



www.polldorset.org.au/icon



www.coopworth.org.au/chrome



Come & See Us
At
SHEEPVENTION
August 4th & 5th

Sheep Marquee
SITE 194-196

Matthew Tonissen
PO Box 95
Hamilton, Vic, 3300
P: (03) 55711797
M: 0417 149 805
F: (03) 5571 1142
E:
icon.chrome@westvic.com.au

Jon Tonissen
P: (03) 5573 4559
M: 0429 431 450

It seems like the past year has flown since I wrote the August newsletter last year. For some, the past 12 months has been a really good year and others would probably like to forget the last 2 or 3.

However, the upside is that sheep numbers are at an all time low and supply of lamb for this years selling season is expected to be considerably lower than in previous years. Hopefully the future could hold some really profitable times for the sheep meat industry.

I think the swing away from sheep because of drought and cropping might well turn around in the coming years, especially for sheep that don't need to be mulesed.

The benefits of running a low cost self replacing prime lamb enterprise will really come to the fore should my prediction be correct as the cost of replacement ewes could be way too expensive to buy them in.



ICON NEWS

After a successful ram selling season in 2007 we were then lucky enough to get good rains in early November to enable us to finish off our commercial Poll Dorset cross lambs. Having genetics that grow quickly and finish easily enabled us to sell nearly all of our August born lambs sold straight off their mothers before Christmas.

With grain prices at historically high levels and the cost of production rising all the time it is important to have lambs reach target weights as quickly as possible, preferably on grass. Client feedback tells us that our rams are producing high growth, well muscled lambs with tight sappy skins. Our own lambs sold over the Via scan at castricums continue to produce red meat yields above the average.

Please come and have a chat with us at Sheepvention.

We are in the Sheep Marquee site 194-196, which is on the oval just adjacent to the Secretary's office.

Also sharing our site this year will be Horsham Stockfeeds. Take the opportunity to tap into a wealth of knowledge by talking to Lindsay Davies who is an expert in animal nutrition and livestock feeding systems.

TRAIT LEADERS FOR WEC

Chrome Coopworths had 26 out of the top 30 trait leaders for WEC in the run dated 15/6/08

Sold Out!

After selling out of Poll Dorset rams by the end of November last year it was obvious that we had to increase the numbers of poll dorset rams, especially the top end. We went the whole hog and embarked on an extensive Embryo Transfer programme which was extremely successful. We now have over 170 Poll Dorset lambs out of our best 20 breeding ewes as well as our natural mate and AI ewes to supply rams for next year and in the future.



Icon 56/07 at 12 months
Pwwt 13.8 Pfat -0.6 Pemd 1.7 C+ 191

Rams available this year

We have a few more rams to offer for sale this year however demand will possibly outstrip supply once again so I urge all current and prospective clients to place their orders as soon as possible. Rams will be offered on farm by private selection commencing Late October.



CHROME COOPWORTH COMMENTS

No Drench

One of the highlights for our stud and commercial flock is that no Mixed age ewes have had a drench for over two years now and the 2005 drop ewes will be undrenched for three years in December. Genetic selection, natural selection, management and our biological farming inputs have enabled us to achieve this. In this day and age it is both costly and labour intensive to be running around with a drench gun. Tomorrows prime lamb enterprise must be an easy care operation that runs at low cost with minimal labour inputs. Fertility is also an important attribute and this year coopworth stud ewe lambs scanned 145% to lamb at about 13 months of age.



Mixed Age Commercial Composite Ewes.
Undrenched for 2 years

Lamb skins

Probably the biggest hurdle producers have with breeding composite maternals is the perception that there are huge discounts for the strong woolled skins. People constantly ask "What about the skins?" Last selling season we sold a mixed draft of Maternal wether lambs and Poll Dorset 2nd x lambs over the hooks. I purposely split the mob into the two groups to see whether there were any discounts for the maternal wether lamb skins. When the kill sheets came back we had received \$9 for both lots-NO DISCOUNT. It doesn't matter whether lambs are sold through the saleyards or over the hooks, lambs that have good carcass shape and are not too leggy sell well regardless of skins. At the end of the day the skin price makes up a small percentage of the final lamb price. There is much more money to be made by running more ewes per hectare and selling well finished meaty lambs for an extra five or six dollars per head.



1 yo Composite Stud Ewe lambs. Scanned 145%

For any enquiries call any one of the below contacts:

Matthew Tonissen
0417 149 805

Jon Tonissen
0429 431 450

Robert Claffey
0418625839
(Rodwells)

Sandy MacKirby
03 55723553
(Stud Classer)

New Genetics

This year for the first time we are able to offer for sale the first progeny by NZ Romney and NZ Perendale sires. They appear to be tough and hardy animals that respond well after a long dry summer. We are eagerly looking forward to the next generation of these two breeds and also the progeny from this year's lambing. We will also have on offer our usual draft of composite maternal rams and pure coopworths. The rams are progressing well and are a very even type considering their breed makeup. They will be offered for sale by private selection Mid – late October.

If you have any queries please give Jon or myself a call.

Yours sincerely,
Matt Tonissen





MJ, TK & JA Tonissen
PO Box 95
HAMILTON VIC 3300



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Hamilton

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RESEARCH IN FEEDING SYSTEMS

Horsham Stockfeeds is currently researching and developing feeding systems for sheep being housed in a controlled environment such as an Eco Shed. Exceptional growth rates and animal health benefits have been noted in HSF's initial trials. Trials on fibre requirements (effective fibre) being initiated to determine fibre length and its impact on rumen function and growth rate.

See Horsham Stockfeeds at our stand No 194-196 at Hamilton Sheep-vention. Lindsay Davies and Jim Wade will be on site to answer any questions and will have their program available on site and will formulate new feeding programs and/or assess your current feeding programs. Pasture/grain alternatives, lambing twice/year and their product range to assist these scenarios.

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"We Sell Results"

PO Box 651
Horsham
Vic. 3402
Phone: 03 53 826 891
Fax: 03 53 826 892
Email: admin@horshamstock
feeds.com



Lambs being finished in Enviro Sheds at Donald