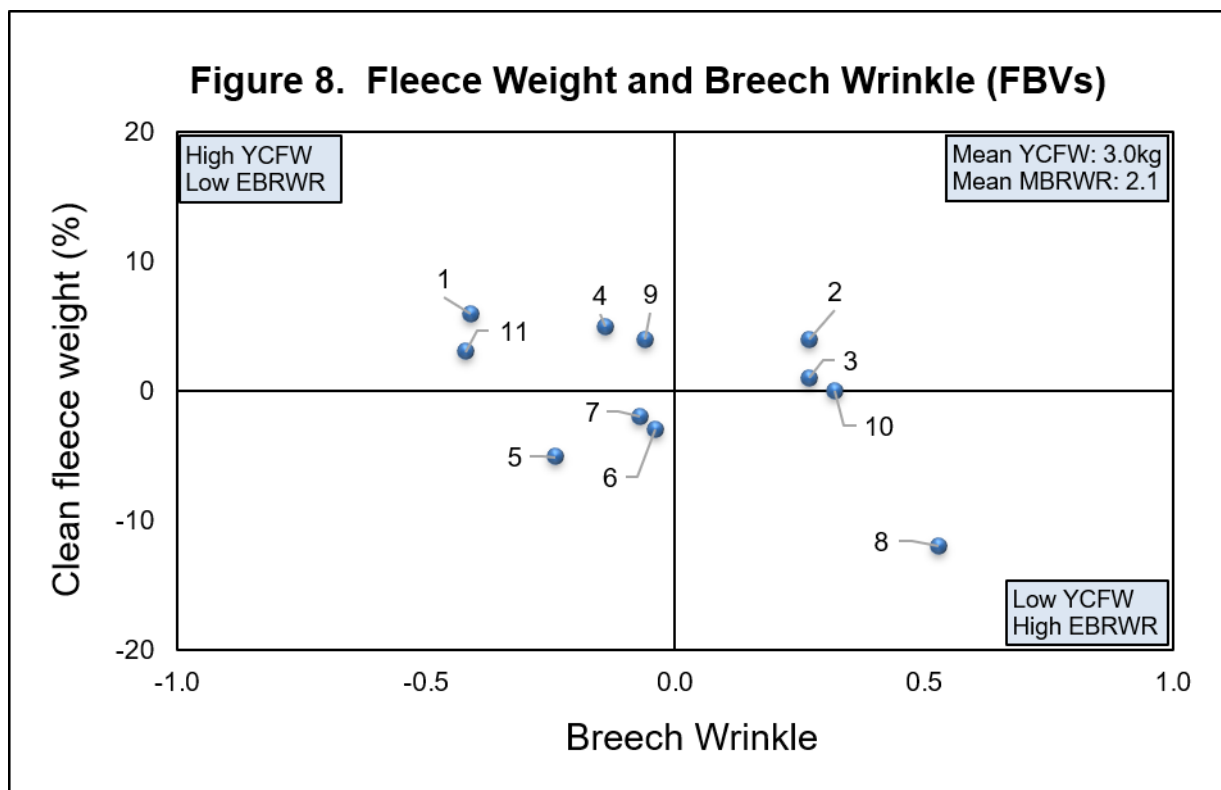
**Figure 7. Fleece Weight and Eye Muscle Depth (FBVs)**

The graph describes performance for clean fleece weight (CFW) on the side axis and eye muscle depth (EMD) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for fleece weight and above average for eye muscle depth are located in the top right hand quarter.



**Figure 8. Fleece Weight and Breach Wrinkle (FBV)**

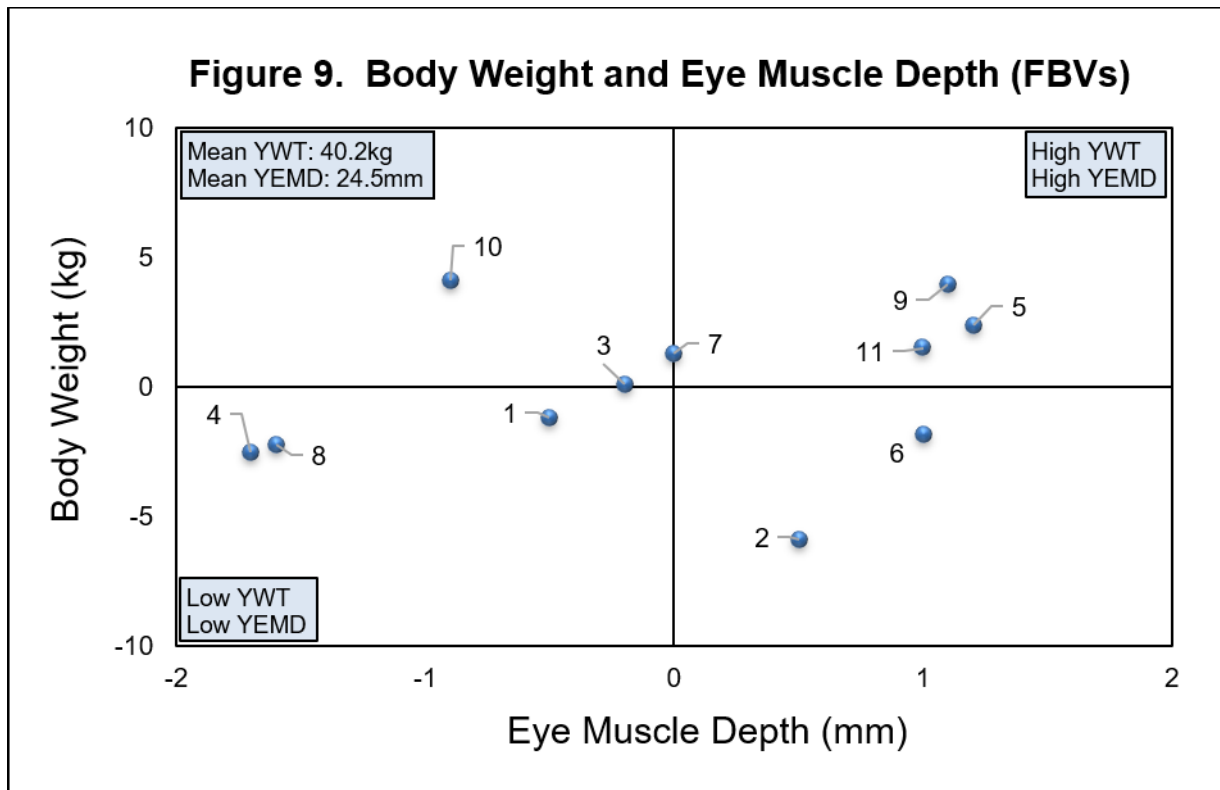
The graph describes performance for clean fleece weight (CFW) on the side axis and breach wrinkle (BRWR) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for fleece weight and below average for breach wrinkle are located in the top left hand quarter.



## Summary Graphs

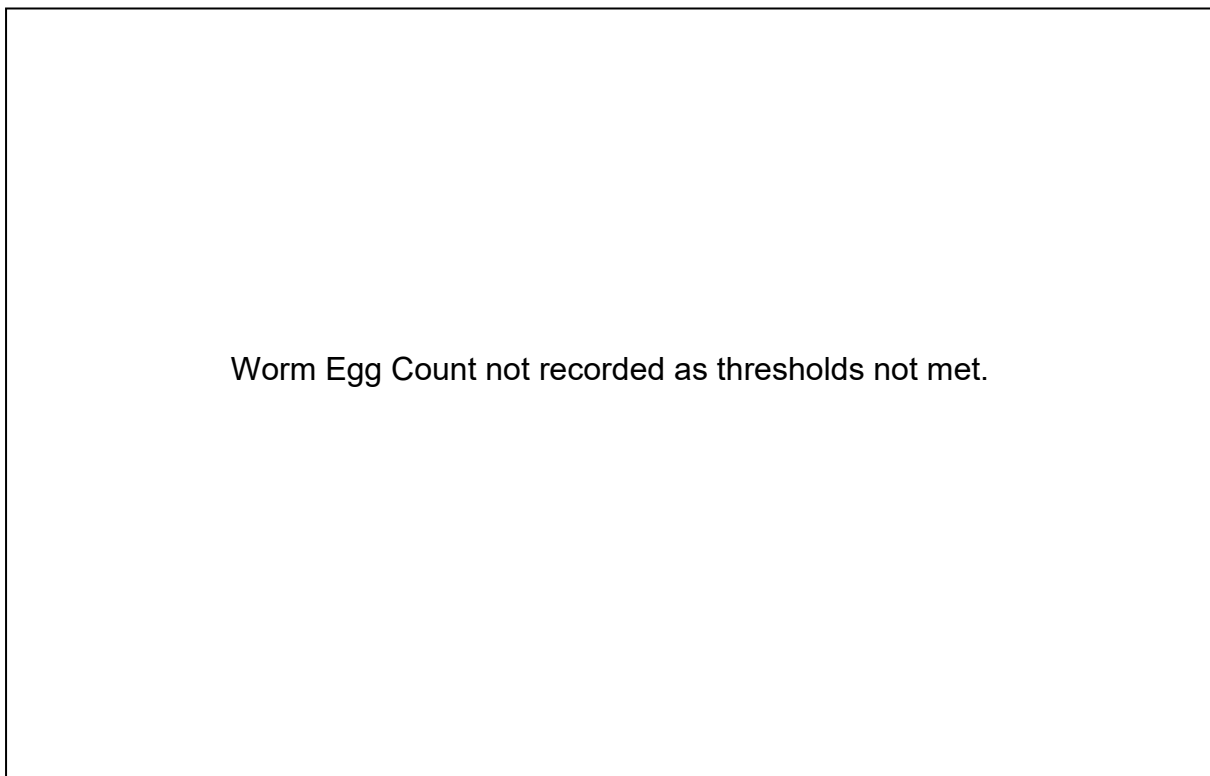
### Figure 9. Body Weight and Eye Muscle Depth (FBVs)

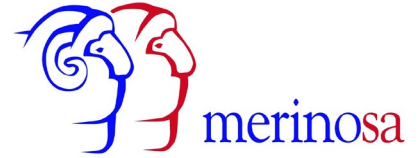
The graph describes performance for body weight (WT) on the side axis and eye muscle depth (EMD) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for body weight and above average for eye muscle depth are located in the top right hand quarter.



### Figure 10. Staple Strength and Worm Egg Count (FBVs)

The graph describes performance for staple strength (SS) on the side axis and worm egg count (WEC) on the bottom axis. Sires that are above average for staple strength and below average for worm egg count are located in the top left hand quarter.





## 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 Trial. We would also like to thank those individuals, and/or businesses who 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. It is important to acknowledge Turretfield Research Centre, who importantly offered to be the host site for the 2024 -2027 drops for the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial, as well as contributing their own time in planning and labour.



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