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SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020

DIARY DATES

October 7th 2020

2019 drop mid-side sampling
and visual classing

October 9th 2020

2021 drop sire nominations
close

October 30th 2020

2019 drop Field Day

Early November 2020

2019 drop shearing and post
shearing assessments

Mid December 2020

2021 drop AI

2021 SITE HOST

We are pleased to announce Mentara Park, Malinong will be the 2021 and 2022 drop SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial Site. Mentara park is run by the Eckert Family and receive an average 425mm rainfall in a winter dominant pattern. The Mentara Park ewe is purposely bred to be highly fertile, free-skinned and twice-yearly shearing capable. They have a mature weight of 70-75kg and produce approximately 20 micron wool at 65-70% yield depending on the season.

Mentara Park's AI program will commence mid-December 2020. 2021-drop sire nominations are now open, and will close Friday 9th October 2020.

FIELD DAY 2020

The Field Day for the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial, in conjunction with Red Meat and Wool Focus Farm, has been set for Friday October 30th 2020, to be held at McPiggery, Lameroo. The 2019 drop progeny of 16 leading Stud Merino sires will be on display in sire groups, together with results from measured and visual assessments. Progeny from the 18 Stud Merino sires of the 2020 drop will also be on display. As with previous years, the Field Day will host trade displays and include guest speakers. Please register your interest with Site Coordinator Anna Cameron, acameron@yalumba.com or mobile 0403 747 332.

The nomination form and field day flyer are available via
www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au
www.merinosa.com.au

McPIGGERY SITE UPDATE

2019 drop progeny

Rainfall during spring 2019 leading into summer 2020 was below average, with lambs having access to self-feeders of oats during the summer months. On January 8, 2020 carcass scanning traits Eye Muscle Depth and Fat were obtained.

The remaining major phenotyping was recorded on March 10, 2020 for the 2019 drop progeny, including:

- 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, face cover, jaw, legs/feet, dag, and Classer's Visual Grade.



*Crutching
2019 drop.
Photo
courtesy of
Duane
Simon,
January
2020.*

Shearing was undertaken on March 12 and 13, 2020 with greasy fleece weight collected, and post shearing visual traits shoulder/back and body wrinkle assessed on April 1, 2020. Shortly after, the wether component of the 2019 drop was sold. The site intended on obtaining meat trait data for this wether component, including GR Fat and carcass weight adjusted for birth type, however due to COVID-19 restrictions at this time, specifically in relation to entry into abattoirs, the site was unable to gather this information.

The ewes are being kept through to an adult assessment in October 2020, where further wool traits (full classing and shearing, plus mid-side sampling, excepting staple length/strength as already collected) and post shearing visual classing assessments will be conducted at 18 months of age. The mid-side sampling and visual classing is scheduled for 7 October 2020. If you are available to volunteer your time to assist with this day, please contact Anna Cameron, acameron@yalumba.com or mobile 0403 747 332.



2019 drop with 6 months wool. Photo courtesy of Duane Simon, September 2020.

The 2019 drop Yearling Assessment Site Report is available on the Merino Superior Sires website.
www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au

2020 drop progeny

Following AI from 18 sires in late November 2019, pregnancy scanning by Paul Cousins occurred on January 14 2020 resulting in a 72% success rate. Lambs started dropping on April 24 2020, which coincided with a rainfall event of 36mm. Lamb marking occurred May 18-19 2020, with 425 singles and 452 twins marked, giving a total of 877 lambs from 742 ewes scanned in lamb (from AI).



2020 drop, May 2020, photo courtesy of Duane Simon



2020 drop, July 2020, photo courtesy of Duane Simon

The 2020 drop progeny were tip shorn and weaned late July 2020, with an average weaning weight of 33kg. They are currently being grown out on sown barley fodder.

Below is a summary of 2020 drop results so far. **It should be noted that these are Raw Data results and no analysis has been done at this stage.**

Sire	No Progeny	Ewes	Wethers	% Singles	% Twins	Weaning Weight (kg)	Breech Wrinkle	Breech Cover
Baderloo Poll 180049	44	18	26	52	48	29.3	1.2	1.0
Calcookara Poll 170060	58	26	32	50	50	32.1	1.3	1.1
Caroonboon 181395	42	25	17	57	43	33.0	1.4	1.1
Challara Poll 181063	52	28	24	48	52	32.2	1.2	1.0
Collandra North 180645	41	15	26	76	24	31.0	1.9	1.0
Collinsville Poll 130545 (Apollo)	48	17	31	48	52	31.8	1.5	1.0
Flairdale Poll 180015	57	33	24	47	53	30.3	1.2	1.1
Glenville Poll T88018	61	35	26	41	59	31.9	1.3	1.0
Hazeldean 000113	45	25	20	62	38	31.4	2.4	1.0
Malleetech Poll 188039	54	32	22	37	63	29.0	1.6	1.1
Mernowie Poll 180500	52	28	24	42	58	31.1	1.7	1.0
Mumblebone 170129	43	20	23	60	40	31.3	1.2	1.0
Old Ashrose Poll 150445	50	20	30	46	54	33.6	1.4	1.0
Pepper Well Poll 188187	44	23	21	52	48	31.4	1.2	1.1
Ramsgate 180451	43	17	26	47	53	31.4	1.5	1.1
Ridgway Poll 180157	50	27	23	42	58	30.4	1.4	1.1
Stockton DB0074	43	21	22	42	58	30.4	1.2	1.1
Willandra Poll 180080	46	15	31	41	59	31.1	2.2	1.0
Grand Total	877	425	448	49	51	31.3	1.5	1.1

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION SITE COMMITTEE

Chairman Roger Fiebig
 2017/2018 Site Owner Keynes Family
 2019/2020 Site Owner McPiggery / Duane Simon
 2021/2022 Site Owner Eckert Family
 Data Manager Michelle Cousins
 Classer Bill Walker

Breeder Representative Hansi Graetz
 Breeder Representative Matt Ridgway
 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 Trial. 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. It is important to acknowledge McPiggery, who importantly offered to be the host site for 2019 & 2020 drops for the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial, as well as volunteering their own time in planning and labour.



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

Bill & Rose Walker 0428 973 804



Paul Cousins 0427 922 108
Michelle Cousins 0407 607 899



James Ellis 0409 229 368



New Supporters of the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial are always welcome.
Please contact Anna Cameron on 0403 747 332 to discuss.