



Wonoka Partnership - Kapunda SA

2015 Pre-sale update

July 2015

A big thanks to all our successful bidders at the 2014 sale; we hope you are pleased with your purchases and that they are performing well for you in your environment. Many of you will be approaching or well into lambing by now, so we trust it's all going well and that you have some good feed available.

The 2014 drop ram lambs have grown out really well this year having been weaned onto a standing ripened crop of Outback oats in November 2014. Despite significantly below average rainfall at Kapunda from the end of July, the crop was well over the heads of the lambs at weaning.



Outback oats - July 2014



Outback oats - September 2014

14 ha of standing crop which was grazed over winter provided high quality feed for 200 weaners for 120 days after which time it was grazed by the ewes prior to the break of the season this year.

Progressive weights

Autumn growth rates of the weaners has eased considerably due to below average rainfall so far this year and lack of early feed production; however the ram lambs have recently moved into a ryegrass and barley paddock, and with a little hay supplementation, they have bloomed. Weight gain will be checked again next month.

All weaners were scanned for fat and muscle depth by John Lehmann in April 2015, and our focus on selection emphasis for growth and muscling appears to be giving us and hence you, our clients, some very exciting genetics. The 2014 data is summarised below.

The *top* performance data of each breed type is tabled below for your interest:

	Weaning Nov '14		April '15			June '15
	LW	PW GR	LW	Fat	EMD	LW
	<i>kg</i>	<i>g/d</i>	<i>kg</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>kg</i>
Wiltipoll	51	467	76.5	4.5	40	82.5
Composite	52.5	476	84.5	5.5	44	83

The *average* performance data to date for the 2014 drop ram lambs is tabled below:

	Weaning Nov '14		April '15			June '15
	LW	PW GR	LW	Fat	EMD	LW
	<i>kg</i>	<i>g/d</i>	<i>kg</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>kg</i>
Wiltipoll	38.7	282	59.7	3.66	33.1	65.9
Composite	40.7	284	62.9	3.65	33.3	68.2



Some of the 2014 drop ram lambs as at June 29 2015

How does this compare with last year?

The largest eye muscle at the April scanning of the 2013 drop ram lambs was 40mm; this was a Composite ram purchased by Peter and Judy Colless at the sale - we can't wait to see the progeny from him this year! He weighed 85kg at scanning and increased to 108kg by the October sale. The top 2013 drop Wiltipoll ram lamb at scanning in 2014 had 32mm eye muscle and weighed 64.5kg; so progress continues!

Fertility

The ewe lambs have been joined again this year for 6 weeks from March 1st 2015; having pregnancy scanned them 50 days after the rams were removed, 29% are in lamb and of those we are expecting 152% lambs. As usual, we have found no correlation with weight or condition and fertility in the ewe lambs - it appears to be purely a factor of sexual maturity. However we continue to retain all ewe lambs that rear a lamb in their first year to see if the maturity pattern changes. The average weight of the pregnant ewe lambs ranged from 42.8 to 63.5kg liveweight. The mixed age ewes have done really well this year scanning at 148%. From the pregnant ewes, the Composites are expecting 188% lambs and the Wiltipolls, 178%; so the fox lights, alpaca and strategic baits are out and with this slightly worrying dry weather we are hoping to maximise lamb survival this year.

The 2015 sale

Once again we welcome Neville Sloper, Spring Creek Wiltipolls and Chris Rundle & Di Bak, JayVee Farm who will be again joining us for our annual on-property sale at Kapunda, in the mid-north of South Australia, to be held on Friday October 23rd, 2015. Unfortunately due to seasonal conditions and the arrival of a new baby Matt Octoman, Calena Heights, will be not be participating in the sale this year, but we are hopeful he will be back with us again in 2016.

We are planning to have the sale catalogue out in early October with pre-sale scan data and weights to be available at the sale.

We have had expressions of interest from the UK in sourcing embryos and lots of enquiry from across Australia so the sale looks like it will be a good one to be at this year. Please put the date in your diary and we hope you can come and be a part of a great day and the continuing resurgence of the Wiltipoll breed! Opportunities abound!!

Happy lambing and may you all enjoy some rain soon.....

Cheers

San & Ann

Ph: 0428446499

E: ann@wonoka.com.au

W: www.wonoka.com.au



Wonoka composite 698/13 - scanned 50mm EMD in April 2013 - progeny available in 2016