

# Cronin SAMMs win WAMMCO comp



□ WAMMCO chairman Dawson Bradford (left), with competition winner Dale Cronin, Bunkin Farm, Dumbleyung, WAMMCO chief executive officer Coll MacRury and WAMMCO's supply development officer Rob Davidson at last week's presentations.

By **LYNETTE CAREW-REID**

THE Prime SAMM breed stole the limelight at the 12th WAMMCO International State prime lamb competition presentations at Katanning last week.

The breed has been a strong performer in previous competitions but this year its huge dominance gained many familiar names a share in the \$22,000 of cash and prizes distributed among the five carcass categories.

There were also plenty of first time entrants who finished among the top places courtesy of the tried and proven breed.

The overall competition was taken out for the second

consecutive year by Terry and Lynn Cronin, along with son Dale and wife Suzanne, Bunkin Farming Enterprises, Dumbleyung.

Their 101 full blood Prime SAMM lambs weighed an average 24.98 kilograms with an average 2.74 fat score (FS) of which 98 per cent of the lambs earned 3156.68 bonus points (BP) for VIAscan lean meat yield (LMY).

Bunkin turns off about 1800 Prime SAMM cross lambs annually and strategically drops them in July so the ewes require less feeding although they have now included ryecorn in their program as an early grazing crop.

The lambs, by Rockdale

and Gulgare sires, are carried through to late January/February to take advantage of autumn price premiums.

Cropping makes up 70pc of their farming split but they still have a strong sheep focus and recently bought a line of Gulgare stud Prime SAMM ewes to give them the opportunity to breed their own sires.

Last year the Cronin family won the overall competition with a slim three point margin over Lake Grace farmers Ross and Pauline Taylor.

This year the Taylor family was again second in the overall judging but was beaten convincingly by 200 bonus points.

The couple run Tiarri Prime SAMM stud and entered five lines in the competition and won the over 300 lambs category, but it was another line of 100 pure Prime SAMM lambs that was runner up overall.

This line weighed 26.1kg with a 2.94FS and 2956.15BP achieved by 96pc of the lambs.

The Taylor's lambs were July/August drop and were run on lupin stubbles before being consigned in April.

Their big line took out fourth place in the overall judging with 300 lambs averaging 25.35kg with a 2.71FS and 91.6pc achieving 2791.53BP.

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