



DECEMBER 2005 ISSUE

From the President

What a wonderful turn around in conditions a few months can bring. Most areas are now out of drought and in many cropping areas the hope is for dry weather. It is easy to smile when the grass is growing.

The Texel Forum is now on Saturday 4th February followed by the Council meeting on Sunday 5th February at the Rich River Resort at Moama. It will commence with an informal get-together on Friday night. It promises to be a successful weekend (19 of 20 Texel reserved rooms were already booked at mid-November).

The Forum will be a great opportunity to hear a number of interesting speakers and to contribute to discussions on the advancement of the Texel. Remember Council is a small group of volunteers who control a small budget and they need positive input to help make our breed the success it should be. I look forward to seeing a big roll-up of members on Saturday.

Some members would have seen the recent segment on Landline on the ABC (27th November) on a group of enthusiastic

Australian Wagyu cattle breeders. Through persistence (and business acumen). They have had great success with a product that was superior in taste but very different in appearance. This will no doubt provide a discussion point at our Moama forum.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is detailed the arrangements for the next run of Microphthalmia test samples. It is pleasing to see that those members who had a problem with this genetic disorder in their flocks through testing and appropriate mating, now no longer see it as a serious issue.

I urge you to support our sponsors wherever possible. As a small organization, sponsorship is important to help fund our activities and to grow our breed.

May you all have a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

- PETER MATUS

Members Get-Together at Moama

The Rich River Golf Club Resort, 24 Lane Street, Moama, NSW 2731, has been booked for a members get-together and

forum on Saturday/Sunday 4th – 5th February 2006.

The Resort is only 2 ½ hours from Melbourne.

Most members will arrive on the Friday afternoon and hence require two nights accommodation.

Room costs vary from a standard room at \$139 per night to \$154 per night for a fairway room.

Conference meals per person are:

- *Cooked breakfast \$7.75 extra*
- *Morning tea \$8.00*
- *Lunch \$18.00*
- *Afternoon tea \$8.00*
- *Three course dinner \$35.00*
- *Gourmet BBQ \$25.00*

**Contact Stephen Cox,
Rich River Golf Club
Resort on:**

Email:
rrgc@richriver.com.au
Phone: (03) 5480 9411
(accommodation)
Web:
www.richriver.com.au

A three hour forum will be held on the Saturday morning with guest speakers, leaving the afternoon free for social activities. Guests then return for dinner at night.

Microphthalmia Testing

Maria Wood is co-ordinating the collection of blood sample strips for members throughout Australia.

The required paperwork and blood sample strips must reach Maria by 15th January, 2006.

Her contact details are:

*Maria Wood
Te Rakau
Post Office
BINDI BINDI WA 6574.*

***Ph/Fax: (08) 9654 3012
Email:
terakau@bigpond.com***

WA members can obtain the blood sample strips etc. from Maria Wood while members in other States can obtain the strips from Head Office.

Horsham Show

Ram under 1 ½ years, shorn
Tullamore Park, 1 & 2;
Mertex, 3; Clark's Park, 4.

Ram under 1 ½ years, woolly,
Tullamore Park, 1; Mertex;
2 & 3; Baroa, 4.

Pair of rams under 1 ½ years, shorn
Tullamore Park

Ram lamb born after 1st April, unshorn and untrimmed
Mertex, 1 & 3 & 4;
Tullamore Park, 2.

Champion Ram
Tullamore Park

Reserve Champion Ram
Tullamore Park

Ewe over 1 ½ years, shorn
Clark's Park,

Ewe under 1 ½ years, shorn
Mertex, 1 & 3; Tullamore Park, 2 & 4; Clark's Park, 5.

Ewe under 1 ½ years, woolly
Mertex, 1 & 2; Tullamore Park, 3 & 4.

Par of ewes under 1 ½ years, shorn
Mertex, 1; Tullamore Park, 2.

Ewe lamb born after the 1st April, unshorn and untrimmed
Mertex, 1 & 2, Tullamore Park, 3.

Champion Ewe
Mertex

Reserve Champion Ewe
Mertex

Group – 2 ewes and 1 ram
Mertex, 1; Tullamore Park 2.

Meatiest Texel
Tullamore Park

Supreme Champion Texel
Tullamore Park

Most Successful Exhibitor
Mertex

2006 Horsham Show

Texels will be the feature breed at the 2006 Horsham Show and the Wimmera-Mallee Region would greatly appreciate your support so put it on your calendar and keep Wednesday, 4th October, free.

It would be great to see a shed full of Texels there.

Western Australia Sales

Darkan Ram Sale
a/c Jimjan – J.R. & J.M. Glover
2 to \$900 av. \$875
8 Texel cross to \$1000 av. \$856.

Dinninup Ram Sale
a/c Jimjan – J.R. & J.M. Glover
10 to \$1050 av. \$950.

Ida Vale Ram Sale
a/c Jimjan 8 to \$1500 av. \$1125.

Moora Ram Sale
Te Rakau 31 to \$1100 av. \$618

Mt. Barker
a/c Braeside, G.A. Clark Nominees
10 to \$1150 av. \$890.
a/c Dajara, G.A. Clark Nominees
7 to \$850 av. \$786.

BAROA

COPRICE VICTORIAN RAM OF 2005



BAROA "Samuel" 2/04 - Pictured here at 11 months (Photo – Stock & Land)

Awards

- ASBA Sheep & Wool Show - Champion Ram
- ASBA Sheep & Wool Show - Supreme Texel
- Hamilton Sheepvention - Champion Ram
- Royal Melbourne Show - Reserve Champion Ram
- Geelong Show - Champion Ram
- Geelong Show - Supreme Texel
- Holbrook Sheep & Wool Show - Champion Ram
- Berwick & District Annual Show - Interbreed Champion Lamb – Short Wool
- Horsham Annual Show - 4th in Class

Semen packages available - \$50 + GST per ewe dose – Minimum 20 doses.



Doug and Jacquie Bottcher
R.M.B. 2230, Euroa, Vic. 3666
Phone: 0428 - 576 046 & (03) 5790 3268
Email: baroa@bigpond.com





Stuart Leigh, Laani, Ceres, Vic., with the Leigh Family's champion pen of three carcasses at the 2005 Geelong Show

Carcase Win at Geelong

Leigh Partnership, Laani, Ceres, Vic., entered the only Texel sired lambs in the Geelong Show prime lamb competition.

There were approximately 90 lambs and Laani finished with third on the hoof in the export section 22-30 kg. This entry gained first on the hook.

Laani also exhibited the champion pen of three carcasses to win the Tim and Val Knight River Boat Trophy.

The stud also gained third place in the Colac competition in the Export Section.

Moral Story

Maria and Robert Wood, Te Rakau stud, WA, are now the proud owners of a \$3000 dog, not the purchase cost just the veterinary fees.

Their best dog had a grass seed go up his uretheter and calcify in his bladder. Then it tried to come out again. Poor dog couldn't pee. He was catheterised locally three times to try to flush his bladder because they didn't know what it was, then had to go the University Vet Hospital in Perth for major surgery. He's worth every penny but they could have had a great holiday in Europe for that money. It's only when he was better that they saw how very unwell he had been. Moral for all you blokes...don't pee into long grass.

Sheep Producer Conference to unlock profit secrets

Why do some sheep producers continue to make a profit despite drought and low market prices? Do you think that what they do isn't applicable to your situation? Think again.

The Australian Sheep Industry CRC is holding a conference during February 2006 in Orange to show how to make a profit from sheep.

Profitable farmers are not determined by farm size, region, fibre diameter or sheep breed. Profitable farmers concentrate on doing what is profitable for their situation – and so can any sheep farmer.

Finding out those best-bet management systems, what practices to fine-tune and how to use decision support tools will be a feature of the Sheep CRC Conference. Wool meets Meat – tools for a modern sheep enterprise.

The producer-focused Conference will be held at Orange, NSW, on 22nd and 23rd February 2006.

Find out more at www.sheepcrc.org.au/conference or phone Heidi Hoffman, (02) 6773 2927

TARA

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY

TARA "MARCUS" 304/03



- TARA "Marcus" 304/03. Reserve champion ram 2004 ASBA Show Bendigo. At 11 months, he was 100 kg, 45 mm emd, 6mm fat.
- "Marcus" was also supreme Texel exhibit at NSW/QLD Texel Show, first ram over 1 ½ years, the heaviest and best muscled ram in the shed. At 23 months, he was 133kg, 52mm emd, 6mm fat.
- "Marcus" in 13 shows has received 7 firsts and 6 seconds. A huge ram with a huge hindquarter and eye muscle, yet displaying excellent structural correctness. Current weight 152kg.
- "Marcus" possesses outstanding genetics being a son of Tattykeel "Caesar" (supreme Texel exhibit 2001 ASBA Show Bendigo) and carrying a triple cross of Plainview "Little John". Maternal grandsire is Tara "Nicholas", supreme at 1999 Texel National at Geelong and grand champion ram at the 1999 and 2000 Sydney Royal Shows.

"The Tara 2006 show team will feature his full sister as our leading ewe."

Semen for sale

Enquiries: Peter Matus, Tara, Bathurst Road, Rockley, NSW, 2795.

Phone/Fax: (02) 6337 9330 and 0427 – 379 330

Email: matus@lisp.com.au



Rosemary Muir (left), Graeme Nicholson (centre) Elders Ballarat Livestock Manager who made one of the trophy presentations on the night, and Don Muir (right), Penryn stud, Hexham, Vic. The Muir family exhibited the highest value carcasses in two classes at the 2005 Coles Colac Show Lamb Competition.

(Photo – The Courier, Ballarat)

High Quality Rewarded

An emphasis on high quality cuts was rewarded at the Coles Colac Show lamb competition in November.

Don and Rosemary Muir took out the 18-22 kg class, while their daughter Felicity won the 22.1 to 30 kg class. The winning lambs were by Texel rams over Texel-Border Leicester-Merino cross ewes.

The Muir's farm on 220 hectares at Hexham, and are long-time carcass competition participants. Mr. Muir said the feedback they received from these competitions combined with information from abattoirs, had been influential on the family's breeding decisions.

Mr. Muir tries to produce lambs with good loins, nice rounded hindquarters with the meat in the back end, where it is most valuable.

“To get that and still keep a sheep that's able to breed well and do everything else is part of the business as well,” he said. However, knowing what you want to produce and actually producing it are quite different tasks. “It takes a lot to learn how to do it.”

As well as the family's Penryn stud, Felicity also has a stud of her own, True Blue.

Mr. and Mrs. Muir's winning carcass achieved a carcass wholesale value of 605.4 cents a kg. Last year they came second in the same category. This year's carcass had a liveweight of

39kg and a carcass weight of 20kg.

Boned out, the eight rib rack of lamb returned a wholesale value of \$16.30/kg, weighing 594 grams and yielding 6.1pc of the total carcass yield.

The bone-in shortloin split was priced at \$13/kg, weighed 842 grams and yielded 8.6pc.

Felicity's winning export category carcass returned a wholesale value of 640c/kg. The eight rib rack weighed 546 grams, and was priced at \$25.50/kg, yielding 4.2pc, while the eye of loin weighed 360g, and was valued at \$24/kg and yielded 2.8pc. It had an overall wholesale yield of 83.7pc.

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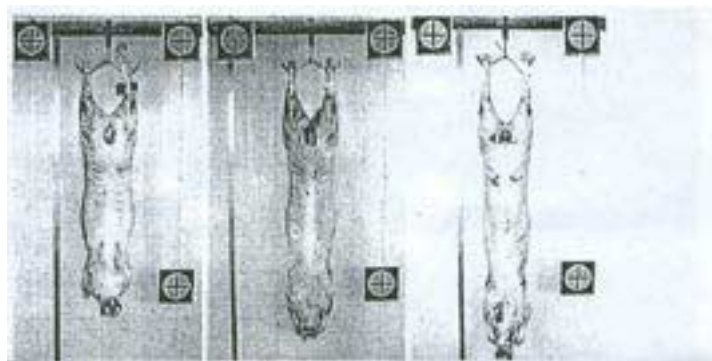
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Mr. and Mrs. Muir were placed second in this class, bringing the value of the family's prizes at the event to \$2100.

Third prize in the export category went to the Leigh partnership of Ceres, for a carcase which had a value of 619.3c/kg.

A carcase belonging to Barry Shalders of Derrinallum came second in the 18-22kg class, measuring 599.6c/kg.

(Acknowledgement – Stock and Land)



This is a poor quality scan photograph yet it still conveys the message.

Here are three carcasses of identical weight and fat score, each providing an

identical return to the producer under the current marketing system.

The retailer has no description to specify a preference.

ALLIANCE GROUP (NZ) CENTRAL PROGENY TEST

TEXEL – THE MOST EFFICIENT BREED

In the Alliance Group Central Progeny Test, established with the aim of determining the valid differences between various breeds of sheep, progeny of Texel sires were conclusively proved to be the most efficient breed. In controlled trials in the U.K. the Texel had been the most efficient because of their longer intestine allowing them to convert more from each kg of dry matter. The Alliance CPT was further confirmation that under NZ's paddock grass fed environment the Texel is without equal for feed conversion.

Dressing Percentage

Ram	ID	Breed	Dress%	Rank
Waikite	299/00	Texel	2.9	1
Brandes Burton	400/00	Texel	2.5	2
The Burn	xa2/99	Texel	1.9	3
Turnberry	140/00	Composite	1.2	4
Wharatoa	t533/1	Composite	1.2	5
Kurralea	211	Polled Dorset	0.9	6
Ohio	106/99	Polled Dorset	0.9	7
Torresdale	165/00	Suffolk	-0.1	8
Charleston	c57/99	Southdown	-0.2	9
Tasvic Downs	41/00	Southdown	-0.2	10
Douglas Downs	77/95	Horned Dorset	-0.3	11

*ALLIANCE GROUP (NZ) has recently installed 12 VIASCAN in their abattoirs.

** Central Progeny Test included 72 sires of 20 breeds.

Meat Value

Terminal

Tag	Flock	Breed	Progeny	Days to Kill Index	Rank
299/00	Waikite	Texel	59	\$75.18	1
xa2/99	The Burn	Texel	23	\$73.81	2
299/01	Ohio	Poll Dorset	35	\$73.68	3
400/00	BrandesBurton	Texel	63	\$73.56	4
911/99	Murray Downs	Texel	31	\$73.40	5
21/01	Broken Hut	Texel	30	\$72.47	6
T369/02	Wharetoa	Composite	27	\$72.35	7
77/95	DouglasDowns	Dorset Horn	75	\$72.23	8
128/97	Punchbowl	Suffolk	38	\$71.98	9
5258/01	Mr Linton	Texel	29	\$71.74	10
106/99	Ohio	Poll Dorset	46	\$71.46	11
2002/02	Mt Linton	Texel Cross	34	\$71.45	12
154/99	Ivadene	Poll Dorset	27	\$71.43	13
165/00	Torresdale	Suffolk	30	\$71.42	14
T533/01	Wharetoa	Composite	56	\$71.26	15

ALLIANCE GROUP (NZ) CENTRAL PROGENY TEST

TEXELS – PRODUCE QUALITY LAMBS

In the Alliance Group (NZ) Central Progeny Test, where ten breeds of sheep were compared Texel sires had the greatest percentage of progeny in the highest paying “Market Choice” grade. The Alliance Group established the “Market Choice” grade to encourage farmers to produce the type of lamb the markets require and have rewarded these producers by up to \$4 more than the next highest paying grade. The Texel is unsurpassed in its ability to pass on its high value conformation.

Market Choice Index

Ram	ID	Breed	Rank
Brandes Burton	400/00	Texel	1
The Burn	xa2/99	Texel	2
Waikite	299/00	Texel	3
Mount Linton	2855/00	Texel	4
Kurralea	211	Polled Dorset	5
Teviotdale	1144/99	Hampshire	6
Tasvic Downs	41/00	Southdown	7
Torresdale	165/00	Suffolk	8
Turnberry	140/00	Composite	9
Wairere	2165/97	Romney	10
Douglas Downs	77/95	Horned Dorset	11