

Rams spot on at Anden

Prospective buyers who travelled to Woomelang for the Donnan family's 15th annual Anden White Suffolk & Poll Dorset sale were greeted by a magnificent draft of the highest quality rams. They were 'spot-on' for presentation and ready to go to work immediately, displaying excellent breed type, structure and a great balance of length, bone and muscling; especially apparent through their loins and hindquarters.

The result was that all 108 rams were quickly snapped up by the appreciative gallery for a very solid overall average of \$939.35. This was just over \$10 up on last year. The White Suffolk flock rams actually averaged \$113 more, but the select rams were down 42%.

While the repeat and new flock ram clients eagerly gathered to select their requirements, the stud demand was disappointing, especially after the Anden stud's interbreed success at Adelaide. There were at least half a dozen \$5,000 plus value rams on offer in comparison with recent sales, but the top in these select rams was only \$2,000; an opportunity lost for those who did not attend.

Andrew Frick, Gypsum Hill stud, Padthaway was one who did attend and made the most of the opportunity by securing the magnificent lot 1 White Suffolk ram, Anden 090003 for \$2,000. Boasting impressive performance figures; a Pwwt of 14.4, Pfat of -1.08, Pemd of +0.5 and a carcass plus index of 191.64, this son of Anden 080276 was an absolute bargain. Chris Badcock, Fairbank stud, Hagley, Tasmania connected by phone from the Launceston Show to successfully bid on Anden 090200, another impressive son of A080276, also for \$2,000. He later added the top Poll Dorset ram for the same money.

While locusts are a real threat, this is the best season in the area for over a decade and the local lamb producers who appreciate what the Anden genetics do for them couldn't get in quickly enough.

Jim Wilcox, Landmark Mildura strongly supports this sale for his client base and these included the biggest volume buyers, Pat Healy who bought 8 rams from \$900 to \$1,500 and James and Wendy Maynard, Kerribee Station (4 top rams from \$1,000 to \$1,500). Elders agent Aaron Zwar picked up 6 at \$800 each for KY Pastoral, Warracknabeal, adding to the six they bought last year.

Don Pohlner, Ouyen has been supporting this sale for many years and he successfully bid for 6 select rams from \$800 to \$1,000.

Terry and Paddy Ryan, Wemen bought 5 rams to the top of \$1,400 for flock rams including 2 for Gerard Ryan, while PC, JE & DP Smith, Birchip was another repeat client who picked up 5 from \$800 to \$1,000.

The excellent line of 20 Poll Dorsets also met good competition, with repeat buyer LG O'Donnell, Birchip picking up 7 from \$800 to \$850 to be the biggest volume buyer, while C & L Threadgold, selecting 5 from \$700 to \$800 were not far behind.

MJ & MD Stapleton picked up 5 White Suffolks in the last draft of rams offered, paying from \$700 to \$750 to be the biggest beneficiary of the patience game.

The Donnan family also offered 18 White Suffolk stud ewes; a practice ceased in recent years, but one they now plan to continue in the future. These met restricted demand, with Andrew Frick again coming out on top with a \$600 purchase. Ian Pfeiffer bought 2 for the Anna Villa stud, Weetulta, SA at \$500 and \$300, while the Linwood Grange stud of the Robinson family, Bendigo bought 2 to add to the \$1,700 ram they purchased early in the sale.

Sale Summary	2010	2009	2010	2009
White Suffolk				
	Select rams		Flock rams	
Offered	12	13	76	118
Sold	12	13	76	118
Top	\$2,000	\$8,000	\$1,400	\$1,800
Average	\$1,588	\$2,738	\$862	\$749
	Poll Dorset		White Suffolk ewes	
Offered	20	21	18	
Sold	20	18	6	
Top	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$600	
Average	\$845	\$625	\$383	

Agents: Elders & Landmark

Auctioneers: Ross Milne (Elders) & Andrew Wishart (Landmark)



Andrew Frick and his son Ben are with the \$2,000 equal top priced ram from the Anden sale which will go back to their Gypsum Hill stud at Padthaway. Anden stud principal Andrew Donna is holding the ram.



Andrew Donnan and Andrew Frick hold the \$2,000 Poll Dorset & White Suffolk rams purchased from Anden via phone hook-up by Chris Badcock, Hagley, Tasmania.



Key buyers in the Anden flock ram sale result are Wendy (left) and James Maynard (3rd left), Kerribee Station, Mildura (4 top rams); Pat Healy (centre – 8 rams); their agent Jim Wilcox, Landmark Mildura,; and Don Pohlner, Ouyen (6 rams). They are with Anden's Andrew Donnan (2nd left) and John Donnan (right).



Terry & Paddy Ryan, Wemen bought 5 rams at the Anden sale and are pictured with principal Andrew Donnan after loading their rams.