

Family says feedlotting pays off

WAMMCO's October Producer of the Month title winners, the Taylor family, Ross, his wife Pauline and daughter Kelly, of Tiarri Prime Samms Lake Grace, believe that feedlotting the right lambs still pays off, despite high grain prices.

A good start to the season helped their May drop Samm lambs put on plenty of early condition. The October winning consignment consisted of 216 of 600 SAMMs delivered straight from the paddock to WAMMCO in October. Another 600 went into the feedlot and have been going to Kattanning throughout November at minimum weights of 50kg live weight.

The winning consignment of 216 SAMMs was processed on October 27, and averaged 23.24 kg to return \$104.93 including skin.

WAMMCO Select paid a \$474.60 bonus or \$5.10 a head on 93 lambs (or \$2.20 a head over the total consignment)

"I do not agree with those who say feedlotting lambs does not pay — providing you have the options provided by good genetics," Ross said. "Producing our own grain on legume rotations also broadens the cost and profit margins.

"We normally aim to turn off lambs from the feedlot from January, through to April to capture the higher prices," he said.

But an excellent start to this season fired their legume-based pastures and brought the Samm lambs on early. They were in good forward condition when the rains stopped in August, prompting the decision to sell early.

The Taylor family won their first



Judge Malcolm Kalante with Barry Killick, Kelly Gooch and Ross Taylor holding the all breeds group long wool.

PHOTO: KATE MATTHEWS

WAMMCO Producer of the Month title in February 2007, soon after they began introducing South African meat Merinos;

when 50 percent of their sheep were Australian wool Merinos and there was a 50-50 sheep-cropping mix.