

# BRUAN POLL DORSETS

“Commercially Focused Seedstock Producers”



## Information Update

November 2012

### Bruan Poll Dorsets Annual Sale

Bruan Poll Dorsets held their annual ram sale on the 15<sup>th</sup> October with 112 rams sold for an average of \$872. The line up of rams averaged 0.40 for BWT 12.6 for PWWT -0.7 for PFAT and 1.7 for PEMD. One stud ram sold to the Ivadene stud in Greta Victoria for \$2000.

### Bruan Embracing Genomics

To ensure we stay at the forefront of breeding developments, Bruan has started implementing cutting edge genomics research with Sheep Genetics Australia.

Genomics, which uses an animal's DNA combined with accurate performance data, can provide up to 65% more accurate sheep selection for key production traits. This includes traits that are hard to measure.

A portion of Bruan's 2012 drop rams will be tested and receive research ASBV's for birth, post weaning weights, shear force, dressing percent, intramuscular fat (IMF), lean meat yield (LMY), and worm egg count (WEC)

### Bruan Purchases Two New Sires

Two sires were purchased recently for \$6000 each. These rams both have excellent carcasses and muscling. The Ivadene ram has a BWT of 0.4, WWT 10.4, PWWT 16.4, PFat -0.5, and PEMD of 2.3. The Derrnock ram on the left has a PWWT of 12.9, PFat 0.2 and PEMD of 2.9.



These rams along with 7 or 8 AI sires and a team of Bruan ram lambs will be joined with our flock of highly ranked stud ewes at Christmas.

Bruan continues to show genetic improvement with 200 ram lambs currently ranked in the top 20% of all Terminals for Carcase +. 180 are top 20% for 2020 Index. It is also stressed that there is a strong culling process so that all stock are structurally correct, and continue to breed that way.



## Australia's Genetic Success Story

The sheep industry has produced a genomic juggernaut which can rapidly advance genetic gains, and improve profit and provide a unique marketing edge for Australian lamb. The results of the five year Sheep Information Nucleus Flock project speak for themselves.

Sheep CRC Chief Executive Officer, Professor James Rowe, says "It's been a whole-of-industry exercise which included practically all of the 21 organizations who are official participants in the Sheep CRC, as well as about 250 ram breeders who provided semen from leading rams" "At the start, in 2007, the sheep industry lagged behind the genomic progress of other livestock industries. Today we are abreast and, in some areas, ahead. Our intramuscular fat (IMF) data accuracy for terminal sires is 41%. In beef cattle it's 40%, so we're right up there with an industry that has been working on this trait for a lot longer"

The project, which has focused on key economic traits which can't be measured on farm, has improved the accuracy of many breeding values, as well as introduced genomic predictions for new traits that, because they are difficult to measure, have not been available.

The project has also progressed understanding of the genetics of traits important for human nutrition, such as omega 3, zinc and iron, creating

potential for consumer-focused marketing in the future.

Sheep CRC's Sheep Genetics Manager Sam Gill said commercial producers should see the impact of this research on farm within three years. "With increased rates of genetic gain (about 25% in sheep), seedstock producers will be able to identify superior rams earlier that score highly in consumer-valued traits such as quality and yield" he said

The level of expected accuracies for genomic values is under development, however, there is no doubt the accuracy for hard to measure traits such as IMF, which are presently very low, will be greatly improved to help producers deliver a better product" The price of genomic testing is expected to drop to below \$40 within two years, making large scale testing more accessible to ram breeders.

*Reference: Article from MLA Feedback magazine Sept. 2012*

## RamSelect Workshop

Bruan Poll Dorsets are hoping to host a RamSelect Workshop in the new year. Rams are purchased on one day of the year but their effect on your flock lasts for many years.

The workshop would help build confidence to:

- Select rams for all breeds
- Define your breeding objectives
- Assess rams using Figures and visual assessment
- Prepare for auction or selection day
- Invest in rams for production and profit

We will keep you informed when the day is finalized.

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