

AFTER nearly 20 years breeding White Suffolks Serviceton based Hayelle stud is bowing out on a high.

At Hamilton Sheepvention last month Hayden & Michelle Whittlesea exhibited the grand champion ram in the feature breed judging in a field of more than 250 entries from SA, Vic and NSW.

The ram went on to be the reserve interbreed champion ram providing a real highlight for the stud.

But Hayelle's annual ram sale on September 17, on the SA-Vic border will be its final one after the Whittleseas sold the stud to keen young breeder Damien Hawker, Omad stud, Kaniva, Vic.

The Whittleseas started the stud in 1997 after they bought the dispersing Yundarra stud of 41 mixed aged ewes and 12 ewe lambs.

It has grown significantly and has focused on breeding "bigger rams to breed export lambs" with their clients doing well in the saleyards and over the hooks.

Hayelle also registered Poll Dorset, Border Leicester and White Dorper studs in ensuing years and grew to sell 300 rams per year in a "one stop ram shop."

Mr Whittlesea said the decision to disperse their White Suffolk stud was to enable them to spend more time with their three young children and focus on their commercial sheep operation.

"We want to thank our clients who have supported us and are looking forward to the future."

He is thrilled the stud has been sold as a whole to Damien, a long time family friend and relocated just 15 kilometres away.

In fact the Omad stud was established 10 years ago with some cast for age stud ewes from Hayelle stud.

The 140 stud ewes and ewe lambs involved in the sale will see the Omad stud double in size. Mr Hawker says his family had a large commercial ewe flock which led him to start breeding White Suffolks.

"It is always something I wanted to do but I was just waiting for the right opportunity."

"I have been selling rams privately for 9 years but plan to have a sale in replacement to Hayelle's annual on-property sale next year offering roughly the same number of rams.

"I plan on keeping the stud commercially focussed and continue to get genetic performance gains under paddock conditions".

Mr Whittlesea has been chairperson of the Central Vic White Suffolk breeders for the past five years and the couple has been involved in setting up the Bendigo White Suffolk Show and Sale which is now in its fourth year.

Mr Whittlesea said the White Suffolk breed was in a "good state of affairs" affirming itself as one of the dominant terminal sire breeds.

Hayelle will offer its Hamilton champion ram at the Bendigo sale this weekend, and its final draft of 100 stud rams at the September 17 sale.