

Tough competition in Prime SAMM judging



Exhibiting the champion ram in the Prime SAMM judging was the Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading. With the ram was judge Roy Addis (left), Nyabing, and Shirlee Downs stud principal Chris Squiers.



The champion ewe ribbon was awarded to the Tiarri stud, Lake Grace. With the winning ewe is co-principal Kelly-Anne Gooch and judge Roy Addis, Nyabing.

By JODIE RINTOUL

THE champion ribbons in this year's Prime SAMM judging at the IGA Perth Royal Show were shared among the three competing studs.

In both the ram and ewe line-ups judge Roy Addis, Ashbourne White Suffolk stud, Nyabing, found it a challenge to split the entries.

In the end it was the Squiers family's Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, which stood out, taking home two of the four broad ribbons on offer plus winning the two group classes.

The rams were first into the ring and it was here that judge Roy Addis selected the upstanding and heavy muscled Shirlee Downs ram for the champion ram ribbon.

When sashing the Shirlee Downs ram as the champion, Mr Addis said the ram was full of muscle with a heap of meat on his carcass.

"He is wide through the loin and also has plenty of length in that area," he said.

"He is an interesting animal in the fact that he is not heavy boned, but there is still plenty of fleshing there which is great."

The June 2007-drop Shirlee Downs ram, which was sired by Shirlee Downs 567, won his class for rams under 1.5 years showing no more than two permanent teeth to earn the right to compete for the champion ribbon.

Standing in reserve to the Shirlee Downs ram and being sashed the reserve champion was a well grown ram from Graham Sutherland and Tony Abbey's Sandown stud, Badgingarra.

The ram, which initially won the ram scan class for rams under 1.5 years showing no more than two permanent teeth and shorn, was described by Mr Addis to be very good through the loin and hindquarter.

"He also has a good carcass and great muscling," Mr Addis

said.

The ET-bred ram by AWM 281 and out of a Lombard ewe, finished on 97.5 points in the scan class to be 15.4 points in front of the second placed ram from the Tiarri stud, Lake Grace.

The Sandown ram weighed 117kg and had scan figures of 52mm for EMD and 7mm for fat, while he had LambPlan figures of 0.26 for bwt, -0.09 for mwwt, 4.16 for wwt, 3.95 for pwwt, 0.36 for pflat, 1.66 for pemd and a CarcasePlus index of 128.1.

The ewe classes were dominated by the Tiarri stud, Lake Grace, which won four of the five classes decided and it was therefore no surprise when the champion ewe ribbon was draped across the back of an outstanding ewe from the Tiarri stud.

The ewe initially came from the class for ewes under 1.5 years showing no more than two permanent teeth, where judge Roy Addis came close to splitting hairs when awarding her the first placed ribbon.

Mr Addis said it was very close between the Tiarri ewe and the second placed Shirlee Downs ewe and it was the toughest decision he has ever had to make in any judging he has done.

"They are two outstanding sheep and it was an honour to judge them," Mr Addis said.

"They are just awesome, they are similar in the wool and both handle well, but in the end I went for the Tiarri ewe as she is slightly heavier through the hindquarter and has a tremendous loin.

"They both have heavy carcasses and a nice stylish wool."

The Tiarri ewe which was sashed the champion was based on Rockdale bloodlines and was an April-drop lamb.

As a result of the Tiarri ewe winning the champion ribbon the Shirlee Downs ewe which finished second to her in the under 1.5 years class came out