

Sale summary

White Suffolks: 69 offered, 44 sold to \$2300, ave \$973

White Suffolk-White Dorpers: 14 offered and sold to \$1100, ave \$714

White Dorpers: 11 offered, three sold at \$600 each

Poll Dorset-White Dorpers: 11 offered, 8 sold to \$1000 twice, ave \$613

By CATHERINE MILLER

BUYERS had the upper hand for most of Hayelle White Suffolk and White Dorper stud's 11th annual flock ram sale last Thursday at Serviceton, Vic, but there was a lift in average on all four breeds and composites.

In the main run Hayden and Michelle Whittlesea and family sold 44 of 69 White Suffolk rams for a \$973 average- up \$189 on 2013.

They notched up a total clearance on the well grown White Suffolk-White Dorper flock rams with 14 rams topping at \$1100 and averaging \$714- up \$89,

Just three pure White Dorper rams sold at \$600 each.

There was some exceptional value with 14 White Suffolk rams and 11 White Suffolk-White Dorper rams knocked down at \$600 or \$700.

The disappointing clearance rate may be a sign of things to come with the huge number of terminal breed rams available in the South East and western Victoria.

The prolonged late winter-spring dry spell is also weighing on the minds of many.

Kicking off the sale was five specially selected White Suffolk rams which averaged \$1400 including the \$2300 sale topper.

The 123 kilogram ram with an eye muscle depth of 42mm and fat depth of was knocked down to Russell Jones from Stawell after some spirited bidding.

For the first time instead of LAMBPLAN figures the catalogue contained only the raw carcass measurements of the rams scanned in early September.

Stud principal Hayden Whittlesea expressed his concern with the objective measurement system being biased towards high muscle but very lean animals.

"LAMBPLAN is encouraging animals which are too lean, and in a year like this it is for everyone to see. We will do this for the next couple of years and see how it goes."

Hayden said it was evident buyers were chasing top end rams but there were some gaps in demand.

"There was some good money but instead of buying five rams they were preferring to buy three rams for the same money," he said.

White Suffolk flock rams reached \$1600 twice with both 100kg plus rams going to Gerald Duffy, Thoona, Vic.

Gerald also bought the \$1100 top priced White Suffolk-White Dorper flock ram.

The sale's volume buyer was long time supporter Collinsville stud, Booborowie with 11 White Suffolk rams for to a \$1000 high twice and \$782 average.

Hynam Park, Hynam was another multiple buyer securing five White Suffolk rams to a \$1100 high and one White Suffolk-White Dorper flock ram at \$1000.

One of the sale highlights was the rising six month old Poll Dorset-White Dorper ram lambs- 8 of the 11 sold for a \$613 average.

Seven of these sold to Bruce McCahon from Terrick East, Vic.

Hayden said they had received great feedback on both the White Suffolk-White Dorper and Poll Dorset-White Dorper composites which were particularly good over maiden ewes producing low birth weight lambs

"The perfect sheep is around 25 per cent Dorper. You get the extra hardiness and it makes the skins of the lambs better not worse as some may believe," he said.

Their White Suffolk ram clients were reaping the benefits of good early growth.

This included a run of 4.5 month old White Suffolk-Merino lambs which averaged 25.7 kilograms and returned \$146 per head when they were sold in August.

Just three sires were represented throughout Hayelle's catalogue giving buyers the chance to put together a sire battery of similar genetics to breed even lines of prime lambs.

The sale was conducted by Pinkerton Palm Hamlyn & Steen and Driscoll McIlree & Dickinson with Robin Steen and Brock Quick the auctioneers.