

# CASHMORE OAKLEA JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

June 2021 Winter Edition

**CASHMORE OAKLEA**



Welcome to the June 2021 Winter Edition of the Cashmore Oaklea Newsletter. Hopefully everyone is off to a positive start to the year with good scanning results and lambing underway. The industry continues to thrive, and we are seeing continued strong prices for lamb. The work from MLA and other sheep industry organisations throughout the difficult times experienced through Covid 19, has ensured demand for Australian lamb has remained strong with the ESTLI currently sitting at 94%.

Good luck for the coming season ahead!

## Adult Body Weight

*Be careful what you wish for.*

We have heard a lot about how ewes are getting too big and heavy. We think that the problems associated with ewe size has more to do with management rather than the size of the ewes. Too often farmers do not empty their ewes out properly prior to shearing and crutching.

If producers put plenty of pressure on their ewes by lambing them down as ewe lambs, running optimum ewes per hectare, culling all dry ewes at scanning and marking, run more single bearing ewes per hectare and start to prepare ewes a week before crutching and shearing most of the problems are alleviated.

We recently did some analysis on 990 3.5 to 4.5 year old demoted stud ewes that commence lambing on the 7th June. Their wether lambs will be sold in the 1st week of November at 50kg live weight and sisters are sold as breeders 1st week of December. These ewes are ran at 7.5 (520kg ewe live weight) per hectare with no supplementary feeding throughout the year.

At scanning the ewes weighed an average 69.4kg with an adult weight ASBV of 15.3kg and scanned 175%. Their 137 sisters retained in the stud are lambing in July and weighed 75kg and scanned 204%. This difference is due to the better genetics and later lambing.

We then split the ewes up into the top and bottom 25% for adult weight ASBV. The top ewes had an AWT ASBV of 18.9kg, they weighed 75.3kg and scanned 187%. The bottom 25% had an AWT ASBV of 11.8kg, they weighed 63.6kg and scanned 162%.

These figures show that for every kilo of AWT ASBV we drop there is a corresponding 3.5% reduction in lambing rate.

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When we do a financial analysis of the financial returns from lamb sold per hectare our average ewes are returning \$2,079/ha. The top 25% ewes for AWT ASBV ran at 6.9/ha (520kg ewe live weight) are returning \$2,277/ha compared to their sisters in the bottom 25% ran at 8.2/ha (520kg ewe live weight) returning \$1,877/ha. This difference of \$400/ha is mainly due to the reduction in lambing percentage and lamb growth rate.

On average our ewes are returning their own body weight from lambing to selling or weaning in 130 days.



## Ram & Ewe Sales

The Ram sale will be held on October the 8th and will be the same format as last year ie: Auctions plus. We have decided to go down this track as there are too many unknowns regarding covid and this will remain the case until there are enough people vaccinated.

We will hold an Open Day at both properties prior to the sale with all sale rams available for inspection.

Ewe sales will again be held in the 1st week of December.

We had a successful Cashmore Oaklea ewe lamb sale last year with 12,260 ewes sold. There was an average of \$217 p/h for lambs with a top price of \$268, ewes averaged \$248 and topped at \$336, and hoggets averaged \$295 with a top of \$300p/h. There was over 150 registered bidders and it was great to see more producers hop on board and supply lambs for the sale. We will forge ahead this year, and with

an increased focus on advertising and marketing to help capture the opportunities that are in the market, we will be in good stead. Sales like this goes to show that the Cashmore Oaklea bloodline our clients have invested in is performing well and continues to gain momentum in the industry. We have had very pleasing feedback from a lot of farmers out there who have increased their percentages in scanning by a considerable margin this year, especially in ewe lambs. On top of particularly good management practises from our clients, this gives us a lot of confidence in the work we are doing on our stud to produce rams with increased genetic potential and further improve ours and our clients' flocks. Hopefully the season is favourable, and everyone can capitalise on the good foundations that have been set so far.

## Auction Plus Sales, June 8 2021

There has been a lot of recent sales activity with ewe lambs being traded. Some recent notable sale follow. Don't forget to use the Cashmore Oaklea logo as the first photo in the listing. We think it has some market penetration.



Oatleigh Pastoral, Millthorpe, NSW  
250 ewe lms scanned twins, 58 kg, \$ 250



TE Casey, Willatook, Vic  
128 station mated ewe lms, 43 kg, \$182



Charlie Leone, Moorlim, Vic  
156 SIL ewe lms, 62 kg, \$ 242



OToole Family Trust, Hawksdale, Vic  
250 ewe lms unjoined, 27 kg, \$130

**2021 Stud matings.  
The Cashmore  
Oaklea flock has a  
powerful genetic  
engine.**

	Stud ewes	Rams used
Maternal adults	2500	42
Maternal ewe lambs	2680	27
Terminal adults	340	7
Terminal ewe lambs	200	3
Nudie adults	650	14
Nudie ewe lambs	356	5
	6726	98

If Don and John seem a bit spaced out during mating time the below table probably explains it!

A quick tally shows that we have individually mated 6700 stud ewes to 98 rams, via natural, yard mating, AI and ET programs to produce the 2021 stud lambs. Added to this are our commercial operations that increase the measurements we take to 10,000 ewes each year. Our program delivers genetic improvement in the key production areas of growth, reproduction and parasite resistance but is also exploring new areas of wool shedding, bare breech, tail length, dag score and early puberty. We hope you like our sheep as they are fun to farm with.

## What's happening on the farm at Cashmore Park

Pregnancy Scanning at Cashmore.

It's always a couple big days to get through the adult ewes at Cashmore but an activity that we believe gives numerous benefits. It is an indication of how our management system allows expression of embryo numbers carried by ewes. Its also a production budget, just like a factory has so that the economic managers can potentially see potential product levels. And from this we can set actions to get maximum live lambs on the ground, then to weaning.

What is pleasing this year is we have gone "back to back". The reproduction levels of high fertility XB sheep are sensitive to the weight/condition score of the female. The do nothing approach means that a ewe may build up weight, then have a set of twins, then lose weight, and have a single the next year, then build weight up again, then twin. On reading research papers with international breeds lambing at 350 % this is very evident. So the aim is to flatten this bounce and keep those good ewes up each year which can be done with drafting on weight and manually condition scoring the ewes. Last year we scanned 184 %, this year 189%, a good gain. The pleasing result is the Green tag rising 2 Year olds that lambed as lambs. Historically they would scan 155%. Also the 173 light whites , high performers , run in a large mob, drafted out and then recovered to deliver 217%.

We hope you have had a good scan also — John

Mob	Empty	Single	Twin	Triplet	Total	%
Heathmere Mixed Age	18	212	759	163	1152	193%
Coffee from Home MA	5	28	207	68	309	209%
Cashmore demoted stud MA	12	59	338	87	496	201%
Moles green 2019	26	115	325	24	490	171%
Selection orange 2018	3	68	443	69	583	199%
NSW light white 2017	2	17	103	51	173	217%
NSW fat black 2016	5	76	456	59	596	195%
Green demoted stud 2019	20	86	302	37	445	180%
Nudie Studs MA	14	150	404	33	601	176%
Stud Maternal & Term MA	73	414	1319	225	2032	183%
Nudies multiplier MA	1	12	31	4	48	179%
	3%	18%	68%	12%		189%

**Twiner Cattle** — In mid February we pregnancy scanned the Twinner cows and heifers. Our heifers scanned 92% and the cows 117%. After culling a few surplus we have 30 sets of twins expected from the retained 90 females. Post weaning the calves, twin bearing cows are drafted out and put on increased pasture levels to allow some weight gain. This small management activity gives them a chance to rear acceptable calves and rebreed a little earlier post calving. The herd now shows good beef characteristics, increased poll and more uniform colour.

## What's happening on the farm at Oaklea

My daughter Catherine and husband Alex Lyon along with their 20 month old daughter Molly started working with us in January 2020. Cath and Al have had a very steep learning curve but have coped admirably and will be a great addition to our business. For myself it is great to see the next generation ready to take over. They have recently purchased a small property that adjoins one of our farms. The property has a nice large homestead with plenty of shedding and established garden and orchard.

Our rams and surplus ewes sold very well and found new homes all over Australia. Our prime lambs sold to repeat buyers and they commented on how pleased they were with the shape and yield of these lambs.

Whilst we have only ever been opportunistic traders in beef cattle we purchased a nice line of Angus heifers and mated them last year. So now we are running cows and calves. I don't know how long this will last as it takes a cow too long to return her own body weight as far as I am concerned.

All ewes have been crutched. June lambing 2.5 to 4.5 year old ewes have had their pre lamb treatments and are now in their paddocks ready for lambing. They weighed 68kg and scanned 172%. The July ewes have been scanned 3.5 year old plus ewes scanned 203% at 74kg, 2.5 year old scanned 192% at 73kg and the 1.5 year old ewes scanned 176% at 68kg.

We mate all of our stud ewe lambs for 6 weeks and they weighed 41.4kg at mating and 46.1kg when the rams came out. They will be pregnancy tested on the 3rd week of June.

Last spring was very good and whilst the Autumn break was a little later than normal we are shaping up for a good season. We are getting plenty of grubs and thistles to deal with. Fertiliser and lime is out, new pastures sown and germinating and we have over sown our rape and chicory summer crops with annual ryegrass which provides a lot of fodder through the winter.

Don

CASHMORE OAKLEA

Important Dates

- The Ram Sale is to be held on **Friday 8th October** through Auctions Plus. Open Days will be held on Friday 1st October at Oaklea and Monday 4th October at Cashmore. Further information to come.
- The Ewe Sale is scheduled for Thursday 2nd December



Becoming a Nudie

The pros and cons of switching to shedding sheep

**HOLD THE DATE - 13 JULY 2021**

**FREE ONE-DAY EVENT**

EVENT DETAILS

**When:** 13 July 2021

**Time:** 9:00am - 4:00pm (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided)

**Venue:** Hamilton Showgrounds (Shakespeare St, Hamilton VIC 3300)

**Registration Essential:** Register your interest by 6th of July in particular for catering and COVID planning.

**Registration:** Call or email Meridian Agriculture's Casterton office  
E: [casterton@meridian-ag.com.au](mailto:casterton@meridian-ag.com.au) or P: (03) 5581 2826 or visit  
<https://meridian-ag.com.au/events/>

**Further Enquiries:** Please contact John Keiller 0409 804 638 or Andrew Speirs 0428 685 172.



Pregnancy scanning



AI taking samples for individual worm count



24 adult cows scanned with twins



AI drenching the rams



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