



June 2016

As we are sitting here putting this newsletter together, we are well into our heaviest rainfall event for many years. We have had 190+ mm so far for June and the rain does not look like stopping (today anyway), and with all our creeks overfull, no-one is going anywhere anytime soon. The soaking rainfall is reported to be all over the eastern seaboard, so we know that the majority of our clients, if not all of our clients, are receiving the rainfall – a very welcome sight that bides well for the next few seasons.

Thank you to all bidders, underbidders and successful buyers from our 2015 sale. Congratulations to Michael and Leanne Heywood from Peak Hill, who purchased the top priced ram at the sale for \$5,400. He is a poll sire with a yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) +29.9 and yearling weight (YWT) +10.3 both figures being in the top 5% of the breed in the MerinoSelect Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's).

The second highest price of \$5,000 was achieved twice by two of our long time, volume buying clients. Congratulations to Ted & Fi Hodges, Baldry and Don & Kerry of Macdonald Grazing, Molong and Brewarrina. The Hodges' ram had a YCFW +26.2 and YWT +10.3, again both figures being in the top 5% of the breed in the MerinoSelect database and the Macdonald Grazing ram had ASBV YCFW +21.2 (in the top 10% of the breed) and YWT +6.9. Of the 170 rams offered for sale on the day, 167 were sold and averaged \$1940. All of the 170 rams offered in the 2015 ram sale had outstanding ASBV's and we know that all of those rams will help to achieve, maintain and improve 'The Right Balance between Wool and Meat' in our client's flocks.

	★ Top 5% of the breed	★ Top 10% of the breed	
	YCFW	YWT	DP+
GullenGamble 2015 Sale Average	+22.0	+7.1	148
SheepGenetics MerinoSelect Data Base Average @ 24/08/2015	+8.8	+3.2	130

Why do we measure our rams' breeding values and index them against their peers?? to give you – our clients and potential clients – professionally analysed and benchmarked information to enable you to make an informed decision on the rams you want to purchase to produce highly performing flocks in any market situation

GullenGamble's Focus on Growth.

For the past 12 years 50% of all progeny produced at GullenGamble has been sold before reaching 1 year old - either as fat lambs or to lamb finishers. Our entire 2015 drop merino wether lambs averaged 41.32kg empty and were sold to a lamb finisher for \$95.04 one month off the board after returning \$32 wool; giving us a gross price \$127.04 a head.

We are also seeing GullenGamble clients achieving these excellent returns for under 12 month old stock:
 *The MacAlpine Family from Girilambone near Nyngan NSW, achieved the top priced merino wether lambs sold on AuctionPlus for the week ending 1st April 2016 at \$83, with the average of the sale being \$77. The lambs averaged 38kg with a skin of 2.5".

GullenGamble Merinos – *The Quiet Achievers*

*The Barden Family from Gilgandra sold merino wether lambs for a combined total average for wool and meat of \$191.90 per head.

*Landsgrove Partnership from Wellington sold 1000 merino wether lambs for a combined total average for wool and meat of \$175.00 per head.

*Dudleys Grazing from Yeoval sold merino wether lambs for a combined total average for wool and meat for \$195.00 per head.

*P&E McCulloch from Garoo near Tamworth sold merino wether lambs for a combined total average for wool and meat of \$167.00 per head.

*M & L Heywood from Peak Hill sold merino wether lambs for a combined total average for wool and meat of \$187.00 per head, and

*Macdonald Grazing from Molong and Brewarrina sold 2000 merino wether lambs for a combined total average for wool and meat of \$137.00 per head.

We do not see the trend in early finishing changing in the near future, as we see more and more merino sheep sold on a cents per kg basis. Clients are being paid for kg of meat produced whether to meat works or to lamb finishers. With this direction in mind, increasing the GullenGamble PWWT (200 day weight) and YWT (300 day weight) will continue to be key profit drivers of the Stud's future direction.

We have identified 3 GullenGamble sires with ASBV's for YWT averaging at +9.8. (The average YWT of all sheep in the SheepGenetics database for 2016 is +3.0 – a drop of .8 in the past 12 months).

If we join these top 3 GullenGamble sires with an average ASBV for YWT of +9.8 (all in the top 5% for yearling weight), with ewes with an average yearling weight of +3.0, you have an expected progeny gain of +6.4 for YWT.

'So what' you might ask? Stats say that every +1 in yearling weight = progeny reaching 50kg 8 days faster.... meaning that the progeny of these top 3 GG sires will reach 50kg 27 days faster than with using a ram with average YWT of +3.0 under the same environmental and management conditions.

These top 3 GullenGamble Sires are all still in the top 10% for YCFW at an average of +21.3; with the average on the SheepGenetics database top 10%, being +20.2.... maintaining "The Right Balance Between Wool and Meat."

It should be noted that while focusing on YWT and PWWT, we are very mindful not to lose focus on other major profit drivers of fleece weight, visual carcase shape and quality, confirmation and fertility. We also continue to monitor adult ewe weight and maintain current weight. As mentioned in past newsletters, if you want to change something genetically, you have to monitor the data collected in order to achieve desired outcomes.

With balancing visual selection and the use of measured traits through SheepGenetics MerinoSelect, we continue to focus on GullenGamble Merinos' genetics being 'The Right Balance Between Wool and Meat' for clients' profitability and management.

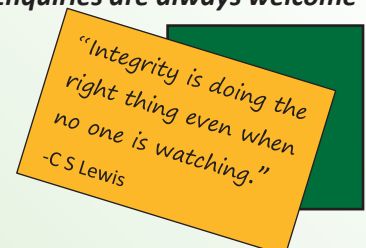
We look forward to seeing you when we are out and about in the coming months. ***Enquiries are always welcome***

Mark and Kym Kerin

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Top 3 GullenGamble Sires identified for superior YWT's and YCFW:

GG 130418



Merino ASBV's – 22/06/2016

 = trait leader

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG130418	10.6	9.0	-1.6	15.0	-1.3	-0.8	10.5	2.5	131	142	150	158	151	154
	90%	87%	86%	81%	94%	91%	91%	89%	45%	57%	42%	53%	34%	48%
Averages	3.0	2.5	0.2	9.2	-1.1	-0.6	4.5	0.3	120	128	125	132	117	131

GG131078



Merino ASBV's – 22/06/2016

 = trait leader

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG131078	10.2	8.9	-1.9	26.0	0.5	-1.2	13.5	4.5	126	134	148	155	144	145
	85%	82%	80%	75%	91%	86%	87%	84%	41%	48%	38%	43%	32%	38%
Averages	3.0	2.5	0.2	9.2	-1.1	-0.6	4.5	0.3	120	128	125	132	117	131

GG120018



Merino ASBV's – 22/06/2016

 = trait leader

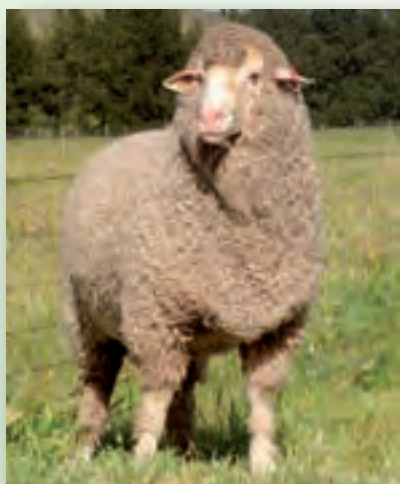
	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
GG120018	8.8 87%	7.9 76%	-1.1 84%	22.9 76%	-0.5 90%	0.0 86%	13.1 63%	1.5 65%	126 42%	138 48%	147 39%	159 47%	142 32%	157 45%
Averages	3.0	2.5	0.2	9.2	-1.1	-0.6	4.5	0.3	120	128	125	132	117	131

Last September, Kym and I went to the Adelaide Merino Ram Sale and purchased 'Ade' from Wallaloo Park Poll Merino Stud Marnoo, Victoria.

'Ade' (WP140368) has an extremely deep barrel and stands very wide and correct front on, and he carries this right through to his back end – more like we are used to seeing in a terminal sire for meat only.

His wool oozes the quality and quantity that Wallaloo Park is renowned for – with excellent deep crimp and whiteness on a very loose and pliable, uncomplicated skin.

Above average visual traits are backed up by his measured ASBV's. He is a trait leader for YCFW +21.6, and he is also a trait leader in all 7 indexes of YSL, FP, FP+, MP, MP+, DP and DP+. YEMD is another positive trait for this outstanding ram.



Merino ASBV's – 22/06/2016

 = trait leader

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+
"Ade"	6.0 70%	6.4 67%	0.2 58%	21.6 61%	-0.2 78%	0.1 68%	14.0 71%	-0.6 50%	141 32%	145 33%	153 30%	155 32%	142 25%	157 29%
Averages	3.0	2.5	0.2	9.2	-1.1	-0.6	4.5	0.3	120	128	125	132	117	131

2016 Events Calendar:

**GullenGamble Merinos can be
seen at:**

***Tue 26th July— Midstate Merino
Field Day @ Dubbo TAFE**

***Sat 6th August – AGL Nyngan Ag
Expo @ Nyngan Showground**

***Sat 13th August - Bathurst
Merino Assoc. Ram Expo @
Bathurst Showground**

***Wed/Thur 23th/24th August –
National Merino Sheep Show @
Dubbo Showground**

***Thur 1st Sept - South West
Slopes Stud Merino Field Day@ St
Clements Retreat, Galong NSW**

*** Tues 13th September ***

GullenGamble Merinos 18th

Annual On-Property

Ram Sale.

Inspection from 10am

Sale at 1pm

Grade rams available from 13th September