

Prime SAMM proves its maternal worth

THE Prime SAMM breed has proven its worth as a highly profitable maternal breed, ranking second from five breed types for per ewe returns and well ahead of the traditional first-cross ewe, the Border Leicester-Merino.

The latest results of the Elmore Field Day sheep trial – Ewes for the FutureLambs, Wool and Profit released in April show the Prime SAMM group returning \$187.26 a ewe in wool and lamb returns in 2012.

This was made up of \$160.13 a ewe in lamb sales and \$27.13 in wool values.

The breed was second only to the Centre Plus Merino – a dual-purpose, fine wool Merino bred from a group breeding scheme which has a registered Merino stud in central west New South Wales.

They returned \$189.35 a ewe.

The Prime SAMM breed stood out – having the highest value carcase per ewe, the heaviest lambs at four months of age, and also the highest lambing percentages – to put it into second overall in profitability per ewe.

The July 2012 born Prime SAMM lambs averaged 47 kilograms when weighed in late November, a kilogram heavier than their nearest rival



□ The Prime SAMM breed has proven its worth as a profitable maternal breed in the latest results released by the Elmore Field Day sheep trial.

– the Dohne group of lambs.

In 2012 the Prime SAMM flock recorded 149 per cent of lambs marked per ewes joined compared to 148pc for the Border Leicester-Merino, 129pc for the Centre Plus Merino, the Dohne breed at 111pc, and the North east Victorian Merino at 110pc.

The average lambing percentages for the first three matings of the ewes at two, three, and four years of age has the Prime SAMM group just in front on 137pc compared to 136pc for the

Border Leicester-Merino group.

The Elmore trial in north east Victoria was established in 2009 to answer the often debated question – which is the best breed for prime lamb and wool production?

At the start of the trial, 210 ewe lambs were delivered to the site.

The five breed-types were each represented by 42 ewes.

Each breed type group was randomly selected from three properties, with 14 ewe lambs per property.

Ewes were run together as one mob except at lambing.

South Australian Prime SAMM breeders Bruce and Debbie Nulty, Kingston, were among those to supply eight-week-old F2 ewe lambs to the trial in 2009.

They have followed the progress of these ewes closely and say it is a real thrill to see the breed's strong performance against other maternal breeds.

Another real positive for the Prime SAMMs has been the low breech wrinkle scores achieved in the trial.