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NEWSLETTER

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Texel Sired Lambs Triumph



Smiles all around at the “Southern Meat Project Day” at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds on April 30.

From left: Mark O’Sullivan (RASV CEO), Sam Kekovich (MLA lamb ambassador), Theo Castricum (Castricum Brothers Pty. Ltd), Rosemary and Don Muir (1st prize lamb carcass award winners) - First prize was \$4000 plus GST

A consignment of prime lambs from Hexham breeders Don and Rosemary Muir trumped the competition to take out the top award at the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria prime lamb carcass awards 2009.

In a field of 30 entries, the Texel-sired lambs, out of Border Leicester-Merino-Texel ewes, achieved a lean meat yield of 55.5 per cent, averaged 26.28 kilograms and had a premium per carcass of \$4.09 from a consignment of 301 lambs in late November 2009.

Texel-sired lambs featured heavily in the top places, with Basil Jorgensen, Antwerp, placing second with lambs by Texel rams out of Texel-East Friesian-Merino ewes and in third place was David Ware, Warrong, with Texel-sired lambs out of Texel-East Friesian ewes.

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Some of the 301 lambs at Don and Rosemary Muir's farm at Penryn, Mortlake, Vic., just before the lambs were transported off to Castricum Abattoir.

Sam Kekovich (MLA lamb ambassador) was the special guest and presented the prizes to the award winners in the evening where he was guest speaker.

The Penryn winning consignment attained one of the highest lean meat yield percentage relative to its carcass weight and was therefore rewarded by the grid system which awards premiums over par value based on heavier carcass weights and higher lean meat yield (%).

RESULTS:

First place: D.W. & R.M. Muir, Penryn, Hexham, Vic., with 301 Texel sired lambs from Border Leicester/Merino/Texel ewes which were sent off on November 20 straight off their mothers at 4 ½ months of age.

A further 76 lambs had to be excluded from that competition consignment as they would have produced carcasses over 30 kg.

Second place: Basil Jorgensen, Mertex, Antwerp, Vic., with Texel sired lambs from East Friesian/Merino/Texel ewes processed in February 2010, average carcass weight 25.72 kg; average lean meat yield 55.70%; \$3.89 total premium for carcass.

Third place: D.J. & V.B. Ware, Warrong, Vic., with 351 Texel sired lambs from East Friesian/Texel ewes, part of an August drop 2009, sent straight off their mothers in early December.

Average carcass weight 23.88 kg; average lean meat yield 56.70%; \$3.79 total premium per carcass.

Competition overview

The prime lamb carcass awards were introduced by The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria in 2002 to recognise excellence in prime lamb production within the commercial sector.

The objectives of the program are as follows:

- To identify and reward commercial prime lamb producers who demonstrate excellence within the sheep meat industry and meet export market specifications.
- To stimulate interest and encourage production systems which improve prime lamb production.
- To utilise technology that provides informative feedback to producers on prime lamb carcass quality and yield.
- To provide prime lamb producers with the opportunity to benchmark their flock within the industry.

Entry requirements

Entry to the competition requires consignments to be at least 200 lambs and within the 20-30 kg carcass weight range. These consignments are processed at Castricum Brothers abattoir in Dandenong and assessed

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using the Australian-developed electronic carcass evaluation system, VIAscan.

Judging process

The VIAscan evaluation system is utilised in objective prime lamb carcass assessment and feedback systems and enables the distinction between lambs with comparatively more meat than lambs of the same weight that are fatter and lower yielding.

Measurements are achieved through assessing the lean meat yield based on carcass weight, loin content, estimated fat depth and distribution through video image analysis.

Outstanding carcasses will achieve both high carcass weight and lean meat yield and are rewarded due to the high processing efficiency they present.

Texels meets solid approval

(from an article in Prime Talk, Stock & Land, by Murray Arnel)

One of the largest displays of commercially-bred Texel prime lambs was cleared by saleyards auction at the Bendigo prime lamb market on March 29.

The breed, which since its arrival in Australia in the 1990's has enjoyed huge

success in carcass competitions, is rarely sighted in the nation's saleyards. Many of its commercial producers prefer to sell direct to abattoirs, where the breed's claim of higher than average carcass meat yields deliver the dividends.

The 2200 head of Texel-cross lambs in the sale were drawn from as far as Antwerp in the state's west, Hamilton in the south and Cootamundra and Deniliquin in New South Wales.

Others were also trucked from Longwood, Geelong, Woodstock and Picola.

The sale was conducted by Landmark as part of its normal prime lamb market run, with a good number of pens weighed on-farm and displaying the weights.

Landmark's Barry Oddy said while the market as a whole was a shade easier, the presentation of Texel-sired lambs which he described as excellent, met solid approval from a broad array of trade, export and restocker buyers.

Six processor buyers secured pens during the clearance including exporters, Swift Australia and T. & R. Pastoral and Woolworths.

Mr. Oddy said the Texel's top priced yard of 74 exhibited by the Rennie family, Warren Park, Longwood, made \$148 a head.

Woolworth's principal buyer David Hudson, secured 800 head from the Texel display.

Mr. Hudson informed Texel breeders the company's Texel purchases were segregated from other purchases made on the day. The line was being returned to the paddock on irrigated pasture before processing after Easter.

Most other buyers chose not to segregate their Texel lots from other purchases. This was despite a plea made before Landmark selling began which caused some frustration among Texel growers, given their effort to convene the display and showcase the breed.

Event co-ordinator Roger Mason, Darebin Park, Woodstock, who offered 600 Texel-cross lambs, said almost everything they

had hoped for was achieved.

Mr. Mason said it was hoped the Texel breed would become more widely appreciated in years to come for the more valuable carcass the breed produced.

"Our aim was to bring to the attention of other producers, and agents, the quality of the Texel breed and we were pleased with the interest shown," he said.

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Mr. Oddy said local agents had taken a keen interest and some had commented on the breed's finishing ability and growth.

Texel enthusiast Mark Chambers, Marong, secured two pens of composite ewe lambs for use as future breeders. He paid \$139 for a pen of 158 and \$126 for yard of 100.

Weighing 59kg and 51kg respectively both were bred by Basil, Heather and Tim Jorgensen of Antwerp, who since 1996 have bred a self-replacing composite flock infused with East Friesian, Texel Border Leicester and Merino-genetics.

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the next Annual General Meeting of the Australian Texel Stud Breeders Association Inc. will be held on Friday, 16th July, 2010, at the National Hotel, Bendigo, Vic., commencing at 6.00 p.m.

This will be followed by the annual dinner at approximately 7.30 p.m.

Judging of Texels at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo, Showgrounds, Vic., will start at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday, 17th July, 2010, with James Corcoran, Gooramma, Galong, NSW, officiating.

There are just over 50 sheep to be judged with entries from Cypress Park, Doublecee, Elisabeth Murdoch, Glenarbrian, Mertex, Te Rakau and Tullamore Park.

Irish Visitor at Wagin

WA breeders had the unexpected pleasure of meeting with Irish stud breeder Naomi Ardis of Millburn Texels on a working holiday in WA as a break from study.

Naomi attended the WA annual general meeting to give an impromptu twenty minute photo presentation of her flock from her laptop, including photos of her very successful show team.

The following is extracted from WA Countryman, courtesy Sally Hincks.

There to see all the action in the Merino ring and check WA Texels was Irish colleen Naomi Ardis, herself a Texel breeder from County Armagh, with 50 ewes in her Millburn Texel stud.

She counts Texel breeding as a hobby – Naomi is actually studying a sports science degree and has taken a year off studies to travel.

She arrived in WA last October having landed a harvest-sheep work job out Dudinen way, helping run 7000 ewes.

Naomi is going home next month but will return in August after she's finished her studies – and attended some of the seven or eight Texel shows in Northern Ireland- to ride in the Kulin Bush Races in October.

There were 2000 British Texel Society members with Texels the most popular breed for meat production over there, Naomi said. "They're easy care and their thrive rates are high."

Her dad also runs about 150 ewes in his Ardis Texel stud, which are kept inside during winter (with Naomi's ewes) from November to March. A CCTV camera is mounted in the shed to keep watch over them during the night.

Naomi hopes to return to WA and get a job in the sports science field. "Australia is a really beautiful country," she said.



Naomi Ardis, Millburn, Country Armagh, Ireland – (Photo – courtesy Lauren Celenza – WA Countryman)

Wagin Woolorama

Five Texel studs exhibited 41 sheep, all entered as lambs except one, at the Wagin Woolorama on March 5.

A ram exhibited by Te Rakau stud principals Robert and Maria Wood, Bindi Bindi, won the first category for under one year and showing milk teeth, and when he came up against the other winners of their classes, it was clear his heavy, meaty body won him champion ram. Judge Alan Duff, Williams, was keen on the heavier carcasses which would produce the most meat, and it showed when he selected the Te Rakau ram which towered over his counterparts.

“He was carrying a huge amount of meat, he’s quite a big sheep for a Texel,” Mr. Duff said.

The champion ram was sired by a United Kingdom bred ram from the renowned Kirtle stud, which co-stud principal Maria Wood said all had outstanding hindquarters.

“They put on a lot of meat at a very young age,” she said.

“Many Texel studs in Australia have used related genetics from the same UK stud which produce a very meaty carcass very quickly.”



Pictured above: Maria and Robert Wood, Te Rakau stud, Bindi Bindi, stand with judge Alan Duff, Williams and Te Rakau’s champion Texel ram.

The ram’s huge meaty structure and frame meant he stood out from the other entrants. – (Photo –courtesy – Farm Weekly)

Ms. Wood also added it was a little known fact that Texels are the most used prime lamb sire in the UK, and hopes the breed will grow to gain a similar status here in Australia.

Te Rakau also won class 21, which was a pair of rams under one year showing milk teeth.

The reserve champion ram was from the Glover family’s JimJan Texel stud, Boyup Brook, also impressed Mr. Duff, who commented it was a big outstanding ram but didn’t carry quite as much meat as the champion.

Jim, Jan and Kristy Glover experienced great success in most of the Texel classes, winning three group classes plus the ewe over one year class, and

continued to make their mark on the Texel scene for their exceptional breeding and genetics.

They were slightly outdone in the ewe section when it came to selecting a champion, and it was Alan Franklin’s Alicia Texel stud, Hithergreen, that displayed the goods where it counted to come out on top.

The Alicia ewe was sired by a Tullamore Park ram, out of an Alicia stud ewe and it was her first appearance on the show circuit.

Mr. Duff said all the females presented had very good toplines, were sturdy and ready to do the work, but it was the Alicia ewe that had a nice, natural

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barrel shape and wasn't too overdone.

When it came to finding a grand champion, it was the Alicia ewe that Mr. Duff sashed, commenting he was a bit biased toward the female Texels and she was a fine example of the breed.

The reserve champion ewe ribbon went to a Te Rakau ewe to add to the stud's ribbon collection.

*(By
Caitlyn West – Farm
Weekly)*



Pictured above: Alicia stud principal Alan Franklin, with helpers Madison Armstrong (left), and Tegan Overton holding the grand champion Texel ewe

**2010 Sydney Royal
Easter Show**

Major awards were:

Class S677 - Grand champion ram
Tattykeel

Class S678 - Reserve grand champion ram
Cranbrook

Class S684 - Grand champion ewe
Cranbrook

Class S685 - Reserve grand champion ewe
Tattykeel

Class S686 - Supreme Texel Exhibit
Cranbrook

Class S689 – Champion group
Tattykeel

Class S692 Most Successful Texel exhibitor
Cranbrook

Detailed awards were:

Class 672 – Ram, showing milk teeth only, shorn, born after 1 June previous year.
Cranbrook, 1; Tattykeel, 2; Tara, 3.

Class 673 – Ram, showing milk teeth only, in wool, born after 1 June previous year

Tattykeel, 1; Tara, 2; Cranbrook, 3.

Class 676 – Pen of 2 ram lambs, shorn, born after 1 June previous year
Cranbrook

Class 679 - Ewe, showing milk teeth only, shorn, born after 1 June previous year

Tattykeel, 1 & 2; Cranbrook, 3; Tara, 4.

Class 680 - Ewe, showing milk teeth only, in wool, born after 1 June previous year
Cranbrook, 1; Tara, 2 & 3.

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Class 682 - Ewe, 1 to 2 years, in wool
Cranbrook

Class 683 - Pen of 2 ewe lambs, shorn, born after 1 June previous year
Cranbrook

Class 687 – RAS Group, consisting of one ram and two ewes, showing milk teeth only
Tattykeel, 1; Cranbrook, 2; Tara, 3.

Class 691 – Objective Measurement Class
Cranbrook, 1; Tattykeel, 2; Tara, 3.

Obituaries

Geoffrey Baker

The late Mr. Geoffrey Baker passed away on March 16.

Born on 31/10/1927.

Geoff was widely known as a studmaster and keen supporter of the showing especially with his Southdowns.

His Texel stud “Southern Pastures” which was founded in 1994 was dispersed on May 14 following his death, along with the Aussiedowns and Southdown studs.

Deepest sympathy to his wife Nancy and family.

Roger Wallace

Associate member Roger Wallace, formerly of the Bartex stud in Tasmania, passed away on June 15 following several years of ill-health.

Born on 21/7/1927 Roger was very generous with his time both in Tasmania where he was Region president for a time and when acting as a Texel steward at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show with his side-kick Alan Jones.

Roger also financially supported the National Show with the purchase of the whiteboard used for the judging results and later paid for repairs when the whiteboard was damaged.

Deepest sympathy to his wife Elsa and family

2010 Flock Register

Volume 17 of the Flock Register is at the printer and the statistics show 68 members and 3686 pure bred ewes and ewe lambs mated for the 2010 lamb drop.

The number of flock rams sold increased by 51 to 650 rams.

2010 Hamilton Sheepvention

Judging day for all breeds at Hamilton Sheepvention is **Monday, 2nd August 2010.**

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