



Newsletter

September 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter in print! We appreciate you taking the time to have a look at our message for this year.

We are pleased to be offering 40 Poll Merino Rams at our on-property auction, Thursday 29 September, with approximately 60 rams available in two grades post-auction.

2022 will be our sixth year offering rams for sale, and our second year using the Helmsman auction method.

At the time of writing this newsletter our sale rams have started to blossom and are enjoying the sunshine, which has been lacking for months now!

We have just received wool test results on all our young rams and they have come back at an average fibre diameter of 17.5 micron.

Always, our aim and attention has been on producing very profitable sheep with a passion for growing elite, long stapled, fine micron wools on ewes that cut heavy and are very fertile.

In recent years we have been placing more emphasis on developing an earlier maturing type with width of hip and fat and muscle traits that should further enhance our ewes' breeding abilities and number of lambs weaned without detriment to our wool production. (Our ewes have cut \$100 per head in this last season.)

In this year's draft of rams we are starting to well and truly see the fruits of this aim, without sacrificing the quality of our wools, our cut, or our micron.

Efficiency and versatility of our sheep:

We have always believed our ewe base comes first and is the secret to breeding good genetics. We believe sheep must be efficient and versatile, not only at \$s per head, but more importantly \$s per hectare.

A rule of thumb we work by is fleece weight to body weight ratio of 10 to 12%, and as fine a micron as we can breed, coupled with ewes lambing at 110% (to ewes joined). We go very close to or surpass this rule year after year, and when thought about, believe it points out our efficiencies.

Our ewes weigh on average 58 to 60 kg off-shears in condition score 3 and cut on a long-term average 6.3 kg of 17 micron wool. Long term average lambing has been around 108% lambs (marked and weaned) to ewes joined. (115% in two of the last 4 years.)

Extrapolate this out and consider that stronger micron sheep of higher body weights often cut similar fleece weights without producing more lambs. Therefore they are not as efficient on a profit per hectare basis when taking into consideration the extra feed needed from a DSE point of view.

On Property Ram Sale

326 Heathfield Rd, Boorowa NSW

1.00 pm Thursday, 29 September 2022

Inspection from 10.30 am, or by appointment



40 Paddock Run Poll Merino Rams

via Helmsman Auction with approx 60 Grade Rams available post-sale

Enquiries to:

Steve Jarvis
Heathfield
0427 853 528

Simon Coddington
Bluechip Livestock
0458 826 464

Andrew Miller
Moses & Son
0428 437 068

Adele Smith
Moses & Son
0439 837 261



@heathfieldpollmerinos

Scroll down our regularly updated Facebook page for more info and see our sheep in the paddock.



We believe our sheep are versatile and cover as many bases as possible, as our business is solely based on income from our sheep.

Fertility—because of our ewe fertility and characteristics they offer the options of not only Poll Merino lambs, but they are also capable of breeding excellent first cross sheep and prime lambs.

Micron—Our ewes are of finer micron and cut as much as many stronger 19-20 micron counterparts, but we reap the benefits of the premiums for the fine end of the wool market (17 micron wools this year have been worth twice as much as 21's on a clean basis). Fine wools are going into markets that won't disappear, eg next to skin, babywear, sportswear, etc.

Surplus ewes—a high fertility rate leads to more ewes that can be selected from to improve the flock genetics as a whole, and also the number of ewes that can be sold as surplus, and sold at an earlier age making them more valuable to the re-stocker market.

Wethers—our wether lambs present the opportunity to fatten and sell as prime lambs. They can be sold on to re-stockers as store lambs without the expense of fattening. They can be retained in the traditional way and kept as wool cutters, producing a very valuable and profitable fleece, and then sold as carcass into the meat market, most likely at 2/3rds of the price of a very good crossbred lamb.

Many dual-purpose portrayed sheep these days are not economically viable to be kept on as wool cutters simply because they haven't the micron or fleece weight to justify their keep.

At the time of writing we are in the process of classing and cataloguing the sale rams. We will put a catalogue together as soon as possible, and once that is done we welcome pre-sale inspections at any time by appointment. The catalogue will have sire details including why each sire was used, and what you might expect from his progeny.

As 'new kids on the block' we are not expecting huge money for our rams. Each ram in the Helmsman auction will have a starting price of \$1200, and our Grade Rams will be available after the auction in \$1200 and \$900 grades.

Our goal is to build a client base by providing excellent quality genetics at reasonable prices, building long-term relationships.

Hoping to see you at our sale!

Best regards,

Steve & Lydia Jarvis

Steve: 0427 853 528

Lydia: 0407 518 485

steve@heathfieldpollmerinos.com



Steve's favourite quote at the moment.....

“Perfection is impossible, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

What are our clients saying?

After using Heathfield Poll Merinos for the first time the progeny displayed great staple length and density, whilst producing a very white wool with good nourishment, fine micron, deep crimped wool on an evenly balanced frame with great conformation. A truly dual-purpose type of sheep with all the attributes I needed to continue breeding onto my fine wool flock in a high rainfall area of south west Victoria.

- Mark Tonissen, 'Merryvale' Dunkeld VIC

We have been buying Heathfield rams for a number of years now and find Steve and his family go above and beyond with the service they provide. The rams always present well and produce a fantastic fleece with great yields. We highly recommend Heathfield Poll Merinos.

- Matt Blazley, Woodstock NSW

Switching to Heathfield rams has had a big impact on our business. Our fleece weights have increased dramatically while remaining true to our fine micron and goals for bright, bold crimping staples. The other change we have noticed is our lambs grow much quicker to weaning and mature into strong, solid sheep.

- Amy Tarrant, Hovells Creek NSW



Wool Clip Sold 11/5/22

Sale No./Season: S45/21

Selling Agent: Moses & Son



Please note: we had a very much above average rainfall year causing excess pasture growth, hence more VM content in the wool.

Please bear in mind: our ewes lamb half way through the wool growing cycle (late August through September), hence high mid-break figures.



Description	Mic	VM	Yield	Staple Test Information						Appraised Wool Type	Clean Price	Sale Price
				SL	COV	SS	T	M	B			
SUP AAAAM	16.4	2.2	71.0	100	14	34	14	52	34	MF4S.	2,908	2,065
SUP AAAAM	16.7	1.7	73.0	88	14	33	2	64	34	MF4S.	2,760	2,015
AAAA M	16.3	1.2	71.6	95	11	26	18	34	48	MF4S.	2,989	2,140
AAAA M	17.3	1.4	71.7	104	13	31	5	41	54	MF4S.	2,483	1,780
AAAA M	17.3	1.3	74.1	96	15	29		53	47	MF4S.	2,498	1,851
AAAA M	17.8	1.5	73.6	94	13	34		44	56	MF4S.	2,372	1,746
AAA M	16.3	1.3	71.1	89	10	34	4	53	43	MF4S.	3,059	2,175
AAA M	16.9	1.7	69.1	102	12	27	14	37	49	MF4S.	2,656	1,835
AAAA M LMS	15.6	1.8	69.8	58	15	42	31	60	9	MWF4S.	2,822	1,970
AAA M LMS	14.8	2.4	66.4	51	14					MWF4S.H1	2,575	1,710
AA M LMS	15.0	6.0	58.5	58	19	33	29	67	4	MWP5S.H2	2,111	1,235
AM LMS	15.2	6.7	50.6							MLP5S.30H1	2,055	1,040
M BKN	16.2	5.9	61.0	90	18	23	2	44	54	MP5S.H1C2	2,131	1,300
M BKN	16.5	5.8	60.7	87	15	27	3	64	33	MP5S.H1C1	2,142	1,300



OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PADDOCK

We spend a great deal of time thinking of how we can maximise our business, and thought we would just share a few things that might be food for thought:

Confusion in lambing mobs can lead to unnecessary losses. We lamb our ewes down in the smallest number of ewes per mob as we can to suit available paddocks. At scanning we split ewes into mobs of multiples, singles, and first and second cycle, and manage nutrition accordingly. When ewes are to lamb we combine singles and multiples. We reason by doing this we limit the number of lambs being born on one particular day, hence less confusion is created. We have found better results by doing this.

Thinking about the coming months with La Nina near certain again, strategies need to be put in place to control worm burdens. In past years we have found it useful to combine as many sheep as possible into big mobs after weaning and then rotate these mobs every week to 10 days to a different paddock to keep in front of the worm life cycle. We have found this reduces the number of drenches needed and the time spent at the drafting gate is insignificant compared to the time and money needed for extra drenching. It is vitally important to regularly conduct worm counts to keep on top of what is happening and drench if needed, not just drench in case, if we want to maintain drench chemical efficacy.

Fly control: it appears that resistance is building to Clik, therefore it is important to consider other fly control options and chemicals to limit chemical resistance problems. It is interesting to note that research is showing that the greatest resistance to Clik is in the Central West of NSW where many sheep are not mulesed.



Animal welfare is an important concern for us. We were recommended Meloxicam by a fellow producer. It is only available from a veterinarian. It is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antipyretic. Although lambing has been smooth this year Steve had to help a ewe the other day in trouble with a big single lamb. Unfortunately we lost the lamb and the ewe was far from well. A shot of Meloxicam and she was up and going in five minutes! Usually a ewe in a similar condition would be brought back to the shed, nursed for a week and then likely have to be put down due to no improvement. If you haven't already, talk with your vet about this product which I believe is a game changer, and could possibly be used with ewes that have foot abscess and foot problems, etc due to the very wet season we are experiencing.

Please consider us for your ram needs this year! We have been breeding Poll Merinos for 35 years. We are a family business giving personalised service, and we plan to be around for a while!

Remember to check out our Facebook page for regular updates of what our sheep are doing in the paddock, and also view our website for more information.

Steve is always happy to have a yarn: 0427 853 528.

For another perspective, you are welcome to contact our consultant sheep classer, Pat Drew on 0429 434 204.

Best wishes from Steve, Lydia & Pete.



Heathfield Poll Merinos

S & L Jarvis
Heathfield, 326 Heathfield Rd
Boorowa NSW 2586
Ph (02) 6385 3528

Steve 0427 853 528

Lydia 0407 518 485

Email steve@heathfieldpollmerinos.com

Facebook @heathfieldpollmerinos

Website heathfieldpollmerinos.com