



\$6250 rockets at Rockdale

By KANE CHATFIELD

SELLING rams this year would be tough compared to previous sales, Rockdale Stud principals Haydn and Mark Edwards predicted.

But the stud defied the odds with a result at its second annual on-property sale last week with a shed full of thumping Prime SAMM rams, exerting plenty of length and muscle with white wools.

It also continued to affirm itself as one of Australia's major seedstock providers with numerous studs from around the country active in the sale both successfully and others just missing out on the Rockdale genetics.

With studs actively bidding on the top sires prices raced to a top of \$6250 however reduced bidding pressure at the backend of the catalogue opened the door for the commercial producer to fill their orders at more realistic rates.

This saw a \$318 lapse in averages across the board.

However, the stud cleared an extra handful of rams compared to last year.

Elders Dumbleyung representative Graeme Taylor said the commercial results of the SAMMs speak for themselves.

"Well presented line-up in a tough seasonal year that sold well to new and old clients," he said.

"Edwards' win in the WAMMCO state carcass competition and Rockdale's clients achieving excellent results shows the SAMMs on a commercial basis are getting the job done."

Buyers placed strong emphasis on eye muscle depth so when the July drop ET391 displaying August 21 raw data of 124kg, 51EMD, 8mm FAT and 23.1 micron pen number came up for sale, stud buyers rallied to place a bid.

Ross Taylor, Tiarrri stud, Lake Grace, fought off numerous prospective buyers, especially those bidding from interstate via the phone, and

agreed to the \$6250 final bid on the massive direct South African ET-drop ram.

Mr Taylor said the animal would introduce new genetics to the daughter stud of Rockdale and will have semen collected to use in an ET program using 30 stud Tiarrri and Rockdale ewes.

He said the ram was a good all-round sheep with medium wool and hopes to breed through the sire's superior meat, EMD and size into the progeny.

Graham Taylor bidding by phone on behalf of the Jeancourt stud, South Australia, secured ET 211, another thumping Rockdale sire rocking the scales to 128kg and scanning 48 EMD and 7mm FAT (23.8 micron).

Fellow South Australian breeders Pineview stud, translating through Elders Max Cunningham, purchased two future stud sires.

This included a 120kg July-drop ram for \$2400 that boasted raw data figures of 49EMD and 5mm FAT (23.6 micron) and the heaviest ram in the shed was a whopping 132kg July-drop ram that measured 48 EMD 7mm FAT (23.6 micron).

Other studs to source sires at the sale included the Yandanooka-based Enokurra Hills stud with a 130kg July-drop ram scanning 46 EMD, 7mm FAT and testing slightly finer in micron at 22.2.

Royston stud, Jerramungup, collected two rams paying to top of \$1900 for a 120kg July-drop measuring 48 EMD and 8mm FAT (23.9 micron).

There were still a number of commercial producers that were prepared to pay better



Prices reached \$6250 at the Rockdale Prime SAMM second annual on-property sale last week. With the top priced ram was Rockdale stud co-principal Mark Edwards (left), Dumbleyung, buyer Ross Taylor, Tiarrri stud, Lake Grace, and Elders Dumbleyung representative Graeme Taylor.

sale summary

Offered: 109
Sold: 99
Top: \$6250
Gross: \$99,550
Average: \$1006

money for their rams of choice.

Return buyers P Capito & Co, Bodallin, outlaid a healthy \$1386 average for a team of seven that peaked at \$1700 for a 106kg ram measuring 47EMD and 6mm FAT.

NG & DV Cronin & Son, Dumbleyung, also paid to \$1700 on their way to claiming volume status with an outstanding team of 11 rams.

Their top price pen contained a 120kg ram showing data of 44 EMD and 5mm FAT (22.3 micron).

GC & VJ Ball, Wagin and PJ & DE Taylor, Kenenup, both paid to \$1500 for teams of three and four respectively.

To a top of \$1300, GR & RM Sewell, Pingelly, purchased a team of three rams, Maroondah Farms, Yearling, took six and KS & D Bairstow, Dumbleyung, bought four.

Northam graziers J & J Powell loaded the ute with eight while RA & KM Walker, Lake Grace and GS & MJ Brockway, Wagin, each pencilled seven to their respective accounts.