

Cronin SAMMs win carcass comp



□ Lake Grace farmer and placegetter Ross Taylor (left), WAMMCO senior marketing executive Albert Baker, WAMMCO supply development officer Rob Davidson, Zoetis senior sales representative Ben Fletcher, Gallagher WA regional sales manager Craig Moynihan, Roger and Tanya Hill, Tanalan Texel stud, Esperance, and young son William Locke, WAMMCO chief executive officer Coll MacRury, competition winners Suzanne and Dale Cronin and children Bailey, Hannah and Jasmine, Bunkin Farming Enterprises, Dumbleyung, placegetter Simon Culham (rear), Jerramungup, Superior Livestock Services' Henry Strating, National Australia Bank Darkan agribusiness manager Jessica Paterson, Milne Feeds' Reg Crabb, competition placegetter Wayne Barrett, Jerramungup and WAMMCO International chairman of directors Dawson Bradford celebrate one of the most successful competitions to date.

By LYNETTE CAREW-REID

THE 2013-14 WAMMCO International State Prime Lamb Carcass Competition has been won by the Cronin family from Dumbleyung in an extremely close contest.

Terry and Lynn Cronin, their son Dale and wife Suzanne, beat Lake Grace farmers Ross and Pauline Taylor by a mere three points to take out Australia's biggest, richest and most prestigious carcass event.

The Cronin's Bunkin Farming Enterprises scored 2763.60 points ahead of Mr Taylor's 2760.43 points for a line of 104 pure Prime SAMM lambs delivered in late summer.

It was one of six entries nominated by Bunkin Farming and all had been from a July drop of Rockdale blood lambs

that had been weaned and carried over the summer on stubble and finished on oats and Milne Feeds Easy-One pellets and lick.

In a commendable effort, four of Bunkin's entries finished in the money.

The winning line averaged 23.65 kilograms carcass weight with a 2.4 fat score (FS), and 97.1 per cent of the consignment gained carcass bonus points for meat yield (CBP).

The competition has been running 11 years and although it was Bunkin Farming Enterprises first win, the proven formula of Prime SAMM bloodlines again dominated the top positions in nearly every section of the competition.

This year's event carried more than \$25,000 in cash and prizes and attracted 35,714

lambs from 111 producers - making it the third biggest in its history.

WAMMCO's supply development officer Rob Davidson said the quality of the lambs made the competition stand out this year.

The event used the same weight, fat score and lean meat yield grid as in previous years allowing producers and organisers to compare lambs across seasons.

Mr Davidson said in this year's overall results the top 26 lines would have finished in last year's top 10 and the top eight in this year's event scored more than last year's winner.

He said the event had jumped to a new level and he encouraged producers not to be disheartened if they didn't finish in this year's top 10.

The broad spread of prizes gave the top five placegetters a share of the rewards.

The event attracted lambs from across WA, including Mingenew, Beacon, a huge number from Mt Barker (courtesy of encouragement from Landmark local agent Charlie Staite), Manjimup and Esperance.

Overall the 35,714 lambs averaged 22.74kg with a 3.02 FS and gained an average 1829 CBP for VIAscan lean meat yield.

Across the field VIAscan yields ranged between 43pc and 53pc to give an average 49.03pc yield.

Mr Davidson emphasised the need for large lean lambs saying fat greatly reduced yields and the difference between two lambs both weighing 22.75kg but with meat yields of 51.5pc and