



Kelvale News

SRS®

Winter 2019

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Kelvale News for 2019.

Our season in 2018 ended below average and it took until mid May before we had opening rains in 2019. The second half of May was quite wet and June has begun well with good rainfall to begin to make up for the dry start. We are lucky enough to have a big water licence over at Lucerne Valley that all of our irrigated country can have a water after we harvest the Lucerne seed. At Emu Flat our licence only allowed us to water one paddock this year, but even so this provides great quantity of feed in late autumn.

The young stock are all run over at Lucerne Valley and are looking big and well grown. The Sale Rams are very well rounded and the ewe hoggets have had quality feed since weaning so are faring well. Ewes at Emu Flat have done it tougher through Autumn but have and will continue to improve. The lambs are quite fresh and growing quickly.

Our yields this year for Lucerne Seed have been good and if you're in need of any seed please let us know and we may be able to help out.

We understand that many of you have had a very difficult season over the past 12 months and hope that 2019 will be more prosperous.

We would like to thank all purchasers and underbidders at last years Ram Sale. We hope that all rams are suiting your needs, have performed well since the sale and some of you may even have progeny hitting the ground. As we have said in the past, if you have any issues please get in contact with us and we will assist with rectifying any problems.

We'll be out and about in the couple of months leading up to the Ram Sale on August 22. Find us at the Wudinna Field Days, the SE Merino Field Days and at Hamilton Sheepvention. If you're at one of these events pop in and say hello.



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SA Sire Evaluation Trial

Over the last two years the merinos industry has resurrected the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial. It has been based at Keyneton Station, not far out of Angaston in the Adelaide Hills.

The object of the trial is to provide the opportunity for subjective comparisons to be made between sires from different studs. This is done by evaluating the progeny for sheep type, structure, wool production and carcase traits.

The progeny are all bred by AI of 60 ewes per sire from 16 studs.

We have been involved since the programs inception in 2017 as it is a totally commercial trial that measures critical production traits. The property has had a tough couple of years but all progeny are run together and have an equal opportunity to perform.

The first year we entered Kelvale 150120 who did a great job with a very presentable pen of progeny. He had the most number of twins that survived despite the tough conditions and overall the highest number of progeny from a single sire, however he was only average for fat and muscle which showed through in the results.

In 2018 we entered Kelvale 160088, who did exceptionally well with his pen of 37 very even, good commercial sheep. The results from data collected were excellent, firstly they were the best group for

the classers grade with the most tops and the lowest number of culls. Then with the measured results they were best for Eye Muscle and Fat and also had the longest staple length while also being in the top two for staple strength.

The results are all gauged and the top three in each trait are highlighted. Of the 15 different traits that were measured and displayed, Kelvale 160088 was highlighted in 10 of these, seven of which were completed by an independent classer. The next best sire managed 5 highlighted traits.

This was a huge result for Kelvale and strengthens our resolve that we are heading in the right direction with consistency and balance.

Our involvement has continued this year with the Sire Evaluation Program changing location to McPiggery at Lameroo. We have entered another sire and we are very interested to see how he performs over a different type of ewe.



Sire: Kelvale Poll, 160088

Keith SA Sire of sire: Kelvale Poll, 140017



Birth Type (%)		Classer's Grade (%)		Breach Traits	
Single	Twin	Tops	Culls	BCOV	BWR
67	33	25	-11	2.6	1.2

Adjusted Sire Means	Wool				Weight & Carcass			
	FD (um)	FDCV (%)	SS (Nktex)	SL (mm)	WWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFAT (mm)
	16.4	17.2	40.0	78.4	34.4	43.2	26.0	2.9
Drop Average	15.9	18.0	70.5	34.7	36.0	40.7	24.8	2.7
Flock Breeding Values	FD (um)	FDCV (%)	SS (Nktex)	SL (mm)	WWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFAT (mm)
	1.0	-1.3	7.7	13.0	-0.9	4.1	2.2	1.0

Progeny age: 11.5 months Wool growth: 8 months

South Australia Merino Sire Evaluation Trial - 2018 Drop

Above is pen of lambs at Keyneton Station at the SA Sire Evaluation Field Day on June 4, 2019. The progeny of Kelvale 160088.

Right is the pen card with results from the trial for the Kelvale entry.

Ram Sale Team

We probably say it every year, but the sale rams are looking fantastic! We took the opportunity to irrigate some lucerne paddocks just to feed the rams and get us through the summer. It worked a treat with only having to containment feed them for about six weeks. The end result is that they are approximately 10 – 15kg ahead of at the same time last year.

The terrific weight gain will express the genetic potential of this drop of rams who have come from predominantly young Kelvale sires.

160088, who has been spoken about significantly through the Sire Evaluation Trial, has quite a few progeny coming through. They look quite promising with good meat figures and solid wool weights.

161063, also has good progeny with good bodies and staple length.

An outside sire that we used through AI is a Well Gully ram 150907. His progeny have very white wools on good carcase bodies.

Overall, they all possess beautiful white lustrous wools that will perform well in any climate. We have made improvements in our ASBV data from the last drop especially with muscle and fat but also balancing them up with staple length and wool cut.

We welcome everyone to our ram sale and wish you all the best with your purchasers.



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 22 at 1pm

Inspection from 10am

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

Light luncheon provided.

Achieving Goals at Kelvale

We have made big steps in the last couple of years with staple length, six month shearing is a breeze when you are achieving 70mm plus! Along with the staple length we are also breeding ewes that are cutting over 4kg per shearing. This has been a great result considering the seasonal conditions with only 1 rain event between the September to March Shearing and some ewes were in a containment area for a short time.

Unfortunately, we hit the wall just prior to lambing with next to no growth of feed out in the paddocks. The commercial ewes have lost a bit of condition however, most have regained some condition now that it has rained. All the stud ewes have lambed on irrigation country which helps hugely. We are in the process of tailing lambs at the moment and are confident to achieve well over 100% from ewes mated.

Rams that have impressed so far are Kelvale 170004, who has quite a few lambs on the ground through AI and natural mating. They are good boned lambs with great vigour, and we are looking forward to seeing them mature. Kelvale 170004 is a hugely long stapled ram achieving 100mm at 5 months growth, with a YEMD of 2.3 and positive fat. His progeny will have a lot of potential.

We're starting to hit our straps with our young sires that are coming through, without compromising structure and wool traits, we are finding rams that also have good ASBV data. So we are achieving a consistent balance with our sheep that will show with this years Ram Sale.



Vale Jim Watts

It is with great sadness that we lost Dr Jim Watts earlier this year.

He changed the direction of Kelvale hugely and it is through his mentoring that we have been able to achieve so much in a relatively short time. From where we were in 1999 when we engaged the services of Jim, to the product we are producing today would not have happened without Jim's vision. His confidence in producing a balanced sheep never shifted, even though some outsiders thought that it had. We owe so much to Jim for the years of work and will continue his vision as we believe, as Jim did, that we aren't there yet. The merino is going to evolve and a testament to this is in the SA sire evaluation which Jim would be looking down on with a huge smile on his face. We will dearly miss Jim and his chats around the kitchen table sharing a red wine, that went well into the evenings!

This is not the end, this is just the beginning of another chapter of the SRS Company, as the studs that Jim was working with are now going to step up to continue Jim's legacy.



Kelvale Poll Merinos

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