



# MARCH 2010

# NEWSLETTER

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## *From the President*



MARIA WOOD

Many members and their clients are achieving outstanding results for Texel sired lambs sold on weight and grade.

A large consignment of Illawong sired lambs produced a carcass yield of 50% at T&R in South Australia, the oldest lambs at turnoff were 16 weeks and reached a top carcass weight of 30kg. A similar consignment of Baroa sired lambs produced a carcass yield of 52% at Coles Colac in Victoria.

We would all benefit if an appreciable number of these results were collected and made available to use as advertising.

If members know of results generated in the

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current selling season that could be used for breed promotion please fax the details to Peter Weston (03) 9817 6125 or email to [secretary@texel.org.au](mailto:secretary@texel.org.au)

If members require further information ask Peter Weston or me.

***Producer name and contact details.***

***Number of lambs in consignment.***

***Average liveweight, and weight range.***

***Average Carcass weight, and weight range.***

***Average YIELD as %.***

Weight and grade marketing is inseparable from the saleyards.

To gain public recognition we must be successful in the saleyards but the only way to build our public credentials is to demonstrate via weight and grade true Texel carcass value, and we have to ensure the results are publicised.

We are all greatly indebted to Roger Mason for arranging a Texel feature as part of the Bendigo sale on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Recognition of Texel profitability is growing with some well known processors seeking out Texel sired lamb.

Upwards of 2,000 lambs sold as a consecutive Texel offering at Bendigo will present an opportunity to acknowledge Texel value. A 50 kg liveweight lamb producing a 25kg carcass is more profitable than a 50kg liveweight lamb producing a 22kg carcass. Yield. Yield. Yield. The message seems so simple and is confirmed by research and progeny testing.

There are widespread reports of a good ram turnoff, with many members selling their entire offering. The improvement in the fortunes of all prime lamb producers presents us with a promotional opportunity. Outstanding yields in commercial production are invaluable advertising.

The New Zealand Texel breeders have made great promotional use of their

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VIASCAN with its separate values for forequarter, loin and hindquarter.

Every month Texel breeders can submit kill sheets to the breed association for comparison, with prizes awarded for the highest value consignments and the results widely publicised. Averages of 59% lean meat yield are not uncommon and the success of the message is reflected in their recent ram sales.

The NZ Central Progeny testing results are also impossible to ignore. Every year the results dispel conclusively the furbury that Texels don't grow. Of the top 100 Terminal sires for profitability (meat yield+growth) 39 are Texel, with a further 30 composites of up to 80% Texel breeding. Interesting to note that the purebred Texels outperform the composites, the top 20 sires include 9 purebred Texels and 2 composites.

I've received reports that Texels are now being integrated into many of the other NZ breeds on a much larger scale than previously. The auction sales statistics confirm the changes.

Unfortunately we have no value based marketing in Australia to demonstrate conclusively the lean meat value of the carcass, but we can demonstrate

increased profitability with carcass yield.

Myomax testing has produced more positive outcomes. The Chastons of Kanya-Stephryn in South Australia recently tested their 100 ewe flock. All but two ewes were Myomax Gold. A few rams were included to make up numbers, one of which was about to be used in mating but was identified as a microphthalmia carrier.

Of interest are further prices achieved at Lanark sale alongside the Aus\$440,000 record breaker. Another 8 rams sold for over Aus\$18,000 and a further 22 between Aus\$9,000 and Aus\$18,000. Any idea that the UK prime lamb industry is not as professional as Australia should be dispelled. Kelso in Scotland hosts one of dozens of terminal sire auctions, last September 4624 rams were offered in 17 rings over the course of a day by concurrent auction. The offering comprised 1632 Texel rams, 1341 Suffolk rams with the remainder made up of 13 breeds.

For those with email access the Limousin breed society is very successfully incorporating the myostatin gene in their promotion. Their Dec 09 magazine discusses a feedlot trial that demonstrated conclusively the profitability of the breed in feed conversion and carcass value compared to other breeds, and the implications for

carbon emissions trading in agriculture using breeds with more efficient feed conversion.  
[www.limousin.com.au](http://www.limousin.com.au)  
We could expect similar results if the same trials were done with Texels.

*From  
Maria Wood*

### ***Texel Feature Lamb Sale Bendigo***

Further to the letter 3/2/10 from Roger Mason to members

The feature sale of approximately 2000 prime cross lambs at Bendigo on March 29 is definitely proceeding.

Barry Oddy, Landmark, is handling the sale and can be contacted on mobile 0428 – 964 858.

Entries are expected from Andy Roberts, Basil & Heather & Tim Jorgensen, Mark and Helen Chambers, Bruce Hodgson, David & Ros Leigh, Roger Mason, Bruce Rennie, David Ware.

The Association appreciates the cash sponsorship from F.C. Hird & Co., Geelong and from Landmark

### ***PFIZER WEBSITE***

*The website for Pfizer Animal  
Genetics is  
[www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com.au](http://www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com.au)*

## ***2010 Texel National Show at Bendigo***

Please contact the National Motel urgently if you require accommodation during the Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo, Victoria, which runs from Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, to Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

### ***Contact details are:***

***National Hotel Motel***

***182-186 High Street***

***Bendigo, Vic. 3550***

***Phone: (03) 5441 5777***

***Fax: (03) 5441 5890***

***Email:***

***[enquiries@nationalhotelmotel.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nationalhotelmotel.com.au)***

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, at 6.00 p.m. at the National Hotel Motel, Bendigo, Vic. Judging starts on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, at 9.00 a.m.

## ***Tasmanian Rural Women's Award***

Gabbi Bresnehan, Tiger Point stud, Levendale, Tas., in February won the 2010 Tasmanian Rural Women's Award which acknowledged her work with the community for women battling depression and isolation and her assistance to Tasmanian farmers during the drought.

The award is sponsored by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and carried a \$10,000 bursary and the opportunity to attend an Australian Institute of

Company Directors course in Canberra.

Gabbi re-registered the Tiger Point flock last year previously in the ownership of her father John. Her late mother Marjorie was the Tasmanian Region secretary for over seven years.

## ***History Lesson***

I have recently been given the history of Texel sheep printed on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first official Texel Stud Flock register in Holland, dealing mainly with the breed's place of origin, the island of Texel.

Sheep husbandry has been the mainstay of Texel since the animals were first domesticated. The first Dutch settlers departing for New Amsterdam in America in the early 1600's stopped to take Texel sheep on board, as did many other seafarers.

The core flock on the island of Texel has remained at about 35,000, and these sheep were bred for centuries as a closed flock.

From the late 1700's the islanders implemented quarantine for any introduced animals. The island of Texel was suitable only for grazing and the breed evolved to utilise profitably this harsh environment of large tracts of dunes and brackish marshland.

First attempts were made to introduce new genetics in the early 1800's to increase wool yield, the most profitable sector of the sheep industry at the time. The crossbreeding was not successful, as the bigger heavier sheep required more feed and could not compete with the thrift and hardiness of the original Texel sheep, so the crossbreeds soon disappeared. Cheese making was secondary to wool production at that time and prime lamb a seasonal opportunity market.

A well-documented profitable live sheep export trade had existed between Texel and the Deptford markets in London since the late 1700's and persisted until the world financial crisis of the 1920's.

Texel was highly regarded as the grazing environment on the island produced quality meat. Dutch mainland farmers have always sought weaners from the island of Texel as the lambs grew out quickly to heavy weights on the better quality feed of mainland Holland. The farmers on Texel were renowned for always keeping their best sheep on the island.

In the early 1900's improved agricultural practice made horticulture possible on the island, making sheep farming less attractive. The changes meant supplementary and

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better quality feed became available and further crossbreeding took place to increase Texel productivity suited to more intensive sheep husbandry. Lincoln and Wensleydale genetics were introduced but none were as successful as selective crossing and line breeding back to Texels with an introduction of Border Leicester. Cheese and meat had become more profitable than wool.

The introduction of a flock register in the early 1900's with breed standards of excellence resulted in the development of the new type of 'Improved Texel'. The book is beautifully illustrated, the photos of earlier commercial rams bred to the standards of excellence closely resemble Texels here.

All stud rams had to be inspected by a select committee before registration which resulted in a very uniform breed type. Sires received extended classifications when their progeny had been inspected. After that time the 'Improved Texel' was sought throughout Europe with significant numbers exported to France, Belgium, Denmark and also overseas.

The English Texel type we are familiar with resulted from this breeding. By the 1980's with sheep breeding becoming quite unprofitable in Holland, the Texel breeders had split into two types, those

breeding the commercial sheep with which we are familiar, and those breeding 'Extreme Texels' for the showing and hobby farmers. The indented nose, short neck and exaggerated hindquarter are a recent development seen as undesirable by many commercial breeders. Recently breeders on Texel have begun importing descendants of their original exports to France and England to reintroduce the more commercially desirable breed type.

*(from Maria Wood)*

### ***Lean Meat Yield and Supply Chains***

***by Project Leader  
Dr. Graham Gardner***

Economic analyses of the value of lean meat yield have been conducted in 5 lamb processing plants. The analysis will form the basis of a proposal for improving processing efficiency for target markets and increase demand for lean meat yield throughout the lamb supply chain.

A lamb supply chain coordinator has been appointed to assist the CRC and MLA engage with processors and their lamb supply chains, to ensure proper alignment and coordination of engagement activities, avoid any duplication of effort, and help identify synergies in the approach. A number of processors

and their lamb supply chains have been identified for engagement along with a set of CRC and MLA products potentially useful for supply chain improvement, including lean meat yield.

Accurate fat and muscle depth are critical for the calculation of lean meat yield. Following the successful early assessment of the Sheep GR probe to measure fat depth at the GR site, a detailed proposal for modification and automation of this device is being developed to enable it to also measure eye muscle depth and C-site fat depth.

David Pethick and MLA representatives are meeting with major retailers to discuss opportunities for lean meat yield projects. The first meeting was successful, and a formal proposal to consider a number of projects in the areas of lean meat yield, sheep genetics, and MSA lamb has been lodged.

A field day was run in conjunction with WAMMCO in Northam (WA).

This included presentations on markets, genetics (both maternal and terminal), parasites, eating quality and health, as well as a session by Rob Davidson describing the WAMMCO lean meat yield grid.

Approval has been given for a further processor/producer field

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day with T&R Pastoral group in South Australia.

Further field days with New South Wales lamb supply chains are being scoped.

**About the Project**

The global aim of program 3 is to increase the rate of improvement in lean meat yield as specified in the commonwealth agreement. The supply chain component of Program 3 will endeavour to help achieve this by:

- Work with early adopter processors to measure and benchmark lean meat yield (e.g. VIAscan plants).
- Work with early adopter processors to underpin alternative measures of lean meat yield.
- Use data from benchmarking activities with early adopter processors to develop Industry relevant descriptive statistics around lean meat yield.
- Work with Program 6 to develop ‘the case(s)’ for lean meat yield that brings in the benchmarking data, an economic analysis and processor needs to develop a final business case targeted at processors/retailers.

This project has a number of quantifiable targets that will demonstrate outcomes; 1) Adoption of new methods to predict lean

- meat yield (LMY) in up to 4 abattoirs;
- 2) Development of processor specific supply chains with a focus on LMY,
- 3) Economic analysis on increasing LMY through specified abattoirs.

Without this project the quality science delivered through 3.1.1 and 3.2.1 will have much less impact. If producers are not rewarded for adopting changes at the farm level in terms of the types of lambs produced then the improved selection methods will have a diminished adoption within the industry. This project provides the means for a pull through incentive that can drive change throughout the supply chain.

**Contact Details:**

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Lean Meat Yield and  
Supply Chains  
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[g.gardner@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:g.gardner@murdoch.edu.au)*

**Texel Newsletter**

Posting dates for the Texel newsletter are set out below with closing dates being 14 days earlier.

- **March 1**
- **July 1**
- **September 1**

A Calendar of Events will be included in each issue and members are invited to

forward details of their production sale date and major shows in their state.

Newsletters will be in black and white and will be posted, however the website version will be in colour.

Members wishing to receive the newsletter via email should contact the Secretary.

Advertising rates for the newsletter are:

*Page = \$150 + GST  
1 / 2 page = \$ 90 + GST*

**2009 Hamilton Sheepvention**

The detailed class results for the 2009 Hamilton Sheepvention were received after we had gone to press with the September 2009 newsletter

*Judge was Liz Russell,  
Tullamore Park, Donald,  
Vic.*

*Major awards were:*

**Champion ram**  
Mertex

**Reserve champion ram**  
Mertex

**Champion ewe**  
Mertex

**Reserve champion ewe**  
Glenarbian

**Most successful exhibitor**  
Mertex

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*(Continued from page 5)*

*Detailed awards were:*

**Ram over 1 ½ years old, shorn**

Mertex, 1; Cypress Park, 2; Leigh Partnership, 3.

**Ram under 1 1/2 years old, shorn**

Mertex, 1 & 2; Willaren, 3.

**Ram under 1 ½ years old, woolly**

Mertex, 1 & 2; Cypress Park; 3.

**Pair rams under 1 ½ years old**

Glenarbian, 1; Willaren, 2.

**Lambplan ram**

Glenarbian, 1.

**Ewe over 1 ½ years old, shorn**

Leigh Partnership, 1; South West Genetics, 2.

**Ewe under 1 ½ years old, shorn**

Willaren, 1 & 2; Mertex, 3.

**Ewe under 1 ½ years old, woolly**

Mertex, 1; Glenarbian, 2; Leigh Partnership, 3.

**Pair ewes under 1 ½ years**

Mertex, 1; Willaren, 2; Glenarbian, 3.

**Group 1 ram and 2 ewes, any age**

Mertex, 1; Willaren, 2; Glenarbian, 3.

**Lambplan Performance Class – Longford Trophy**  
Glenarbian

A social and presentation night was enjoyed by friends and exhibitors at

the “Wool Bales” after judging day.

**2009 Adelaide Royal Show**

**Champion Texel Ram**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke

**Reserve Champion Texel Ram**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke.

**Champion Texel Ewe**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke

**Reserve Champion Texel Ewe**

Willaren

**Most Successful Texel Exhibitor**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke

*Detailed awards:*

**Class 190 - Ram under 1½ years, shorn before 31 March**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 1.

**Class 191 - Ram under 1½ years, shorn, untrimmed, born after 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke.

**Class 192 – Ram under 1 ½ years, shorn, untrimmed**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 1; Willaren, 2 & 3.

**Class 195 - Ewe over 1½ years shorn, untrimmed**

Willaren, 1.

**Class 196 - Ewe under 1½ years shorn, untrimmed**

Willaren, 1 & 3; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 2.

**Class 197 - Ewe under 1½ years, born before 31 March**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 1; Willaren, 2.

**Class 199 - Objective Measurement Class**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 1; Willaren, 2.

**Class 200 - Sire's Progeny Pair**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 1; Willaren, 2

**Class 201 - Breeders' Group**

Willaren, 1; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 2.

**2009 Royal Geelong Show**

*Detailed awards were*

**Ram over 1 ½ years, shorn**  
B. & H. & T. Jorgensen, 1; Leigh Partnership, 2; Cypress Park, 3.

**Ram under 1 ½ years**  
B. & H. & T. Jorgensen, 1; Leigh Partnership, 2; Cypress Park, 3.

**Ram under 1 ½ years, shorn**  
B. & H. & T. Jorgensen, 1; Leigh Partnership, 2; Cypress Park, 3.

**Ram lamb**  
B. & H. & T. Jorgensen, 1; Cypress Park, 2; Leigh Partnership, 3.

**Ewe under 1 ½ years**  
B. & H. & T. Jorgensen, 1 & 2; Leigh Partnership, 3.

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**Ewe over 1 ½ years, shorn**  
Leigh Partnership, 1.

**Ewe under 1 ½ years, shorn**  
B.& H. & T. Jorgensen, 1;  
Leigh Partnership, 2.

**Ewe lamb**  
Cypress Park, 1 & 3; B. & H. & T. Jorgensen, 2.

**Group 1 ram and 2 ewes**  
B.& H. & T. Jorgensen

**Most successful exhibitor**  
B.& H. & T. Jorgensen

It was an extremely successful showing for the Mertex stud of Basil, Heather and Tim Jorgensen, Antwerp, Vic., at the 2009 Royal Geelong A & P Show.

Their Texel champion ram Mertex “Oscar” 59/08 went on to be champion ram of the Show and then champion of champions where it defeated the Poll Dorset ewe. Eight judges had adjudicated over 18 breeds so it was a significant win.

Oscar was also awarded the CopRice Victorian Ram of the Year Award, and is a son of the successful Mertex 33/06.

To cap off the exhibition, Mertex won the champion interbreed group of one ram and two ewes with 59/08, 31/08 and 170/08; reserve champion ram, and champion and reserve champion ewes; while in the prime lamb competition Mertex was first and second on the hoof in the

export section 24 – 29.9 kg and champion pen of lambs on the hoof.

Sixty pens of three lambs were exhibited in the carcass competition.

Texel breeders David and Ros Leigh, Laani, Ceres, Vic., finished second in the two classes of three lambs on the hook, 20-23.9 kg and 24-29.9 kg.

### **CopRice Ram of the Year**

The 2009 Coprice Victorian Ram of the Year concluded at the Royal Geelong Show.

Points were collected from show results at Berwick, ASBA Bendigo, Hamilton Sheepvention, Horsham and Geelong.

The Mertex stud showed the strength of their team with the first 4 placings.

There were 14 rams awarded points with the top eight rams being:

- Mertex 59/08 – 17 points*
- Mertex 22/08 – 10 points*
- Mertex 22/07 – 8 points*
- Mertex 13/08 – 5 points*
- Baroa 402/07 – 4 points*
- Mertex 167/08 – 4 points*
- Cypress Park 478/08 – 3 points*
- Laani 45/08 – 3 points*



*Pictured above: Mertex champion and reserve champion ewes – 2009 Royal Geelong Show*



*Pictured above: Much decorated champion ram*



*Pictured above: Reserve champion ram*

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Pictured above:  
Champion interbreed group  
Royal Geelong Show

### Heytesbury Carcase Win



Pictured above: Rosemary and Don Muir, Penryn, Mortlake, Vic., won Class A for lightweight 18-21.9 kg lambs at the 2010 Heytesbury Prime Lamb Competition – (Photo – Daniel Hodgson, DPI Warrnambool)

Hexham Texel breeders Don and Rosemary Muir have again proven they can win carcase competitions and turn off big lines of top quality export lambs.

In the Heytesbury Prime Lamb Carcase competition

in January the couple won two of the three classes: Class A for lightweight 18-21.9 kg lambs and Class C for 26-30 kg lambs.

They also placed third in Class B for 22-25.9 kg lambs.

All their lambs were sired by their homegrown Penryn Texel rams and out of Border Leicester-Merino first-cross ewes.

Many of the Muir lambs were also assessed as having the most desirable carcase shape and one of their Class B carcasses had the highest dressing percentage of all entries, at 56 per cent.

One of their Class C lambs had the highest eye muscle area in the class.

Last November the Muir's sold 301 Texel cross July-drop lambs straight off their mothers to Castricum Brothers that averaged 26.28 kg with a Viascan meat yield of 55.5pc.

They returned the Muir's \$114.79 a head, including a skin value of \$11. Heavier 30 kg-plus carcase wether lambs drafted off the main mob sold for \$117 in the saleyards.

Warrong grower David Pevitt produced the competition's champion carcase – a 23.8 kg Class B entry with the highest carcase value of \$4.66/kg.

Mr. Pevitt also took out Class B for 22-25.9 kg carcasses in the competition with his Texel-sired lambs

out of Border Leicester – East Friesian mothers.

He also entered the carcase with the highest eye muscle area in Class B. Ross Cowley had the lambs with the highest skin value of \$16.

(Acknowledgement to Terry Sim, Stock & Land)

### Perth Royal Show

Peter Russell, Tullamore Park, Donald, Vic. judged the Texel section at the 2009 Perth Royal Show, WA in early October.

Robert and Maria Wood, Te Rakau, Bindi Bindi, WA, exhibited the champion and reserve champion ewes and winning breeders group of one ram and two ewes.

The Te Rakau champion ewe was then judged supreme champion Texel.

This ewe had been judged reserve champion ewe at the 2009 ASBA Show Bendigo, Vic. and was described by Mr. Peter Russell as a well balanced ewe with nice feminine traits.

Jim and Jan Glover, Jimjan, Boyup Brook, exhibited the champion ram and winning group of three rams under 1 ½ years, while R. Lange, Meltrac Enterprises, Mirovi, Narrogin, had the reserve champion ram.

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There were four exhibitors who entered 49 Texels

*Major awards were:*

**Champion ram**

J.R. & J.M. Glover

**Reserve champion ram**

R. Lange

**Champion ewe**

R. & M. Wood

**Reserve champion ewe**

R. & M. Wood

**Supreme champion**

R. & M. Wood

*Detailed awards were:*

**Ram, under 1 ½ years**

J. R. & J.M. Glover, 1; R. & M. Wood, 2; A.E. & P.A. Franklin, 3.

**Ram under 1 ½ years**

R. Lange, 1; J.R. & J.M. Glover, 2; A.E. & P.A. Franklin, 3.

**Ram Lamb, born after 1 March**

J.R. & J.M Glover, 1 and 2.

**Ram over 1 ½ years**

R. Lange, 1; R. & M. Wood, 2 and 3.

**Pair of rams under 1 ½ years**

R. Lange, 1; R. & M. Wood, 2; J.R. & J.M. Glover, 3.

**Ewe under 1 ½ years**

R. & M. Wood, 1 and 2; A.E. & P.A. Franklin, 3.

**Ewe over 1 ½ years**

R. Lange, 1 and 2.

**Ewe lamb, born after 1 March**

J.R. & J.M. Glover, 1 and 2.

**Pair of ewes under 1 ½ years**

R. & M. Wood, 1; J.R. & J.M. Glover, 2; A.E. & P.A. Franklin, 3.

**Breeders group of one ram and two ewes**

R. & M. Wood, 1; J.R. & J.M. Glover, 2; R. Lange, 3.

**Breeders group of any three Texel rams, under 1 ½ years**

J.R. & J.M. Glover 1; A.E. & P.A. Franklin, 2; R. Lange, 3.

Jim and Jan Glover easily took major honours in the prime lamb hook and hoof competition at Perth Royal Show.

Competing against other breeds they won all three sections and exhibited the champion lamb – open – on the hook with their Border Leicester/Merino x Texel entry.

*Results were:*

**Section 1, Lightweight division – open, pen of three lambs on the hoof**

J.R. & J.M. Glover, (BL/Merino x Texel)  
P. Nadler, (WS x Merino/WS)  
L.J. & J.K. Fairclough & Sons, (M x PD)

**Section 2, Heavyweight division – pen of three lambs on the hoof**

J.R. & J.M. Glover, (BL/M x Texel)

L.J. & J.K. Fairclough & Sons, (M x PD)

L.J. & J.K. Fairclough & Sons, (M x PD)

**Section 2, Heavyweight division – same pen of three lambs on the hook**

J.R. & J.M. Glover, (BL/M x Texel)

L.J. & J.K. Fairclough & Sons, (M x PD)

J.R. & J.M. Glover, (BL/M x Texel)



*Pictured above: Inspecting their champion carcase lamb from the open classes were JimJan Texel stud principals Jan (left), and Jim Glover and their daughter Kristy, Boyup Brook. The Glover's also exhibited the winning pen of heavyweight open class lambs – (Photo – Farm Weekly)*

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*Pictured above: Judge Peter Russell (left) Donald, Victoria with the Te Rakau stud principals Maria and Robert Wood, Bindi Bindi, and the stud's supreme exhibit and champion Texel ewe – (Photo – WA Farm Weekly)*

***Perth Royal Show  
All Breeds Sale***

The 2009 Perth Royal Show stud ram sale produced mixed results with 24 of the 55 rams offered being passed in and a sale average of just \$3246.

Rob and Maria Wood, Te Rakau Texel stud, Bindi Bindi, offered and sold two Texel sires in the sale at an average of \$3350.

The top price for the Te Rakau team was \$3700 paid by long term clients WM Pittard, Borden, bidding over the phone with the assistance of Elders Moora agent Michael Longford.

Taking home the second Te Rakau ram at \$3000 was fellow Texel breeder

Tanya Hill, Tanalan stud, Esperance.

Both rams were grandsons of Kirtle Banker HMK 95037 of UK and had a MyoMax gold rating.



*Pictured left: WM Pittard (left) bought this \$3350 Te Rakau sire from Rob and Maria Wood at the 2009 Perth Royal Show – (Photo – WA Farm Weekly)*



*Pictured above: Tanya Hill (left) paid \$3000 at the 2009 Perth Royal Show for this Te Rakau ram, from vendors Rob and Maria Wood – (Photo – Farm Weekly)*

## **Albany Show**

Judge at the 2009 Albany Show (WA) was Todd Wilson, Willow Park, Byford, WA.

*Texel awards were:*

### **Ram lamb**

Jimjan, 1 and 2.

### **Ram under 1 ½ years**

Jimjan, 1 and champion;  
Mirovi, 2 and 3.

### **Ewe lamb**

Jimjan, 1 and 2.

### **Ewe under 1 ½ years**

Jimjan, 1 and champion,  
and 2; Mirovi, 3.

### **Ewe over 1 ½ years**

Mirovi, 1 and 2.

Entries from nine breeds contested the interbreed competitions with Tim Shepherd, Todd Wilson and Anna Darke being the judges.

The Jimjan stud of Jim and Jan Glover, Boyup Brook, won nearly every award and finished with reserve interbreed ram, champion shortwool ewe and interbreed ewe, champion shortwool group and interbreed group, champion interbreed pair of rams and pair of ewes.

## **Top Lamb Sale**

Ross Hamilton, manager for Charlotte Morley, Illawong, Victor Harbour,

SA, reported they were very happy with their sale last November of 840 Texel x East Friesian/Merino/Poll Dorset lambs which were 14-16 weeks old.

The lambs averaged 21.5 kg with a top of 30 kg, dressed 42.5 kg liveweight, and yielded 50 per cent on Ausmeat trim. They were sold through Elders Strathalbyn to T & R for slaughter at Lobethal, SA.

## **SALES**

### **Darkan, WA**

Jimjan sold 7 flock rams to a top of \$1050 and average \$782 at the Darkan and Districts Ram Sale last October.

The top priced ram went to the Gorter family, Kojonup. Buyer Rhys Gorter said he had been using the Texel as a terminal sire over his four-way cross composite ewe flock for eight years with pleasing results.

“We aim to achieve 130-140 per cent lambing consistently” he said. Using the Texel we get the yield and growth for early turnoff and our lambs have performed well in the Kojonup prime lamb competitions.”

*(from Farm Weekly report)*

### **Kojonup**

Jimjan offered and sold 8 Texel flock rams at Kojonup, WA, in conjunction with the Ida Vale Production Sale.

The rams sold to \$1100 and averaged \$775.

### **Moora**

There was a solid result at the Moora 24<sup>th</sup> annual prime lamb ram sale last October where a large contingent of return buyers competed on a selective array of 108 sires from seven local studs. Once again the catalogue was sold under the Elders, Primaries and Landmark banners and saw 102 rams of various breeds offered sell at auction to a healthy \$742 average, up \$152 on last year.

The Wood family's Te Rakau Texel stud, Bindi Bindi, kicked off the sale with some fine examples of the breed to clear all 18 rams at an average of \$731.

Bremer Bay graziers, W & T Pittard were among the Te Rakau volume contributors, taking home 4 rams to an average of \$886, while also securing the stud's top price ram at \$1300. Auchindail Farms, Mukinbudin, bought four, paying \$950 for their top price ram and a \$775 overall average, while S & G Smith, New Norcia, were in on the chase securing their six at a \$658 average.

## **TEXEL CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **MARCH 2010**

**Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>**      *Feature prime lamb sale Bendigo, Vic., with Texel cross lambs.*

### **APRIL 2010**

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>**      *Judging day, Sydney Royal Show.*

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>**      *Supreme awards, objective measurement and schools classes, Sydney Royal Show.*

### **JULY 2010**

**Friday, 16<sup>th</sup>**      *Texel AGM, National Hotel, Bendigo, Vic., at 6.00 p.m.*

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup>**      *Judging day Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo, Vic., including the Texel National Show.*

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>**      *Texel Federal Council Meeting at 8.00 a.m, National Hotel, Bendigo, Vic.*

### ***New Zealand News***

#### **Central Progeny Test**

Results from the 2009 NZ Central Progeny Test disclosed that of the top 20 rams for profitability (meat yield + growth), there were nine pure Texel and two Texel composite.

<b>Breed</b>	<b>Rams Sold</b>	<b>AV.</b>	<b>Gross</b>
<i>Texel</i>	40	\$1975	\$100,708
<i>Suffolk</i>	29	\$1012	\$ 43,500
<i>South Suffolk</i>	28	\$ 812	\$ 43,908
<i>Poll Dorset</i>	18	\$ 858	\$ 30,808
<i>Hampshire</i>	4	\$ 829	\$ 5,808

In the top 100 rams for profitability there were 39 pure Texel and 30 composites surely an outstanding result for the breed.

#### **Glimpse of the future**

Averages for the different breeds at the Canterbury A & P Association stud ram and ewe fair sale on January 14 were:

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