



## FREE ONE - DAY EVENTS

Meridian Agriculture is organising and hosting a series of free events on behalf of Cashmore Park, called "Becoming a Nudie". With Australian sheep producers becoming increasingly interested in sheep breeds that do not require crutching, mulesing or shearing, these special events will aid producers to think through what is involved in making the switch and the issues needing consideration about before taking the leap.

The speakers for the event include:

**Rob Herrmann – CEO, Mecardo**

*The red meat outlook: The impacts of Covid, Russia, China, FMD and Lumpy skin disease*

**John Keiller – Cashmore Park**

Comparing shedding sheep to maternal composites, the ways to convert to shedding sheep, and understanding and determining what do you really want for your business

**Rob Banks – former head of AGBU**

How to strategically use quality data and what you should ask your supplier of genetics

**Peta Bradley – Sheep Genetics Senior Development Officer, MLA**

Sheep genomics, performance recording and using indexes



### EVENT DETAILS

#### Hamilton, Vic

**When:** 13 July 2022

**Time:** 10:00am - 4.00pm

**Venue:** Hamilton Showgrounds

#### Launceston, Tas

**When:** 20 July 2022

**Time:** 10:00am - 3.00pm

**Venue:** Country Club Tasmania

#### Wagga Wagga, NSW

**When:** 26 July 2022

**Time:** 10:00am - 3.00pm

**Venue:** Murrumbidgee Turf Club

**Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided**

**More info & Registration:** Visit <https://meridian-ag.com.au/events/> for more information and to register (registration essential)

**Further Enquiries:** Please contact John Keiller 0409 804 638 or Andrew Speirs 0428 685 172

# Cashmore Nudies

## July 2022 Newsletter



Hi all,

Please find a few ideas and an update on the efforts we continue to put into breeding better easy care Nudie sheep.

Regards,

*John R. Keiller* *John & Brigita Keiller* John & Brigita Keiller

### Optimum Nudie flock structures

We need some strategy to produce enough replacement females and also maximise genetic improvement and performance of the ewe flock.

I don't believe there is any room for Terminal rams in a self replacing system for the foreseeable future. The ewe is the engine room of our self replacing systems and we must strive to make them better each year. With the current genetic lag between Maternal Composites and Nudie/Cleanskin/Shedding sheep clear, how do we set up a system to provide enough replacement ewes at the highest genetic merit.

For easy numbers lets assume 1200 total females and 125% lambing.

	#	Lambs Produced	
Ewe lambs	200	200	750 ewe lambs
1.5 YO	200	260	750 wether lambs
2.5 YO	200	260	
3.5 YO	200	260	retain best 200 ewes with enough shedding
4.5 YO	200	260	
5.5 YO	200	260	
	1200	1500	

At first glance you could draft off clean ewes and mate to clean rams to provide 200 replacements annually, but the rams will have lower performance as they have less Maternal content in them.

A better approach is to mate all ewes to rams with enough shedding to provide 200 "clean enough" to be drafted from the 750 produced. The remaining ewe lambs and wether lambs will have bare breeches, not need shearing and can go straight on the truck.

These young ewes have 5 productive years a head delivering high performance outcomes and will help close the gap between Nudies and Maternals.

### Starting a non shear/crutch Nudie ewe flock

With the current prices for plus 30 micron wool being about 40% of the 10 year average, I have been fielding a few enquiries as how to set up a non shearing easy care Nudie flock. Following are some ideas that may help.

**Option 1** is purchase some shedding ewes and increase numbers from them. You could use Wilti Poll, Aussie Whites or Southern Dorpers but in the past this has been hard as there are relatively few flocks of these type of sheep, and certainly most are not large scale. The general comment about them has been parasite and feet issues when taken into wet country.

**Option 2** is box all your maternal ewes together, then have a draft or class down the race to select for short wool, low fleece weights, short staple length. Downs types seem to be a good base to grade from as shedding seems to come off them a bit quicker. Don't forget to select all the bare heads and legs. Breed surplus to total replacement numbers needed, i.e. so you can have a heavy draft of the F1's and keep those showing less wool characteristics.

**Option 3** is if you already have a shedding flock mate to Nudie rams.

## RAM SALE

**Friday 7th October 2022**  
1pm on AuctionsPlus

**250 Cashmore Nudie Rams**

**Economic Progress 2021 was \$4.09 per ewe mated**

John Keiller 0409 804 638  
[www.cashmorepark.com.au](http://www.cashmorepark.com.au)  
Email: [cashmorepark@bordnet.com.au](mailto:cashmorepark@bordnet.com.au)

AuctionsPlus



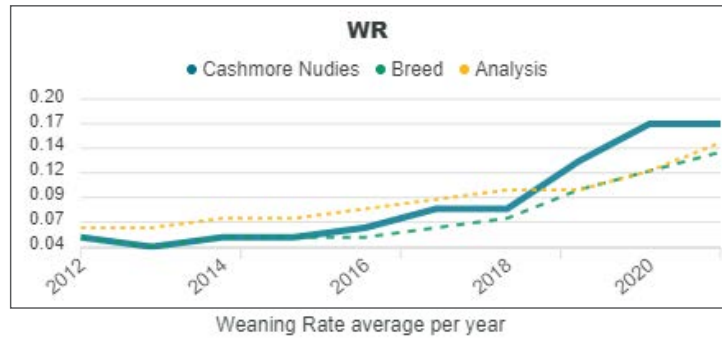
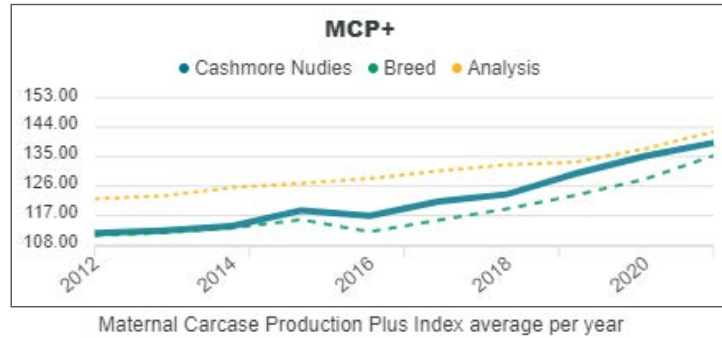


## 2021 genetic progress \$4.09 per ewe mated

We have made good genetic progress again in the Nudie flock with an increase of \$4.09 per ewe mated on the MCP+ index.

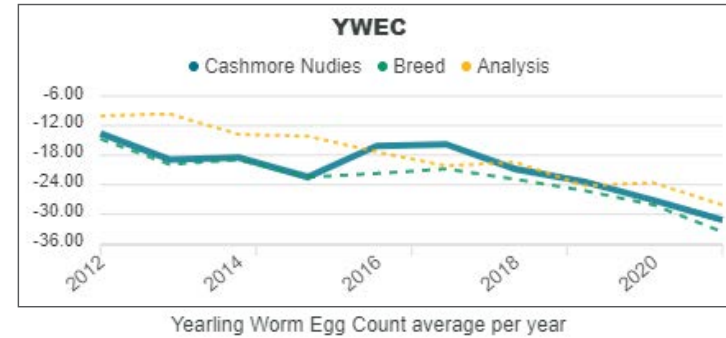
This has come about from improvement in a number of traits but two that we have graphed here need special mention. The EBV, NLW (number of lambs weaned) has been replaced with WR, (weaning rate).

WR has three component traits being, conception rate, litter size and ewe rearing ability. Our efforts in moving genes from the Maternals to the Nudies in this area is paying off with increases in overall WR.



This year we were very pleased to complete the computer matings and find no allocated matings with resultant lambs positive for PWEC.

Our whole 2022 lamb drop will have negative breeding values for parasite resistance, very nice to see, particularly after being hammered by worms again during Autumn 2022.



sheep GENETICS

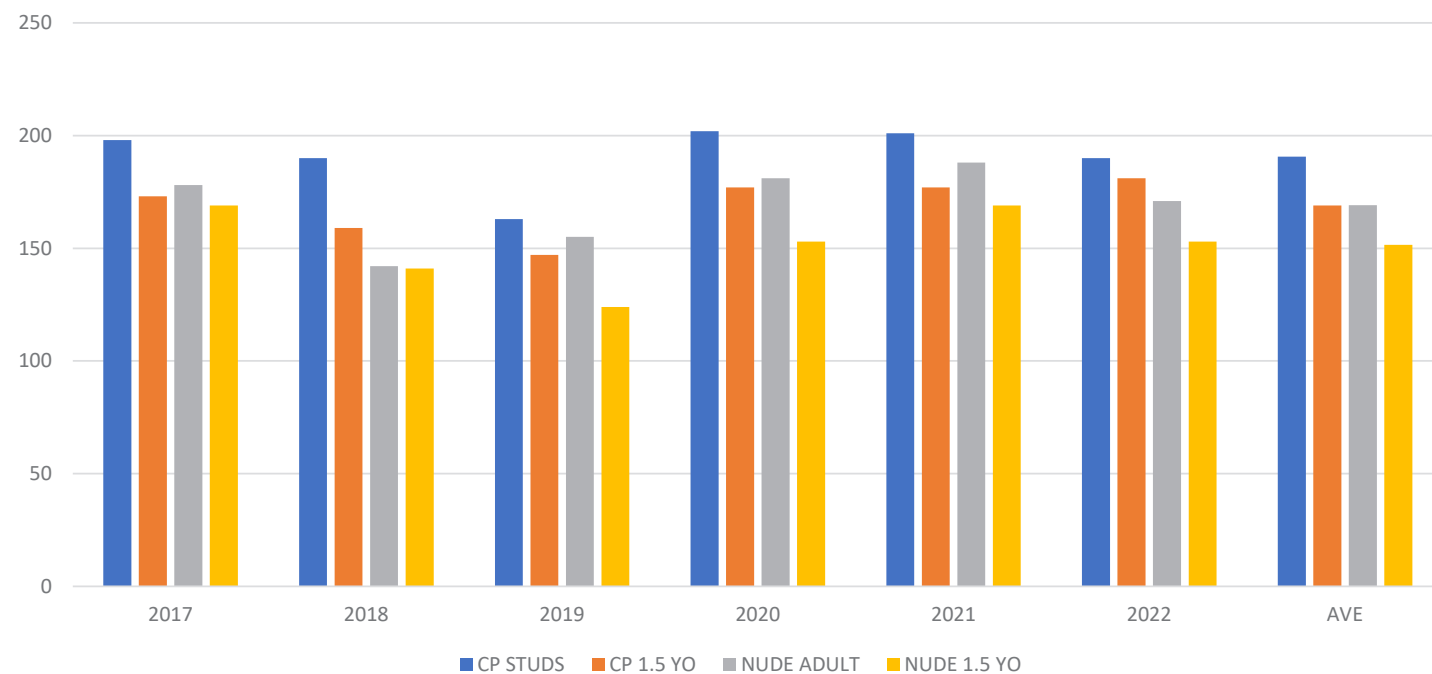


## Pregnancy scanning compared

I have compiled the pregnancy scanning records from the Maternal and Nudie adults and 1.5 year old stud ewes from the past 6 years in the following graph. The adult Maternal ewes average 1.90 with the Nudies at 1.69, being the same as the Maternal 1.5 year olds, and the 1.5 yo Nudies at 1.51.

All ewe lambs are joined each year at 7 months of age to apply pressure to puberty which does hold them back in their second joining year.

Six year scanning %, Maternal and Nudie



## Cosmetics verse production and profits; how much wool do we need off?

It seems that shedding sheep are plagued with how they look but in fact we should be interested in how they perform. You hear people say that they like to look at a nice clean shedding animal, that they look better and present better in the yards. I think sheep get it hard here because farmers are allowed to have a cow, horse or dog with a bit of hair in the winter but sheep have to be clean all the time. Our aim is to get out of the shearing shed and off the crutching trailer so provided flies are not a problem a bit of a saddle up the back is a small aesthetic price to pay.

The biggest cost in having clean skin sheep “clean” is the lost opportunity in annual production. While people walk about talking how nice and clean they look they are losing their chance at faster genetic gain. Simply what is happening is that because there are more maternal sheep breeders with many more recorded animals these animals are making faster genetic progress. These maternal genes must be leveraged and included in shedding animals however in the process some wool will be added.

The Cashmore Nudies are 6 years genetic progress, about 25 index points behind our top level Maternal flock. The 2021 drop Nudies average 139.2 MCP+, the 35 % band while the 2021 Maternals with quite a lot of R and D animals average 4% band, 169.3 MCP+.

So the question stands as “What is life threatening wool to you?”



## Data quality scores > faster genetic gain

Sheep Genetics have recently consolidated the 3 National sheep databases holding information collected by breeders and researchers on all Australian sheep during the past 40 years.

Improved analysis, shorter EBV turn around time, updated index's and new data quality score reports to breeders have been welcome improvements.

The new DQS reports provide metrics on pedigree analysis, flock performance, data summaries, sire summaries, reproduction and timeliness of inputting data.

An additional report on numbers of pedigrees and the amount of genomic info used is helping us target specific matings and structures within the flock.

Our generation interval is much lower than industry average as we use many ram lambs and mate all ewe lambs each year and has led to a 5 STAR rating of 82/100 in the Nudie flock and 5 STAR 99/100 in the maternal flock. This is a great result as it is our guarantee to clients that our animals do as we say they will.

