

Successful fortnight for Prime SAMMs

IT has been a very successful fortnight for the Prime SAMM breed, with it receiving approval from both judges and butchers.

After dominating the interbreed championships at the recent Wagin Woolorama, the breed further cemented itself as a leader in the WA prime lamb industry with top positions in the WAMMCO Prime Lamb State Carcass competition.

This year 17,249 lambs from 76 entries were evaluated in the competition and of these 17 per cent were sired by Prime SAMM sires, the equal second most numerous in the competition.

For the second consecutive year the Edwards family, HA & PJ Edwards, Rockdale Prime SAMM stud, Dumbleyung, took out the title with a line of Prime SAMM lambs.

The win also made it the third time in four years the Edwards family and the Prime SAMM breed have taken out the top award.

The line of 104 lambs had an average carcass weight of 25.22kg, a 2.25 fat score and a WAMMCO Select lean meat yield (LMY) of 31.11pc.

Overall the average carcass weight for the competition was 23.2kg and the fat score was 2.6.

But it was not only the top entry from the Edwards which featured Prime SAMM genetics, there was another five entries in the top 10 producers overall in the heavyweight section which featured Prime SAMM genetics on either the sire or the dam side.

These included the second and third placegetters TJ & K Ward, Dumbleyung, and O'Toole and Bessell-Browne, Katanning, whose entries contained Prime SAMM blood on the dam side.

The breed success in the competition also came to the forefront in the trade weight section where the first three entries all contained Prime SAMM breeding.

In this section it was the

Quinlivan family, Quintarra Farms, Quintarra stud, Esperance, who was awarded first place with a line of lambs which were sired by Prime SAMM rams and out of first cross Prime SAMM ewes.

The line of 107 head from the Quinlivan's had a carcass weight of 20.91kg, a fat score of 2.08 and a WAMMCO Select LMY of 33.43pc, which compared to a 19.9kg average carcass weight and 2.34 fat score for all trade weight entries.

Second in this section went to KR & SK Powell, Katanning, with a line of first cross Prime SAMM lambs, while third went to Alan & Sandy Forbes, AW & SC Forbes, Royston stud, Jerramungup, with a line of lambs sired by Prime SAMM rams and out of first cross Prime SAMM ewes.

The line of 274 lambs averaged 20.83kg carcass weight, a fat score of 2.4 and a WAMMCO Select LMY of 32.2pc.

In the section for consignments over 300 lambs, the Prime SAMM breed also excelled, with three entries in the top 10 containing Prime SAMM genetics.

Leading the way in this section was Ross Taylor, RW & PM Taylor, Tiarri stud, Lake Grace, who finished third with a consignment of 340 pure Prime SAMM lambs.

The line averaged 26.44kg carcass weight, 2.92 fat score and 30.22pc WAMMCO Select LMY.

The top results in the carcass competition came only days after the breed took out two of the three interbreed awards in the prime lamb sire shed at Woolorama.

At Woolorama it was the Rockdale and Tiarri studs which led the breed's charge to the top, with the Tiarri stud exhibiting the champion interbreed ewe and Rockdale exhibiting the champion interbreed group.

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For third place they received \$1000 cash plus product donated by Superior Livestock Services.

In the over 300 lamb consignment category, Craig McAndrew, CP & SR McAndrew, Yelbeni, took out the first place honours with his 413 Poll Dorset-Merinos averaging 24.8kg for carcass weight, a 2.63 fat score and a total of 2307 points.

Second place went to Rob and Jamie Blight, RE Blight & Co, Beverley, with a line of 319 Poll Dorset-Merinos with an average carcass weight of 27.28kg, 2.91 fat score and 2248 total points, while in third place was Ross Taylor, RW & PM Taylor, Tiarri Prime SAMM stud, Lake Grace, with a line of 340 Prime SAMMs which achieved an average carcass weight of 26.44kg,

2.92 fat score and 2235 total competition points.

First place in the trade weight category was Todd, Jodie and Mick Quinlivan, Quintarra Farms & Prime SAMM stud, Esperance, for their 107 Prime SAMM lambs, which recorded a 20.91kg average carcass weight, 2.08 fat score and 1824 total competition points.

In second place was Kevin and Sharlene Powell, KR & SK Powell, Katanning, with a line of 464 Prime SAMM-Merino lambs at an average carcass weight of 20.78kg, 2.07 fat score to achieve a total of 1801 points, while a line of 274 Prime SAMMs with a 20.83kg average carcass weight, 2.4 fat score and 1596 total competition points from Alan and Sandy Forbes, AW & SC Forbes, Royston Prime SAMM stud, Jerramungup, finished in third place.

TOP 10 > 300 CONSIGNMENT

Place	Trading Name	Location	Breeding	Points
1	CP & SR McAndrew	Yelbeni	Poll Dorset x Merino	2307
2	RE Blight & Co	Beverley	Poll Dorset x Merino	2248
3	RW & PM Taylor	Lake Grace	SAMM x F1 SAMM	2235
4	Tipperary Farming Ent	Walkaway	Poll Dorset x Merino	2191
5	AH Hall & Co	Tenterden	Poll Dorset x Merino	2019
6	KT & ET Ridgway	Narrrikup	W. Suff x F1 Border Leicester	1962
7	PT & IM Jensen & Sons	Pingaring	SAMM x F1 SAMM	1939
8	GN & DL Batt & Co	Boddington	Poll Dorset x Composite	1831
9	KR & SK Powell	Katanning	SAMM x Merino	1802
10	SK & TR Angwin	Wagin	Poll Dorset x Merino	1777

Preg test for more lambs says Heggaton

By BOBBIE HINKLEY

WAMMCO's newest board member, Craig Heggaton, presented his thoughts on ewe and lamb management to attending members and shareholders at last week's State Carcass Competition presentations at Katanning.

Mr Heggaton, who also runs Genstock Animal Breeding Services, said despite a declining lamb supply and the current competition from live export he remained very positive about the future of lambing in WA.

While he didn't claim to have all the answers he did have some ideas on how to safeguard against a poor lambing season.

"It's about making the best of what we have at the time," Mr Heggaton said.

"It's about being proactive not reactive."

Mr Heggaton said that pregnancy scanning was a great strategy because it allowed producers to manage

their pregnant ewes more accurately.

"It's a great management tool to know that you're ewes are pregnant and then you can change your whole management to accommodate your lambing percentage," he said.

"As we all know it was an horrific summer for sheep last year, we had rain through harvest, the feed quality went off and stubbles lost a lot of value.

"Sheep were just going off the boil and not only did we have a bad start to the season where we lost a lot of lambs, but obviously we had a lot of ewes that just didn't conceive."

Mr Heggaton said now that ewe conception rates in WA were on the rise producers should be looking at multiple birth scanning and providing twin bearing ewes with better management.

"The ones that don't deserve as much feed are always the first ones behind the feed trailer, the poor old

ewe that's staggering behind, with two lambs inside her or two lambs following behind her, by the time she gets to the feed it's gone," he said.

Mr Heggaton believes that innovative feed lick technology could provide the answer to this problem.

"There is anecdotal evidence to show that lick feeders might revolutionise how we feed our sheep," he said.

"I think the proof's in the pudding."

Mr Heggaton also spoke about the benefits of grazing wheats in the ewe and lamb management stages.

Agriculture and Food Department officer Johnathon England was also on hand to speak about the Lifetime Ewe Management Program that is offered throughout WA.

The course takes a look at the ewe throughout her reproduction cycle.

"Farmers are encouraged to look at the condition score leading up to joining,



WAMMCO director Craig Heggaton, Kojonup, discusses ewe and lamb management options with producers at the WAMMCO State Carcass Competition presentation day in Katanning last week.

condition score throughout the ewe's pregnancy, lamb birthweights, lamb survival and a whole host of other variables," said Mr England.

Mr Heggaton believes that it is a "very worthwhile course to do."

For course details contact the Department of Agriculture and Food, Narrogin on (09) 9881 0222.