

Cashmore Oaklea Winter 2023 Newsletter



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Welcome to the 2023 winter edition of the Cashmore Oaklea newsletter. Despite being a lot wetter than usual for this time of year, we keep rolling along at both Cashmore Park and Oaklea.

This June saw us double our average rainfall for the month in Kongorong with Cashmore also recording 60ml above average. Prior to this the season has been sensational with a great spread of rainfall and sunshine.

We have been collecting plenty of data on this years sale rams, and they look to be in very good order.

We hope the season is suiting you all so far and are very pleased to hear some great stories from various Cashmore Oaklea flocks. Particularly with the Ewe lambs, some clients reporting scanning percentages in the 160's. Proving that with improved genetics and very good management practises we can achieve great results.

The Cashmore Oaklea Team

Money Making Mums

There are 4 basic principles to maximising returns in a self-replacing prime lamb flock.

1 You must run the **maximum number of ewes** that suits your land and environment with the least inputs and where possible no supplementary feed. This can be achieved by having good well fertilised pastures, proper animal health practices and the right genetics so that the grass that you grow is converted into the highest valued product in the quickest time to suit your fodder growth.

2 Turn off the **maximum number of lambs per ewe joined**. The first thing is to start with the right genetics and select your replacement ewes from your higher performing ewes. You should always check your ram team to make sure there are no duds. Cull all dry and barren ewes and any with faulty udders and teats. We also cull any ewes that are not showing the robustness that we like to see in our ewes. Pregnancy testing is essential, and splitting up the ewes so that those that are having multiples can be lambled down in the most sheltered paddocks and in smaller mobs to enhance lamb survival. Timing of lambing is crucial, if you go too early you will drop conception rate and run the risk of lambing on dry feed rather than lush green grass.

If you go too late you will definitely increase conception rate but can risk the season running out at the other end thus having many more carry over lambs that will rob your ewes for the next season. It is important to lamb on your farm at a time that best suits your fodder growth pattern and your target weight for the lambs that you sell. At Oaklea we lamb down our mature flock ewes on our winter country, as we get very little growth from January to April the grass starts to grow by the beginning of May through to the end of October then dries off in November December. We commence lambing on the 7th June and the average lamb would be born about 20th June. We run these ewes at 7.5 to the hectare and mark about 150% lambs. 95% of these lambs are sold in the 1st two weeks of November and generally dress out at 25kg (last year we only got 24.2kg due to not having enough sun shine in September October). Our lambs generally yield around 50% live to dead weight. Under this system after weaning our ewes get to stack the weight on up to mating, mate up well and then slowly lose weight up until the break and then regain weight to be in ideal condition for lambing. We do not do any supplementary feeding. Our stud ewes and 2-year-olds lamb 3 weeks later on our wetter coastal country.

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Money Making Mums cont.

③ Fast growing well shaped lambs with a tight skin.

This is achieved by having good genetics, good mothers, adequate feed and good animal health practises. There has been a push in recent years to reduce adult body weight by some producers and Lambplan through their MCP+ index and ultimately all they are achieving is slower growing lambs from mothers that are much shorter in the leg (thus more prone to casting) and less fertile. In the end you can run less of these ewes because of the extra carry over lambs and supplementary feed required. We are now seeing a lot of these so-called composite lambs coming onto the market throughout the season that are slow growing, poorly shaped and low yielding. A lot of buyers are very reticent to buy these lambs because they just won't perform in the feedlot or meat works. Most farms I visit that complain about the size of their ewes are not running enough of them and not emptying them out properly before shearing etc.

④ **Robust and resilient ewes.** It is important that your ewes have the ability to recover quickly when the lambs come off them and have the ability to stack the weight on so that they get back in lamb and can live off their backs through a dry autumn and recover again at the break of the season prior to lambing. At Cashmore Oaklea we have spent a fortune over many years testing animals for resistance to internal parasites and monitoring ewe recovery. Our clients report to us that they can see this flowing through into their flocks and often report on how robust and resilient their ewes are. A lot of this comes about because our stud sheep are run under some very hard conditions in large mobs where only the best sheep come to the top.

What's happening on the farm at Oaklea

Whilst the wet and muddy conditions have certainly provided its challenges of late, the season in its self has been superb. We have had fantastic growing days and there has been plenty of feed in the paddocks. Our commercial flock have lambed and been marked. The mob is made up of roughly 1600 ewes 18,19, and 20 drop. They weighed an average of 79.3kg at joining, and by preg testing had come back to 72kg. The ewes scanned at 174% with few triples (44) and the bulk twin (1151). Joining to marking numbers ended up being 153%. We were happy with this result considering they started lambing at the beginning of June. With the favourable weather conditions, I believe that a number of losses would be due to predation.

The stud ewes have almost finished lambing and the conditions for conducting they're birth recordings have been challenging to say the least. With some paddocks too wet to drive through, it has been a good (undesirable) opportunity to get some extra fitness in. We have been lucky with the ewes slowing down lambing through a few of the storms that have rolled through. Lambing ease has been exceptionally good and have had to assist in very few births.

Our Ewe Lambs scanned at 93%. Of the 790, 350 of these were born from ewe lambs and would be less than 12 months old. We had our challenges managing the feed availability and the ewes were back a little at joining. They are due to start lambing at the end of August.

The Ram Lambs have been through various performance recordings and data collections and from a mob size of nearly 1000 we have 450 remaining. The rams look to be in good condition for this time of year, and with shearing and some warmer weather they should present really well for the October sale.

Don caught an average of 1.5 crayfish per pot this cray season which was up on his season average. The only drawback being an increased level of gout due to the rich nature of the product. As in farming there is always un for seen challenges connected to success!



Catherine and Alex -
Pre lambing vaccination and
drenching of the stud ewes

Alex & Don

What's happening on the farm at Cashmore Park

A wet spring in 2022 pushed sowing date of fodder crops back, which were good quality but lower in total yield, so a load of lambs were sold as stores. Replacement ewe lambs were about 5kg lighter at weaning and coupled with parasite challenges over the green summer have gone to the rams at lower weight. I would expect only a fair result at pregnancy testing.

In contrast adult sheep have done very well and a favourable preg test averaging 1.85, with low numbers of empties occurred. The flock is always front heavy with young ewes as we strive for genetic improvement and supply older ewes to regular clients.

This year ewe lambs make up 33% of total female numbers as we rebalance the number of Maternals and Nudies we are running.

Starting with 2000 ram lambs at birth followed by an extensive measurement process, we have trimmed them back to 600, on type and performance. Currently they are all in the 4% band, about 45kg live weight with some hard, muddy, grazing pressure applied. Most are thriving and will present well in October at sale.

Our next task is lambing down 5000 stud ewes from the various flocks, so we have been adding extra tags to ewes, pre lamb drenching and vaccinating and conserving some pasture for multiple birth ewes.

Set stocking them across 130 paddocks takes a few days, but when bedded in its game on as new lambs arrive. Enjoy your sheep!

Regards, Johnno Keiller

Cashmore Park Pregnancy Scans June 2023

Mob	Empty	Empty %	Single	Single %	Twin	Twin %	Triplet	Triplet %	Total ewes	Scan %
Heathmere Maternal	3	0.01	85	0.16	367	0.69	77	0.14	532	1.97
Heathmere Maternal	7	0.02	41	0.13	214	0.66	64	0.20	326	2.03
Heathmere Nudie fat	7	0.10	32	0.18	103	0.58	35	0.20	177	1.94
Heathmere Nudie from Cashmore	18	0.03	62	0.31	113	0.56	9	0.04	202	1.56
Cashmore Maternal Selection	6	0.01	82	0.16	355	0.67	84	0.16	527	1.98
Cashmore Maternal Moles	6	0.10	33	0.09	210	0.58	114	0.31	363	2.19
Cashmore Maternal NSW	35	0.04	277	0.18	1085	0.69	182	0.12	1579	1.90
Stud Maternal	47	0.03	223	0.20	1076	0.72	158	0.11	1504	1.89
Stud Terminal	21	0.06	145	0.45	152	0.47	7	0.02	325	1.44
Stud Nudie	50	0.00	242	0.21	823	0.71	39	0.03	1154	1.74
TOTAL	201	0.03	1395	0.20	4617	0.66	780	0.11	6997	1.85

Ram & Ewe Sales for 2023

Our on farm inspection days 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.

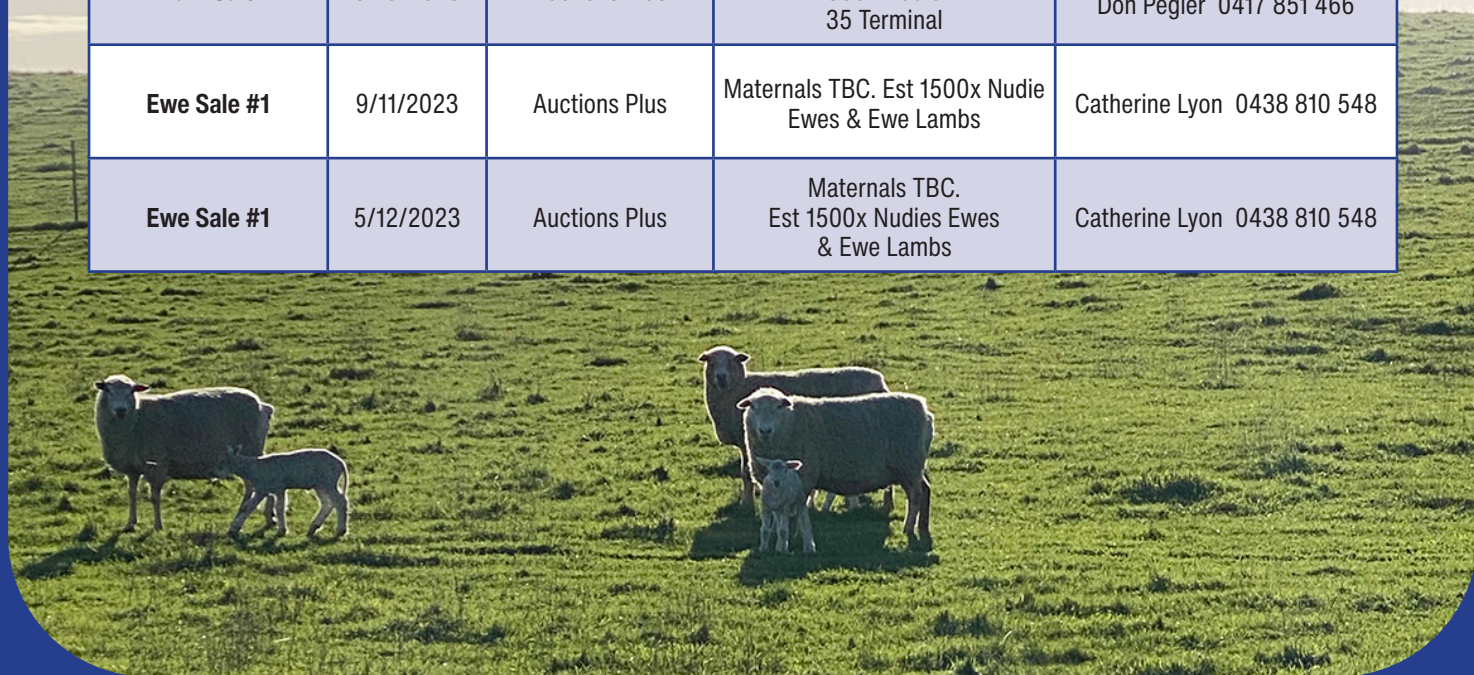
All rams are offered simultaneously on Auctions Plus the following Friday with deliveries commencing the next week.

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 for further details.



Scan QR code to view the most current sales info on our website
www.cashmoreoaklea.com.au/sales

Sales	Date	Location	Stock	Contact
Oaklea Ram Inspection Day	29/09/2023	Oaklea, Kongorong	250x Maternal Rams	Alex Lyon 0408 080 445
Cashmore Park Ram Inspection Day	2/10/2023	Cashmore Park, Cashmore	250x Maternal Rams, 300x 1.5 YO Nudie Rams 35 Terminal	John Keiller 0409 804 638
Ram Sale	6/10/2023	Auctions Plus	500x Maternal Rams, 300x Nudie 35 Terminal	John Keiller 0409 804 638 Don Pegler 0417 851 466
Ewe Sale #1	9/11/2023	Auctions Plus	Maternals TBC. Est 1500x Nudie Ewes & Ewe Lambs	Catherine Lyon 0438 810 548
Ewe Sale #1	5/12/2023	Auctions Plus	Maternals TBC. Est 1500x Nudies Ewes & Ewe Lambs	Catherine Lyon 0438 810 548



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