WEEKLY LIVESTOCK

Third WAMMCO win for Tiarri Prime SAMMs

A TRIFECTA involving later lambing, the first good season in three years with heavy summer rains and ongoing genetic gains, have combined with buoyant lambs prices to boost the returns of WAMMCO Producer of the Month for January 2012, the Taylor family, Tiarri Prime SAMM stud, Lake Grace.

When the Taylors won their last POM title in October 2010, their consignment of 216 Prime SAMM lambs processed on October 27, recorded an average carcase weight of 23.24 kilograms and returned \$104.93 a head including skin.

These lambs were also May drop and would have been lotfed for delivery to WAMMCO from January 2011 onwards to capture the higher prices.

But the rapid early growth from a good legume pasture situation before a premature seasonal shutdown resulted in the Taylors' decision to deliver them straight out of the paddock in October, 2010.

Their latest winning consignment of 132 late May-drop Prime SAMM lambs was processed on January 31, with an average carcase weight of 25.54kg and an average price of \$144.67 a head with heavier individual lambs returning up to \$170 a head.

Tiarri stud co-principal Ross Taylor said it was their first consignment of lambs to WAMMCO for the season and with a delivery balance of around 2000 of their 3000 lambs still to go, the signs were very positive.

Just over half of the winning consignment of lambs produced a WAMMCO Select bonus of \$461.13.

This equated to an extra \$6.88 a head on the qualifying lambs of \$3.49 a head or 13.7c/kg over the 132 lambs submitted.

Ross, wife Pauline and daughter Kelly have found the proceeds from their Tiarri Prime SAMM stud and commercial operation outweighed the proceeds from cropping over the past few bad years.

This had resulted in a change to their overall enterprise from 60 per cent cropping to the current 60pc Prime SAMM enterprise which is showing good returns from both meat and wool

Ross said about 30pc of the 4000 breeding ewes on the property were now pure Prime SAMM blood with Prime SAMM crosses of increasing purity accounting for the balance.

Heavy summer rains resulted in almost as much rain falling between September and December as they had for the winter.

The extended green feed has positioned Tiarri well to paddock-finish most of their lamb drop without lotfeeding.

This contrasted with the situation in recent drought years when most of the flock was on agistment. Kelly said they purchased another mature Prime SAMM sire from Rockdale last year and the family is pleased with the quality of progeny it was generating.

The family sold about 140 Prime SAMM rams last season to a strong local clientele with a few buyers coming in from other areas of WA.

Previous placegetters in the WAMMCO State Prime Lamb Carcase Competition, the Taylors, have also entered lambs for the current competition due to close at the end of February.