

Becoming a Nudie - The pros and cons of switching to shedding sheep



FREE ONE-DAY EVENTS

Meridian Agriculture is hosting a free event on behalf of Cashmore Park, titled "Becoming a Nudie". Presenting the economics of shedding sheep versus Maternals, making the transition whilst retaining profit driving traits for fitness and meat production, understanding feed efficiency to improve ewe performance, and its benefit in reducing a farms carbon footprint.

Speakers include:

Bryony Fitzgerald - CGM Advisory Pty Ltd, John Keiller - Cashmore Park, David Packer (Hamilton) - Program Manager Meat Standards Australia, MLA,
Peter McGilchrist (Wagga) - Senior lecturer in Meat Science, UNE, Peta Bradley - Manager of Sheep Genetics, MLA,
Sam Walkom (Hamilton) & Daniel Brown (Wagga) - Animal Genetics and Breeding (AGBU), UNE

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WAGGA WAGGA, NSW

When: 12 July 2023 Time: 10:00am - 4.00pm When: 19 July 2023 Time: 10:00am - 4.00pm Venue: Hamilton Showgrounds RSVP: 10 July 2023 Venue: Murrumbidgee Turf Club RSVP: 14 July 2023

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided

For more info & registration visit https://meridian-ag.com.au/becoming-a-nudie/ (registration essential)
Yendon (03) 53416100 | Casterton (03) 5581 2826

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

Cashmore Nudies July 2023 Newsletter





Nudie Notes

Welcome to Nudie Notes with some information on recent happenings on farm at Cashmore.

Our sheep have come through a green 2022/23 summer period with difficult parasite challenges, hitting the lambs particularly. This would have been exacerbated by being 5kg lighter at weaning, in part from the effects of the horrible 2022 autumn.

Adult ewes pre lambing are condition score 3.1 and showing good health, so fingers crossed some fair weather should produce a nice marking result.

With wool values depressed and shearing costs increasing we have fielded solid demand for Nudie rams and ewes. Starting sale selections from 1000 head we will offer the best 300, 2022 drop rams, based on type and performance. The following graphs show great gains for MCP+ Index and Weaning rate across the last 10 years.

Looking forward to catching up across the Spring.

John. K. Keille

1/8/BKeiller

John and Brigita Keiller

Mating Time 2023

There has been a lot of thought and energy go into our Nudie performance recording program in the last few months as we have once again upsized our total ewe numbers to increase the supply of rams to many parts of Australia.

This has seen 1131 classed adult ewes mated to 14 top sires and 992 ewe lambs mated to 25 sires. As in previous years we have added high performance, low yearling fleece weight Maternal genes to the mix as we strive for a balance between wool shedding and all round productive characteristics.

We are expecting around 2500 Nudie stud lambs to be fully performance recorded at birth this coming 2023 spring period.

Candidate stud rams were selected on sound conformation, then the highest performance, with growth, reproduction and parasite resistance considered. The computer mate allocation software MATESEL allows us to manage inbreeding and co ancestry plus set shedding breeding values at an optimum level.



Pregnancy testing adult ewes

We find many benefits in pregnancy testing our flock each year as specific management and pasture allocation for each parity class then follows. Ewe and lamb survival increases and if pasture supply gets tight single ewes can be sold or run at higher stocking rates.

I have broken the Nudie ewes scanning results down into age classes this year which indicates quite consistent scans across them.

This is a good result for Nudies and probably shows 15 years of fanatical selection for NLW / WR on EBVs and also ruthless culling of reproductive non performers, empty at scan, wet/dry at marking, fail to wean lamb. We are still striving to improve the fertility of our flock and the capacity to scan 185 PLUS, but that will only happen with the introgression of superior fertility Maternal Composite genes.

| Mob | Empty | Empty % | Single | Single % | Twin | Twin % | Triplet | Triplet % | Total ewes | Scan % |
|----------------|-------|---------|--------|----------|------|--------|---------|-----------|------------|--------|
| 2016 drop ewes | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 0.16 | 9 | 0.47 | 1 | 0.05 | 19 | 1.26 |
| 2017 drop ewes | 3 | 0.03 | 22 | 0.21 | 69 | 0.65 | 6 | 0.06 | 106 | 1.68 |
| 2018 drop ewes | 1 | 0.01 | 21 | 0.15 | 95 | 0.68 | 16 | 0.12 | 139 | 1.86 |
| 2019 drop ewes | 5 | 0.02 | 50 | 0.21 | 164 | 0.69 | 12 | 0.05 | 237 | 1.75 |
| 2020 drop ewes | 12 | 0.04 | 68 | 0.22 | 199 | 0.66 | 18 | 0.06 | 303 | 1.72 |
| 2021 drop ewes | 45 | 0.06 | 168 | 0.23 | 472 | 0.66 | 28 | 0.04 | 719 | 1.66 |
| TOTALS | 66 | 0.04 | 332 | 0.22 | 1008 | 0.66 | 81 | 0.05 | 1523 | 1.70 |

Research and Development

As interest in Nudie shedding sheep continues to grow it became evident that more genetic questions need to be addressed and answered. As it currently stands the Nudie genotype sheep lack a reliable genomic reference population with one numbering > 6000 required. Additional phenotypes for standard base traits but particularly shedding score, time of shedding, body shedding pattern, crutch shedding pattern, fleece weight, fibre diameter, horn, worm egg count, birth coat, dag score and tail length are needed.

Cashmore Nudies have entered into an agreement with Meat and Livestock Australia, Sheep Genetics and Animal Genetics Breeding Unit for a period of 3 years to collect and collate this data on all our recorded Nudie Lambs. This large undertaking will fast track the genetic improvement of Nudie Sheep for the Australia Prime Lamb industry.

Understanding the genetic variation in shedding characteristics of sheep to develop a shedding breeding value

PROJECT NO. P.PSH.1421

Very interesting times ahead!



970 Genomic tested, full performance recorded 2023 drop ewe lambs in the "Shedding Characteristics Trial"

Nudie Stud Sires

The Nudie ram **N207194** is the strongest shedding ram on the research data base which now has 25,381 animals in it. First used in 2021 we have given him a big mating over adult ewes and ewe lambs this year and expect he will tear wool off his progeny.





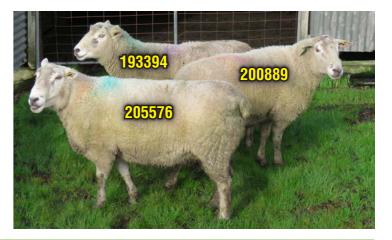
N218125 was selected as a semen sire for the embryo transfer program this year. He has a good balance of figures and is a great looking animal, with sound feet, nice stance, long deep body, well set in shoulders on a clean shedding skin. His pedigree is about 18 % Maternal Composite and loaded with embryo donor dams from both flocks going back a number of years. A very classy, robust animal.

Low Fleece Weight Maternal Rams

M193394, M200889, M205576

We have been incorporating Maternal genes into the Nudies to increase performance in a number of areas. These sires are all low fleece weight high MCP+ Index with diverse pedigree back grounds and will produce some great half breds to grade up from.

| ID | MCP+ Index | YGFW | WR | PF E | Shedding |
|---------|---------------|------|------|------|----------|
| M193394 | 172 | -32 | 0.29 | -54 | EBV |
| M200889 | 190 | -23 | 0.40 | -39 | |
| M205576 | 187 | -25 | 0.33 | -81 | |
| N207194 | 134 | -60 | 0.22 | -57 | -2.3 |
| N218125 | 150 | -28 | 0.19 | -75 | -0.4 |



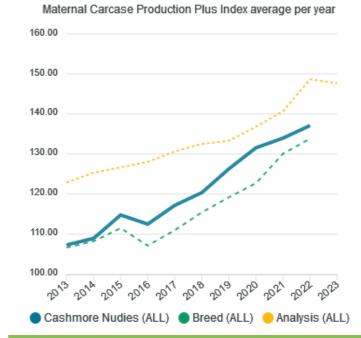
Data Quality Scores

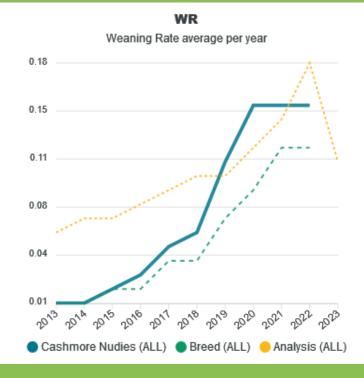
The Cashmore Nudie program has excellent scale and has been developed over many years to build a diverse base covering many important performance traits. We collect a vast amount of information from conception, birth, growth, reproduction to death. Many people are involved, all adding skills and dedication to the task at hand. The completion of the research project will greatly add to this result and deliver better outcomes for all users of Cashmore Nudie sheep.



2022 genetic progress \$3.15 per ewe mated

MCP+





Sales for 2023

Our on farm inspection day allows clients to view rams penned in groups of 10 in a low pressure situation allowing plenty of time for their assessment and consideration of particular ram needs. Feedback from this approach has been very favourable.

All rams are offered simultaneously on Auctions Plus the following Friday with deliveries commencing the next week.

Expansion of ewe sales in 2022 saw 25,000 traded from 20 vendors across two sales.

We have booked in dates and if you have stock to sell please contact Catherine Lyon on 0438 810 548 for further details.

| Sales | Date | Location | Stock | Contact |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ram Inspection Day | 02/10/2023 | Cashmore Park | 300, 1.5 YO Nudie Rams | John Keiller 0409 804 638 |
| Ram Sale | 06/10/2023 | Auctions Plus | 300, 1.5 YO Nudie Rams | John Keiller 0409 804 638 |
| Ewe Sale # 1 | 09/11/2023 | Auctions Plus | Est 1500 Nudie ewes & ewe lambs | Catherine Lyon 0438 810 548 |
| Ewe Sale # 2 | 06/12/2023 | Auctions Plus | Est 1500 Nudie ewes & ewe lambs | Catherine Lyon 0438 810 548 |