



BINDAWARRA MERINO STUD

“Profitable sheep for all areas”

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Autumn Update

May 2015

BINDAWARRA NEWS

Sire Evaluation Results

At times, Steve likes to enter some of our rams into sire evaluation programs to enable us to benchmark different traits of our rams to those of other studs, using the genetic performance assessments of these trials. Bindawarra 400 and Bindawarra 358 are both in the Merino Superior Sires evaluation.

We are very happy to report that Bindawarra 400 ranked particularly well in the latest report, ranking **1st** on the Merino Production Plus (MP+) table, which measures the balance of wool and meat production, **1st** on the Fibre Production Plus (FP+) table which focuses on the wool production system and **3rd** on the Dual Purpose Plus (DP+) table which is based on a meat production system. A total of 170 rams were measured in this evaluation.

We are excited by these results, as they confirm the visual appraisals that we usually make on farm. Also, the figures confirm that Bindawarra Merinos are among the best genetics in Eastern Australia. For full details, please see the sire evaluation website at www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au or contact us for the full ASBV's for these rams.

In the recent shearing in the North East Sire Evaluation trial, the progeny of Bindawarra 358 scored the equal heaviest wool cut in the trial.

Purchase of Poll Ewes

In December, we purchased over 100 Southrose Stud poll ewes from their dispersal sale. These ewes have been joined to our Bindawarra poll rams this season with some young rams on the ground now. This purchase will enhance our breeding program to provide more quality poll rams to meet the ever increasing demand for polls. This was a great opportunity to purchase some quality ewes. We have also identified some Bindawarra poll ewes which were used in our AI breeding program this year. The year before we had purchased a small number of poll ewes from the Middle View stud dispersal sale, which also added to our existing poll ewe base. All of these ewes will form the nucleus of a Bindawarra Poll Stud in the coming years. Our challenge now is to maintain the Bindawarra type wool consistently using these new ewes. The Southrose ewes will be on display at our upcoming open day on July 8th.

Sale Rams 2015



Hamilton Team

This year's rams have particularly good wool quality on a solid frame with a potential for a heavy cutting fleece. The rams from BD297 will be on display for the first time this year with some exceptional young rams for sale and also for future stud use. Unfortunately B358 passed away earlier this year (a favourite of Steve's), however we still have some semen stocks available for sale. We are endeavouring to replenish our semen stocks with future sires at every opportunity. We will have 5 rams for sale at Hamilton Sheepvention and 45 rams at the

RASV Flock of the Year Competition

In March, the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria launched a new Flock Of The Year competition, with Gippsland as the first region for judging, after a decade long hiatus. A number of our Bindawarra clients participated in this competition, which was a wonderful advertisement for woolgrowers in Gippsland.



During judging of Gavin Missen's flock.

The Flock Of The Year competition is run by the RASV to showcase Victorian agriculture and to encourage wool producers to increase the quality of Victorian Merino sheep by providing objective and competitive comparisons of each flock and to learn from one another. Each entrant was required to present a minimum of 200 maiden ewes and the rams that they plan to use this year. The judges scored each entrant on uniformity of flock, commercial value of the sheep, wool quality, growth of ewes and sires.

The Bindawarra based flocks performed extremely well in the tight competition. Congratulations to Millring Pastoral, Toongabbie, Gavin Missen, Woodside and Cavandale, Giffard who had a small Bindawarra Poll influence on display.

Nepal and Beyond....



In November Steve journeyed to Nepal to learn about Foot and Mouth Disease. The country was certainly an eye-opener for him, with the stock, transport and poverty all new experiences. Late June will see Steve head for China with a WoolProducers Australia delegation to visit some of the many woollen mills, including machine knitting mills, clothing manufacturers, scouring and topmaking plants. This will be a great opportunity for Steve to see where most of our wool is exported to and what happens to it.



Dates to remember:

- *Open Day 8th July 2015*
- *Hamilton Sheepvention 4th August 2015*
- *Bairnsdale Ram Sale - 1st September 2015*

“Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.” - J C Penney