



## Are your Maternal Rams a good return on investment?

Our sale rams deliver \$13.90 per ewe mated per year above industry average. At 7.5 ewes per Ha that is \$104.25 Ha.

Our 2017 breeding program delivered genetic improvement of \$5.70 per ewe mated per year compounding.

### Other ram sources:

\$1000 rams – 125 Index ( base level production )

### Cashmore Oaklea rams:

\$1000 rams – 135 Index ( \$10 per ewe mated better )

X 1 year @ 65 ewes mated per year X \$10 = \$650  
X 3 years ( 200 matings ) = \$2000

**Cashmore Oaklea rams return \$2200 more per head over their working lifetime.**

**Are you getting fair value for money / return on investment?**

# RAM SALE

## FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018

HAMILTON SHOWGROUNDS, 11am EST

- 440 specially selected Performance Maternal Rams
- 10 selected Coopworth Rams
- 30 Nudie Rams

Rams in top 5% Lambplan decile report.  
Lambplan Maternal \$ index 162 to 174.

### CONTACT:

**John Keiller 0409 804 638**  
cashmorepark@bordnet.com.au

**Don Pegler 0417 851 466**  
pegler4@bigpond.com

[www.cashmoreoaklea.com.au](http://www.cashmoreoaklea.com.au)  
[www.cashmorepark.com.au](http://www.cashmorepark.com.au)



**ELDERS CONTACT DETAILS**  
Tom Dennis 0427 975 207  
Aaron Malseed 0407 782 286



**LANDMARK CONTACT DETAILS**  
Tim Jewel 0429 390 033

## OPEN DAY

10am, Thursday 27th September 2018 at Cashmore Park  
114 Wilmots Rd, Cashmore.

Presentations on breeding and production,  
display of sale rams and stud ewes and lambs.



### Cashmore Oaklea Rams

Proudly Australian Made for our environmental  
conditions and market requirements.

# Cashmore Oaklea September 2018 Newsletter



**Economic progress 2017 was \$5.70 per ewe mated.**



2018 Embryo Donor ewes

Hi all,

We were just thinking that things have been quiet at Cashmore Oaklea over the past few months but on compiling a brief list of what to write about we easily came up with 16 topics.

So as per usual we continue to put thought, planning and effort into monitoring our breeding aims, creating effective data and delivering information, then genetics to those who like our animals.

Good luck with the next crop.

Don and John

### Bred Well Fed Well Workshops

During the autumn we ran three Bred Well Fed Well workshops for producers held at Kangaroo Island at Rick and Annie Morris, "Gradi Downs", Tasmania at Richard and Shevon Carlings, "Meander Lakes" property and at the Casterton Golf Club. Each day was attended by about 20 producers with Jason Tromph presenting excellent information regarding breeding and managing ewes for optimum output. The pre lunch exercise involves setting a breeding goal for your property! It takes the producer from a "where are you now" scenario to "where to in the future", then clarifies which traits to change, and finally which ASBVs to use to achieve this. Producers came away from this exercise quite empowered and I am happy to take anyone through this process.



Jason Tromph presenting at Meander Lakes, Tasmania.

### Ewe Lamb Puberty

During a couple recent conferences and speaking engagements I had the opportunity to meet internationally known Brahman breeder Alf Collins from Queensland. Alf has meticulously selected his cattle for fertility over the past 50 years, with cows rearing an unaided calf each year and now has the most fertile herd / bloodline of Brahman cattle in Australia. This is no mean feat when you consider the northern calf branding rate stands at 47%. Alf's approach has seen him apply both environmental and genetic pressure to increase his genetic diversity, the tool of the animal breeder. He relates the story that his best mating was joining six, 180 kg bull calves with large testicles to 400, 240 kg heifers in a drought and weaning 8 calves! Among those calves was a bull with outstanding early puberty and hardiness.

Below is Alf Collins "Roadmap to Discovery":

- Puberty threshold is very useful, if data is collected under the same duress your herd experiences.
- Pregnancy success is independent of weight and age.
- Measurement under stress usually yields significant genetic gain.
- Absence of kilogram loss in the tough 6 - 10 months per annum.

With this aggressive approach in mind Don screened two thousand rams on hand and developed a short list that were born from dams less than 360 days of age. These were mated to 2500 ewe lambs a month earlier than usual, i.e. at 4 to 7 months of age and we now have 35 in lamb at 44 kg, as low as 37kg and too as low as 6.6 months, 198 days. Interestingly none of these are from 2016 drop dams so we have pushed the mating pressure envelope hard enough to identify the earliest cyclers. Those from the 2016 ewe lamb dam cohort will come through at lambing and may be even younger and lighter. Watch this spot!!!

## DNA tested animals #1085

We now have a 1085 DNA tested individuals, about half the maternal data set but need more as the industry goal is to get to 2000. At this number we have an effective "reference population", where accuracies on hard to measure traits allows better returns for monies invested in test and analysis costs. We are watching the frequencies of novel genes such as GDF9, and incorporating them where we see benefits.

## 2018 Matings

Our total sires used this year numbered 90, across the Maternal, Terminal and Nudie flocks which required six computer generated Matesel Runs, and integration between them. This technology has allowed us to lift selection differential and minimised inbreeding while maximising genetic change and hence economic output. Our aim is to lift from \$5.70 per ewe mated genetic change each year to \$6.00.

## Ram sales, Top 5% Ram Sale, 12 October

Our run of 2017 rams is being drafted for the ram sale and will again feature many top performers. Selected from a drop of 3931 ram lambs, there are trait leaders in many areas, so take the opportunity to target those that suit your needs.

## Ewe Sale Tuesday 4th December

The annual production sale of Surplus Females has been booked and already we have a few new listings. The previous two years has seen 10,000 ewe lambs, 1.5 year olds and sound mouth adults marketed. New vendors always welcome, so contact us for further details.

## Big Data

One of the strengths of the Cashmore Oaklea team has been our appetite to collect, input and analyse large amounts of data and this is growing. Since 2007 we have utilised the benefits of 50,000 EID tags which have streamlined our data collection process systems. Always our aim has been to move the average and push at the front but we are now approaching a time where we can clean up the rear of the

## Pregnancy Scan Results from high stocking rates

Mob	Join Date	Empty #	Empty %	Single #	Single %	Twin #	Twin %	Triplet #	Triplet %	Total Wet	Total Ewes			
Oaklea Commercial	05/01/2018	50	4%	413	32%	1	765	60%	2	48	4%	3	1226	1276
Oaklea Studs	02/02/2018	0	0%	64	17%	1	256	66%	2	66	17%	3	386	386
Oaklea Stud 1.5 YO	15/02/2018	64	18%	156	44%	1	137	38%	2	1	0%	3	294	358
Oaklea commercial 1.5 YO	15/02/2018	15	4%	235	69%	1	87	26%	2	2	1%	3	324	339
Cashmore Home Light	16/03/2018	5	2%	38	17%	1	161	70%	2	25	11%	3	224	229
Cashmore HomeFat	16/03/2018	12	2%	115	18%	1	461	71%	2	61	9%	3	637	649
Cashmore NSW Light	16/03/2018	17	3%	104	20%	1	357	69%	2	36	7%	3	497	514
Cashmore NSW Fat	16/03/2018	11	1%	159	17%	1	641	70%	2	101	11%	3	901	912
Cashmore Moles Light	16/03/2018	9	2%	68	18%	1	256	69%	2	38	10%	3	362	371
Cashmore Demoted Studs	16/03/2018	11	2%	86	15%	1	404	70%	2	75	13%	3	565	576
Cashmore 1.5 YO Selection	16/03/2018	10	2%	70	17%	1	306	72%	2	38	9%	3	414	424
Cashmore 1.5 YO Commercial	16/03/2018	57	7%	293	39%	1	391	51%	2	20	3%	3	704	761
Cashmore Studs Adult Maternal	13/03/2018	44	3%	206	14%	1	998	65%	2	276	18%	3	1480	1524
Cashmore Studs Adult Terminal	03/03/2018	7	6%	33	26%	1	80	63%	2	6	5%	3	119	126
Cashmore Studs Adult Nudie	01/03/2018	7	2%	95	32%	1	184	63%	2	8	3%	3	287	294
		<b>319</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2135</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5484</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8420</b>	<b>8739</b>
Cashmore stud 2017 ewe lms	01/03/2018	358	57%	185	29%	1	86	14%	2	2	0%	3	273	631
Cashmore stud 2017 ewe lms	01/03/2018	453	25%	788	44%	1	560	31%	2	2	0%	3	1350	1803
Oaklea Stud 2017 ewe lms	20/03/2018	131	28%	113	24%	1	229	48%	2	2	0%	3	344	475
Oaklea Stud 2017 ewe lms	20/03/2018	23	66%	4	11%	1	8	23%	2	0	0%	3	12	35
		<b>965</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>2944</b>

flock as well. Traits such as stay ability, disease resistance, casting, lambing ease, and maternal behaviour score all require the next level of data collection to complete the picture about our animals. Coupled with end of life traceability when animals bred but not necessarily slaughtered by the breeder, have their kill data available via Livestock Data Link, we are in the position to analyse and remove lower performing lines. To this end we have been EID scanning all sale lines and applying fate codes as stock exit our recording systems. This is a large task as we have 15,000 sale animals each year, i.e. many more files to input but will quickly allow us to get some new important ASBVs calculated and hence remove some dead wood from our flocks. A work in progress and gaining momentum.



2017 drop Maternal stud ewe lambs at Cashmore.

## Fertility Records

We have just compiled the 2018 mating file incorporating weights, condition scores, numerous groups, natural mating, AI, ET, recipients and pregnancy scans. This totalled 11,853 female records with 6405 adult ewes scanning 1.71 and 2861 ewe lambs scanning 0.86. Our Mating data base is now approaching 100,000 records and a very useful industry resource. Recently it has been used to provide data, now being presented in the Bred Well fed Well workshops relating to ewe lamb reproduction. Our demoted stud ewes go into our commercial flocks and have an adult weight and a pregnancy scan taken, and this year Dean has been emailing me ewe ids of any lambing problems found in his commercial flock rounds. These extra records add accuracy to any sire lines that have low numbers of daughter records.

## The feedback is positive

We continue to receive unsolicited phone calls about how our genetics perform in client's flocks. Comments often relate to growth being as good as terminals, big lambing percentages, hardiness with rebounding ewe condition after short feed times and great mothers. Our pragmatic approach to animals being survivors for many generations has now produced easy care animals and a quick glance at any Lambplan performance lists will show a large component of Cashmore Oaklea animals at the top of various lists. A closer look will also show they are deeply embedded in many other stud flocks pedigrees effectively giving us testing of our DNA in another environment.

## Nudies



2017 drop Nudie stud ewe lambs

The Cashmore Nudie flock continues to improve with two of our best rams moving up the performance rankings. 156194 and 160028 now inhabit the 10% percentile region on the Maternal data base and are higher performing than many maternal composites supplied to the market. This year our best four ewes entered an Embryo Transfer program which yielded 50 embryos, sired by the above mentioned rams and an extra high fertility Maternal Composite sire. We have also added GDF9 fertility genes and are evaluating any impact. Our best ewe, N115471 is plus 25% NLW and we now have 95 ewes over 10% NLW. Parasite resistance has improved and leading animals are now minus 65% for WEC. Performance always pays as the top 450 ewes have a range of \$ 46 per ewe mated on the MCP+ Index. (Range 120 to 166.)

The flock currently numbers 500 adult and 300 recorded ewe lambs and will allow tagging of 900 lambs at birth to 14 sires. Selection on feet structure now means the Nudies are very similar to the Maternal Composites and handle wet conditions well with body types trending that way also and wool shedding is at a stage where no crutching or shearing is required.

## Twinning cattle



Young Australian Twinner Bulls

After quite a few late nights I have compiled the mating, calving and weight data from 1660 Australian Twinner Cattle from the Ivanhoe, Cashmore and Ebor herds and entered it in a database. We are now in a position to get this analysed and breeding values calculated. In the past 28 years I have developed four sheep flocks and structured them

so that breeding values can deliver economic outputs. A quick glance at the Twinner data shows many cows that have produced repeated twins with one cow 090937 producing 13 calves from 7 opportunities and with one set of twins totalling 625 kg at weaning. At Cashmore our herd pregnancy tested at 120% with 20 sets of twins expected during September 2018. We have added some industry leading Angus genetics selected for low birth weight, calving ease, less days to calving and high domestic index and will wash them through the herd to increase uniformity and some outcross genetics.

## Terminals

Each year we purchase semen collected from industry leading Terminal sires, with most being Poll Dorset but the odd White Suffolk has caught our attention. Lamb 20.20 and Lamb Eating Quality indexes suit the direction we are taking our Terminals being moderate birth weight and fast early growth with adequate muscling and fat cover. One and a half year old rams are available privately from mid October and ram lambs in February each autumn post their final measurements.



Terminal ewes pre Lambing

## New ASBVs coming

Sheep Genetics have been working on a new reproduction model which may be rolled out with Research Breeding Values available from August 2018. This initiative has capacity to delve further into Reproduction records and separate out the component traits. Fertility, fecundity, lamb survival, puberty, days to lambing and lambing interval will need consideration by producers as these tools to change a flocks direction are made available. We expect some family lines will be poor producers in the lamb survival area and eagerly await the chance to weed them from our program.

## Triplet Research

With better producers now scanning 180% the incidence of triplets has increased in flocks. At this scan rate about 9% of ewes will produce triplets, so pregnancy scanning makes good sense to give them every chance to survive. A push by producers in the past 2 years has seen funding available into research in this area and a base line survey and condition scoring / ewe survival project is Nationally underway. At Cashmore our 664 triplets ewes condition scored at 3.4 and have been set stocked in small, undisturbed areas of the farm. Fingers crossed we can mark about 225%, which would be a good result.

## State of the recorded Maternal flock

Cashmore Oaklea Seedstock Ewe flock as @ Mating 2018.



Drop	Tag	#
2007	Blue	2
2009	White	3
2010	Orange	20
2011	Green	125
2012	Purple	298
2013	Yellow	1191
2014	Red	1988
2015	Blue	1984
2016	Black	2709
2017	White	3414
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11733</b>