

MEDIA RELEASE

Flock Ram Buyers Provide Anden Buying Strength

Despite the very poor season being experienced in the immediate and surrounding areas, Victorian Mallee prime lamb producers continued to invest in some of Australia's leading genetic sires at the Donnan family's annual Anden White Suffolk sale at Woomelang last Thursday.

Cropping returns are looking very unlikely in the area and those running prime lambs are set to benefit to a far greater extent than total croppers. Many crops will only provide grazing value this year, not being reapeable or even good enough to utilise for hay.

Flock ram buyers purchased 78 of the flock ram offering which was only 10 less than cleared last year. The top price was the same @ \$950 and the average of \$602.57 was only \$82 down on last year's record breaking sale.

In the 16 Specially Selected rams, flock ram buyers also competed and paid to \$1,200 for 10 of them at an average of \$780. This in effect boosted the flock ram buying strength to 88 rams (the same as 2005) for an average of \$623, only \$60 less than 2005; a very favourable result when you compare the 2 seasons.

It is somewhat mystifying that generally stud ram and ewe buyers have 'headed underground' as a result of the poor season, more so than flock ram buyers, when they should have a greater commitment to ongoing breeding and flock improvement programs.



Andrew (left) and John Donnan (right) with the Anden top priced White Suffolk ram @ \$3,500 and buyer Andrew Frick, Gypsum Hill, Lochiel, SA (centre)

Of the drop in sale gross, a massive 76% of it was due to a drop in stud sale returns. Anden still retains its very high national ranking in the White Suffolk breed. It has only recently come back from the Adelaide Royal with the 3rd to top price of \$8,000 for one of its 2 young rams offered at the Adelaide Elite sale.

Andrew Frick, Lochiel, SA was one who has seen the wisdom of investing in his stud's future and paid \$3,500 for a super high performance son of Accelerator 375. This ram is a full brother to the Anden stud's keeper ram from this drop, and has a post weaning weight EBV of 18.1 and a carcass plus index of 208.71.

Anthony Gilpin, through Landmark Horsham paid \$1,500 for a young October drop son of Accelerator 375. Superior Selections, made 2 speculative purchases for clients, including a top Anden 83 August drop son and another October drop ram out of the same ewe as lot 2, but sired by Wheeland 2864, the 2004 Adelaide Champion ram. The Donnan family are also retaining this young ram's twin brother.

In the flock ram draft, Gerard Curran, Robinvale, buying through Elders Swan Hill branch, bought very well selecting 7 of the very best rams from \$700 to \$950.

Volume buyer was Landmark Swan Hill's Craig Barbary who bought 11 rams from \$450 to \$500 for Tony O'Halloran, Ettrick Pastoral, Balranald, NSW.

Don Pohlner, Ouyen also purchased 11 rams from \$500 to \$850 for 4 clients in the Ouyen area. Don has provided great support at the Anden sale for many years.

RG & PG Healy, Mildura and buying through Landmark Swan Hill's Jim Wilcox, purchased 10 rams from \$500 to \$800 to also provide excellent competition throughout the sale.

Brian Hanns, 'Marston Downs' and buying through Landmark Swan Hill, purchased 6 from \$450 to \$700 to also be a significant contributor to the sale's success.

Landmark Ararat's Kelvin Donnan purchased 9 rams in total for 5 individual clients from the Ararat area.

The stud ewe offering of 24 outstanding quality ewes was arguably the best draft yet offered by Anden. Last year saw an Anden record for ewes when 29 sold to \$1,050 and averaged \$555.17. Unfortunately, the lack of stud breeders in attendance this year saw a disappointing result. Eleven sold on somewhat speculative buying. David Pipkorn, Detpa Grove, Jeparit paid \$225 for one ewe to be top price, while Andrew Frick (1 ewe) and Superior Selections (9 ewes) picked up the balance at the \$200 reserve. This was a golden opportunity missed by most established stud breeders.

Sale Summary

Specially Selected rams:	16 offered	13 sold		
		Top price	\$3,500	Averaged \$1,123.08
Flock rams	78 of 110 sold			
		Top price	\$650	Averaged \$602.57
Stud ewes	11 of 24 sold			
		Top price	\$225	Averaged \$202.28
Sale Gross	\$63,825			
Agents	Landmark Swan Hill & Elders Birchip			

Photos:



Anden White Suffolk stud principal, Andrew Donnan (left) is with key buyers at the stud's 11th annual sale last Thursday. They are Don Pohlner, Ouyen (11 rams for 4 clients); Gerard Curran, Robinvale (7 top rams); Pat Healy, Euston, NSW (10 rams) and Pat's buying agent Jim Wilcox, Landmark Swan Hill.



Landmark Swan Hill manager Craig Barbary (centre) purchased 11 rams at the Anden White Suffolk sale for Ettrick Pastoral, Balranald, NSW. He is with Bill McAuley (left), Amphitheatre, who bought 2 rams through Landmark Ararat agent Kelvin Donnan (right). Kelvin also bought 7 more rams for 4 other clients