

meatup FORUM

For the latest in red meat R&D

KARBULLAH

POLL MERINOS

next generation merinos

Mark Murphy

Next Generation Merinos

Goondiwindi QLD





Key Aspects of Our Management

- Fat and muscle - Sheep's natural fuel tank
 - Energy stores for Lambs to get up and going quickly.
 - Ewes - Ability to conceive and rear top lambs consistently.
 - Carcass – new levels in dressing percentages for Merinos
 - Capacity to meet challenges ahead
- Resilience to internal parasites
- Balance – carcass, efficiency, fertility....and wool
- Lamb management choices especially pregnancy scanning for multiples
- Weaning time and weight

Lambing 2020 – Qld drought conditions

- Marked 141% (Older ewes 151% Maidens 125%)
- Lamb Loss 10.3%
- Ewe loss 1%
- Identifying rams with low lamb losses - Karbullah Ram 195092
 - Marked 168.6%
 - Lamb Loss 2.5%

Balance



Length

Neck extension

No wrinkle

Shape

Poll

Loin width

We still need good Wools

- Softness
- Crimp definition
- Lustre
- Nourishment
- Fibre bundles
- Length of Staple



Successes and Challenges of our Journey

Successes contributing to our journey – implementing:

- 1984 – Pregnancy scanning
- 1998 – Type of Merino sheep-importance of the skin biology for efficiency (Dr Jim Watts-SRS Genetics)
- 2003 – Sheep Genetics and Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV)
- 2003 – Ceased mulesing
- 2006 – Identify Fat/muscle key indicators to production by using ASBV's – increased lambing percentages for us and ram buying clients
- 2009 – Bred Well Fed Well Workshops – mob sizes, condition scores, encourage the use fat/muscle

Challenges – mulesing debate and industry ability to embrace new merino type

Where to From Here

- Every day is a school day, you can never stop learning and implementing
- Focus of performance + reproduction + lamb survival.
- Continue to wean more lambs, reduce lamb losses, identify genetics and traits to kick goals. More surplus sheep to sell.
- Get industry leaders to move with the times.



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Take home messages

- Key profit drivers – ASBV's (fat and muscle); body score at key times; genetic performances of sheep
- Adapt management of livestock for production and profitability
 - mob size and pregnancy status at lambing;
- Source rams and ewes from breeders who are making a difference.

Tools and resources

- **Eyes and Ears** – watch what is happening in your paddocks. Listen to people that are moving in the right direction of production and performance.
- **Sheep Genetics, Merino Select**, since 2003 – Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) – identify, benchmarking and future focus
- **Bred Well, Fed Well** workshop
- Using Neogen – DNA tests – assist with pedigree accuracy and traits ie sheer force and Intramuscular Fat (IMF) in meat quality
- **Spread the word** to clients! Keep asking questions!

Lots of live lambs!



We can do it!



Karbullah
Goondiwindi
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