

Dual carcass awards for Cullam SAMMs



March WAMMCO producer of the Month winners Simon (left) and Rod Cullam, Cullam SAMMs, Jerramungup.

MARCH turned out to be a month of major achievement for Jerramungup lamb breeders Rod and Simon Cullam, Cullam SAMMs.

The family's line of 153 Prime SAMP lambs scored WAMMCO's producer of the month award for March.

The award comes after they were announced as third place getters in the heavyweight section of the WAMMCO 2010-11 State Prime Lamb Carcass Competition.

And to top it all off, fellow Jerramungup producers and regular Cullam SAMP clients Graham, Chris, Wayne and Marie-Claire Barrett won the over 300 lamb consignment section at the WAMMCO 2010-11 State Prime Lamb Carcass Competition.

The Cullam competition and commercial drafts defied chronic seasonal conditions to record high weights and high prices.

The winning producer of the month draft of 153 Prime SAMP lambs weighed an average of 22.89kg and returned \$6.05/kg including skins and had a WAMMCO Select payment of \$742.67 on 71.2 per cent or 109 of the lambs were processed on March 31.

It is one of WAMMCO's highest percentage payout since the WAMMCO Select system was introduced.

Lambs at the top of the WAMMCO scale were priced at \$5.90/kg with a few heavier individual lambs returning more than \$180 a head. The WAMMCO Select Bonus was worth \$6.81 a head on the 109 qualifying lambs or 21.2c/kg and \$4.85 a head over the consignment.

Simon Cullam said he was reinvigorated towards the lamb industry by the LAMBEX Conference in Perth last year and was pleased that predictions of continuing buoyancy in the lamb industry were ringing true.

"It was hard to accept predictions in 2009 that lambs would be worth more than \$100, now we are seeing predictions of \$140 a lamb becoming reality," Simon said.

"We have not seen a good season for at least three years but

our lambs have thrived and our returns have been excellent."

Cullam Prime SAMP stud was the third stud to be registered in Australia and followed Rod Cullam's decision to join the SAABCO syndicate that began accessing the meat-wool sheep from South Africa via embryo imports in 1997.

Simon was immediately dedicated to the cause and travelled Australia and WA promoting the Prime SAMP breed and Cullam SAMMs at shows, field days and sales.

The stud's first on-property sale was in 2001 and this was followed by the first major sale in 2003 when 100 rams averaged \$2000.

Last year's sale saw 50 rams sell to Eastern States buyers and the balance to WA producers.

Cullam breeding flock consists of 3000 ewes including about 650 stud Prime SAMP ewes and a complement of about 600 Merino ewes that were purchased a year ago when prices were more affordable.

"We have a good mix of first and second cross Prime SAMP ewes with the ewe flock giving us an average wool clip of 22 microns that continues to increase in value," Simon said.

"Other bonuses this season have been a 135pc conception rate with the current lambing and the sale of our dry ewes for \$111 a head."

Simon said Cullam SAMMs had a whole-system approach to keeping ewes in prime condition prior to mating and lambing, to ensure clean paddocks for lambing and weaning and provide fresh stubbles for shorn weaners.

"We aim to produce 42-44kg liveweight lambs for the feedlot and then to add 8-10kg over three weeks to guarantee a minimum 22kg carcass," Simon said.

"Milne Feeds Easy One pellets are proving economic because the lambs gain weight from day one and the pellets remove any uncertainty created by mixing your own rations."

Simon's father Rod Cullam travels up from Albany to assist Simon and his partner Helen with the lamb and cropping operations on the Jerramungup freehold and leasehold properties.

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