

Key messages at Anden sale

In a rapidly deteriorating season, it was pleasing to see both quality seedstock sheep being sought after and dedicated stud breeders rewarded for their time and investment.

This was the case at the Anden sale last Thursday, when the Donnan family presented an outstanding quality draft of White Suffolks and Poll Dorsets for sale at Woomelang in the Victorian Mallee. In a near total clearance, the flock rams sold at prices that were affordable for the buyers who have come to appreciate the value of these superior performance genetics, yet still rewarded the vendors.



The key messages from this sale were that top quality generally sells and that those who are diversified into crop and sheep are generally far better off than the total croppers.

The sale commenced with the offering of 12 specially selected White Suffolk rams. Stud breeders from Victoria and South Australia competed strongly, with the highlight being a new Anden on-property sale record of \$8,000, surpassing the \$7,500 received in 2 previous sales. This was for lot 6, Anden 60169 (Twin), sired by Anden 050190 and having exceptional performance ASBVs of 16.3 for Growth; -1.5 for Fat; +0.8 for Muscle, culminating in a Carcase Plus index of 207.86. The winning bidders were Dudley and Clinton Huxtable, Duenclin White Suffolk stud, Kaniva. They also purchased lot 1 for \$2,200 to round out a great day's buying.

Peter and Daryl Lawrie, Nunji Flat White Suffolk stud, Nunjikompita, SA & buying through Wardle & Co's Crystal Brook agent, Nigel O'Brien paid the 2nd top price of \$3,400 for lot 7, Anden 60166; another huge index ram used in the Anden stud as a ram lamb. These 12 special rams averaged a very credible \$2,425.

The 70 White Suffolk flock rams met very solid competition with 19 of the large gallery of buyers being successful in securing rams. They had high performance figures the equal of any in the country and their visual appearance matched their figures. Buying was dominated by 3 buyers in particular, with the Healy family, Mt Dispersion Station, via Mildura and buying through Landmark's Jim Wilcox, securing 10 rams to be the biggest volume buyer on the day. The Ryan family, Wemen (8 rams) and TE & SL Smith, Menincourt Station, Pooncarie (9 rams) were very close behind.

Other prominent buyers included Scott Anderson, Ouyen (5 rams); JN & DJ Arentz, Narya (5 rams); G Saunders, Beulah (4 rams); JW, IW & AP Marshall, Ouyen (4 rams); AJ Sands, Donald (3 rams); RK & VR Shipp, Kerang (3 rams); and Don Pohlner for Gorden Agencies, Ouyen (also 3 rams).

The prices ranged from \$450 to \$900 with only 9 outside the \$600 to \$800 range in a very even sale, with the 70 averaging \$697.86 at auction. Top price of \$900 was paid by Gill Farm Family Trust, Balaklava, SA for an outstanding Anden 050190 son that was later upgraded to the stud reserve of \$1,500 as they wished to register the ram for stud use.

Stud principal Andrew Donnan also penned his first offering of 6 flock rams from his recently commenced Poll Dorset stud; 3 of these 6 sold for an \$800 average.

Also offered were the stud's last offering of stud ewes in this annual production sale. In future, ewes will only be available by private selection. From the 15 offered in this sale, 10 sold to a \$350 top and at an average of \$270. The top was paid by the Pipkorn family's Detpa Grove stud, Jeparit, for 2 classy young ewes with good ASBVs.

Sale Summary

White Suffolks

Specially selected rams 12 offered and sold to \$8,000 and averaged \$2,425

Flock rams 70 offered and sold to \$900 and averaged \$697.86

Stud ewes 15 offered, 10 sold to \$350 and averaged \$230

Poll Dorsets

Rams 6 offered, 3 sold to \$1,500 and averaged \$800

Agents Elders, Landmark and BR&C

Auctioneers Warrick Barrett (Landmark) and Ross Milne (Elders)



1. The new Anden on-property record priced ram at \$8,000 is pictured with Andrew Donnan, Anden studs, Woomelang; Dudley Huxtable, 'Duenclin', Kaniva (purchaser); John Donnan, 'Anden'; and held by Clinton Huxtable, 'Duenclin'.



2. Peter and Daryl Lawrie, 'Nunji Flat', SA and their agent Nigel O'Brien, Wardle & Co, Crystal Brook, SA, look on while Anden principal Andrew Donnan holds their \$3,400 purchase from the Anden Sale, Woomelang.



3. Key volume buyers of flock rams at the Anden on-property sale last Thursday were members of the Ryan and Healy families who purchased 18 rams combined. Pictured are Paddy Ryan, Wemen; Damian Healy, Mildura; Terry Ryan; and Pat & Josh Healy.



4. Prominent in the buying of White Suffolk rams at the Anden on-property sale at Woomelang last Thursday were Don Pohlner, Ouyen (3 rams to \$750); Harold Ferguson, Walpeup (2 rams to \$800); Jim Wilcox, Landmark Mildura who bought 10 rams to \$800 for the Healy family, Mt Dispersion Station via Mildura; Alan Frank, Donald (2 rams to \$700); and Scott Anderson, Ouyen (5 rams to \$750).