



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?

RAM SALE

FRIDAY 13th OCTOBER 2017

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 137 to 145.

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OPEN DAY

Thursday 28th September 2017 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 2017 Newsletter



Reproduction. It's what makes us tick!

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Come spring time with the ram selling season approaching we sometimes forget that all those well credentialed new sires have mothers and sisters and ultimately they are what we are aiming to reproduce. With that in mind we thought we would bring a few interesting ones to the reader's attention. Good luck this year.

Don and John

High Fertility Shedders.

We commenced recording our Nudie flock ten years ago in 2007 and have aimed at increasing reproduction rates as very little selection has occurred to wool shedding sheep in this area.

Two years ago I was sorting ewes and had sent a few pink nosed ones out the gate and thought I had better check to see what was in them. A quick search came up with 115471 who has had twice as many lambs as ewes in her contemporary group. Her pedigree goes back to a high fertility Romney which helps her have a 23% NLW. Currently has twin rams at foot with stud potential.

Our rams come from females like these.

I guess the above pictured ewe could be described as a foundation animal for Maternal Composite sheep in Australia.

Born a twin in 2007 with a typical composite background, and most breeds represented she grew into a 70 kg ewe as a five year old. Her reproduction has seen 6 sets of triplets and 2 sets of twins, including ET procedures and is currently rearing a good set of twins as a 10 year old. Her son 092378 sired numerous rams that have been used by most maternal composite stud flocks across Australia with many being current trait leaders.

At the moment she is in the Orchard paddock but looks like going around again for another year.



CS00012001115471

Maternal Composite infused Nudies.

Our wool shedding Nudies continue to transform into wool shedding Composites with younger ewes such as CS00012014147017 expressing composite phenotypes and behaviours at lambing. Performance continues to increase with the stud ewes pregnancy scanning 170% this year.



120% Pregnancy Scanning from cows and rising.

The Twinner cattle will deliver 20 sets of twin calves this spring, with those rearing twins producing 60% more calf weight than a singleton. All indications are that beef output can be increased by 20% across a herd.



TWINER2012012062 with twin heifers, Mid parent breeding values 142% NCW.

Puberty. Age and weight is coming down.

Don and I continue to put considerable effort into ewe lamb reproduction and have entered pregnancy scan data on 8600 ewes this year plus their lambing records. This includes 2300 ewe lambs records and we have worked closely with Lambplan in managing our data and assisting researchers develop better methods of analysis. This has reduced puberty ages and weights and we have had clients

calls to say they have never seen better scanning rates in flock ewe lambs with reports up to 145% in large operations. In the stud there is an increasing number of ewe lambs that have one year old dams right through their pedigrees and individual levels of performance that stand out. The following ewe lamb is an interesting beast.

1500992015154703 was born to a ewe lamb and was the lightest ewe at Cashmore to scan pregnant in 2015. Joined at 26.5 kg she mated in the low 30 kg weight range, was 37 kg at 9 months, produced a lamb at 12 months of age which weaned at 26.5 kg at 10 weeks old, she recently weighed 53 kg and has scanned triplets to lamb down as a two year old. I must go and find her!

This year our 2300 stud ewe lambs were all mated and averaged 37 kg to the ram. It has taken a while for clients to understand why we may do things that are not standard industry practice, but it is our task to seek out and create new DNA combinations, road test them in commercial life and deliver.

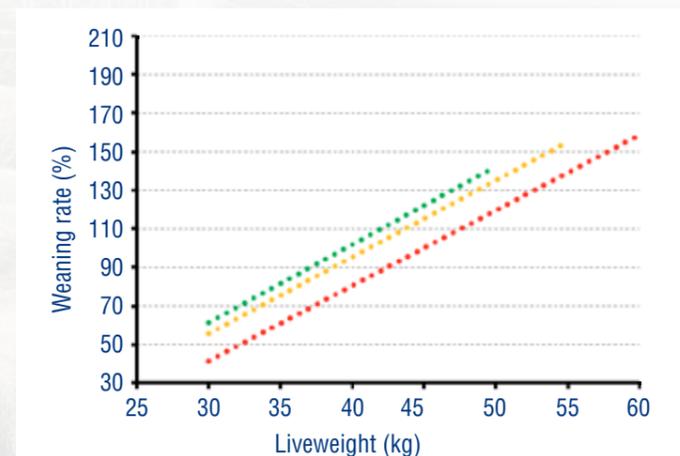
Genetic variation is the material we need to quickly respond to changed market signals.



2016 Drop Maternal ewes pregnancy scanned twins, point of lambing stocked at 11.6 Ha.

Ewe lamb mating weight.

I had the task of presenting information on self replacing lamb systems at the June 2017 Best Wool Conference and during question time was asked a very good question. "At what weight should we mate our ewe lambs?". Unable to answer with facts at the time, below is my reply that fills in part of the picture with the graph below compiled from 8000 Cashmore Oaklea ewe lamb records.



Effects of live weight at joining at 7 to 9 month of age on the weaning rate (lambs weaned per 100 ewes joined) for Maternal Composite ewe lambs born and reared as a single (red), twin (orange) or triple (green). Data from Cashmore Oaklea (Thompson and Paganoni).



Well it depends on what you deem as an acceptable result with twins mated at 40 kg producing 90% lambs and 55 kg producing 150%. The heavier they are the more they have. These graphs also hold true for rising 2 year olds.

A second part that concerned me is how well do ewe lambs cope with the birth process when mated at lighter weights. I went into our 2014 and 2015 lambing records and sorted each year into single and twin born lambs, then averaged mating weight against natural or assisted birth (a low 1.7% in each year). In each year the single assist ewes are slightly lighter than the naturals but in the twins this is reversed. With an average mating weight of 43 kg in each year we have assists both sides of the average so it seems that it's not only mating weight that needs to be addressed to improve this area. Further research needs to be done with recommendations as to what % of mature weight (standard reference weight) ewe lambs can be mated at.

At Cashmore Oaklea we will continue to cull problem animals and use birth weight, lambing ease direct and lambing ease daughters ASBVs to make further gains.

Drop		Natural Birth kg	Assist Birth kg	Assist %
2014	Singles	42.3	40.3	1.7%
	Twins	46	48.1	
2015	Singles	41.6	39.2	1.7%
	Twins	43.9	45	

AAABG Conference.

In June John attended the AAABG conference in Townsville to keep abreast of new research into sheep breeding and production. Attended by 150 Australian and international livestock researchers three days of scientific presentations covered topics as wide ranging as advanced statistics, breeding objective, gene editing, aquaculture and genomics. Genomics are now widely used in many species however may be overcapitalised on what they can return to sheep breeding in

the shorter term. Put simply their cost is not being returned to the producer by markets that are using lamb products. Currently the easy to measure traits with high heritability, such as growth rate are being improved at good rates with our current measurement procedures. We are currently awaiting genomic results on hard and costly to measure traits such as fertility, fecundity and parasite resistance and are hopeful that genomic technology will increase rates of gain in these areas.



Ram Sale.

Don and I are about to start sorting rams for the sale with those making the grade coming from 2562 ram lambs tagged at birth between July and October in 2016. They have had considerable pressure applied in the form of large mobs, high stocking rates, parasite burdens to 4000 eggs per gram (mob average) all at commercial stocking rates with limited feed in a cold, wet, windy environment.

Hats off to them that they have survived thus far! We constantly receive valuable feedback from clients that these sheep perform when it gets tough and we will continue to breed and test our sheep in the only world that matters to us, the commercial.

Ewe Sale.

We have booked Auctions plus for Tuesday 5th December, at midday for the annual Cashmore Oaklea and clients ewe and lamb sale. Last year 10,013 ewes were listed from multiple vendors / agents with possibility this year to include wether lambs. Give Don or myself a call for further details.

MATESEL. Computer assisted mate allocations.



Don is off to a Matesel training day in late September at Armidale, NSW to further knowledge in the important area of mate allocation. Developed by Brian Kinghorn at The University of New England we were very early users of this technology which is now widely used around the world in many animal species. Each year a number of large scale and complex mating operations occur with the Maternal, Terminal and Nudie flocks to produce the maximum genetic gain and best possible result across a broad range of traits. This year we are exploring if a Matesel run could add value to the many demoted stud ewes that now make up our commercial operations.