



Are your Maternal Rams a good return on investment?

Our sale rams deliver \$11 per ewe mated per year above industry average. At 7.5 ewes per Ha that is \$82.50 Ha.

Our breeding program delivers genetic improvement of \$2.40 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?

Cashmore Oaklea

August 2016 Newsletter



RAM SALE

FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER 2016

HAMILTON SHOWGROUNDS, 11am EST

- 400 specially selected Performance Maternal Rams
 - 20 selected Coopworth Rams
 - 25 Nudie Rams

Rams in top 5% Lambplan decile report.
Lambplan maternal \$ index 135 to 142.

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OPEN DAY

Thursday 29th September 2016 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.

Run in the dry, run in the mud. Cashmore Oaklea Maternals produce more lambs and grow faster than all the rest

All day's sheep farming are good days and Don and I look forward to lambing time each year as we get the chance to see what our decisions have bought forth in new genetic combinations. In 2015 we managed to get a birth tag in 5,000 Maternal, Terminal and Nudie lambs with pregnancy scans indicating a few more in 2016. We have continued to collect a full profile of information across all stages of our animal's lives from birth weights to fertility records including two, 2007 drop ewes that have produced 8 triplets and 3 twins

across their productive lives. Countless weights, 2500 carcass scans and 10,000 preg' scans all go into the data helping to create high accuracy ASBVs that push our stock forward. We hope you enjoy them as much as we like designing them.

Don and John.



Leading maternal sire in Australia 142077 post mating 400 ewes and a spell in the ram paddock

ID	BWT	WWT	PWT	AWT	PFAT	PEMD	PWEC	NLW	YNLW	MCP+ INDEX
1500992014142077	0.43	7.7	13.7	16.2	-0.3	1.7	-60	23	22	158.4

New Maternal Indexes. Are they for you?

Recently Lambplan released two new maternal indexes. They are designed to meet different breeding objectives and are guides to assist ram selection. You should look carefully at your ewe base, the environment you run sheep in and the target markets production is aimed for as they are substantially different to the previous Mat\$ index. The main differences MCP+ and MCP deliver are a reduction/cap on ewe adult weight and an increase in muscle. This has come at the expense of early growth, which may leave more lambs on your property longer and a halving of genetic gain for NLW.

To the right is a table summarising the changes.

Trait	MCP+	Mat \$	MCP
	Gain over 10 years	Gain over 10 years	Gain over 10 years
BWT (kg)	0.14	0.11	0.14
WWT (kg)	1.9	2.51	2.04
PWT (kg)	3.11	4.03	3.37
MWWT (kg)	0.98	1.19	1
AWT (kg)	0	4.49	0
PFAT (mm)	0.27	0.21	0.14
PEMD (mm)	0.75	0.37	0.73
YNLW (%)	0.03		0.03
NLW (%)	0.03	0.06	0.02
PWEC (%)	-25.82	-28.05	3.43
YGFW (%)	0.09	-0.37	1.04

Ram listings and upcoming selections

With the new Maternal Carcass Plus Index there has been a re ranking of sires on the Lambplan web page. In the Coopworth lists Cashmore Oaklea has 36 of the top 40 sires. Across all animals in the Maternal data base we have 21 of the top 50 including most of the trait leaders for fertility. This list includes a reasonable number of Terminal animals that have moved up due to extreme muscle. Some of these animals are very "unbalanced" in that they are very low for NLW, single digit numbers and even into the minus zone with some not having any NLW reported. Also evident is the odd high birth weight and no FEC reported and the experience I have had with a couple AI sires that left

daughters lacking the correct attitude to raise lambs and no constitution at high stocking rates!

Maternal sheep need to be an all round package that last the distance in a challenging, low cost environment, produce lambs annually and return a product that is desired by the market. In the next 12 months be very careful of ram purchases and please don't buy on index alone or you stand a good chance on getting burnt.

DNA. Marker assisted traits

Some of the traits we wish to improve in sheep are very hard to measure, such as eating quality, with tenderness, juiciness and taste being important parts of customer satisfaction of lamb meals. All indications are that maternal sheep are very good in this area as breeders have not stripped fat from carcasses which the terminals sire breeders took 15 years to do and are now putting the fat back on. Our approach is to determine where our maternal flock sits and then monitor it so that we keep it within an acceptable range. In a first for Maternal sheep 70 of our leading sires have been DNA tested and are now reported with Lean meat yield, Intra muscle fat and Shear Force 5 estimations. We have many trait leaders for eating quality that are also very

high performers on the new MCP+ index.

Another very costly and difficult to measure trait is number of lambs weaned. The tried and tested way is ear tagging lambs at birth, which may be around a while longer yet. Recently we have added pregnancy scan information to the data used to calculate ASBVs as there is a strong correlation between what a ewe scans and what she will rear to weaning. We have just added 10,000 more preg' scans for 2016 which we believe will allow us to pick better sires much earlier and particularly those with good daughters lambing as lambs.

Fifty of our young sires had 4 daughters each selected to supply DNA with 200 blood cards recently sent to the Genomics laboratory. We are committed to maintaining these ewes in the flock for the next two years to compile a detailed fertility profile and from this we hope to get gene markers that will increase rate of gain for fertility.

1% Percentile Sires



ID	BWT	WWT	PWT	AWT	PFAT	PEMD	PWEC	NLW	YNLW	MCP+ INDEX
1500992014143326	0.42	8.2	13.8	16.3	1.1	2.4	-35	19	19	155.8
ID	BWT	WWT	PWT	AWT	PFAT	PEMD	PWEC	NLW	YNLW	MCP+ INDEX
1500992012122402	0.19	5.4	11.1	13.7	0.4	2.5	-91	20	27	153.2

Robust constitution

General comments post pregnancy scanning this season is that farmers who looked after their ewes have achieved good results. And considering that there have been consecutive failed springs sheep have shown good resilience and "bounced back" into production. This is a very important attribute to have in XB ewes as an unexpected thunderstorm or good period of growth allows ewe to increase weight/ condition score and then produce more lambs the next year.

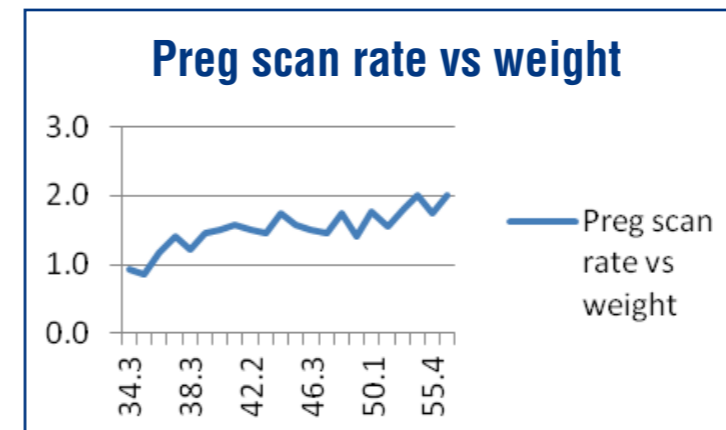
A good example of this is the 300 light ewes that emerged at the back of a

Depth of Breeding

I had the chance to visit some clients properties and maternal sheep in NSW in the autumn and apart from being enjoyable it is often provides very informative feedback. James Brady Snr and Jnr run a very good prime lamb operation and had taken the time to identify the 2015 drop maternal ewe lambs sired by Cashmore Oaklea rams and another Maternal line to two sire groups. Produced from the same ewe base their preg' scans had the Cashmore Oaklea ewes ahead by 10%.

The Cashmore Oaklea flock has an extensive history of recording for NLW,

Oaklea ewe lambs 2016



Ewe sale. 1st Week of December on Auctions Plus

The 2015/16 year has seen just on 10,000 ewes traded and marketed alongside the Cashmore Oaklea logo. Starting in early December 2015 large runs of ewe lambs, sound mouth ewes and 1.5 year olds were offered from 8 properties in SA and Vic in the multi vendor, multi agent sale. This saw stock move to all states and the establishment of new self replacing flocks. During the autumn clients held Auction Plus sales on an as needs basis with scanned ewes and lambs attracting strong competition. Cashmore Oaklea blood animals certainly get market interest as I field many calls from prospective purchasers and encourage you to add our logo to your marketing.

Stud and Flock Rams



mob of 800 fats in February this year at Cashmore. Drafted off they were stocked at 10 ha and fed a little grain to get them back on track. Come preg' scan the 500 fats went 185% and the lights 205%.

Cashmore Oaklea stock have been run at heavy stocking rates for a long period of time in big mobs which sorts those that can compete from the others. This is borne out by the fact that so many of our rams when used in other stud flocks invariably perform at the top end. It doesn't matter where our sheep go, they have the performance and constitution to deliver top 10% results.

with a Coopworth base rather than a White Suffolk background that the other flock had and with NLW being a trait that takes a long time to be locked away and then expressed in a flock I was not surprised at this result.

I was also asked the question at what rate should ewe lambs scan per kg of body weight if mated in the autumn period and secondly at what rate should this change.

This year the ewe lambs at Oaklea, 8 months old and 42 kg average scanned 149% being 3.5% scanned per kg body weight and exhibited an increase of 4.5% for each kg above 35. We recently had 7500 ewe lamb records analysed which indicated 4.3%, so weight change is very important to successful lamb mating.

2015 drop stud ewe lambs pregnancy scanned with twins



Elmore ewe trial

In autumn 2015, 3 clients, Nick and Roger Gabbe, Andy Sutherland and Matt Gribben all entered 14 ewe lambs into the Elmore Fertility ewe trial. These 42 ewes were selected from commercial flocks and taken to be representative of the Cashmore Oaklea bloodline and are being compared against four other maternal lines of Merino and BL x Merino. The first year basically allows an adjustment for age, weight and prior management.

In the second year as 1.5 year olds the Cashmore Oaklea are the heaviest ewes and scanned 180% with a good balance of birth types.

Single 8% / twin 69% / triplet 11% which gives 2.6% scanned per kg of ewe weight.

I have added the report to the Cashmore Oaklea web site.