

Macquarie Dohne Stud

Stud No. 4

Stud Newsletter

Volume 6

July 2007

Australian Lamb and Wool Outlook Promising.

Australian agriculture entered 2007 in difficult circumstances, with a severe drought gripping the country. Although most areas have now received some useful rains the drought, for many, and the effects are far from over.

However, the global and local economies remain strong, providing solid support for demand growth. Demand for Australian lamb remained strong in both the Australian and overseas markets in 2006. The domestic market continues to be the largest single market for Australian lamb. This strength in demand is set to continue, with domestic consumption expected to remain steady throughout 2007.

Global demand for lamb has also been strong, with increased exports to a number of markets in 2006. The US is Australia's largest export market for lamb, making up 27.1% of total exports for 2006. This was a slight easing on 2005, but still the second highest on record.

US consumers do not eat lamb on a regular basis. In fact, 80% of consumers claimed that they had never even tried lamb. In order to increase the awareness and consumption of lamb, Australia, New Zealand and the US have agreed to a jointly funded lamb campaign in the US. A successful campaign could lead to large increases in the demand for lamb.

The rise in Australian lamb exports to Japan has been impressive. As at the end of November 2006, Japan was

Australia's second largest export market for lamb and reached record levels in 2006.



MD041792 \$8 000 top price ram at the 2006 National Dohne ram sale for the 5th year in a row sold to David and Glenda Mitchell, 'Murragamba' Bairnsdale and Don & Karen Mills 'Kardinia Dohne Stud, Corowa.

The Japanese lamb boom has showed no signs of ending, with demand expected to remain strong throughout 2007.

The outlook for lamb remains positive, with global demand expected to remain strong. Lower lambing due to drought will continue to impact, with production likely to struggle to reach the 2006 record.

We have recently seen a welcome improvement in wool prices. Prices have responded to both concerns over declining Australian production and signs of demand growth in a number of export markets, including Asia and Europe, due to low pipeline stock levels and strong retail sales.

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) has forecast wool production in Australia to fall to a 20 year low, 9% below 2005/06 levels.

The recent recovery in wool prices is a welcome change of fortune for an industry that has been in steady decline for over a decade.

The Dohne is the one sheep breed in Australia to take full advantage of both the lamb and wool markets.

Acknowledgement – Rabobank Global Focus

Inspection 9am

Macquarie

Sale 1pm

4th Annual On-Property Ram & Stud Ewe Sale

130 AA & A Rams

Approx 200 Stud Ewes

Monday 8th October 2007

35kms North/West from Warren on the Carinda Rd

Elders Stud Stock
Bevan Jolly 0419 033 202
Bill Mildren 0427 243 221

Landmark/Landmark Wilson Russ
Trevor Wilson 0428 667 561
David Hart 0407 780 722

Stud History

Macquarie Dohne Stud was registered in 1999 with a 50% share of the first Dohne embryos imported into eastern Australia. Since then, large scale embryo transfer programmes have enabled Macquarie to become one of the largest and most genetically diverse Dohne studs in Australia with 1500 registered pure-bred stud breeding ewes. Macquarie sold 400 rams in 2006 to all eastern states of Australia from Tasmania to Hughenden in QLD.

Macquarie genetics have influenced major Dohne studs in NSW, Victoria and Western Australia through semen, ram and embryo sales. Macquarie has over 500 rams for sale in 2007 giving clients a large and diverse selection.

Macquarie has undoubtedly the most successful sale history of any Dohne stud in Australia:

- Top priced ram at the National Sale 5 years in a row (02&06).
- Australian record at auction twice \$16,000- 2003 and 20,000- 2004.
- Highest Australian average price National Sale 2002/06.
- Highest average on-property sale eastern Australia 2004&06.
- Top price and highest average at Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show (04,05), Hamilton Sheepvention (04,06), Inaugural Eastern Riverina (05) and the Inaugural Victorian ram sale (05).
- Top price of \$10 000 Riverina sale 2003
- Victorian record price of \$15 000 Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show 2006

Macquarie exhibited the overall champion pen of Dohne x lambs (F3's) at the 2006 Southern Meats Hook Competition with an average dressed weight of 28.7kg and an average yield of 50.2%. These lambs were 8 months old and had received no grain supplement.

Client Results 2007

Alex Druce 'Paringa' Warren

- March 07. 276 9/10 month old lambs \$105.94 av. Dressed an av. 27kg, Country Fresh, Tamworth
- Early May 07. 179 10/11 month lambs \$113.68 av. Dubbo Saleyards
- Late May 07. 247 10/11 month lambs \$96.75 av. Dubbo Saleyards
- All up 702 lambs averaged \$105.45

Rose Hill Pastoral Co, Gurley

- 05 drop F2/F3 ewes joined at 1.5% reared 105% lambs on ewes joined.
- 03/04 drop F1/F2 ewes joined at 1% reared 115% lambs on ewes joined. Both lots of ewes were joined for 35 days.
- 428 F1 02 drop ewes off shears topped the Auctions Plus market for scanned in lamb ewes the week of 2nd April selling for \$72.

Wayne & Lyn Culverson 'Heatherdale' March via Orange

Wool results

- Dohne - F3 hoggets 76mm, 35 Nt, 16.2 micron and 970 cents.
- Merinos - 59mm, 40 Nt, 15.6 micron, passed in at 837c and later sold for 840 cents.
- Dohnes out cut the Merinos by 33%

These sheep were the same age and had been running together until shearing. Wayne said that the Dohnes have outstripped his Merinos every year.

Client Comments

Michael O'Brien 'The Brigalows' Carinda

"Sheep are an integral part of our farming enterprise through all seasons and the introduction of Dohnes in recent years has been of considerable economic benefit. The ability of Dohne sheep to thrive and reproduce in difficult seasons with minimum supplementary drought feeding has been a tremendous asset and augers well for a viable sheep operation in future years. Another outstanding Dohne attribute has been the exceptional growth in the lambs each year". "They are a true dual-purpose meat and wool breed which produce the biggest possible lamb at the youngest age which can be sold as store, feeder or prime lamb. My spring drop lambs averaged 28kg dressed at 10 months, yielded 53 per cent and sold for \$95 to Country Fresh".

Alex Druce 'Paringa' Warren

Alex recalls the first year he had Dohnes in a tough season.

"When the season finally broke, the Dohnes just picked up and shot away as if they had never had a hard time and grew into really big sheep. They did much better than the Merinos".

"I want the quickest maturing, self-replacing lambs I can get, that's why I have gone with the Dohne".

Dennis O'Brien 'Cryon Station' Cryon

"I was delighted with the performance of the Dohnes in the drought, with first cross ewes producing 93.5 per

cent lambs and autumn drop five-month-old first cross store lambs selling for \$40 to a feedlot”.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to client Andrew Bouffler of ‘Triggervale’, Lockhart on winning a Nuffield Scholarship.

Andrew runs the Triggervale Bond Stud in which he has infused Macquarie Dohne genetics with great success. Andrew paid the top price of \$3800 at our 2005 on property sale along with semen over a number of years.

Through the Nuffield Scholarship program, Andrew will visit South Africa to investigate the sheep flock and dual- purpose breeds.

National Dohne Expo and Ram Sale

The National Sale has been moved from October to August and has combined with the ‘National Dohne Expo’. This will be held over two days, August 16th & 17th. The sale will be held on Friday 17th at 2.30pm. Keynote Speakers, stud sheep displays, trade exhibits and commercial sheep will be on display along with the Fletcher’s International Carcase Competition and the Chad Wool Fleece Competition.

A Dinner and Presentation night will be held at the Showground Expo Centre on Thursday 16th August. Dress is ‘as you are’ with pre-dinner drinks from 5.00 dinner at 6.30.

For further information please contact Sue Hood 02 68 824 364

Macquarie Dohne National Sale Rams figures:

Pen	Tag	BW	FW	FD	CV	EMD	Fat	Index	Final
4	MD064396	14.9	3.3	0.4	-2	0.3	0	110.9	AA
5	MD052884	8	0.5	0.9	-1	0.3	0	120.4	AA
6	MD052517	14.2	2.7	0.5	-1	0.5	0.1	122.7	AA
7	MD052974	5.8	1.2	0.5	-1	-0.1	0.1	113.3	AA
8	MD052503	10.2	0.4	0.2	-2	0.6	0.2	115.5	AA

Bare Breech Scoring

The discontinuation of mulesing beyond 31st December 2010 is now a reality.

A high percentage of Dohnes have a natural bare breech. At Macquarie we are following the bare breech guidelines set down by AWI. This will not be to the detriment of other major characteristics but will have a positive flow-on effect to our client’s flocks.

The following article by Alan Vizard appeared in the Weekly Times.

A meat and wool ‘factory’

Innovative farmers Wayne and Sally Hawkins Circle H Farms ‘Glenvarloch’, Francis S.A, have a blue print for the future and are well along the road already.

They realised early that as wool prices plummeted, so did their viability.

‘Being traditional merino breeders, we made a management decision to change from principally wool producers to meat producers, by the introduction of the Dohne breed’.

As livestock manager Chris Jefferies explained, Circle H is running 17,500 ewes, comprising merino ewes, F1 and F2 Dohne ewes, first cross ewes, first cross lambs and Merino/Dohne cross ewe lambs.

‘Livestock production is targeted at producing prime lambs’ Chris said.

‘We have the ability to finish lambs in a 6000-head capacity feedlot.’

‘We sell the tops of our lambs out of the paddock in the spring with the balance going into the feedlot,’ Chris said.

‘Two years ago all our merino ewes were mated to Border Leicester rams. The best of the ewe lambs were kept as replacements and joined to Poll Dorset and White Suffolk rams.’

Replacement merino ewes had to be purchased, but this created problems, Chris said.

‘With the difficulty of purchasing good young merino ewes and the disease risk, we looked at breeding our own replacement ewes that combined meat, wool, frame and high lambing rates,’ he said.

‘To this end we trailed Dohne, SAMM (South African Mutton Merino) and AMM (Australian Meat Merino) using semen from proven sires, over big, plain-bodied Merino ewes.’

The results of this trial led Circle H down the Dohne path.

‘With such high lambing percentages, in time we will be able to sell ewes at four and five years of age for good money to prime lamb producers.’

Out of a total 8700 merino ewes, 6500 have been mated to Dohne rams. There are also 1000 F1 and F2 Dohne ewes.

The whole operation is gearing itself for prime lamb production, by way of that dual-purpose meat and wool factory, the Dohne.

‘Return per hectare is what viable farming is all about.’ Chris said.

‘It is all very exciting and we are keen to get there yesterday.’

Macquarie

- Spring 2007 Sale Calendar -

7th National Dohne Sale

Friday 17th August, Dubbo Showground

- 4 2 y.o Stud Sires
- 1 1 y.o Stud rams

2nd Annual Macquarie & Uardry Longreach Ram Sale Thursday 6th September, Longreach Showground

- 30 Specially selected rams

4th Annual On-Property Ram & Stud Ewes Sale Monday 8th October, Macquarie Dohne Stud, Warren.

9am inspection – 1pm sale

- 130 specially selected rams
- 200 specially selected ewes

3rd Annual Eastern Riverina Dohne Ram Sale Monday 15th October, Wagga Wagga Showground

9am inspection – 1pm sale

- 15 Specially selected rams

2nd Annual South Eastern Dohne Breeders Sale Wednesday 17th October, Naracoorte Showground

9am inspection – 1pm sale

- 30 Specially selected rams

3rd Annual Victorian Dohne Sale

Friday 26th October, Bendigo Showground.

9am inspection – 1pm sale

- 15 Specially selected rams.

Private Ram Selections

Commence Monday 29th October, by appointment.

- 260 flock rams in 2 grades.

Auction rams can be viewed
anytime by appointment.
Contact John Nadin 0427 474 610

Classing/Assessing

For flock/stud classing/consulting we recommend
the following Australian Dohne Breeders
Association accredited classers/assessors.

Northern NSW/QLD James Koster 0427 546 873

Southern NSW/VIC Jason Southwell 0429 039 521

Genetic Sales

Semen/Embryos/pregnant recips/stud
ewes

Contact Greg McCann 0427 843 204

Stud Stock Agents

Central/Northern NSW

Elders

Bevan Jolly
0419 033 202

Landmark

David Hart
0407 780 722

Southern NSW/Victoria

Elders

Bill Mildren
0427 243 221

Landmark

Stuart Hodgson
0417 495 753

South Australia

Elders

Leigh Allan
0408 838 668

Landmark

Malcolm Scroop
0428 838 363

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