

Lake Grace Prime SAMM lambs excel



□ Ross Taylor and his family, Tiarri Prime SAMMs, Lake Grace, were winners of the WAMMCO producer of the month award for October.

WAMMCO'S October Producer of the Month title winners, the Taylor family, Tiarri Prime SAMMs, Lake Grace, believe that lotfeeding the right lambs still pays, despite high grain prices.

A good start to the season saw their May drop Prime SAMM lambs put on plenty of early condition and the October winning consignment consisted of 216 of 600 Prime SAMMs delivered straight from the paddock to WAMMCO in October.

Another 600 went into the feedlot and have been going to Katanning throughout November at minimum weights of 50kg liveweight.

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

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

"I do not agree with those who say lotfeeding lambs does not pay - providing you have the options provided by good genetics," Tiarri co-principal Ross Taylor 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."

But an excellent start to this season fired their legume-based pastures on the property and brought the Prime SAMM lambs on early.

They were in good forward condition when the

rains stopped in August, enabling the decision to sell early.

The Taylor family, Ross, wife Pauline and daughter Kelly won their first WAMMCO Producer of the Month title in February 2007, soon after they began introducing Prime SAMMs, when 50 per cent of their sheep were Merinos and there was a 50/50 sheep/cropping mix.

The pure Merinos have now been bred out in favour of the Meat Merino lamb enterprise, which now underwrites their farming operation.

The Prime SAMMs still have a Merino fleece, just not as much of it and the Taylors are hoping to develop a separate line of Prime SAMMs with soft, finer wool traits to cater for the strengthening market for 'next to skin' wool apparel.

Their Tiarri stud was founded on Prime SAMMs from Rockdale stud, Dumbleyung and expanded in 2008 with the purchase of the Kindelka Prime SAMM stud from the Walker family at Newdegate. This year saw the stud's first auction in August with good results. It achieved a 100pc clearance of 100 rams, mainly to local buyers, at an average of \$1050.

Ross sees the new \$5 million boning room at Katanning as confirmation of WAMMCO's faith in the lamb industry.

"Value adding is a key to our survival and we are going to need all the help we can get over the next few years from everyone, including processors like WAMMCO as well as live exporters and the local trade," he said.