



October 2007

Resistance to internal parasites

Trial work by the Nemesis program and results from a White Suffolk progeny test clearly indicate that it is possible and economically beneficial to include genetic selection pressure for lower worm egg output.

The Nemesis reasearch showed moderate heritability levels meaning gains can be made and the progrny test showed increased weight gain in prime lambs when their sires were resistant to worms. This surprised some!

The 2007 Performance Maternal and Terminal matings saw us continue selection for less worms with the resulting lambs being 28% below breed average.

They have been sired by a diverse group of bloodlines, which we have identified from within our own flock and also imported from NZ as semen. The best of these are now 75% below breed average and I believe nearing no drench levels.

New developments within the Sheep Genomic area is the release of a DNA test describing 20% of the variation seen within this trait. It may allow even faster progress in this area. We have some outstanding 2006 drop rams for PWEC in the October 26th sale which would assist any ewe flock looking to improve its worm resistance levels.



Collection of dung samples for worm resistance EBV's is done directly from 2000 Performance Maternal lambs each year. Best done with a long handled spoon.

Reminders

- Oct 26th Fri Cashmore Oaklea Annual Ram Sale – Hamilton
- Dec 4th Tues Cashmore Oaklea Auction Plus Breeder Ewe & Feeder Lamb sale.

Cashmore Oaklea joins forces

During the “off season” Don and I have been doing strategic work with the ram breeding business and this has led us to start a new business called Cashmore Oaklea.



This is needed as we strive to simplify management of our expanding flock, increase rates of genetic gain, provide larger runs of even rams and provide timely information to you.

At a farm level the 1200 adult ewes will be run at Cashmore with larger scale AI and ET used. TGRM computer mate allocations will be increased and our R and D matings will be held at 20% as we maintain an open gene policy and search Australasia for new genes. This will allow us to increase management group size and increase “commercial reality” to how we run the recorded sheep.

Post weaning the best 1000 ewe and 1000 ram lambs will be transferred to Oaklea each year and run in 2 mobs. Here further weights, fat and muscle scans, dag score and worm egg counts will be collected. The ewe lambs will be mated in March and lambs recorded by Don and larger even runs of rams presented for sale.

We are looking forward to this new era and have already tagged 2500 maternal 2007 drop lambs under the new prefix Cashmore Oaklea with Lambplan code 150099. These lambs are linked with the Cashmore Terminals and the easy care Nudies and make up a data set totalling 3100 lambs. From here we have room to select for performance, maintain diversity and continue searching for those sheep suited to modern farming methods.



Thank you to all those who responded with updated contact details and were entered into the “win a ram competition”.

Steve Hindson, Casterton, Vic is the lucky winner of a ram of his choosing after being drawn from the bucket by Jock Keiller who at 5 years of age is now fully informed what a raffle is.

For further information on any of these articles please contact



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12th Annual Performance Maternal and Terminal

RAM SALE

Friday 26th October, '07

11am EST at the Hamilton Showgrounds Ram Pavilion

125 specially selected elite ET & AI Rams

25 elite Coopworth Rams

185 Performance Maternal Rams

25 Coopworth Rams

50 Poll Dorset & Composite Terminal Rams



Featuring Maternals
Cashmore Park and Oaklea
Performance Maternals
and Coopworths
Terminals
Cashmore Poll Dorsets
and Composite Terminals

3% rebate to outside agents

Further details from: Robert Claffey

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