

Prime SAMMs chosen for right traits

By **CAITLYN WEST**

THE Innes family has always had an affinity with sheep.

Whether it was running their own flock on their Kellerberrin property or as part of a shearing team, Ric Innes and his brother Phillip have known for years that they wanted to be involved in the sheep industry.

Placing value on running sheep in addition to cropping was a family trait and the brothers have always farmed in partnership, which also includes Ric's wife Jan, Phillip's wife Julie and more recently Ric's son Mitchell and wife Lee-Anne.

When it came to selecting the most competent breed to use over their Merino ewes and produce a first cross lamb, the Innes family all agreed the Prime SAMP was clearly the best candidate for the job.

The ability of the Prime SAMP to produce excellent lambs with large, meaty frames while still growing quality wool was the ideal combination of traits, ones which the Innes



Just under half of the Innes family's 2800 Merino ewes were crossed with a Prime SAMP ram to target the prime lamb market.

family were particularly looking to introduce to their 2800 Merino breeding ewes.

To keep both sides of their sheep operation evolving, 1500 ewes were mated to Merino rams but 1300 ewes were joined with 30 Prime SAMP rams to target the prime lamb market.

Some of the ewes were joined with Prime SAMP rams

early and the rest joined later so Ric could sell lambs during the quiet period.

The robust nature of the Prime SAMP offspring meant they didn't require too much feed to get them up to the optimum 19kg-22kg dressed weight, even in the off season.

Originally the Innes family tried crossing their Merino

ewes with Suffolks but swapped to the Prime SAMMs mainly due to better quality wool and large-framed bodies.

"We were running the Suffolks and Prime SAMMs at the same time for a while there, but it was getting a bit too much," Ric said.

"We decided to go with the Prime SAMMs mainly because of their wool.

"But also they are beautiful, big-bodied animals and even when we are having a poor year, they grow.

"There's no doubt the Prime SAMP lambs have no problems getting up a lot quicker and it's safe to say they are way ahead of our Merino lambs."

In the past they have also attempted using F1 ewes with a Prime SAMP ram to gauge the results of more Prime SAMP genetics involved and said they were brilliant.

Even though they turned out a really nice, well-muscled lamb and had higher fertility, Ric said it became quite hard from a management perspective and decided to remain with producing first cross lambs.

He said not only was the breed perfectly suited to the family's sheep and extensive cropping program, they were also well-suited to the Wheatbelt environment.

TIARRI PRIME SAMP STUD

LAKE GRACE, WA

Fourth On-property Ram Sale 100 rams (2012 drop)

With EMD Micron & Weight Stats. Brucellosis Ovac. No. 467
(Large selection of rams 20-22 micron and above 99% CF)

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Inspection 11am, Sale starts 1pm
Food & Drinks Provided

Previous winners
of the WAMMCO State
Prime Lamb
Carcase Competition

Contact, Ross Taylor: 08 9871 9040
Kelly-Anne Gooch 0419 719 706 or
Graeme Taylor (Elders) 0428 642 004
tiarri@westnet.com.au • www.tiarri.com.au



1405699