

Tiarra top of \$2300 augurs well for season

By CAITLYN BURLING

IF the Tiarri Prime SAMM ram sale is anything to go by, this year's ram sales are set to soar.

The first sale of the season set the bar mighty high for those to follow after Ross and Pauline Taylor and their daughter Kelly-Anne Gooch's Tiarri stud completely cleaned up, selling all of their 99 rams under the hammer.

They also outdid their five-year high \$1156 average achieved last year by \$73, recording an average of \$1229 and an increased gross from \$109,800 to \$121,700.

There were many familiar faces among the buying crowd and some fresh ones too, including Geraldton farmer Darren Cobby, R & R Cobby & Son, who drove all the way to Lake Grace with his father Dick to attend the sale and test out Tiarri genetics for the first time.

The Cobleys have run Prime SAMMs for a number of years and were chasing a new bloodline for this year's joining, taking a punt on the Tiarri offering without ever seeing a ram from the stud.

Mr Cobby held onto the top price buyer title for a few minutes after he purchased the third ram on offer for \$2100.

SALE SUMMARY

Offered: 99
Sold: 99
Top: \$2300
Gross: \$121,700
Average: \$1229

This was a nice hefty 118 kilogram sire that had a 7mm fat score, 20.3 micron wool with a comfort factor of 98.9 per cent in addition to the highest scanned eye muscle depth (EMD) of 51mm.

He obviously liked what he saw and purchased a second ram shortly afterwards for \$1700.

But the Cobby's top price effort wasn't to be, as every eye was trained on the ram that stood head and shoulders above the rest in the fifth pen.

One of the heaviest sires in the Tiarri offering at 119kg, the ram was an obvious crowd favourite as bids quickly escalated from several interested parties and eventually being knocked down for the sale top of \$2300.

It was Elders Esperance representative Michael Forward who was holding the final bid on behalf of regular top price buyers Kelvin Kent, KK & LD Kent, Bodallin.

Mr Forward said the Kents



□ Elders auctioneer Nathan King (left), sold the \$2300 top price Tiarri Prime SAMM ram to Kelvin Kent, Bodallin, who purchased the ram with the assistance of local Elders Lake Grace agent Graeme Taylor and the advice of Michael Forward, who stands with Tiarri co-principal Kelly-Anne Gooch.

were keen to move entirely away from their Merino flock and towards a pure Prime SAMM flock, spending top dollar on all three rams they eventually purchased at the Tiarri sale.

"In other years the Kents were buying between seven and nine rams each year to build their numbers," Mr Forward said.

"But now they've got ewes ranging from F1 to F4 so they want to concentrate on buying quality, not quantity.

"They were chasing something nice and big, with a good eye muscle, fat and fast-maturing to get the lambs out and off the farm as quick as he can.

"This year they also wanted a ram with plenty of quality

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wool to increase their wool cut and this ram fulfilled every one of those requirements.

"He is exceptional, very big with great figures to match."

This year the Kents will mate 1900 F1-F4 Prime SAMM ewes with the top price ram at the forefront, passing on his favourable genetic figures such as 48mm EMD, a fat score of six and a wool fleece measuring 20.8 micron and 99pc comfort factor.

The Kents went on to buy their subsequent rams for \$1500 and \$1300.

Prices barely dipped below the \$1000 mark for the entire sale and 23 of the 25 registered buyers all bought at least two or more Prime SAMM rams to fulfil their requirements.

Volume buyers included PW & TA Ness & Co, Newdegate, who purchased a round figure of 10 rams for a top of \$1100 and average \$910.

After taking home nine



□ Driving all the way to Lake Grace from Geraldton were father and son Dick (left) and Darren Cobby to secure Tiarri genetics. The Cobleys had barely seen a ram from the stud before the sale but were so impressed they purchased the second top ram of the day for \$2100, followed by a second sire for \$1700.

rams from last years' sale, Kulin farmer Rob Dall, RA & SJ Dall, returned to bolster his sire battery once more with eight additional Tiarri rams, paying a top of \$1600 twice and averaging \$1375.

IF & KM Walker, Newdegate, was also in the

mood to spend, purchasing a total of nine well-grown sires for a top of \$1900.

Elders auctioneer Nathan King said the sale was solid from beginning to end, which was a true reflection of the very even line-up of Tiarri rams on offer.

"It's probably the most

even line of rams I've seen from any breed," Mr King said.

"The rams were in great shape and buyers could bid with confidence.

"If this solid result is any indication of the upcoming ram selling season, then it's all looking very positive."