

# Springfield Farm's third WAMMCO win

AN investment in a new set of integrated steel sheeyards confirmed a renewed commitment to sheep and lamb production for third time WAMMCO Producers of the Month, the Waddell family, Springfield Farms, Newdegate.

“With the bad seasons, a pending ban on mulesing and other problems two years ago, we were set to leave the sheep industry altogether,” Beau Waddell said this week.

“But we have kept both our Prime SAMM-Merino lamb enterprise and our Merino flock and the investment in new yards will assist with both.”

The family won WAMMCO’s November Producer of the Month title with a draft of 231 Prime SAMM-Merino cross lambs processed at Katanning on November 10.

The lambs weighed an average of 24.08kg and went over the scales at \$4.21 per kg to return \$106.43 including \$5 per skin.

Eighty bodies qualified for WAMMCO Select, returning



□ Russell and Sonia Harding, Springfield Farms, Newdegate, work a mob of sheep in the family's new set of integrated steel sheeyards from Atlex Stockyards. Springfield Farms was awarded the WAMMCO producers of the Month for November with a consignment of Prime SAMM-Merino lambs.

a bonus payment of \$398.22 (\$4.98 per qualifying lamb), or an additional 7.2c/kg across the 231 lamb consignment.

The Newdegate-based enterprise won the Producer of the Month titles for

August 2008 and March 2010.

The winning November consignment consisted of lambs dropped in April/May from a mix of Springfield cull ewes and locally sourced Merino ewes after mating to Tiarra and Quintarra Prime SAMM rams.

The lambs took full advantage of an excellent start to the season and remained on grass until delivery to WAMMCO.

With no further rain after August, a 600ha property at Takalarup near Albany became pivotal to the livestock enterprise and still has 500 lambs under the care of manager Scott Clements, pending delivery.

Beau and Michele are assisted by daughter Sonia and her husband Russell Harding in managing the Springfield enterprise which continues to focus on cropping, but 900-1000 ewes are mated each year to Prime SAMMs and 1500-1800 ewes are mated to Merino rams.

The properties also carry 300 beef breeders and around 1500 calves are bought in for backgrounding on stubbles

and lotfeeding at Newdegate under the direction of Lou Di Candilo.

Prime SAMM rams from nearby Ross Taylor’s Tiarra stud have been introduced over the last two years and Merino rams continue to be sourced from Lachie Lewis, Pallinup stud, Gnowangerup.

The aim is to retain more Prime SAMM-Merino cross ewes.

“But it is hard not to sell them when they are worth so much money,” Beau said.

The cropping rotation has been changed to two years crop, two years pasture with good results.

Low wheat yields this year were offset by a high quality grain harvest and high prices meant that most of the grain used in on-property feedlots was purchased as feed grain.

Beau attended the LambEx conference in August and was impressed by the positive outlook it generated.

“Cattle prices have also improved and we only need wool to keep following the example of higher prices for cotton, plus a good season to win the trifecta in 2011,” he said.



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