
Seasonal Lift Flows Through To Anden Success

The last 6 weeks has seen vastly improved seasonal prospects in the Victorian Mallee region. While the pasture and crop growth is nothing like the southern regions, there will be some crops harvested, plus stockfeed. The resilience of producers in these areas is to be admired for after several years of poor seasons they were back at the Anden White Suffolk and Poll Dorset ram sale last Thursday, purchasing high quality rams that have the performance capability of producing quick growth prime lambs and an important income source. They were also supporting 'one of their own' for the Donnan family, principals of Anden have battled these same problems.

They again presented a magnificent draft of 131 White Suffolk and Poll Dorset rams that ranks with any of the elite performance rams in the industry. The recognition of the Anden quality was such that 61 potential buyers were attracted to register, including several stud buyers.

The sale opened with the offering of 13 extreme performance and specially selected rams. G Rogers, Wood Wood, Vic got the sale off on a good note by going to \$4,000 to secure Anden 080007, before Greg Funke, Bundara Downs, Western Flat, SA went to \$8,000 to purchase the second ram offered, Anden 80317. This latter ram is an appendix ram, sired by the high performance composite ram Lambpro 60423 and was purchased in conjunction with the Illoura stud of the Piggott family at Moorlands, also in SA. Anden 80317 had extreme Lambplan ASBVs culminating in a Carcase Plus index of 215.6. The \$8,000 price tag equalled the Anden on-property sale record set two years ago when the Huxtable family, Duenclin, Kaniva paid that figure for one of their top young sale rams. The Huxtables were back again this year, but \$2,500 was enough to secure their lot 9 purchase; another son of Lambpro 060423.

The McDonald family, 'Kuloomba' stud, Esperence, WA bid to \$4,000 to pick up lot 5, a son of homebred sire Anden 70010. Robert Hooper, Vortex stud, Goorambat, Vic was pushed to \$5,500 to purchase lot 6, Anden 80128 triplet, another super high performance son to the Lambpro ram.

Astute flock ram buyers operated on some of these specially selected rams, but by sale's end 11 rams had sold for the \$1,500 stud registration reserve, with the 13 selected rams averaging \$2,738, a vast lift from last year when only 2 sold to stud buyers in that drought affected environment.

The Curran family, Robinvale have been regular top end supporters of Anden genetics for their prime lamb enterprise and this year they paid to \$1,600 and averaged \$1,190 for 5 outstanding rams, sure to turn off rapid growing prime lambs.

MJ & MD Stapleton, put a great floor in the market, purchasing 12 White Suffolk rams from \$500 to \$600 in real value buying. The later rams in the catalogue were arguably as good as the early ones; such was their evenness, with the last pen offered containing rams with Carcase Plus indices up to 211!

Paddy Ryan, Wemen was another Anden repeat client who operated strongly on the early lots, picking up 8 rams and paying from \$600 to \$1,000. IW & AP Marshall and TP & SJ Monaghan, both from Ouyen provided strong buying support, purchasing 6 rams each and paying to \$900 and \$650 respectively. KY Pastoral, Warracknabeal and Bathurst Downs, Serpentine were other buyers who also purchased 6 rams each. The Monaghan family included 4 Poll Dorsets in their 6 rams, whereas MJ & JM Brady, Nandaly were the biggest volume buyers of Poll Dorset rams, purchasing 5 at \$500 each.

The Poll Dorsets are a more recent addition to the Anden program so buying support has not yet been established to the same extent as their long established White Suffolks. Jason and Ruth Vallence, Barham,

NSW were impressed enough with their quality to bid to the \$1,500 registration reserve for one of these impressive and high performance Poll Dorsets to go into their stud, with John Donnan buying on their behalf. The only 3 rams that were passed on the day were in the Poll Dorset section where 18 of the 21 rams offered found new homes.

Other key buyers included James Maynard, Kerribee Station, Mildura (4 top White Suffolks to \$1,050), Darren Smith, Patchewallock (5 White Suffolks to \$850), SF & SA Hogan, Nullawil (4 White Suffolk rams to \$650), Marston Downs, Sea Lake (3 White Suffolks to \$1,000), JF & JC Russell, Porcupine Ridge (3 White Suffolks to \$950), GD & JM McLean, Berriwillock (3 Poll Dorsets to \$800), LG O'Donnell, Birchip (3 Poll Dorsets to \$700), FS & KA Long, Wareek (3 White Suffolks @ \$900 each), Blenner Ville P/L, Birchip (3 White Suffolks to \$750), G & R Bett, Lascelles (3 White Suffolks @ \$650 each), Glen Ewen Pastoral, Balranald (3 White Suffolks to \$700), BC & MI Hogan, Birchip (3 White Suffolks to \$600), and JP & EM Casey, Birchip (3 White Suffolks @ \$500 each).

Sale Summary

| White Suffolks 2009 | Poll Dorsets | 2009 | 2008 |
|---------------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Offered | 118 | 21 | 14 |
| Sold | 118 | 18 | 14 |
| Top | \$1,800 | \$1,500 | \$550 |
| Ave | \$749 | \$625 | \$500 |

| Specially Selected rams | Overall | 2009 | 2008 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Offered | 13 | 134 | 131 |
| Sold | 13 | 131 | 84 |
| Top | \$8,000 | \$8,000 | \$2,200 |
| Ave | \$2,738 | \$929 | \$737 |

Sale agents: Elders & Landmark

Auctioneers: Ross Milne (Elders) & Xavier Shanahan (Landmark)



Pictured after the very successful Anden sale with the \$8,000 top priced White Suffolk ram are Shane McLoughlan, Elders Birchip; John Donnan, Anden; buyer Greg Funke, Bundara Downs, Western Flat, SA; Aaron Zwar, Elders; and Anden studmaster Andrew Donnan, Woomelang holding the ram.



Some key buyers of flock rams in the Anden sale were Jim Wilcox, Landmark Mildura, Paddy Ryan, Wemen (8 rams to \$1,000) and James Maynard, Kerribee Station via Mildura (4 rams to \$1,050 bought through Jim Wilcox).