



Kelvale News

2022

Hello and welcome to the 2022 newsletter we hope this finds you well.

We begin this newsletter with a massive thank you to our loyal clients who supported us at the ram sale last year. We are very humbled by the response to the product that we offer and have confidence in our breeding program going forward. We hope that the rams have performed well and the offspring are meeting your expectations. If you have had any problems, please let us know and we will work with you to rectify the situation.

Our season has been quite mixed so far for 2022. It was a dry summer right up until late February when we received storms and 40mm. This was not ideal timing for our irrigated Lucerne Seed that was about to be harvested and subsequently quite a bit of damage was sustained. As with everything in farming, one commodity suffers and another flourishes, the green feed that was generated from the rains has been great for our ewes coming up to

lambing. Since the initial rain event in February things have remained reasonably dry until the cold and wet snap in early June. Our pasture renovation program began in earnest following the 65mm over four days and hopefully the feed will continue.

As we are all starting to live with the ongoing threats of COVID, life is beginning to resemble our new normal. At Kelvale we have evaluated what we have been doing from a promotional aspect and scaled back our attendance at some events that are coming back in 2022. With that in mind you can see a sample of Kelvale genetics at the Eyre Peninsula Field Days in Wudinna (SA) and at the South East Field Days in Keith both during July. Agfest in Tasmania was changed from May to August this year making it impossible for us to attend, however, we still intend to take a display of rams to Agfest next year when it returns to May.

We look forward to seeing you over the coming months.



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Use of Technology

At Kelvale we are continuing to evolve and embrace new technologies to make our data collection jobs easier and more accurate. The purchase of new software and auto drafter 18 months ago has meant that Stephen has taken on a big learning curve. However, the support staff at BreedElite and backup service has been second to none.

Our decision to go with the BreedElite system was based on the desire for an auto drafter and having one company to deal with if a problem arises. In the past we have had companies blame each other for a fault with either the wand or software. Through BreedElite we can speak with one person who can fix the wand, software or drafter so that it works.

Having worked with the software for over 12 months we now have confidence in the workings and data collection required, it is quite a simple process. As the old saying goes, garbage in, garbage out!

The biggest asset to us is the use of the auto drafter, we have put EID tags in all sheep on the place. In the past stud ewes have had a third classing tag plus at times another tag to identify which ram she had been mated to. Now we just have an EID and a backup or readable tag in case either tag gets lost. The information on individual sheep is very important to us for ASBV data and to identify our top ewes and rams.

For example, one ewe that we have mothered for the past four years has given us the following results. 2019 as a donor ET ewe she gave us one lamb then had one naturally. In 2020 again as an ET donor ewe she gave us 11 lambs, then raised triplets naturally, in 2021 she raised twins naturally and this year she's raised triplets naturally. Of all the progeny, most of the females have been classed into the top grades and there are two rams that are now sires in the stud. This shows how individual information on this ewe is extremely valuable to us.

With EID tags in all our sheep including the commercial ewes and pregnancy scanning completed prior to shearing we were able to leave ewes in their grades for shearing. Following shearing we were able to draft syndicate mobs into multiple and single birth types. The multiple birth type mobs were placed into better feed paddocks and supplemented with hay and grain in

the lead up to lambing.

Late in April when lambing was due to begin 540 ewes with multiple birth types were drafted by Stephen on his own in the yards into commercial and stud syndicates. At the same time 600 stud ewes needed to be drafted into 10 different sire groups. Stephen was able to complete the process in about an hour and a quarter, three ways then back through. It is a fantastic set up for flow. Once the ewes have been through the process a couple of times, they are quite happy to put themselves through, no problems or fuss.

A new fleece weighing system has been developed by BreedElite and we used it for the first time at Shearing in March. Reusable pen cards are used to store the EID and the data is then transferred once the fleece is off the sheep and ready for weighing. One person could easily keep up with 4 shearers shearing 160 to 180 each per day.

We are currently working closely with the staff and BreedElite to produce placards that will be used at our Ram Sale. The format will be quite different to what we have used in the past, however, much of the information available will remain the same. There will also be a QR code on each placard that will take you directly to the sheep genetics website for that Ram if you are after other data that isn't on display. Along with this we are also looking to make some changes to the sale catalogue that's available on sale day, more data will be included.



Ram Sale

Last years Ram Sale was huge!! We sold all 210 rams in the sale and the mini auction. The next day we sold an additional 68 rams to be sold out the day after the ram sale. This year we have extra rams available and believe that we can supply all clients needs. If you are unable to make it to the ram sale, either online or in person, we encourage you to make contact early to ensure that you don't miss out.

This year's rams are coming along really well. We have split them into two mobs which seems to have helped with the bullying that we have noticed in the past. They seem to have developed evenly.

We are continuing to use a lot of young rams in our mating program to quantify our genetic gains. So each year we speak about new young sire that are the next generation coming through.

A couple of these are sons of 170004.

Kelvale 191148 was entered into the SA Sire Evaluation Trial where he bred well, as he has here at Kelvale. He is good for muscle and growth but his wool quality makes him a stand out. Fleece weight and staple length are excellent.

Kelvale 191141 is the other son that is very similar to

his father, very long staple with good early growth, muscle and fat.

Other young rams, Kelvale 190109 is a growthy sire with very lustrous wool. And a great young wool sire is Kelvale 191130 who is producing elite wools consistently.

An outside sire used this year is Glenwood 190098. Due to COVID restrictions he was used sight unseen, however we liked his genetic background and trusted in his white pure wool which he has bred on very well.

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 18 at 1pm

Inspection from 10am

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

Light luncheon provided.



Kelvale Kelpies

By Sam Kellock
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Over the last 18 months since David has passed, I have taken over his kelpie business. I have found a

new appreciation for the amount that is required to do this successfully. I have rather enjoyed it though. The kelpies have always been a passion of mine since I was a small kid when pop, David, gave me my first pup when I was 10 years old and have had kelpies ever since. Along the way I have attended stock handling schools, Neil McDonald and Greg Prince dog schools, numerous trials, also had experience contract mustering a variety of stock.

Our aim with the dogs is to breed a calm dog that is strong enough to apply pressure when required. I have been lucky enough to inherit some very good genetics to these traits, as Pop spent a lifetime breeding and selling. He had seen some recent success with his bloodlines in the trailing game to being awarded the 2019-2020 SAYDA



(South Australian Yard Dog Association) breeder of the year, some of his pups have been winning trails over the last couple of years. Currently I have 8



pups that are from a variety of back grounds available for \$800. I also have intermediate and fully trained bitches and dogs available. Enquiries always welcome.

Social Media

Love it or hate it, use of Social Media is ever increasing and a way we can keep in contact throughout the year. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for regular updates on what is going on at Kelvale and other posts that may be of interest.



SRS Company

Most of you would be aware that Jim Watts passed away a couple of years ago, he was our classer, advisor, friend and began the SRS breeding system. To keep his legacy of sheep breeding at the forefront of the industry 12 SRS studs have formed the SRS Genetics Company. The company is the base for promotion of all the positive attributes SRS sheep possesses.

As this develops as a group, we are aiming to have marketing advantages for clients and ourselves in areas of wool, meat and fertility. This in turn will help you, our clients, sell your wethers for meat, your surplus ewes for others to breed from and your wool.

You don't have to be unmulesed but if you are there are some added advantages of becoming a member including discounts at our Ram Sale. If you are interested in becoming a member please go to the SRS Genetics website to find out more or give Stephen a call.



Kelvale Poll Merinos

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