



Kelvale News

SRS®

Summer 2020

Welcome to the Summer Edition of Kelvale News for 2020. We hope this finds you all well and in the midst of a positive season. Thanks to everyone who attended the Ram Sale last year, we hope the rams travelled well to make it home, if you have had any troubles please let us know and we will rectify the situation for you.

The start of the new decade couldn't have been more memorable for the wrong reasons with the devastating fires all over the nation followed by some incredible rainfall and summer storms. We received nearly 50mm of rain in early February which has really sparked the pastures into action. Just before the rain we put a mob of ewes into a containment area to preserve the paddocks and hopefully get a rain before lambing starts, needless to say, they won't be there for long.

The livestock have fared very well through the dry summer

that we've had. Young stock at Lucerne Valley have had the best of it with irrigated Lucerne keeping them full. They've grown really nicely and should go ahead in leaps and bounds following shearing in March. Our data collection will continue over the next couple of months and the ram sale will come around quick enough.

The irrigating season has nearly finished for us and this year we haven't irrigated as much for seed as in the past. A few paddocks have been set aside for our young sheep where we've grown Lucerne Seed in previous years but we've had trouble selling these particular varieties. If you know of anyone who's after Aurora, Hunter River or Trifecta Lucerne Seed we have some available.

It is also fantastic to see clients getting great value for their sheep. With a client that has retired topping at \$341 for mated but not scanned 2.5 year old ewes. Overall they sold nearly 1000 ewes for an average of just under \$300. Goes to



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show that quality stock are very sort after, and with another rain in the eastern states demand may get even stronger. We often have interest from buyers who are after big plain merinos, if you are in the selling market please let us know and we can promote your excess stock via our Facebook page.

Late in 2019 we met with Steven Read from Michel Wool for a brief market update and discussions regarding our plans to sell wool direct to mill. We are still planning to sell direct to mill into the future however, we ourselves do not have enough supply throughout the year to meet the criteria to complete an order. We are now exploring the option of including Kelvale wool from clients who solely purchase Kelvale genetics for a merino enterprise, obviously there are going to be a number of other stipulations but the most important will be non mulesed animals.

The problem we have struck here is the Italian company want only one story to the fabric that is produced. We are happy to link the Kelvale Genetic story to it however they have not got their head around this concept yet. They are very keen on us though as we are non-mulesed without us-

ing much chemical. A lot of the others big guys that are taking advantage of the premiums of these non-mulesed contracts use quite a bit of chemical which goes against the natural label wool enjoys. This is still very much a work in progress and we are committed to making it happen into the future.

Whilst also speaking with Steven Read we discussed the market conditions, it's a great time to be breeding merinos and producing quality wool. The animal welfare issue is not going away with a number of fashion label continue to be targeted and have made declarations that they will only use wool from non mulesed or ceased mulesing animals. Beyond just the animal welfare issue some brands have also added in sustainability to the equation which is going to be an interesting space to watch.

We'll be on the road again this year with a few events where a selection of Kelvale rams will be on display. A calendar of events is below, if you are attending any of the events please pop in and see us. Often we try to combine these trips with some classing, so if you're in need of our classing services let us know and we'll come and see you.

See the Kelvale display at the following events during 2020.

Agfest Tasmania

Thursday, Friday & Saturday May 7th-9th

Eyre Peninsula Pre-Sale Expo, Wudinna

Monday July 6th

Merino South East Field Days, Keith

Wednesday July 22nd

Hamilton Sheepvention

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday August 2nd—4th

THURSDAY AUGUST 20th —Ram Sale at Keith

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