



*The Kerin Family  
"GullenGamble"  
Yeoval NSW 2868*

June 2014

## GullenGamble -the Quiet Achievers

Welcome to our 2014 newsletter and we hope that all clients, friends and fellow producers are in good health and spirits.

What a change in season conditions from last year; with Autumn 2014 being equal or better than 1983 & 2000 at GullenGamble. To those who have missed out; our thoughts are with you and your turn will come!

Thank you to bidders, underbidders and successful buyers at our 2013 sale. We all had a great day and congratulations to Bruce Coppock of Ben Lomond for achieving the top price of \$4800 for his ram. In all, 132 of the 150 rams offered sold for a sale average of \$1420.

In this year's newsletter, we want to highlight the benefit of having The Right Balance Between Wool and Meat and to do this, we have included GullenGamble ASBV's genetic trends vs industry averages since GullenGamble joined Sheep Genetics in 2004. We want to highlight that the GullenGamble genetic trend has increased in a positive direction over the 8 major traits we measure for. We believe that these 8 major traits have the most impact on bottom line and client profit.

GullenGamble is staying focused on all clients attaining the Right Balance Between Wool and Meat and not on following industry fads at any certain time. Following our breeding goals and not swapping and changing direction all the time, gives our clients stability and direction in their own flocks, ultimately showing increased profits and ease of management.

### Client Success

Two of our long-standing clients have spoken about their success in the past 12 months and they demonstrate that GullenGamble genetics are achieving the Right Balance Between Wool and Meat:

Successful breeding to survive and thrive in harsh conditions, is proof of the constitution of the GullenGamble sheep on Don Macdonald's properties "Keelambara" and "Tindy" west of Tilpa NSW. He received just 50mm of rainfall in the 12 months from shearing to shearing, and the thing that amazed Don was that his crutching to shearing counts were both the same—no losses! At shearing June '13, the wethers were light in condition but cut 6.2kg of 19.2 micron wool, but in the first week in September '13; the same wethers averaged 31kg dressed after being sold over the hook at Fletchers International Dubbo. This is an amazing change in body condition in just 3 months highlighting that GullenGamble sheep are good feed converters.

GullenGamble clients for 15 years, Malcolm and Alan Barden of "Bulga" Gilgandra, reported that their 2013 lambing percentage was 130% in Merino ewes to terminal sires and 136% in Merino ewes to GullenGamble Merino Sires. They also sold 4 decks of Merino wether lambs which averaged 27.5kg dressed, returning an average of \$137/head plus \$11 for an 8 week skin and \$35 wool for a combined total of \$183/head.



Photo by Kristina Kelly -  
'Sorting out their differences'



GullenGamble Merino  
& Poll Merino Stud



### 2014 Events Calendar:

**5 August** - Nyngan Ag Expo  
@ Nyngan Showground.

**\*16 August** - Bathurst  
Merino Association Ram  
Expo @ Bathurst Show-  
ground.

**\*27,28 August** - National  
Merino Sheep Show @  
Dubbo Showground

**\*4 September** - South  
West Slopes Stud Merino  
Breeders Field Day @  
Galong NSW

**\*16 September -  
16th  
ANNUAL ON-  
PROPERTY RAM  
DISPLAY & SALE  
from 10am.  
Sale starts @ 1pm.**

Mark

**Fleece weight ASBV's (CFW or GFW)** are quoted in percentages. ASBV's are deviations from the average of animals in the database in the 1990 drop. An ASBV of +20% means the animal will cut 20% more wool than the average in 1990.

Ideally, you should select on clean fleece weight because that is what you get paid for. However, clean and greasy fleece weights are closely associated so either is suitable.

**What else changes if I just select for fleece weight?** These are what we call correlations, generally if fleece weight goes up:

Benefits	Things to watch
Body weight and growth go up	Higher micron
Staple length goes up	Wrinkle score goes up
	CV of fibre diameter gets higher
	Fat goes down
	Reproduction goes down

**Is micron all about how you feed them? (FD)** Like all traits, there is a large impact of nutrition on fibre diameter. Importantly, ASBV's can separate the genetic part from the nutritional part. Even though the industry trend is to go finer, we are happy to maintain our current average micron as can be seen over the last 3 years and with very little variation in the past 10 years.

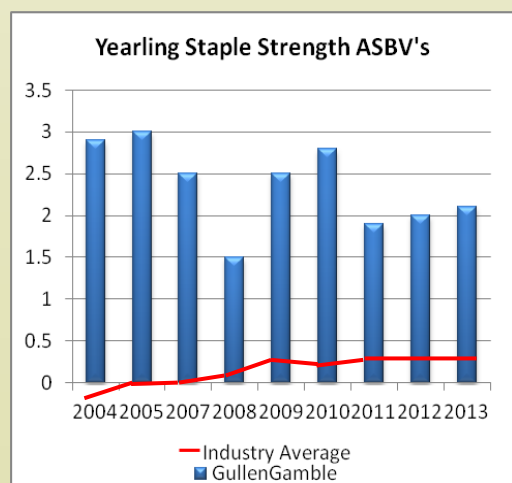
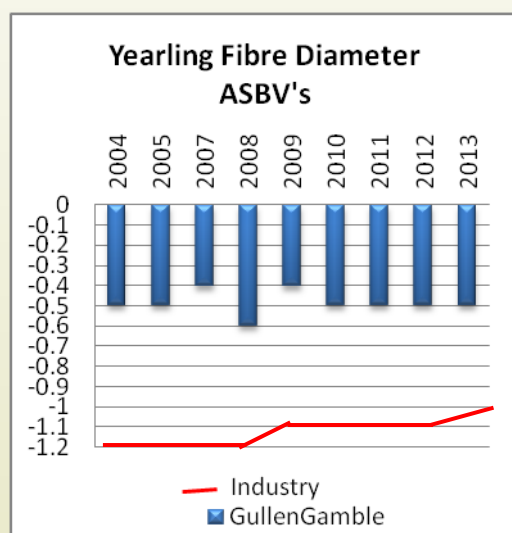
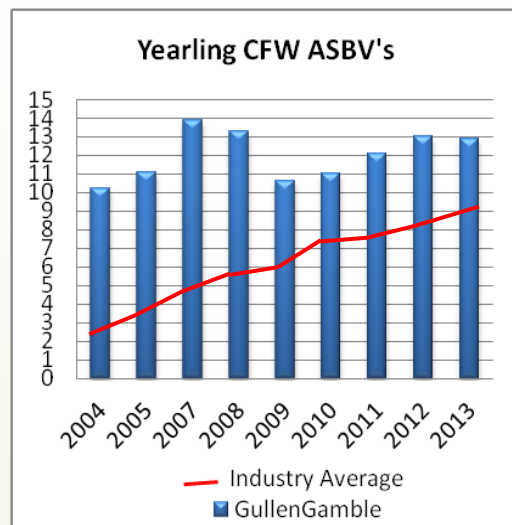
**What else changes if I just selected for fibre diameter?** These are what we call correlations, generally if fibre diameter goes down:

Benefits	Things to watch
Comfort factor improves	Lower fleece weight
	Lower bodyweight & growth
	Staple length goes down
	FDCV goes up
	Staple strength goes down

**Why is staple strength so important? (SS)** Staple strength is an important component of greasy wool price as it accounts for around 20% of the price received. Having sheep that are genetically superior sheep for staple strength will improve wool price. With sheep managed the same way and shorn at the same time, there is a large genetic variation in staple strength. Importantly, ASBV's can separate the genetic part from the management part.

**What else changes if I just selected for staple strength?** These are what we call correlations, generally if staple length goes up:

Benefits	Things to watch
Muscling improves	Higher fibre diameter
Resistance to worms improves	
Fatness improves	
Lower FDCV	
Higher fleece weight	



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**Why should I worry about staple length? (SL)** Increasing staple length is one of the key ways that fleece weights can be maintained or increased while the amount of wrinkle is reduced. SL can also increase fleece value at a lamb shearing, particularly if it results in the wool being combing length. It will therefore remain a priority for some producers. In addition, research in the last decade has shown that there are processing efficiencies to be gained by processing longer staple wools. Eventually growers may receive a price premium for longer staple wools. By careful management and flexible shearing times, producers are able to capitalise on the benefits of long-stapled sheep without suffering over-length discounts.

**What changes if I just selected for staple length?** These are what we call correlations, generally if staple length goes up:

Benefits	Things to watch
Fleece weight improves	Reproduction goes down
Washing yield goes up	Fibre diameter goes up
Lower FDCV	
Higher growth	
Less fleece rot	

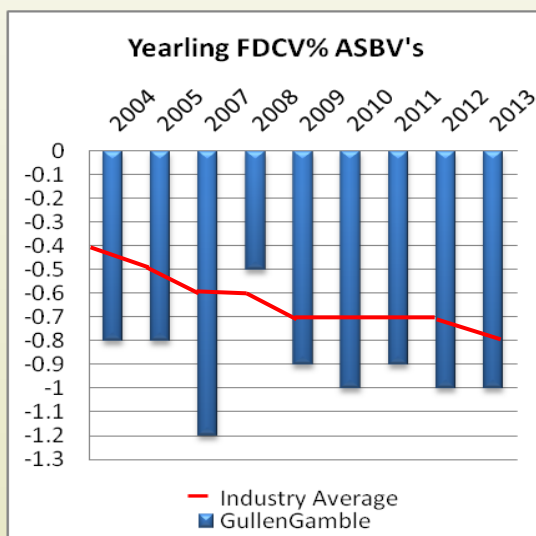
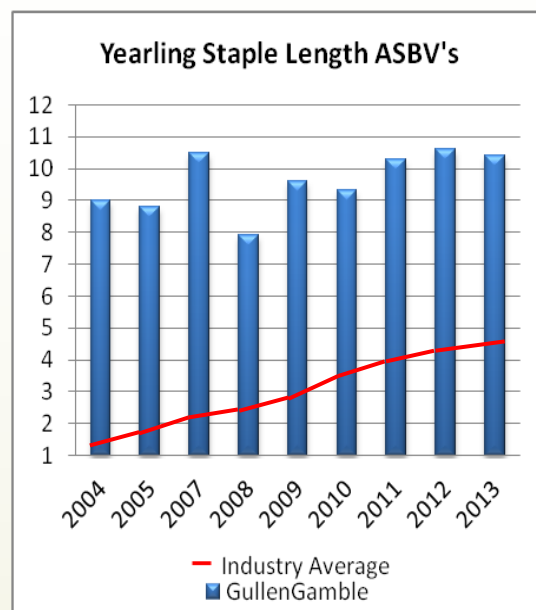
**CV of Fibre Diameter (FDCV) -What's in it for me?** Processors tend to favour wools of low FDCV because of improvements in the processing and improved wearability of garments made. The on-farm benefits of sheep with low CVFD are more likely to come through, reducing the likelihood of fleece rot and therefore body strike. There is also emerging evidence that sheep with a lower CVFD are genetically better able to cope with the restricted nutrition over summer and therefore lose less liveweight.

**What else changes if I just selected for CV?** These are what we call correlations, generally if FDCV goes down:

Benefits	Things to watch
Muscling improves	Lower fleece weight
Resistance to worms improves	
Higher fatness & growth	
Higher staple length	
Less fleece rot/body strike	

**Remember if you want to change something genetically, you have to record for it.**

GullenGamble Merinos are focussed and committed to maximising our genetic gains for both wool and meat production and to make these genetic gains available to our clients as quickly as possible. We believe the eight traits we measure must be used for a balanced sheep breeding operation. You will see on the next page that GullenGamble is slightly below industry averages in YFAT and YEMD, with the Industry Average for YFAT sitting at 0.0 and YEMD at +0.3 while GullenGamble is at -0.2 and -0.3 respectively. From our on-farm research and observation of the industry over the past 3 years; if we increase these two traits too rapidly, there is likely to be a real decrease in YCFW, so we are working at these slowly. We believe the shape of the sheep to be just as important as the fat and muscle. We are also very mindful that sheep with ASBV's as trait leaders in YCFW can be highly negative for YFAT and YEMD. An example of this is one sire we noted; with good ASBV's for YCFW at +44 but YFAT was -1.2 and YEMD was -3.1. To us, this is a huge imbalance and we believe that these sheep put all their energy into growing wool and are then very difficult and slow to finish for the meat trade. It is all about the animal that has The Right Balance Between Wool and Meat and who are good feed converters. Clients can manage the correlations of traits by selecting animals based on indexes or a balance of traits they are interested in.



**GROWTH - Weight for Age (WT) -Can I see it?** The bigger sheep will tend to be the high growth sheep. But remember, birth type, age of dam and nutrition have big impacts on growth and it is easy to overlook a twin born lamb, particularly one born from a maiden dam.

**What's in it for me?** The main reason to select for higher growth potential is so that lambs reach heavier weights at younger ages. This allows lambs to be either marketed sooner (at the same weight) or be marketed at heavier weights (at the same age) compared with low growth lambs. Ewes with higher weight breeding values also have more lambs. A kg increase in YWT ASBV will result in around two more lambs per 100 ewes mated.

**What else changes if I just selected for growth?** These are what we call correlations, generally if growth goes up:

Benefits	Things to watch
Marketable at earlier ages	Fibre diameter goes up
Higher reproductive output	Mature weight goes up (increasing ewe maintenance costs)
Higher fleece weight	Lamb birthweight goes up (potential dystochia problems)
Higher lean meat yield	

**Carcase fatness (FAT)** Fat in breeding ewes is favourably related to reproductive rate, lamb survival and reproductive rate. Some studies have shown added benefit under restricted nutrition.

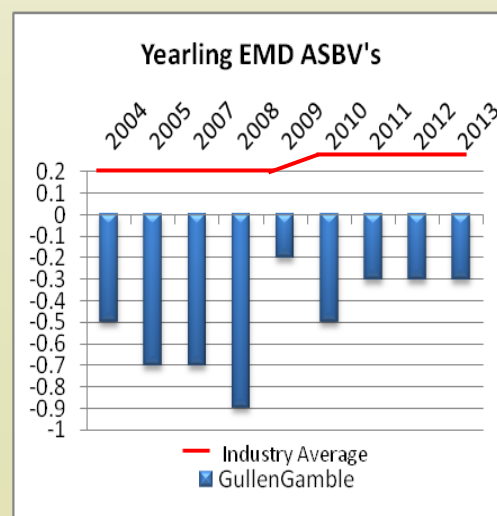
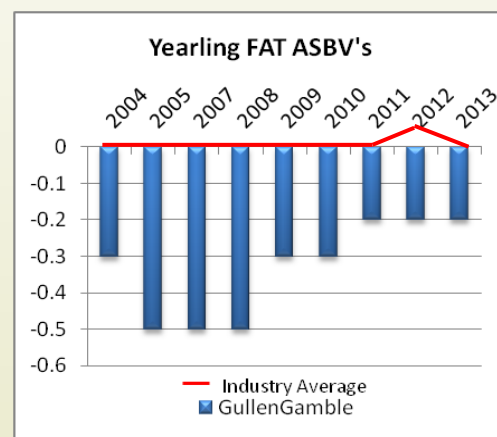
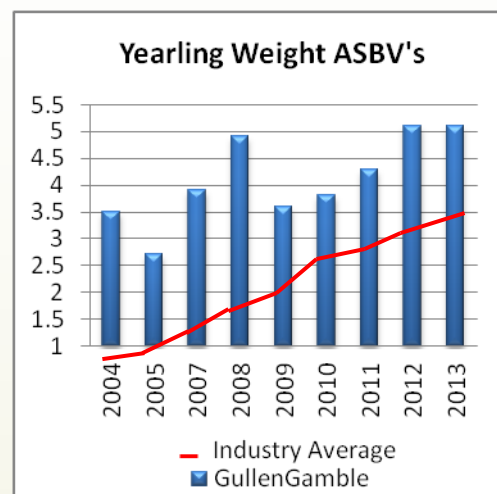
**What else changes if I just selected for fatness?** These are what we call correlations, generally if fat depth goes up:

Benefits	Things to watch
CV of fibre diameter goes down	Carcase fatness goes up
Intramuscular fat (marbling) improves	Fleece weight goes down
Eating quality improves	

**'Carcase Muscling (EMD) - What's in it for me?** The main reason to select for improved muscling is to improve the value of the carcass through increasing the amount of lean meat it contains. But there are other benefits in both terminal and maternal/Merino breeding. Higher muscling is favourably related to reproductive rate and more moderate lamb birth weights.

**What else changes if I just selected for muscling?** These are what we call correlations, generally if eye muscle depth goes up:

Benefits	Things to watch
Lean meat yield increases	Can result in lower growth
Shifts lean meat from the forequarter to the loin	When extreme and combined with low fat can reduce eating quality
Increases dressing percentage	
Improved reproductive rates in ewes	
Higher worm resistance	
Moderate birth weights	





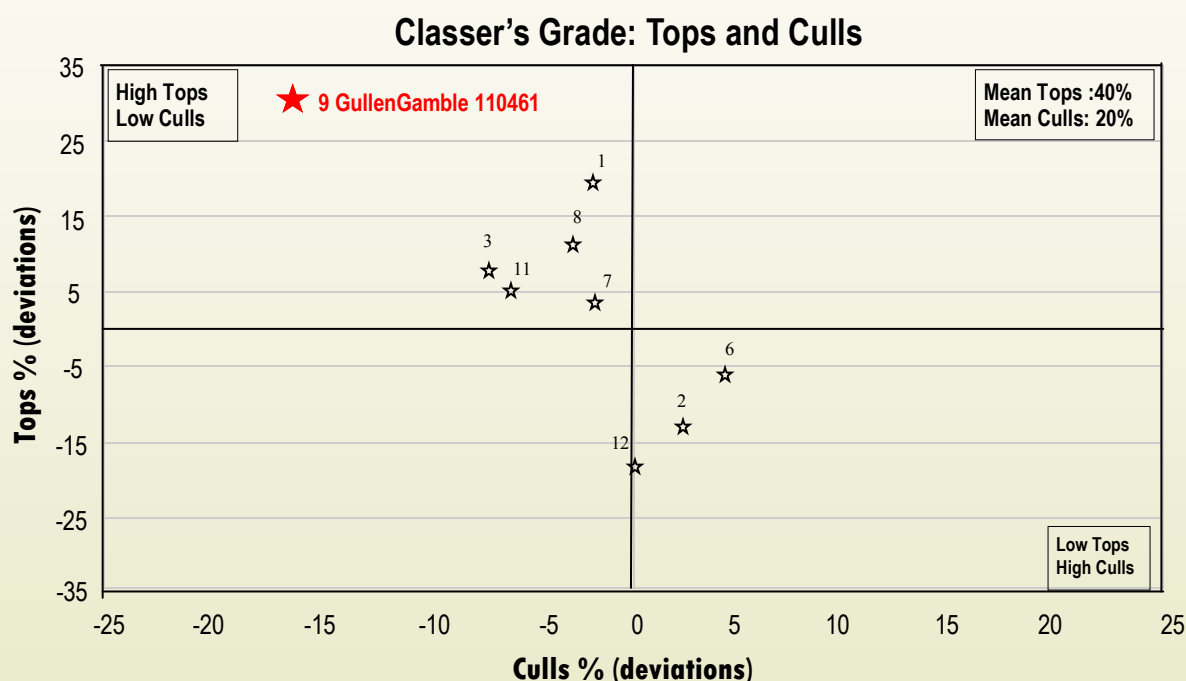
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## Macquarie Trangie Central Test Sire Evaluation.

In 2012, we entered GullenGamble 110461 x Leahcim 080445 in the Macquarie Trangie Central Test Sire Evaluation. In the first classes of Tops to Culls, GG110461 was a real trait leader with 29% tops and –17% culls. We have been concentrating for a very long time on eliminating waste and increasing the number of top sheep per ewe joined. GullenGamble 110461's progeny were the trait leader for SS and above average for SL as well as positive for FAT and EMD.

## **Classer's Tops by Cull Grade**

The graph describes performance for Classer's 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.



## **Latest Purchase:**

### **Wallaloo Park 121269**

A Double Copy Poll Gene carrier that topped the Wallaloo Park Sale in 2013. A very rich well nourished ram with outstanding cover and length. This sire has amazing belly wool length and a pure, soft muzzle—a really exciting sire for the future!

Birth date: May 2012

Sire: SYN 4

Price: Semen available \$40/dose + GST

Test Date	Micron	SD	CV	CF	SPIN	BW
03/09/13	18.1	2.5	13.9	99.8%		97kg
01/07/14	17.3	3.1	18.0	99.5%	16.4	kg



## OUR SIRES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### **GULLENGAMBLE 120018**

120018 is a son of Leahcim 445 and has all the characteristics of the modern merino. He is a very compact ram with a well filled head and deep, long body and a bold gutsy dense wool.

Birth Date: May 2012

Sire: Leahcim 445

Price: Semen Available \$40/dose + GST

Test Date	Micron	SD	CV	CF	SPIN	BW
01/08/13	18.7	2.8	15.2	99.8%		115kg
01/07/14	18.7	3.1	16.8	99.2%	17.6	kg

### **MERINO ASBV's - 27/06/2014**

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YSL	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
<b>GG120018</b>	6.9 70%	5.8 69%	-0.5 64%	21.7 63%	-0.9 79%	13.2 57%	134 34%	137 36%	149 32%	150 34%	140 27%	146 29%

 = Trait Leader

### **GULLENGAMBLE 110028**

A real bale filler, in the top 10% of the breed for clean fleece weight %.110028 carries a power of deeply crimped, very white wool with plenty of length and density on a very deep and well put together carcase. A big robust ram for all ewe types.

Birth Date: May 2011

Sire: GullenGamble 090086

Price: Semen Available \$40/ dose + GST



Test Date	Micron	SD	CV	CF	SPIN	BW
08/08/12	21.3	3.6	17.0	99.0%		127kg
04/04/13	19.3	3.8	19.7	99.8%		kg
01/07/14	21.5	4.0	17.6	99.0%	20.7	kg

### **MERINO ASBV's - 27/06/2014**

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YSL	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
<b>GG110028</b>	7.5 90%	6.3 79%	0.0 87%	24.6 72%	0.0 93%	15.9 56%	130 44%	133 45%	146 40%	149 42%	139 34%	149 35%

"Which is stronger:  
your urge to grow or your resistance to change?"  
*Author Unknown*

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