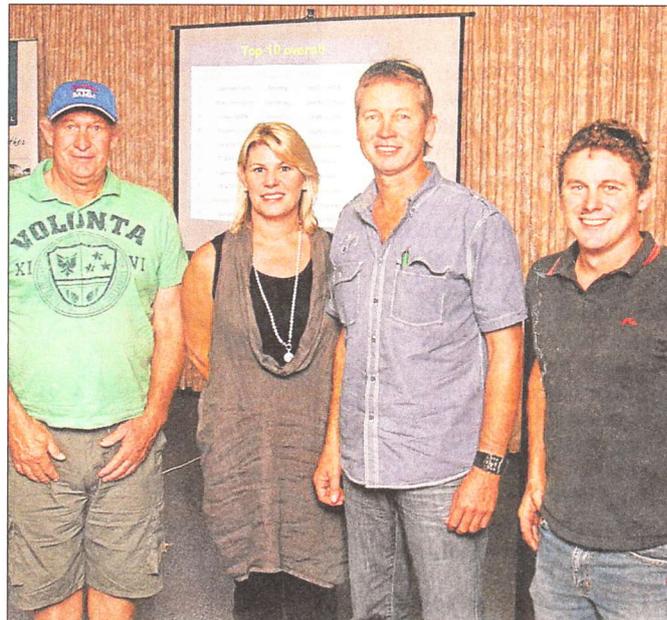




☐ Winner of the over 300 lamb consignment in the 2010-11 WAMMCO State Prime Lamb Carcase Competition was Graham Barrett (left), GH & CA Barrett, Jerramungup, with a line of 301 Prime SMMM lambs that earned 2601.03 points and finished in fifth place overall. Mr Barrett was pictured with third placegetter in the overall heavyweight section and his seedstock breeder Simon Cullam, Cullam Prime SMMM stud, Jerramungup and WAMMCO director Craig Heggaton, Kojonup.



☐ Third placegetter in the over 300 lamb consignment Ross Taylor (left), Tiarri Prime SMMM stud, Lake Grace, second placegetters in the over 300 lamb consignment Jody and Todd Quinlivan, Quintarra Farms, Esperance and Lee Bessell-Browne, Naballing Estate, Woodanilling, who finished in fourth place in the overall heavyweight section.

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that didn't perform to expectation to use the competition's evaluation

data to improve their lamb enterprises.

"Look at the results and opportunities available to improve, utilise the

TOP 10 > 300 LAMBS

Place	Trading Name	Location	Breeding	Points
1	GH & CA Barrett	Jerramungup	SMMM x SMMM	2601
2	Quintarra Farms	Esperance	SMMM x SMMM	2450
3	RW & PM Taylor	Lake Grace	SMMM x F1 SMMM	2369
4	Quintarra Farms	Esperance	SMMM x SMMM	2355
5	AJ Felber	Badgingarra	SMMM x Merino	2324
6	Tipperary Farm	Walkaway	Poll Dorset x Merino	2322
7	AJ Orr	Newdegate	SMMM x SMMM	2290
8	JE & MP Kiddle	Gnowangerup	White Suffolk x Merino	2227
9	PC, WL, BJ Johnston	Nyabing	White Suffolk x F1 SMMM	2155
10	CP & SR McAndrew	Yelbeni	Poll Dorset x Merino	2143

improvement in genetics offered by WA's elite studs on a yearly basis," Mr Davidson said.

This improvement in quality compared to the 2009-10 event saw the lean meat yield lift by 1pc which equated to an extra 230 grams of red meat per carcase.

An example to highlight this improvement is ninth place in the overall heavyweight standings this year would have finished third in 2009-10.

"This is an incredible result in such a short time frame to see such a dramatic genetic improvement," Mr Davidson said.

Poll Dorsets were recorded as the most used terminal sire with 44pc of entries featuring its breeding, followed by Prime SAMMs with a 22pc representation and White Suffolk accounting for 14pc of the entries.

This year's competition marked the first year the Merino ewe was no longer the superior dam of choice with first cross and

composite dams outnumbering the Merino 53pc to 47pc.

It was also the first time the Merino ewe has come below 60pc representation of entries.

Mr Davidson said the marking average was up significantly this year to average 108pc with 56pc of entries achieving over 100pc marking.

Of the growers that achieved over 100pc marking, 34pc used the Merino ewe while 72pc used a first-cross or composite dam.

"Producers going down the composite line are really starting to see the value in higher fertility but in saying that the Merino still has a part to play," he said.

The Prime SMMM breed might have eluded the competition's first place, but it was by far the most dominant breed in the top rankings.

In the overall section Prime SAMMs featured in the breeding of seven of the top 10 places including second to seventh.