



Kelvale News

SRS®

Winter 2020

Well, what a change a couple of months has made! Since the Summer Newsletter was written and posted out such a lot has changed in this crazy world that we live in. Covid-19 has struck with a vengeance, holidays, field days and other events have been cancelled all over the place and we all trying to navigate our way through this trying time. As we haven't been able to travel very far over the past couple of months we have spent a lot a quality time as a family which has been a real positive.

We are able to organise the ram sale in the normal format and we have also booked Auction Plus to hold the auction via their interface for those who are unable or decide not to travel. However, as regulations are changing rapidly we will need to reassess the situation on a regular basis to ensure everyone is kept safe. Planning is underway with the tightest of restrictions in mind and we hope the situation continues to ease. We are more than happy to arrange for an inspection day of the rams prior to the ram sale if necessary.

We've had a pretty good start to the season this year with solid rains beginning in February and continuing

through to June. As a result the feed has been great for ewes pre-lambing and the Lucerne pastures have provided substantial feed with minimal hand feeding through autumn. Lambing has been very successful this year with more twins and triplets births than singles and even a couple of sets of quads. The ewes are doing an exceptional job of raising all the lambs as they regularly move paddocks onto fresh feed.

Our Lucerne Seed season finished really well with solid yields from the paddocks we irrigated for seed. As demand for Lucerne Seed has been slow in the past 12 months we decided to only produce seed from just over half of our irrigation area. The remaining paddocks were watered for feed which has allowed our young stock, especially the rams, to have green feed throughout the year. As a result the rams are well grown and full of vigour.

We hope to see you at the ram sale this year. If you are unable to make it and still need rams please get in contact with us and we will make arrangements for you.



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SA Sire Evaluation Trial

Over the past few years we've been involved with and entered sires into the SA Sire Evaluation Sites. The trial was run at Keyneton in the Adelaide hills for two years and the last two years it has been run on a Lameroo property. We entered 170004 into the Lameroo trail for the 2019 drop. The ewes were very good commercial mothers, reasonably plain and good types. There were 16 rams entered from different studs around Australia which were all mated to 60 ewes via AI. The idea of the trial is to give all sires the same opportunity to express their attributes in a commercial flock. The sires have different selection criteria ranging from showing to ASBV testing, so it is quite a mixed bunch but it does show which sires excel in which areas. All the progeny are run in one mob and all data taken within the mob at the same time.

Kelvale 170004 excelled in exactly the areas we believed he would. Firstly, staple length, progeny were shorn at 11 months of age and staple measurements taken. 170004 blitzed this area with an average from his progeny of 124mm. The average from the mob was 106mm with his next closest entrant at 115.2mm. This is a great example of

what our rams are consistently breeding and why 6 month shearing is easily achievable with Kelvale rams.

The next area we topped was EMD. 170004 progeny had the largest eye muscle diameter with the measurement of 31.0mm with a mob average of 29.5mm. This is another trait that we have been focussing on, improving meat yield and survivability with our genetics. This brings us onto the next genetic attribute in which we consistently receive top results—survivability.

In every trial we have been involved in, at different sites, we have always had the most progeny survive. Now some may say that it's just luck or coincidence maybe, but we believe that it's a trait. This most recent trial we had 55 progeny, 2/3rds raised as twins from 60 ewes mated through AI, the average was 42 and the lowest was 26. Incidentally the sire with the lowest progeny also had the highest wool cut, most of the sires with the highest wool cut had below average survivability.

170004 certainly did not have the wool cut of other rams in the trial but with twice as many lambs, in a commercial flock, the dollars stack up.



Ram Sale Team

With the Covid-19 restrictions implemented earlier in the year, it put a bit of a reality check on all of us. However at Kelvale we are happy to make changes and develop our ram sale to adhere to the conditions at the time.

This year, at a minimum, we will have AuctionPlus at the sale to allow for bids from a far. So if clients are unable to attend the sale due to restrictions or don't feel comfortable to attend the sale, purchases can still be made via this medium. With that in mind we are also open for inspections to take place by appointment prior to the sale allowing selections to be made and bidding online on sale day. Other than that, we will continue with the sale day as in previous years with social distancing and any other regulations that are required at the time.

With regulations changing on a daily or weekly basis we will endeavour to keep people updated via our Facebook page or emails.

The rams, as always, are in great condition. They have had an easy summer and are well grown. Data has all been taken and the ASBV information received with another step in improvement for key traits of muscle, fat and staple length.

A couple of sires to look out for are Kelvale

170004, 171026 and Glenwood 405. Kelvale 170004 has been mentioned previously however his ASBV data is well worth mentioning. YSL 31.4 (top 1% in Australia) YEMD 3.2 (also top 1%) and CFW 22.3. Kelvale 171026 is a great shape ram with free white wools with ASBV's of YWT 6.2, YEMD 2.1 (top 10%), YSL 17.8 (top 10%) and YCFW 20.3.

A new introduction this year is Glenwood 405 through AI in the Young Sire Program that we participate in with other SRS studs. He has produced crimp white wools with good ASBV data of YEMD 2.4 (top 10%), YFAT 1.4 and YSL 23.1.

Overall we are achieving good data on rams that look very impressive in the paddock. We are aiming to balance traits while keeping our type and the next focus will be with early growth.

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

Kelvale Sale Team

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

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Kelvale On Property Auction

At Emu Flat

675 Emu Flat Road, KEITH

Thursday August 20 at 1pm

Inspection from 10am

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

Light luncheon provided.

Animal Health

Over the years Kelvale continues to maintain the highest of health requirements so that clients can come to us without having any concerns in this area. We test for Brucellosis every second year to maintain our free status. We've also been testing for Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) and have a Monitored Negative 3 status. This means that we have tested our flock over a number of years and have a clean flock for OJD.

Through regular testing every so often a false positive test comes up, which means that we then need to undergo further testing to make certain either way what is happening in our flock. This is a very worrying time as if we were found to have a positive result we would be required to shut the stud down and sell all our breeding ewes for meat. A positive result is very unlikely for us as we know our neigh-

bours and are in a low risk area, however it is not impossible.

The other way to control the disease is with the use of Gudair via injection which will provide life long protection. We've decided to go down this path as we have a clean flock from OJD. This will further protect us from the disease. Injecting with Gudair also has its risks, as it is not user friendly particularly if you happen to accidentally inject yourself - so we are taking things slowly and very carefully.

The use of the vaccine will not affect clients going forward, its simply a quality assurance with regard to disease as with other annual vaccinations. We've started this annual regime with the 2020 drop of lambs and all ewes will receive their vaccination later in the year. Some sheep do have a reaction to the injection leaving a lump behind the ear that you may notice.



Lambing 2020

To the left is a small mob of Ewes and 2020 drop lambs that were about to be mothered up.

We were really pleased with our lambing this year gaining 117% lambs from ewes mated. We noticed the largest number of multiple births in many years with a number of triplets and a couple of sets of quadruplets.

All lambs have now been marked and they are travelling along really well.



Kelvale Poll Merinos

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