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SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2019

DIARY DATES

Nov 12th 2019

Insertion of CIDR's, 2020-drop progeny

Nov 25th & 26th 2019

Removal of CIDR's and injection of PMSG, 2020 drop

Nov 27th & 28th 2019

AI Days 1 and 2, 2020 drop

Late Jan 2020 (TBC)

Mid-side sampling, visual classing and carcass scanning 2019 drop

Feb 2020 (TBC)

Shearing and post shearing visual classing 2019 drop

May 2020 (TBC)

Lamb marking 2020 drop

Oct 2020 (TBC)

Field Day 2019 & 2020 drops

FIELD DAY 2019

The Field Day for the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial was held at Keyneton Station on 4th June 2019 for the second consecutive year. The event was well attended by over 150 people. The 2018 drop progeny of 16 leading Stud Merino Sires was on display in sire groups, together with results from measured and visual assessments.

Presentations on the day were convened by Roger Fiebig (Site Chairman), and included:

- Joe Keynes (2017 & 2018 Site Host): Site summary in relation to the dry season and stock management accordingly
- Ben Swain (AMSEA Executive Officer): Merino Sire Evaluation – What's the value to breeders?
- Ben Swain: Merino Lifetime Productivity Project Overview and Update
- Eleonora Dal Grande and Torben Nielson: Reducing the impact of health conditions in sheep – a value chain approach



Field Day at Keyneton Station, June 2019



Hansi Graetz, Darren O'Brien and Bill Walker at the Field Day, Keyneton Station June 2019

KEYNETON STATION SITE UPDATE

2018 drop progeny

In late August, 207 wether lambs were processed at TFI Lobethal after they were finished at Thornby feedlot. The wethers performed very well at Thornby and had an average live weight at exit of 62kg (range 35-89kg). A loin sample was collected for every animal for shear force (tenderness) and intramuscular fat percent testing. Outcomes by sire are expected to be received late December. These will be reported alongside C-fat, GR-fat, eye muscle area, dressing percent, and average daily gain from when they were at Thornby's feedlot.

With poor climatic conditions set to continue, this concludes the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial for the 2018 drop. The 2018 drop Yearling Assessment Site Report is available on the Merino Superior Sires website. www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au

McPIGGERY SITE UPDATE

2019 drop Progeny

Just over 700 of the 2019 drop were weaned late July, averaging 32kg liveweight at approximately 14 weeks of age. They have been crutched, jetted, and are currently feeding on standing Barley. In late January, there will be a major assessment of the 2019 drop, including mid-side sampling, visual classing and carcass traits EMD/FAT. Shearing will occur in February, with further wool traits and post shearing visual classing assessments conducted.



*Weaning
2019 drop.
Photo
courtesy of
Duane Simon,
July 2019.*

ccc

2020 drop

There was solid interest in the site from both SA and interstate ram breeders again for the 2020 drop. For the first time, the trial has accepted 18 sires, which include two high impact sires as allocated by AMSEA. CIDR's will be inserted on 12th November, CIDR's removed and PMSG injected on 25th & 26th November, with the AI days set for 27th & 28th November. If you are available to volunteer your time to assist with any of these days, please contact Anna Cameron, acameron@yalumba.com or mobile 0403 747 332.

2020 Drop Sires:

Baderloo Poll 180049	Malleetech Poll 188039
Calcookara Poll 170060	Mernowie Poll 180500
Caroonboon 181395	Mumblebone 170129
Challara Poll 181063	Old Ashrose Poll 455
Collandra North Poll 180645	Pepper Well Poll 188187
Collinsville Poll 130545	Ramsgate Poll 180451
Flairdale Poll 180015	Ridgway Poll 180157
Glenville Poll T88018	Stockton DB0074
Hazeldean 000113	Willandra Poll 180080

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION SITE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Roger Fiebig	Breeder Representative	Hansi Graetz
2017/2018 Site Owner	Keynes Family	Breeder Representative	Matt Ridgway
2019/2020 Site Owner	McPiggery / Duane Simon	Finance & Administration	Jennifer Light
Data Manager	Michelle Cousins	Site Coordinator	Anna Cameron
Classer	Bill Walker	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 -

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