

# One Oak Poll News



September 2012

**Given the sheep and wool markets of the past twelve months, we are seeing the benefits of choosing to continue to breed productive, medium wool sheep. We are focusing on breeding heavier cutting, plain bodied dual purpose Merinos, and have chosen to breed this type of sheep rather than going to the extremes of pushing too fine in micron or losing wool cuts by going too plain. We also continually concentrating on constitution and body shape to suit our climate and location.**

## Auction rams

The joinings for this year's ram sale were later than in previous years, due to the flood conditions which occurred Late in 2010 and early 2011. We could not access paddocks and therefore did not join rams until the middle of February 2011. Our joining in a normal season occurs late in December.

Even though this year's sale rams are two months later lambing than previous years, they are weighing well due to the good paddock conditions we have experienced for the past eighteen months. The wool quality on this year's sale rams are good and we are looking forward to the next month to see further growth.

## Joinings:

Ram joinings are as follows:

### White Tag rams:

**Special Fine:** One Oak Poll sires, B-32 and B-222 were joined to the biggest, best constitution ewes, with long staple, brighter wools. B-32 and B-222 are well nourished, long stapled, very stylish bright, wooled rams.

**Fine Syndicate:** In this mob the finest wool ewes were joined to the largest, heaviest cutting sires. (P307 x Mr Ed, P2 x Sir Winston Syndicate, B106 - grandson of Willemen-up sire).

### Dark Blue Tag:

**Special Medium;** special medium wool ewes joined to Black-200 and B-175 in a like to like joining. Black-200 is a big square, well covered 19 mic. ram, with very good style, softness and length of staple. B-175 is a solidly built 19.5 micron sire of rich, gutsy well nourished wool.

**Medium Syndicate:** larger mob of productive medium wool ewes were joined to stylish medium wooled sires. This was a like to like joining.

**Red Tag:** the larger frame, stronger wooled ewes were joined to two sires with long soft, quality wool.

**Purple Tag:** (Rich wool heavier type ewes). These ewes were joined to a plain bodied, bold crimping, well nourished wool sire from a Woodpark background, to plain up the necks.

**Light Blue Tag:** these rams are out of plainer type ewes, joined to large framed medium wool rams. There were early lambs from various mobs that were also given a general ear mark and have light blue ear tags. These rams are February - March 2011 drop.

**AI Back up rams:** progeny from an AI back up program, which lambed in October 2010 will also be available for sale

at auction this year. These rams were too young to be included in last year's auction but are by two rich, heavy cutting wool sires, Black-10 and Blue-32 and out of our top ewes.

## Ewe Competition Win

2012 saw a successful year for One Oak Poll clients, Barry, Vickie and their son Stephen Carruthers, of "Millbank", Tullibigeal and Justin and Natalie McCarten of "Glen Echo" Rankin Springs, in the Lake Cargelligo Maiden Merino Ewe Competition. The Carruthers' flock placed first, with the McCarten's flock placing third.

The Carruthers' presented an entry of 19 month old ewes, from a 96 per cent lambing, with 9 months wool. At last

shearing, young ewes cut 8.5 kg's of wool with the flock cutting an average of 7.75 kg of 21.2-micron wool.

Competition judges, Allan Dawson, Winyar, Canowindra and Andy Maclean, Haddon Rig, Warren, considered the winning ewes "a very good, even line, well structured and big framed and carrying bloomy well-nourished wool."

The Carruthers family has won the competition four times, have come second once and third, three times. They have placed eight times out of the twelve times they have entered over the competition's fifteen year history. A remarkable achievement.

The Carruthers' have been buying One Oak Poll rams



**Above: Barry and Vicki Carruthers with Wesfarmers agent, Kym Hanaford and classer Michael Elmes**

for more than 20 years. They join between 1500 and 1600 ewes to Merinos and between 400 and 500 ewes to terminal sires each year.

Justin and Natalie McCarten, have been purchasing rams from One Oak Poll since 2006, and this year placed third in the Lake Cargelligo Ewe Competition after winning in 2010 and coming second in 2009.

The McCarten ewes entered in 2012 were from a 103pc lambing and were 21 months old with a full year's wool. Catching the eye of the judges were the "long bodies, well grown ewes, covered with soft crimped wool with well aligned fibre." Both of these flocks are classed by Michael Elmes from Narrandera. Michael also classes the One Oak Poll flock.

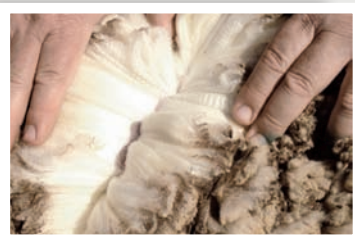
### Hoskinson's Shearing Twice a Year

Mark, Helen Hoskinson and their family have been selecting the finer end of One Oak Poll sires since taking over the family farm in the late 90's. Hoskinson's property "Fernleigh" is located at Kikoira in NSW.

The aim of producing quality medium wool is something Mark has been focussed on for some time, with the help of his classer, Alison Rosewarn. The size of his sheep had always been good, but like many Merino breeders he has seen rewarded for producing finer wool over the past decade. He has also seen the value of producing extra kilograms of medium wool on their mixed farming operation.

With the help of a good base of lucern pastures, the Hoskinson's have started shearing twice a year. In September they are up to their third shearing, at 6 month intervals. They are producing four to five kg of 65-70mm length wool and this year had a 103% of lambs unscanned. Last year they had 117% lambing including maiden ewes.

Right and below:  
"Fernleigh" wool  
and ewes



Michael and Alistair selecting sale rams

### Dookie Sire Evaluation

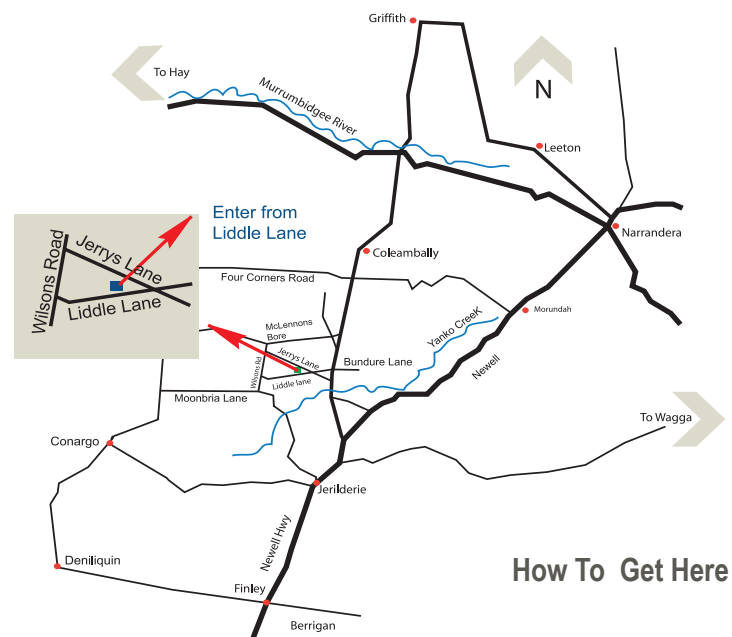
In 2009 there was a need to go further in plaining up our sheep and drive finer whilst improving carcass traits. Michael and I selected a very plain bodied ram with long stapled, stylish, 17 micron wool and 100% CF, to use as a worker. He was one of the heavier body weight rams and had good structure.

We later placed this ram, Black 20, in Dookie Sire Evaluation to test how he would breed for fleece weight and evenness of type. We were particularly interested in micron, comfort factor, breech wrinkle score, fleece and body weight.

On the preliminary raw data recently provided from lamb shearing, he was the finest ram in the trial with one of the higher body weight rams, and had 40% tops with 3% culls.

### 2012 On-property auction

Our on-property auction will be held this year on Monday the 8th of October at One Oak Poll. Last year's auction held at One Oak averaged \$1664. for 70 rams offered. The auction is at 1pm with inspection from 10am. BBQ lunch and morning tea provided. We look forward to catching up in October.



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