

The Right Balance Between Wool and Meat



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2010



Ewe Lambs 10 months old

Welcome to our 2010 newsletter

We are enjoying a great season and everything is looking positive for an excellent spring. What a great time to be in sheep; with lamb and mutton markets and store stock prices at all time highs and having high overseas and domestic market demands on our product !

The wool market has had a positive year with a rise of 15.9%(EMI) for the financial year, presenting GullenGamble clients and future clients who have sheep with "The Right Balance between Wool and Meat" ,with strong financial rewards now and in the future.

In December 2009, we sold our cattle breeding herd, allowing us to focus solely on our sheep operation.

Fertility, maintaining our current fleece weight at an average of 7.5kg, maintaining our average adult micron at 19.6, and increasing our carcase characteristics of WWT (weaning weight), PWT (post weaning weight), YWT (yearling weight), EMD (eye muscle depth) and FAT (fat depth) are our core focal points for the next five years.

We believe that if we increase fleece weight and decrease micron much more than these levels, we will sacrifice our main profit drivers of fertility and early growth rates and alter the balance between wool and meat.

If Nathan, Brett or I can be of any assistance to you in your sheep operation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mark Kerin

Upcoming Events 2010

AUGUST DISPLAYS

- 2-3 Hamilton Sheepvention, Vic
- 7 Nyngan Ag Expo
- 14 Bathurst Ram Expo
- 19-20 "Why Merino?" Conference, Dubbo Showground
- 25-26 Dubbo National Show & Sale, Dubbo Showground

SEPTEMBER DISPLAYS

- 2 South West Slopes Merino Field Day, Young
- 3 Midstate Merino Field Day, On-Property, "GullenGamble"
- 25 SRS Classic Field Day, Wellington Showground

OCTOBER DISPLAYS

- 1 On-Property Ram Sale, "GullenGamble" Yeoval
- 7 Severn Park Open Day, Cooma
- 9 SRS Class Ram Sale, Wellington Showground
- 20 Severn Park Ram Sale, Cooma

GullenGamble Merino and Poll Merino Stud

Our Flock consists of 1000 Stud Ewes and is operated in conjunction with 4500 commercial breeding ewes.

We have worked hard in recent years; sourcing quality Poll Merino genetics from all over South-eastern Australia, to incorporate top quality Polls into our client offering at our annual ram sale. This led us to March this year, when we formally registered *GullenGamble Poll Merino Stud* with the purchase of 50 Poll ewes and 1 Poll ram from the Michael Family of Leahcim Poll Stud, Bordertown, South Australia. The Leahcim Poll Merino Stud is recognised as a leading stud in Sheep Genetics Australia ASBV's with emphasis on easy-care sheep with quality skins and advanced meat and wool performance - traits we strive to offer our clients. We are excited to be incorporating more of Leahcim's genetic base within our stud. At this time, we also transferred 450 pure GullenGamble ewes and 5 Poll sires into GullenGamble Poll Merino Stud. The Poll Merino Stud registration is simply a formality and allows us to continue to offer you Poll Merino and horned Merino rams for selection at our annual sale.

We have also bred a number of outstanding young Poll rams, such as 215, 277, 320 & 342 and we have used them extensively in the Stud. With Merino sheep meat prices at an all time high, the Poll factor and the wrinkle free skins of the GullenGamble sheep are important plusses to offer the meat buyer.

All GullenGamble ewes are classed and joined annually under strict protocols set by Mark, Nathan and

Brett with the assistance of Dr Jim Watts; to strive to achieve our Stud objectives. 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.

The GullenGamble Merino offers you multiple market choices.

In keeping with the times and in further striving to meet our objectives, we have recently re-joined *Sheep Genetics Australia* - the national genetic information and evaluation service for the meat and wool sectors of the sheep industry. We will be measuring ASBV's of carcass traits, body weight, eye muscle depth, weight gain and fat depth. Under Jim's guidance and with regular skin testing, we are already confident with our micron and fleece weights. We will use these extra figures to benchmark our sheep against our peers.

We are keeping up with the times on property too, by installing a Pratley 5-way Auto Draft and will be using electronic tag systems to help streamline the processing and record keeping for the sheep. We envisage this to make our lives a bit easier and to also allow for even more accuracy with body weights and classing.



Client Testimonials

"After 4-5 years of using GullenGamble rams in our self replacing merino flock at "Red Hill", I have been very pleased with the rich, bright, well-nourished length of staple produced on a reasonably easy-care sheep. With Wether lambs off the board making in excess of \$100 and cutting approximately 4kg of 17.5 micron wool and cull ewes averaging 34kg dressed...**who says there isn't any money in Merinos?**"

Greg Johnson
"Red Hill" Yeoval

"I have been using GullenGamble rams for 6 years now and my lambing gets better and better all the time; with the last 2 years being exceptional.

At scanning May 2008, I had the phenomenal rate of 200 multiples and 194 singles in lamb. At that sort of rate you cannot expect them all to survive, however at marking, we marked 480 good, healthy lambs giving 121% lambing.

At scanning May 2009, (we did not scan for multiples) 286 ewes produced 506 healthy lambs giving us a lambing percentage of 131%."

Paul McCulloch
"Danibe" Garoo (Tamworth)

"We have found a real lift in maturity and frame with the GullenGamble sheep which has now allowed us to start joining our maiden ewes 9 months earlier than in the past."

Phillip and Rana Hunter
Minnamurra" Yeoval

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We would like to update your contact details ... Please send current email address and any changes of address details to gullen@bordernet.com.au.

Thank you

Client Testimonials

"I have had the privilege of marketing the GullenGamble livestock for the previous 3 years. It is after seeing the results from over the hook sales and the open auction fat sales that I can say with the utmost confidence that GullenGamble blood sheep are the best performing merino sheep that I have been involved in. With merino lambs dressing at 51% and skin values comparable to best crossbred skins the GullenGamble lambs have been outstanding performers commanding a premium from processors. At the prime lamb market the GullenGamble lambs through their plain bodied presentation and bloom of finish command the same positive attention. I have no hesitation in recommending these sheep to anyone who is interested and welcome any enquiry from producers interested in achieving similar results."

Tim Wiggins

Christie and Hood, Dubbo

"I have been purchasing GullenGamble rams for close to 10 years. I am very happy with the way the rams and progeny have performed, particularly in our Western Division country. We are producing plenty of soft, white 20 micron wool on big, plain-bodied ewes that require little maintenance – critically important out there." Maiden ewes shorn in July 2010 were cutting up to 8kg of long stapled bright wool with great crimp definition. Off the board they looked fantastic. These ewes also scanned at 85% conception with 60-70% having multiples. I'm really happy with their progress"

Don Macdonald

"Keelambara" Tilpa

"We have been using GullenGamble rams for the past 10 years and as a result now have large frame sheep with free growing wool, high lambing percentages producing a fast growing, and quick maturing sheep. We are very happy with the direction GullenGamble rams have taken us."

Ted & Fiona Hodges
"Avoca" Baldry

SA Record Ewes Call GullenGamble Home

In March 2010, we travelled to South Australia to purchase 378 pure Leahcim poll ewes at the Turner Family Dispersal Sale. We were thrilled to secure the top 50% of each age group offered at the sale.

The flock had been classed for the past 16 years by Andrew Michael and rams purchased from Leahcim in the last 7 years have ASBV's of +4.1 yearling weight and +16 clean fleece weight.

Landmark SA representative Gordon Woods commented on the sheep, saying "They would have to be one of the best lines of poll merino ewes I have seen to date".



Commercial Sale Results

April 2010: 552 GullenGamble Merino wether lambs make \$149.68. They averaged 51 kgs on farm, yielding 51% to return \$122.68/head. They cut \$27 of wool, giving us the above combined total for meat and wool. This is proof that the GullenGamble Merino has the 'Right Balance between Wool and Meat'.

May 2010: 260 1st XB ewe lambs September/October drop – 52.7kg live weight, sold on AuctionsPlus for \$158.00(excl). These ewe lambs displayed outstanding length and bone and were keenly sought after for their fertility traits.

July 2010: 340 of the above ewes younger sisters sold on AuctionsPlus avg 51.5kg with 2"skin for \$169.00(excl). These ewes show the ability of GullenGamble sheep and their market acceptance as highly fertile functional breeders.



Sold July 2010 \$185.90



Ewe lambs 10 months old

GullenGamble Semen Sires 2010



Black 249

M18, CV17.8, SD3.2, CF99.8%, SF17.1



White 215

M18.8, CV11.8, SD2.2, CF100%, SF17.1



Black 277

M19.1, CV13.1, SD2.5, CF99.8%, SF17.5



Annual On-property Ram Sale

1st October 2010 @ 1pm

Inspection from 10am

Offering 120 Rams (approx. 50% Polls)



Website coming soon!

"GullenGamble" Yeoval NSW

Email: gullen@bordnet.com.au

Mark & Kym Kerin: 02 6846 4252

(Mob): 0427 464 252

Nathan Kerin: 02 6846 4422

(Mob): 0429464252

Brett Kerin: 0427861938