



June 2015

Mark and Kym Kerin

"GullenGamble" Yeoval NSW 2868

Ph/Fax: 02 6846 4252. Mob: 0427464252

gullen@bordnet.com.au

2015 Events Calendar:

GullenGamble Merinos can be seen at:

***Tue 28th July— Midstate Merino Field Day @ Dubbo TAFE**

***Sat 1st August – Nyngan Ag Expo @ Nyngan Showground**

***Sat 15th August - Bathurst Merino Assoc. Ram Expo @ Bathurst Showground**

***Wed/Thur 26th/27th August – National Merino Sheep Show @ Dubbo Showground**

***Thur 3rd Sept - South West Slopes Stud Merino Field Day@ St Clements Retreat, Galong NSW**

*** Tues 15th September *** **GullenGamble Merinos 17th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.**

***Inspection from 10am
Sale at 1pm***

Grade rams available from 17th September

GullenGamble Merinos – The Quiet Achievers

Welcome to our 2015 newsletter!

What a year to be in agriculture – well livestock anyway! The wool market has lifted 24% for the financial year and the lamb market is hovering at \$5.50 - \$6/kg. Mutton is at an all-time high with contracts presently at \$4.20/kg and saleyard prices slightly above this rate. Not to be outdone, the Easter Young Cattle Indicator is hovering just above \$5/kg. To top it all off, producers have been enjoying interest rates at record lows. To fellow producers in the north, far north of NSW and large areas of QLD; our thoughts are with you all and we hope a seasonal break comes sooner than later.

Thank you to all bidders, underbidders and the successful buyers from our 2014 Sale. Congratulations to Michael and Leanne Heywood from Peak Hill who purchased the top-priced Poll ram at \$4400 and Campbell and Angus Gregory, Landsgrove Partnership from Wellington, who paid \$4200 for their top-priced horned ram. All in all, 170 of the 171 rams offered were sold and averaged \$1792. What a fantastic result!

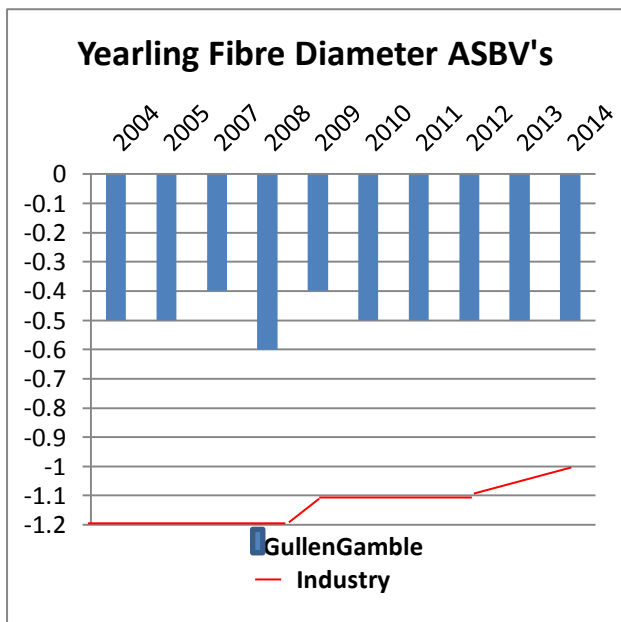
In this year's newsletter, we would like to further discuss SHEEPGENETICS - MERINOSELECT and ASBV's and the benefits and possible drawbacks of these indexes. In our 2014 newsletter we highlighted that the GullenGamble genetic trend has increased in a positive direction over the eight major traits currently measured. The reason we measure these particular traits is that they have the most impact, not only on the GullenGamble commercial flock but ultimately on client profitability. Data has been collected for these major traits since joining SheepGenetics in 2004. *Our belief is that if you want to change something genetically, you have to record your measurements and continue to monitor the data collected in order to achieve desired outcomes.*



GullenGamble Merinos – *The Quiet Achievers*

Experience with and confidence in using our data is enabling us to further maximise our genetic gain for wool and meat.

Along with using data, we also place great emphasis on visual selection as we believe the make and shape of the sheep to be just as important as having EMD and FAT. We have observed a number of industry trait leaders for EMD and FAT that appear not to be filled-in in the back end and do not carry meat right down through the hindquarter. They can also be very narrow up on the top-line. From our experience this type of sheep is very hard to finish and they do not weigh well. We have also noticed a real decrease in the YCFW, as the industry as a whole has been concentrating more on YEMD and YFAT. We now refer to these animals as being over balanced. Remember, for every benefit of any trait there will always be a trade off, *therefore GullenGamble Merinos will continue to concentrate on make and shape of our animals as well as using the data indexes.*



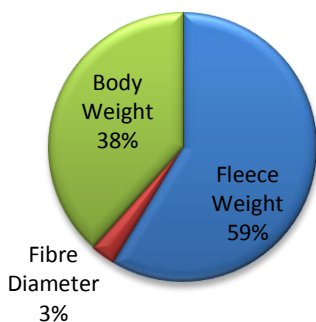
If you recall 20+ years ago, we were all advised by the wool industry gurus of the time to “get fine or get out.” GullenGamble did not chase that industry fad and this can be seen from our yearling fibre diameter average of 19.5 microns over the past four years, with very little variation in the past 11 years.

“The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving.”

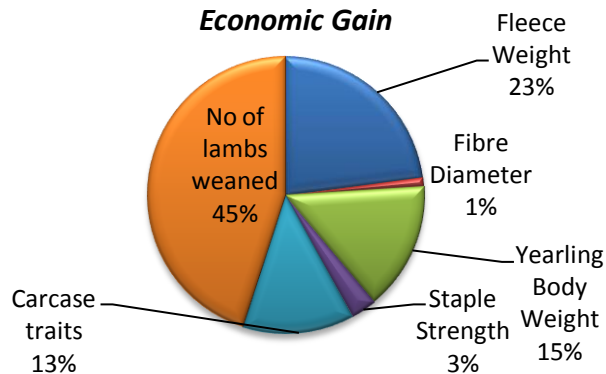
Oliver Wendell Holmes

We choose to use the **DP (Dual Purpose) and DP+ indexes** because after 10 years of using either DP or DP+, there is a potential response of only 0 to -0.1 μ reduction in fibre diameter whereas the MP (Merino Production) and MP+ indexes can have a potential response of up to -0.4 μ reduction in micron. In comparison, following the FP (Fibre Production) and FP+ indexes can potentially result in a reduction of up to -0.8 μ in micron after the same period of time.

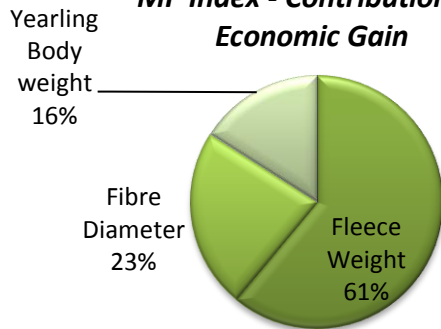
DP Index - Contribution to Economic Gain



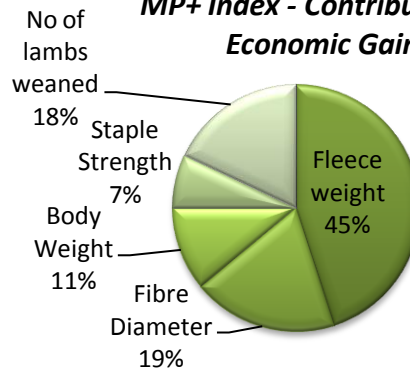
DP+ Index - Contribution to Economic Gain



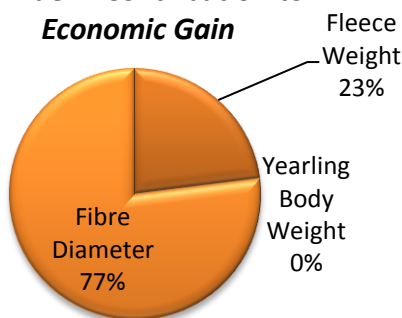
MP Index - Contribution to Economic Gain



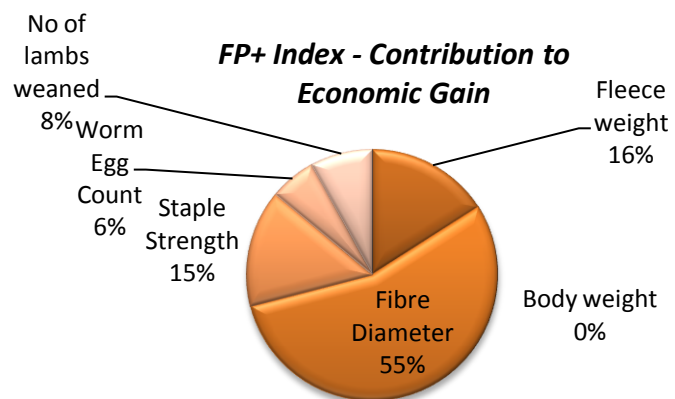
MP+ Index - Contribution to Economic Gain



FP Index - Contribution to Economic Gain



FP+ Index - Contribution to Economic Gain



We do not want to decrease our average micron level because history has proven to us that anything finer than 19.5 micron, stays at a record price for only a very short period of time and more often than not, comes in at below the cost of production for extended time frames. We cannot see this changing in the future as our reliance on China and India continues. The DP and DP+ indexes are much more focussed on potential responses in a dual purpose operation with a big emphasis on number of lambs weaned and not on decreasing the average fibre diameter in your flock.

A question to wool producers: Would you sell your wool clip now without any figures and data and if so, how much buyer support would you expect to receive?

Take a look at how the Angus breeders have embraced EBV's and have support from every sector of the meat trade, both domestic and export. Premiums are being paid by all major feedlots and major fast-food outlets. If we want to have a "Grand Merino" burger or be able to compete against the "Grand Angus", we must tell our story and be able to supply measured trait figures to our consumers. *Don't worry about the price of lamb getting too high – beef is at a record high in Australia!* This is also reflected in the current USA cow prices. My point being; I still have not seen any fast-food shop empty or for sale because of lack of customers.

A reminder that this year's ram sale will be on Tuesday 15th September. We will have our usual large offering of top-quality rams for selection on the day as well as some grade rams available after the sale. As always, *inspection is from 10am and the Sale will start at 1pm* with refreshments available during the day. We take this opportunity to remind you that any rams you purchase are guaranteed for fertility and structural soundness until they have completed their first joining. If there are any problems, we will replace the ram or credit you up to their value at auction.

Take home messages from GullenGamble:

- SheepGenetics ASBV is here to stay. It has the support of enough progressive breeders to fund its own way, now and into the future.
- Always, always, combine visual selection with measured traits.
- Remember to be careful chasing industry fads. Too much emphasis on a particular trait will always have a negative impact on other traits.
- GullenGamble's goal has been and will continue to be; to maintain "The Right Balance between Wool and Meat", both in our commercial flock and our client's flocks.
- Don't let fear hold you back.
- Don't be afraid to go out on a limb....it's where the fruit is.

We look forward to seeing you when we are out and about over the coming months.

Mark and Kym

OUR SIRES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GullenGamble 130270

...the meatiest ram bred at GullenGamble to date....

GullenGamble 130270 is the son of GullenGamble 110428. He is for the breeder who wants his wether lamb out of the paddock and onto the plate, or the ewe-lamb to reach joinable weight in the shortest possible timeframe.

He stands wide and his back end is exceptionally well filled in, carrying his meat right through and down his hindquarter.

He has ASBV's of YWT 14.1 and AWT 12.5; meaning that he is well and truly in the top 1% for YWT on the entire 2015 Sheep Genetics database which averaged 3.2 and top 1% averaged 10.8 for YWT.

*Eye Muscle Depth – we are now being told that only 15% of sheep with good eye muscle depth figures correlate to good hindquarter development (meaning that a good eye muscle figure doesn't always relate to good hindquarter development). We believe that eye muscle should be measured for length, not depth – or a combination of both!

MERINO ASBV'S—23/06/2015

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG130270	14.1 71%	12.5 67%	-2.1 66%	15.1 58%	-1.1 79%	-1.9 68%	4.4 50%	137 32%	140 32%	159 30%	155 29%	167 26%	145 28%
Averages	3.2	2.5	0.2	8.9	-1.1	-0.6	0.2	122	125	126	131	120	130

 = trait leader

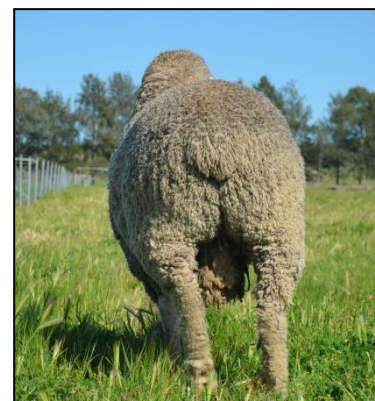


GG 130270

Birth Date: Mid April 2013

Sire: GullenGamble 110428

Price: Semen Available @
\$40/dose + GST





GullenGamble 130426

GullenGamble 130426 is an exceedingly well-balanced Sire with a commendable ASBV for YWT of 12.4, a well-above-average figure that is vital for early maturity in progeny.

He has a very loose, drapey front and he stands wide at the front end; carrying this width all the way through to the back end.

His meat is carried well down into his hindquarter. GG130426's wool is very remarkably white, crimpy and well nourished and he is a great choice to use over any ewe types to improve both wool and meat characteristics.

Birth Date: mid April 2013

Sire: Leahcim 445

Price: Semen Available @ \$40/ dose + GST

MERINO ASBV'S—23/06/2015

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG130426	12.4 72%	10.0 68%	-2.0 67%	18.3 61%	-1.7 79%	-0.5 68%	11.8 52%	-0.1 55%	138 33%	142 37%	161 31%	158 35%	162 27%	148 33%
Averages	3.2	2.5	0.2	8.9	-1.1	-0.6	4.4	0.2	122	125	126	131	120	130

GullenGamble 130020

GullenGamble 130020 has an ASBV for YWT of 15.2 and AWT is 14.2 with the top 1% on SheepGenetics for YWT averaging 10.8.....well above the average!

He has a terrific hindquarter and heart room and is very correct on all four feet. He is a Sire with outstanding wool that is not to be overlooked. For such a meaty sheep, he has a well filled-in head and a very white crimpy wool that carries down onto his points. He also has a great underline and belly wool.

Birth Date: Mid April 2013

Sire: GullenGamble 100395

Price: Semen Available @ \$40/ dose + GST



MERINO ASBV'S—23/06/2015

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG130020	15.2 72%	14.2 67%	-2.3 66%	16.2 59%	-0.8 79%	-1.1 68%	3.6 49%	132 32%	137 31%	159 30%	154 28%	171 26%	142 27%
Averages	3.2	2.5	0.2	8.9	-1.1	-0.6	0.2	122	125	126	131	120	130



GullenGamble 130418

GullenGamble 130418 is another son of Leahcim 080445 and is very well balanced with excellent ASBV's for YWT at 14.2 and AWT at 12.

He has a plain neck front with a nice drape and has very white, well-nourished and crimped wool.

He will be best used over a wide range of ewe types to improve YWT and AWT in the flock and he is well above average for wool cut and quality.

Birth Date: mid April 2013

Sire: Leahcim 445

Price: Semen Available @ \$40/ dose + GST

MERINO ASBV'S—23/06/2015

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG130418	14.2	12.0	-1.9	15.9	-1.5	-1.0	11.8	0.8	137	139	161	155	168	149
	72%	68%	67%	61%	79%	68%	52%	55%	33%	37%	31%	35%	27%	33%
Averages	3.2	2.5	0.2	8.9	-1.1	-0.6	4.4	0.2	122	125	126	131	120	130

GullenGamble 110428

GullenGamble 110428 is in the top 10% of the breed for both YWT and YCFW%. The complete package; the Right Balance between Wool and Meat. He carries super soft, super white wool of 18.3 micron on a wrinkle free, productive skin. A tremendous fibre on an even better body! This ram has been entered in the 2015 Drop CTSE at Trangie Research Centre.

Birth Date: May 2011

Sire: Leahcim 445

Price: Semen Available @ \$40/ dose + GST



MERINO ASBV'S—23/06/2015

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG110428	7.5	6.1	-1.4	19.3	-0.1	-1.3	14.5	3.7	124	129	140	145	135	137
	95%	87%	94%	84%	97%	95%	67%	72%	48%	51%	44%	47%	36%	42%
Averages	3.2	2.5	0.2	8.9	-1.1	-0.6	4.4	0.2	122	125	126	131	120	130



Please take a minute to send your email address to gullen@bournet.com.au to add to our database for quicker and easier communication.