

Anden consolidates with outstanding offering

The sale of a once in a generation sire that blasted all sheep meat sale records last year was always going to be an extremely hard act to follow for the Donnan family, Anden and Kerangie studs, Woomelang.

However, at their 22nd annual on-property sale at Woomelang, Vic last Thursday, they came through with flying colours, presenting a superb quality line-up of 176 rams and 52 ewes that all cleared except for just one ewe, and averaged an extremely solid \$1488.

Eleven Kerangie Suffolk stud ewes opened the sale offering, these being snapped up to a top of \$1200 and at a \$900 average. This was the Donnan family's first offering of Suffolk ewes.

James Cleland, Non Sibi Holdings, through Rodwells Horsham paid the \$1200 top for K160534, a superb daughter of Oakbank 140140, then added two more daughters to average \$1000 for the three.

Ellie McDonald, Hopea stud, Dadswell Bridge and Jody Zoch, Willowmavin, also made the most of the opportunity and purchased three ewes each, at \$933 and \$800 averages respectively.

The Donnans reintroduced the offering of White Suffolk ewes into their celebratory 21st annual sale last year with 21 special ewes, but increased that up to 36 ewes this year due to the popularity of that move. Once again the offering was appreciated with all but one ewe clearing to a \$1400 top and averaging \$791.

Detpa Grove principal David Pipkorn, Jeparit paid the top for A160250, a cracking and long bodied daughter of A140300, the full ET brother of their 2015 equal record priced ram at \$36,000.

Volume buying in this draft came from Western Australian buyers and the Auctions Plus network, accounting for 24 of the 35 sold.

TG & VM Medlyn, through Elders Williams went to a top of \$1000 in purchasing 12 ewes at an \$800 average. TK & MJ Cheetham, Naremben averaged \$700 for five ewes, while seven to \$1000 and at a \$771 average were purchased via the Auctions Plus network.

Peter Angus, Maroola stud, Mallala, SA was the only other purchaser to go to \$1000, averaging \$950 for two top young ewes.

The line-up of 29 outstanding specially selected White Suffolks led off the ram offering. The performance levels were just as outstanding as their phenotype with a Carcase Plus index average of 210.53 and up to 226.74. Another feature was their tremendous growth for age with 45% being August and September 2016 drops.

Weidemann Pastoral Co, Sunnysdale stud, Rupanyup, Vic jumped in early, picking up the first ram offered, A160015Tw for \$9000. This son of Farrer 140188 was the winner of the performance class at this year's Hamilton Sheepvention and boasted a Carcase Plus index of 223.28. They later consolidated as the value on offer became apparent with two more rams at just \$4000 and \$2000.

It was the second ram offered, Anden 160061Tw, also a Farrer 140188 son, that topped the sale at \$11,000. Senior champion ram at the Hamilton Sheepvention, it was purchased by Paul Routley, Almondvale stud, Urana with Randyn Fisher, Clive White Suffolks, Yerong Creek and John Jamieson, Wattle Park stud, Finley as share partners. Its balanced elite performance figures included 19.69 for Post weaning weight, -0.91 for Pfat, 1.20 for Pemd and 214.82 for C+ index.

After missing out on his rams of choice for the previous two years, Ian Kyle, Ashley Park stud, Bairnsdale had a picnic this year. He purchased A160177 with a C+ index of 225.95 and used in the Anden stud as a ram lamb for just \$3000. He then picked up A160201, an August drop son of A150222 with arguably the best breed type in the sale for \$10,000.

A150222, a son of the \$36,000 former record priced ram A140288, had eight sons in this sale that averaged \$4938. Besides Ian Kyle's purchases, the other two rams to make top end prices were also his sons.

The late August drop ram A160273Tw, with the highest performance figures in the catalogue, including 21.12 Pwwt and 226.74 for C+ index sold for \$10,000 to the Kurralea stud, Aria Park, NSW in partnership with the Kattata Well stud, Pt Kenny, SA.

The same buyers combined to pick up another August drop son, A160206Tw, with a C+ index of 213.4, for \$8000. Kattata Well purchased the \$68,000 record priced ram, A150277Tw last year, with Kurralea taking a semen share.

With a lesser number of stud buyers present this year, the remainder of the rams sold at bargain prices of \$2000 to \$5000, or to astute flock ram buyers who were prepared to give themselves an opportunity to purchase some of these elite performance rams.

Seventeen of the 29 sold to studs and averaged \$5000, but with the other 12 that sold from \$1200 to \$2500 to commercial lamb breeders, the draft averaged \$3588.

A perfect example of astute flock ram buying was Russell Rothacker from Bridgewater. He purchased four rams, all from the specially selected draft and all at \$1500. Targeting the heavy export market, he had just sent 625 lambs for sale over the hooks through his agents McKean & McGregor, Bendigo. They averaged 64kg liveweight (full) and were all sired by Anden rams.

Pat Healy, 'Mt Dispersal' and buying through Landmark Swan Hill was another picking up three of the specially selected rams, plus three from the flock ram run. His six rams averaged \$1608.

The biggest volume White Suffolk flock ram buyer was KY Pastoral through Elders Warracknabeal with 11 rams from \$1000 to \$1200 and averaging \$1164. 23 different buyers operated on the White Suffolk flock rams, with the balance being successful in purchasing from one to eight rams, with all rams selling in the two White Suffolk flock ram runs from \$1000 to \$1600.

The Donnan family has utilised the ewes from their previous Viewdale Poll Dorset stud to develop a line of Easy Care Ultra Whites for those who prefer 'shedding' sheep. The first line of 21 of these was offered at auction last year and went like hot cakes. This year the numbers available more than doubled with 51 offered, with all clearing to a top of \$1800 and averaging \$1424.

There were 11 different buyers, but far and away the most dominant were Greg and Brad Rae, Warrawee Pastoral, Kyalite who purchased nine last year and loved the results after using the Poll Dorsets previously. They recently marketed all but 100 of their 3000 lambs in one hit with an average carcase weight of 22.5kg. On the back of that they purchased 20 Ultra Whites this year from \$1300 to \$1700 and at an average of \$1480.

Matt Weideman, 'Dalcross', through Rodwells Horsham paid the \$1800 top price for his one Ultra White ram purchase.

The sale concluded as it started, with Kerangie Suffolks, this time the draft of 15 rams. These all sold to a \$2000 top and averaged \$1073.

KY Pastoral added to their 11 White Suffolk purchases, picking up seven of these to \$1000 and at a \$900 average. P & J Ryan, Ouyen purchased three at \$1000 each to add to eight White Suffolks purchased earlier.

The \$2000 top was the stud reserve price and was paid twice, firstly by Brett Stokes, Noble-Lee stud, Tasmania, bringing the buying list of states to five, and Ben and Lucy Prentice, Kurralea stud, NSW. Both were sons of Oakwood 140140, the sire of the top priced ewes.

Sale Summary

| | White Suffolk SS rams | | White Suffolk flock rams | | White Suffolk ewes | | Ultra White rams | | Kerangie Suffolk rams | | Kerangie Suffolk ewes |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Offered | 29 | 20 | 81 | 98 | 36 | 21 | 51 | 21 | 15 | 9 | 11 |
| Sold | 29 | 20 | 81 | 98 | 35 | 21 | 51 | 21 | 15 | 9 | 11 |
| Top | \$11,000 | \$68,000 | \$1600 | \$2000 | \$1400 | \$1300 | \$1800 | \$1600 | \$2000 | \$3500 | \$1200 |
| Average | \$3588 | \$10,050 | \$1235 | \$1282 | \$791 | \$900 | \$1424 | \$1274 | \$1073 | \$1306 | \$900 |

Agents: Elders Wycheproof

Auctioneers: Ross Milne and Kevin Thompson