

Shirlee Downs exhibit crowned grand champion

PRIME SAMM

By CAITLYN WEST

A STRONG topline and conformation was of upmost importance to judge of the Prime SAMM section Allan Duff, Williams.

It seemed a common theme in Mr Duff's comments throughout the classes and ultimately he found what he was looking for when he came across an exceptional Shirlee Downs ewe.

The genetically-blessed ewe initially came from the under one year showing milk teeth class.

The Squiers family, Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, presented a Prime SAMM team to be reckoned with and experienced the majority of its success in the female section of judging, where the stud eventually took out champion and reserve champion ewe exhibits.

Both the winning ewes were embryos by a Rockdale sire and out of Shirlee Downs ewes, the mother of which had been awarded the supreme champion ribbon at the 2008 Waggin Woolorama.

The champion ewe, which was the youngest of the two, was challenged for the grand champion title by the champion ram from the high achieving Tiarri stud, which was awarded the ribbon for the ram's size and conformation for its age.

Tiarri stud principal Ross Taylor, Lake Grace, said the champion ram would be used in the future as a stud sire. It was by Kindelka 080191 and out of a home-grown Tiarri ewe.

Despite the Tiarri ram showing potential with a strong topline, good



Shirlee Downs stud principals Chris (left), and Adrian Squiers (right), Quairading, were pleased to be awarded the grand champion Prime SAMM ribbon for their exceptional ewe by judge Allan Duff, Williams.

conformation and plenty of muscle, the grand champion ribbon was ultimately laid across the outstanding 10-month-old Shirlee Downs ewe.

Mr Duff said it was a well-grown ewe that had been presented before him, with a very smooth and soft disposition with a great topline.

"The ewe was very even, with extra length and width in the loin compared to the others," Mr Duff said.

"If you are chasing a meat sheep then length of loin is very important."

"Today I judged more on meat qualities and the loins were very good, but the only criticism I have would be the topline were not so good."



Holding the champion Prime SAMM ram was Tiarri stud principal Ross Taylor, Lake Grace, with judge Allan Duff, Williams.

under one year showing milk teeth, which was handed to Haydn and Mark Edwards, Rockdale stud, Dumbleyung.

It was the only first place awarded to Rockdale, which was a turnaround from the impressive results achieved in previous years, but it was enough to propel the stud to be awarded reserve champion ram at this year's judging.

Competition was tight and both Tiarri and Rockdale continued the tradition of hustling for each ram class

and then Rockdale and Shirlee Downs competed in the ewe classes, with Rockdale coming away second best on five occasions and finishing third in the progeny group of three sheep any age or sex by same sire from previous classes.

Both the Royston stud, Jerramungup, and Kaula Dale stud, Kojoonup, shared third place in the ram under one year showing milk teeth to be judged objectively and subjectively class.