

GullenGamble makes \$4800 top

By BRAD WILSON

THE quality of the rams combined with confidence among sheep producers as rain fell across most of the state saw buyers from most geographical regions in NSW push the average price to \$1420 at the GullenGamble Merino ram sale at Yeoval last week.

This was up on last year's average price by \$70, with a top price of \$4800 being achieved in a clearance of 132 of the 150 rams offered.

The Kerin family presented – in stud principal Mark Kerin's comments – the most even draft of rams they had presented in their 15 years of on-property sales.

"We offer our clients the chance to be in the enviable position of being able to adjust their Merinos rapidly towards either natural fibre production or meat production, to meet current market trends," Mr Kerin said.

"The versatility and flexibility that the GullenGamble Merino offers to their business is that you are not tied down to choosing between trying to sell a wether lamb to the meat trade or to keep it for wool production."

"Our family is extremely happy with the continuing progress of the stud as we believe we have found the right balance between wool, fertility and meat, and our clients continue to receive the benefits."

This was evident with reports from existing clients of high lambing

percentages, bodyweight, hardiness and constitution from the bloodline.

A prime example of the progress of the stud was the draft's yearling weight (YWT) Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV), with 139 of the 150-strong draft testing above the national average for YWT of +2.94.

The highest YWT in the draft was +11.4, with 87 of the draft testing above +5.

The \$4800 top price was outlaid by Bruce Coppock, Ben Lomond, for a 110-kilogram sire testing 19-micron with a standard deviation of 2.8-micron, a co-efficient of variation of 14.9 per cent and a comfort factor of 100pc, along with ASBVs of +17 for yearling clean fleece weight and +6.8 for YWT.

Mr Coppock, who has purchased from GullenGamble previously, said he was attracted by the ram's pure whiteness and style of wool.

Long-term client Don McDonald, McDonald Grazing Company, Molong, averaged \$1037 for 16 rams.

Proof of the GullenGamble bloodline's constitution, Mr McDonald said he had no losses in his wethers after receiving only 50 millimetres of rain in a twelve month period at his western country at Tilpa.

"In June the wethers were light in weight, but cut 6.2kg of 19.2-micron wool, and last week the same sheep averaged 31kg dressed weight after being slaughtered over the hook at Fletchers in Dubbo," Mr McDonald said.



Bruce Coppock, Ben Lomond, and Brett Kerin, GullenGamble Merinos, Yeoval, with Mr Coppock's \$4800 top-priced purchase.

Return clients for 15 years Malcolm and Alan Barden, "Bulga", Gilgandra, paid to \$2000 in their draft of five to average \$1080.

This year the Bardens marked 136pc lambs in their flock.

They sold four decks of 12-month-old wethers which averaged 27.5kg carcass weight, returning \$137 a head, with the eight week skin receiving \$11.

Combined with the \$35 of wool the wethers cut at eight months of age, they produced a total value of \$183 each.

Buyers at the top end of the market included Womera Investments, Euchareena, which purchased two

rams including the \$4200 second-top price, while the Vaughan family, Obley, near Dubbo, paid \$4000 for its single ram.

Volume buyers included the Holland family, Uungula Pastoral Company, Wellington; Galeniza Pty Ltd, Baldry, and Belltre Pty Ltd, Yeoval, taking 15, 11 and 13 rams, averaging \$1693, \$945 and \$923 respectively.

The Holland family have been using GullenGamble rams for the past 15 years and as a result now have large-framed sheep with free growing wool and high lambing percentages producing a fast growing and quick maturing sheep.

Ted and Fiona Hodges, Baldry, continued their relationship with GullenGamble, and with their agent Australian Wool Network purchased six rams to average \$2166.


Landsgrove Partnership, Wellington, paid to \$3400 for its six, averaging \$2366, while the Heywood family, Peak Hill, averaged \$1833 for its six.

Dudley Grazing Company, Yeoval and Greenbah Grazing Company, Yeoval, took five and six rams respectively, averaging \$880 and \$1500.

The sale was conducted by Elders with Paul Dooley as the auctioneer.

LEFT: Tom Stocks, Bathurst; agent Todd Clements, Bowyer and Livermore, Bathurst; Ken Bailey, Westbrook Partnership, Black Springs; Tony Mutton, The Lagoon, near Bathurst, and Mark Kerin, GullenGamble Merinos, Yeoval, with some of the GullenGamble stud sires.






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MERINO & POLL MERINO

Yeoval NSW



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***Top Price \$4800**

***Average \$1420 over 132 rams**

*** Grade rams now available for purchase**

*** Classing services for clients upon request**

*** Enquiries Always Welcome**

The Kerin Family
 thank all buyers and
 under-bidders for a
 great sale and we look
 forward to working
 with you in the future

