

CASHMORE OAKLEA WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

2022 Winter Edition

CASHMORE OAKLEA



Welcome to the 2022 Winter Edition of the Cashmore Oaklea Newsletter. It has certainly been a challenging season so far weather wise, with the late break causing us to watch and manage our feed availability in the paddocks. Having said this, there was an extremely good platform for the ewes leading into joining and scanning results from ourselves and our client base have been extremely positive.

Lambing conditions have been really good with very favourable weather. We've been busy tagging/weighing stud lambs at birth, collecting up to date data for sheep genetics. This is pivotal to being able to provide reliable data information for the Cashmore Oaklea bloodline. Our data quality score is 99%, which is well above the average maternal database of around 65%. Cashmore Oaklea is the only stud in Australia to receive 99% accuracy.

Good luck for the coming season ahead!

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Data Quality & Number of Lambs Weaned

We recently attended a Sheep Genetics forums in Hamilton (John) and Adelaide (Alex and Don).

The main subjects for us were Ramping up Genetic Gain (RUGG) and Data Quality Score (DQS) plus the new fertility traits and how they are reported.

DATA QUALITY SCORE:

The Data Quality Score describes the overall quality of a flock's data. It is made up of measures of data quantity, quality and timeliness. This includes measures of:

- The amount of data, including the number of animals and traits being recorded. The amount of data you submit. The more information sheep genetics has the better able they are to make unbiased comparisons of animals through ASBVs.
- Completeness and accuracy of records, including how well pedigree, birth date and birth types and performance records are recorded. Better quality data results in more accurate ASBVs.
- Data structure, including progeny numbers and sire representation across groups, and linkage.
- Timeliness, which is a measure of how promptly data is submitted to the evaluation from time of collection.

Cashmore Oaklea's data quality score is a very impressive 99% whereas the average in the maternal data base is about 65%.

Our greatest strengths are our linkages within our own flocks and with outside flocks for the traits of reproduction, growth and wool. This has come about by our usage of outside sires every year through both AI and natural matings. We also make sure that there are linkages across years and within our various mating groups. We always ensure that none of our mating groups get any preferential treatment so that our reproduction traits are as accurate as possible.

Our main weakness was number of progeny per sire. When we delved into this we realised that we didn't have a problem as most of the sires with low progeny numbers came from our experimental and research work. One of these research projects is where we put out a group of early puberty rams with our ewe lambs so that they will lamb between 350 and 375 days old. The lambs in this project are DNA tested to determine parentage. In 2021 we used 56 sires in the stud, and 35 of these had an average of 106 progeny per sire and the other 21 sires were mostly in our research program.

If anybody wants to see this full report please contact us and we will make it available.

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Data Quality & Number of Lambs Weaned *cont...*

WEANING RATE:

NLW and YNLW have now been replaced with weaning rate (WR) and yearling weaning rate (YWR). WR is calculated using the component traits conception (CON), litter size (LS) and ewe rearing ability (ERA) by accounting for the economic value on each of these traits at different litter sizes.

WR is expressed in the units 'lambs', similar to the component traits. Therefore a ram with a WR ASBV of 0.5 will on average have daughters who wean 0.25 more lambs than the daughters of a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Producers are going to have some interesting decisions to make and these will vary a lot on their management practises and time of lambing.

A case in point is the Oaklea 2018 drop ewes that are lambing this year. The ewes that have been demoted from the stud lamb in June and the ones remaining in the stud lamb in July. Their pregnancy scan results are as follows:

	% OF SCAN TYPE	% OF SCAN TYPE
PREG SCAN TYPE	JUNE LAMB	JULY LAMB
3	4	10
2	69	74
1	24	13
0	3	3
AV BIRTH TYPE	1.74	1.88

Ram & Ewe Sales

The Ram sale will be held on Friday October the 7th and will be the same format as the past couple of years through Auctions Plus.

Similar to last year, we will hold Open Days at both properties prior to the sale with all sale rams available for inspection. Friday 30th September will be the Oaklea Ram Inspection Day, with the Cashmore Park being held on Monday 3rd October. Times TBC.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ewe sales will again be held in the first week of December. More information to come on this.

Self Replacing Performance Maternals

Offering **500 Maternal Rams** And **250 Nudie Rams**

 **Index - top 5%** **RAM SALE** | Friday 7th October 2022, 11am

If these ewes were lambing in September they would probably scan well over 200%.

As litter size (LS) goes up it becomes more important to put emphasis on ewe rearing (ERA) than the other traits.

If we were lambing in May/June and scanning in the 160s to 170s with not too many dries, we would be putting a bit more emphasis on LS, if dries are a problem also look at conception (CON).

If you are lambing in July and scanning around the 180s to 190s, the balance of traits is probably about right and it is probably more beneficial to focus on the weaning rate (WR).

If you are lambing later than this and scanning over the 200s, it may be beneficial to put more effort into ERA.

INDEX:

The MAT\$ index has now been abandoned and we can only use the MCP+ index. We don't have a lot of faith in this index as we believe that it will lead us into having smaller, dumpier, lower fertility and slower growing sheep. The jury is out on this, but time will tell.

We think it is important for producers to identify where the shortcomings in their flock are, and chase the ASBVs that will make an improvement to their output. If you want more lambs, chase the reproduction traits, more growth the growth traits, more resilience the FEC traits and if you feel that your sheep are getting too big look at AWT. The important thing to consider is that every time you put too much emphasis on one trait it can have a bearing on other important economic traits.

The new WR, weaning rate ASBV.

Something for all ram buyers this coming purchasing season will be understanding the changes to how information is presented for fertility. In the past the NLW, or "Numbers of Lambs weaned" ASBV was used. This really has 3 component traits being, CON, conception rate, LS, litter size and ERA, ewe rearing ability. Breeders can now target these if they wish or use the new combined trait called WR, weaning rate.

Weaning rate is defined as the number of lambs weaned per ewe joined, and is expressed in the units of "lambs" similar to the component traits. As an example consider two rams, one with a WR ASBV of 0 and the other with a WR of 0.4. As rams make up half the genetic merit of their progeny, the ram with a WR of 0.4 will have daughters who on average wean 0.2 more lambs per ewe joined than daughters of a ram with a WR of 0.

We look forward to this new development speeding up genetic gain and increasing productivity in our flocks.

What's happening on the farm at Cashmore Park

Late summer and autumn is a busy time at Cashmore Park. February sees all the adult ewes come through the shed and across the Melwire to access foot structure and culling on type and constitution. About 3 % of the Maternal and 4 % of the Nudies are culled out. Faults observed are undershot mouths, devils grip and poor topline, soft pasterns and low body condition with just a few ewes exhibiting these each year.

Adult rams are checked and large numbers of ram lambs sorted on type, phenotypic performance and genomic EBVS, with candidate lists drawn up for MATESEL, computer mate allocations.

Then major sorts take place using the auto drafter, with ewes allocated to mating paddocks. Stud rams are then located and ewes mated.

At the same time as this is going on we are programming ewes for an AI program plus super ovulating donors for Embryo Transfer. This year we collected 325 embryos from 15 Maternal and 15 Nudie ewes and implanted them into 300 recipients.

Ewe lambs are syndicate mated at 7 months old for 4

2022 adult ewe pregnancy scanning

Mob	Empty	Single	Twin	Triplet	Total	%
Heathmere Nudie	3	17	39	4	63	170
Heathmere fats	17	154	396	35	602	175
Heathmere thins	20	154	379	35	588	173
Cashmore Nude	2	25	59	3	89	171
Demoted stud	18	149	416	66	649	182
Antony Maternal	26	210	678	85	999	182
NSW Maternal	38	237	717	59	1051	176
Stud Maternal	60	307	1004	182	1553	184
Stud Terminal	27	145	141	6	323	138
Stud Nudie	39	226	473	22	760	163
	4%	24%	64%	7%	6673	176%

Twiner Cattle

The 2021 drop Twinner calves were born from late August to early October across a 6 weeks period. We had a good calving with no assists in the adult cows or heifers and only a couple minor problems in the twins. Post calving all mobs are boxed and run together until weaning with the steers weighing 281 kg at eight months and heifers 262kg. Ninety eight calves were weaned from eighty three cows, ie a 118% weaning rate with the entire drop recently averaging \$1561 per head at Mortlake saleyards.

The herd has increased with 129 cows and heifers pregnancy scanned in Late February 2022 and the fertility rate continues to rise with the potential to get to about 150% in the near future. We continue to add performance recorded Angus into the herd for increased market acceptance which has increased the number of black polled calves each year.

2022 Pregnancy Scanning

Mob	Open	Single	Twin	Triplet	
Cows	4	54	21	1	129 %
Heifers	5	37	7	0	114 %
	7%	71%	22 %	129	

weeks to collect data on early puberty family lines. Then rams come out for a week B4 the main single sire mating takes place. Early April sees us fat and muscle scan the ewe lambs, then do another round of MATESEL computer runs to allocate 3000 stud ewe lambs to 30 natural mate sires.

Ewe lambs have grown quite well so hopeful have a good pregnancy scan in early July.

Cashmore had a late break and very slow pasture growth leading to the tightest year since 2008. This has led to considerable supplementary feeding and some single and twin bearing mobs in containment on hay and grain. Parasites have been chipping away again at health, productivity and costs however we are pleased that this year stud lambs will all have negative PWEC and the complete drop will average -55 ASBV.

Adult ewes have been pregnancy scanned with mobs ranging from 172 to 185%, and on average back 12%. This may be a good thing as we may not grow enough to feed what is coming. Lambing starts August 1 and the production factory will roll on again.



2020 drop Twinner heifers PTIC at 114%

CASHMORE OAKLEA



What's happening on the farm at Oaklea

We've been blessed with a new farmhand at Oaklea, welcoming the newest Lyon family member (Digby Lyon) born in early February this year.

Our rams and surplus ewe lambs again all sold well last year and buyers from all over the country have been very pleased. On top of our commercial flock, we joined 780 stud ewes in late Jan and 880 21 drop ewe lambs in March. Recent scanning results were 134% in the ewe lambs including 446 scanning twins. Older ewe lambs (out of mature ewes) gained 154g a day during mating and scanned at 150% whilst the younger ewe lambs (from ewe lambs) gained 164 grams per day and scanned 110%. The stud ewes are coming towards the end of lambing and we have tagged over 1100 lambs so far. Lambing conditions have been exceptional for us here on the coast and of the lambs born we have only seen 70 dead at birth or soon after.

This years sale rams are rocking along nicely. We have had them all scanned for fat and eye muscle, individually worm tested for their PFEC and started recording their phenotype records.



Alex & Digby

Our pastures have been short due to the late break. Our management of our paddocks has definitely increased compared to the year prior. We have been spraying for thistles and grubs and are winning the battle there. All in all the feed availability is there, however we will be hoping for a favourable Spring.

Jason Trompf visited the farm in early July to administer Melatonin treatment to a selection of ewe lambs which is a part of a research trial. The aim of the research is to determine whether Melatonin has any impact on improving twin lamb survival. The hormone is thought to have a strong antioxidant potential, helping to increase blood flow acting as a neuroprotectant and therefore having multiple benefits in pregnancy management. Specifically the study is looking at whether providing Melatonin to ewe lambs will prevent their lambs suffering with oxygen deprivation during birth, which ultimately impacts lamb survival. We'll keep you updated with any results from the study.



Melatonin trial with Jason

Upcoming Events

Come and say
'hi' to us at
Hamilton's
Sheepvention



Sunday July
31st to 2nd Au-
gust.

Ram Inspection Open Days—

Friday 30th September at Oaklea

Monday 3rd October at Cashmore Park

www.cashmoreoaklea.com.au

Self Replacing Performance Materials

Offering **500 Maternal Rams** And **250 Nudie Rams**

Index - top 5% **RAM SALE** | Friday 7th October 2022, 11am

- Our sale rams deliver \$23.50 per ewe mated above industry breed average
- Our Stud and Commercial Ewes scanned 185%, under high & challenging stocking rates
- Many Stud Sires are now 90% below breed average for worm egg count

Open Days (ram inspections)
Time TBC

- Friday 30th September, Oaklea, Kongorong SA
- Monday 3rd October, Cashmore Park VIC

Please register your attendance

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