**Anden Stud driving Performance and Production**

This year the Victorian Mallee has seen a substantially shorter growing period, with a late break in May and only 7 to 8 inches of rain to fall across the region so far this year. Despite this below average rainfall, harvests should yield average returns due to two significant rain events in the past month. The most recent, just a few days before Anden Stud’s 26th annual on-property sale, Thursday 7th October, hosted by the Donnan family of Willangie, Victoria.

There, they successfully sold 227 head of rams and ewes in an 89% clearance, to a top of $14,000 and averaged a noteworthy $2,258 across all sheep sold.

The success of yet another fantastic on-property sale was most certainly the result of the long-earnt reputation of the Anden Stud elite performance genetics, in being able to produce lambs with rapid growth and exceptional muscling, that brought so many of their regular client base back to this sale again this year.

Sixty-seven separate buyers were successful in purchasing from the Specially Selected White Suffolk rams & ewes, White Suffolk flock rams, UltraWhite composite rams or the final offering of the Kerangie Suffolk rams.

With sheep finding new homes in five different states across the country, clients from Victoria were able to attend the sale under strict protocols, while some chose to connect through the AuctionsPlus network, as did many interstate buyers. Twenty-four lots were successfully purchased through the on-line platform.

The top priced White Suffolk stud ram Anden 200188 was purchased for $14,000. Sired by Galaxy Park 180354, this very stylish, up standing late June drop ram’s exceptional Lambplan ASBV’s include 0.15 for birth weight, 18.11 for post weaning weight, -0.2 for fat, 2.91 for eye muscle depth, culminating in a Terminal Carcass Production index (TCP) of 150.46. The successful bidder was Nick Cheetham, Cheetara Stud, Narembeen, WA. Jono Sutherland, Elders Bendigo assisted with the purchase of this stud sire.

Galaxy Park 180354 was purchased by Anden Stud as a half share in 2019 from Geoff Gayle and was mated with high performing Anden Stud ewes to produce three stud rams in this year’s sale. All three rams presented low birth weight (0.12 - 0.24), high growth (17.12 – 18.49) and high eye muscle depth (2.53-2.91) genetics. His other two sons, 200177 & 200180 were very well purchased for $7,000 and $4,000 respectively, heading to Clover Valley Stud, VIC and Blackwood Stud, WA.

Another impressive sire of this years specially selected rams was Anden 190083, the top price White Suffolk sold at Anden’s 2020 on-property sale for $12,000. He was used as a ram lamb in 2020 and again via AI for the 2021 drop. In this sale he also produced three equally impressive August/September drop stud rams with ASBV’s between (PWWT, 16.41 - 18.73) (PEMD 2.43 - 3.34) (PFAT, -0.42 - 0.32) and (TCP 146.6 – 155.37). All three rams displayed magnificent structure. All presented as the more moderate size, whilst maintaining very impressive shape and muscling throughout the hind quarter. Anden 200292 was purchased by Days Whiteface of Bordertown, SA for $8,0000.

While Anden 200362, who was also used as a ram lamb for the 2021 drop, was purchased by S & N Branson, Banquet Stud of Mortlake, VIC for $13,000. His exciting ASBV’s, muscle through the hind quarter and White Suffolk type stood out in the ring. With a BWT of 0.17, PWWT 16.41, PEMD of 2.95, PFAT of positive 0.32 and negative shear force of -0.35, culminating to a TCP index of 150.28. Banquet Stud also added six outstanding Anden White Suffolk stud ewes to their flock. They secured Lot 9, Anden 200144 for $1,600 as the second highest price ewe in the sale. With outstanding ASBV’s of BWT 0.24, PWWT 19.89, PEMD 3.14, PFAT 0.14 and a TCP of 157.19. It was evident that Galaxy Park 1800354 had bred very well within Anden’s breeding program and his progeny with continue to breed well for the Anden Stud and the industry for years to come.

The top priced White Suffolk ewe Anden 200297 (sired by Anden 190083) sold for $2,000 to Jono Sutherland, Bendigo. She boasted an impressive display of muscling throughout her carcass with a PWWT of 17.48 and PEMD of 1.97. Her phenotype generated plenty of attention with a bidding frenzy before reaching her final purchase price of $2,000. A ewe that would make her mark in any flock.

Of the 21 White Suffolk specially selected rams on offer, 15 went to stud breeders from four different states across Australia, with the full draft averaging an impressive $5,380.

Five of the remaining six specially selected rams were purchased through Alexander Pollock of McKean McGregor, Bendigo. Chris & Julie Pollock purchased 3 of these quality sires and an UltraWhite composite ram to bolster their assembly of Anden flock rams purchased over the past 5 years, while Russ Rothacker also picked up two rams from the specially selected group, along with one top end flock ram and three Suffolk rams. Alexander purchased a total of 22 rams and two stud ewes on behalf of six valued clients through McKean McGregor.

Alexander, along with his family and his clients aim to meet heavy weight targets with their suckers and prefer to target rams with low birth weight, high growth and high muscle data. With the current lamb and sheep prices as strong as they are, during the winter of this year Chris, Julie & Alexander were able to present exceptional suckers that set a new Nation Sucker Lamb record of $332 at the Bendigo Livestock Exchange. These first cross lambs born out of blue tag merinos gained around 520-540 grams per day, from birth until they were sold.

The White Suffolk flock rams continued their strength shown at the 2020 on-property sale to average a strong $2003 across the 91 lots sold. This impressive run of flock rams went to 28 different buyers, with a top price of $3,200. One volume buyer from Lake Bolac, VIC, successfully purchased 13 rams, including ten White Suffolk rams to a top of $2,800 and an average of $2,160 (their average ASBV’s included BWT 0.17, PWWT 17.3, PEMD 2.5). They also secured three UltraWhite composite rams to $2,500 and averaged $2,083. Other volume buyers of the flock rams purchased between four and six White Suffolks in this reasonably tough season. These buyers were accompanied by BR & C Agents of Swan Hill, Elders of Whycheproof and Donald. The strength of the White Suffolk flock ram sale indicates the trusted confidence Anden Stud clients have in their fast growing, high muscle yielding rams, with the average up $28 on last year.

The UltraWhite composite rams returned great results, although down on last year’s average. They were still able to achieve some fantastic results with a top price of $6,000 twice and a resilient average of $2,174 for 86 lots sold. There were 17 successful buyers, with ten taking home at least four of these low birth weight, moderate to high growth rams, with exceptional muscling and carcass yielding abilities. Their wool-shedding attributes also created a lot of interest amongst buyers, with increasing popularity in shedding sheep. There’s a huge advantage not having to crutch, shear or worry about flies and lice as with traditional wool producing breeds, this cuts labour costs substantially. In some cases, up to 90% of the prime lambs produced by these wool-shedding rams can be processed as sucker lambs before requiring shearing as their tighter wool and skins allows them to stay fresher for longer. Two volume buyers with station country in NSW, took the opportunity to acquire 41 UltraWhite composite flock rams between them, with a top of $4,000 and a collective average price of $1,841. These buyers will use their rams for different purposes, one with the intention to put them over merino ewes and the other to mate their dorper flocks, with the offspring growing rapidly whilst maintaining structural correctness. BR & C agents of Swan Hill assisted in many of the UltraWhite composite purchases, to service clients in NSW and Victoria.

These low birth weight rams have been a very popular choice for clients of the Donnan family for quite a few years now, especially those wanting to join maiden ewe lambs without having the worry of lamb and ewe survival. The rates of survival are exceptional, with lambs up and running in only a few minutes, and ewes easily able to deliver lambs at a smaller size compared to that of traditional meat sheep breeds.

Some clients remarked that in previous years, prior to using Anden genetics, they were using rams without evidence of any recorded Lambplan data. They would reluctantly admit that they would expect to pull at least 30% of lambs every year out of their merino and first cross ewes. This meant monitoring ewes daily, demanding a lot physically and mentally. All this whilst ~~a~~ccepting the fact that ewe survival was a significant problem within their enterprise. These same clients are now remarking with confidence, that by using Anden White Suffolk flock rams, along with the newly established UltraWhite composite rams, they have not had to pull any lambs, they’re not having to constantly monitor ewes, which takes a lot of stress out at lambing time. These mobs, that now lamb, are having ewe survival up above 99%, whereas in previous years it could be as disappointing as 75%.

Selecting the correct rams for your program is very important to ensuing the best results possible. Anden Stud commits to produce the most productive and profitable rams available to their clients each year. With a strong emphasis on lamb and ewe survival, fast growth and high yield within the resulting prime lambs. It is also important to note that Anden is focused on improving eating quality within their stud flock, including IMF (intermuscular fat) and shear force scores, to account for future markets, where its highly likely we will also be getting paid for the tenderness of our red meat through the processing systems. Along with future blockchain technology and improved traceability to individual farms and systems, further improvement and innovation will continue to apply pressure to the industry. And Anden Stud aims to be ready when it does.

Along with the already impressive genetics that Anden Stud provides to their valued clients, they will continue aiming to be at the forefront of genetic improvement for eating quality, whilst not compromising the 30 years of proven genetic developments in growth, birth weight and muscling ability.

Anden Stud will continue to measure their success based off their clients’ successes. Stud Principal Andrew Donnan remarked “It is always very pleasing to see our genetics performing well through the sale yards and hearing reports of them preforming well in many different conditions all over the country”.

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| Sale summary | White Suffolk stud rams | | White Suffolk flock rams | | White Suffolk stud ewes | | UltraWhite composite rams | | Kerangie Suffolk rams | |
|  | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 |
| Offered | **21** | 18 | **93** | 80 | **29** | 23 | **96** | 100 | **15** | 14 |
| Sold | **21** | 18 | **91** | 80 | **24** | 23 | **86** | 100 | **5** | 14 |
| Top | **$14000** | $12000 | **$3200** | $2700 | **$2000** | $1600 | **$6000** | $16300 | **$1500** | $11000 |
| Average | **$5380** | $4736 | **$2003** | $1976 | **$990** | $917 | **$2174** | $3113 | **$1300** | $3500 |



Joel Donnan presents lot 37 - Anden 200362.

Sold to S & N Branson of Banquet Stud, Mortlake, VIC.

Joel Donnan presents lot 32 – 200188.

Sold to Nick Cheetham of Cheetara Stud, Narembeen, WA.