



Kelvale News

SRS®

Winter 2018

Welcome to the winter and first edition of Kelvale News for 2018. Summer came and went quick this year and we didn't compile a summer newsletter so we have a bit to catch up on.

Following an extended dry summer we have received some decent rainfall in April and May to get the feed growing. We have been quite lucky with the rain that we have had as every time we have needed some it tends to have accommodated.

Lucerne seed was very disappointing this year as we thought that we had done everything right but it just didn't yield. Lucerne is a very finicky plant and the price has also collapsed due to the Americans flooding the market.

However, sheep are good, wool is fantastic and meat and surplus sheep prices are good. How this will hold up in the spring is the big question.

Lambing has gone reasonably well here with over 100% lambs tailed. We mated our ewe weaners at 8 months this year and managed to get about 40% in lamb, which will be an added bonus.

We are still in a rebuilding phase here at Emu Flat so we will not have many surplus ewes but we are gradually breeding ourselves to 2000 ewes.

In May we went to Agfest in Tasmania with a display of 3 rams. We were well received and met some interesting people who have added themselves to our mailing list. We would like to thank our existing clients in Tassie who are very supportive of our venture over there.

In the next couple of months we will be displaying at Wudinna on the 9th of July, Keith Field Days on the 25th of July and at Hamilton Sheepvention August 6 and 7.



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Botto Giuseppe

Back in March we met with a delegation of wool yarn and fabric makers, one of whom is from Botto Giuseppe, who are keen to form a partnership. Through our wool broker, Michell Wool we have been trying to get a farm to fabric agreement to show how well our fibre processes for a number of years.

So after our meeting and farm tour we have agreed to complete a trial with our September wool clip. There are several stipulations that we must meet, the main being that the wool comes from sheep that have not been mulesed. We have met this criteria as we have not mulesed for 10 years. Another significant requirement is the sustainability of our farm and practices, to gain evidence of this we will complete quite an extensive audit process including but not limited to chemical use, vermin control, vegetation and pasture renovations, fencing and even how we look after our employees. We have a lot of the information that will be required already, but we will require evidence through record keeping. The idea behind this is to get a story about us, our farm, sheep and the wool produced to make the fabric, to help to market the end product to potential top end buyers in Europe and USA.

At this stage it is agreed that Botto Giuseppe will pay market price, which will be an average of the previous three weeks auction market results at the date we would normally sell our wool. This price will be agreed by both parties. As a 'bonus' for the time and effort involved in providing our story for the marketing we will receive a marketing

bonus on top of the wool price for the wool price used in the program.

Once the yarn and fabric is made Botto Giuseppe will promote it at textile fairs to brands in the ker-ing group such as Gucci, YSL and other leading fashion houses.

It's an exciting venture for us and hopefully we are only at the beginning. If it all works out well we maybe able to bring clients in as satellite farms, all of the criteria will need to be met but without the audit and property inspections.

Six Month Shearing

Our six month shearing program has been in effect for the past four years. In the beginning we were averaging about 60mm on our fleece wools, but now solely due to our genetics we are now averaging 70mm, with our hoggets often producing up to 75mm.

A lot can be attributed to classing for longer stapled animals and letting the genetics do the work. It is interesting to note that our cull hoggets average staple length is longer than our 5 ½ year old stud ewes. We are able to do a direct comparison as these are normally shorn in separate mobs but run on the same country, so the genetic improvement is evident.

This year we have a display ram that has been bred via embryo transfer who has grown 65mm of wool in three months. All the other seven rams selected are pushing out 55mm which is still exceptional. This is testament to our achievements

so far and gives us confidence to meet our goal of the entire flock reaching 80mm wool growth in 6 months.

A frequently asked question is how we go with length during tough times? We have found that length doesn't decrease however the sheep will lose fleece weight. In tough times the sheep maintain better condition not having to carry around extra weight in wool so their energy goes into surviving and thriving.



Our lamb weaning percentage has increased and we feel this is due to the improved carcase score throughout the year. More energy can go into raising a lamb than carrying wool and we can maintain a consistent body score of the animal. It takes a lot less energy to bring a condition score back up post weaning and shearing, in time for mating in December.

The sheep cut extra wool in 6 months and we have found it to be about 250grams/shearing/sheep. Marketing of the wool every six months has helped our cashflow and has been very advantageous in the current wool climate.

If you have been considering changing to six month shearing, give us a call and we can talk you through how we achieved it.



Sale Team

They look fantastic. They have all grown out well even though they have had a tough and dry summer. They were underdone at shearing in March but have improved greatly due to irrigated Lucerne paddocks. The genetic standard has improved through the use of a little outside semen and more younger ewes putting pressure on the entire flock.

All wools are white and long stapled, with all producing at least 50mm of wool at three months growth. ASBV's have also taken a jump with one ram previously mentioned producing 65mm already also having YCFW of 17, growth data YWT of 8.45, YFAT 0.7 and YEMD of 2.47. However, he is not alone, there will be quite a selection for everyone.

Due to the dry season over most of SA we will consider lowering our numbers in the mini auction but we will still offer 140 rams in the main single pens. We look forward to presenting these rams for you at our auction on the 23rd of August and hope to catch up in the next few months.

Kelvale Sale Team

The data on the sale team will be available on the website a couple of weeks prior to the sale.

www.kelvalepollmerinos.com.au

Kelvale On Property Auction

At Emu Flat

675 Emu Flat Road, KEITH

Thursday August 23 at 1pm

Inspection from 10am

**140 Specially selected Rams
plus a mini auction**

Light luncheon provided.

Lid on Sheep Yards

Quite a significant structure has been erected recently at Emu Flat. Years of planning and hassling of the bookkeeper (namely Peta) finally resulted in the cover going over the entire sheep yards. After considering and looking into different structures and the location of posts within the existing yards we settled on a Spanlift curved roof design. With only 10 posts to hold the enormous structure, none of which interfere with the flow of the yards, it was the most practical option. We have also been advised that the curved roof design will allow for better ventilation in summer.

With the majority of the structure assembled on the ground in two pieces, a large crane had to come from Adelaide to lift it all into place. It was quite a spectacular sight which has many of the neighbours talking!

All the mothering up has been completed under the shed this year and the stock flow has not been impeded. There will be no excuses for wet sheep holding shearing up from now on!



Kelvale Kelpies

If you are in the market for a new Kelpie working dog, have a chat with David as he has many fully trained, partly trained and puppies available at the moment.

David—0428 839 034



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