

MERRYVILLE NEWS



Newsletter of Merryville Merino Stud, Boorowa

Spring 2016

Volume 24

At his first show 'Merryville 14' won his Fine/Medium wool four tooth March shorn ram class, became the Grand Champion Fine/Medium wool ram, Supreme Merino Ram and was finally awarded the Supreme Merino Exhibit of the 2016 Sydney Royal Show.

Judge John Roberts, Dubbo, said "he has beautiful skin, great deep style, I think he will make a tremendous sire".

The August/September 2014 drop, 18.5 micron ram cut 15.4kg of fleece.



Wal's Message

As we go to print the wool market is rising steadily with an indicator of 1320c/kg.

George's son, Alec Merriman, is now buying wool for Lempriere and his assessment of the market is included in this newsletter.

This year it has been a steady gain unlike the price spike of June last year. Reports show the average wool price rose some 20% in 2014/15 and this year saw an increase of 10% in 2015/16.

The other important factor is that the market is improving in US\$ breaking through the 1000c/kg barrier US\$.

There has been increased activity on the futures market up to 2 years out.

Superfine types are still lagging due to oversupply of micron but there has been increased activity by Reda and Barberis too with contracts to secure these types as there has been diminishing supply of the superfine types.

We have had another successful year in the show ring with another Supreme Merino at Sydney and our rams siring the Australian Sire of the Year, Grand Champion Ram, Grand Champion Ewe and Supreme Merino of the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo.

After a difficult Autumn and Winter the season is now set for a good Spring with good markets to take advantage of.

Merryville On-Property Unhoused Ram Sale

Friday 9th September 2016 – 1pm at "Beverley", Boorowa

ENQUIRIES

Wally Merriman Ph 02 6385 3333
Landmark, Boorowa Ph 02 6385 3666

George Merriman Ph 02 6385 3282
Elders, Boorowa Ph 02 6385 3107

Sydney Success Again

At the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show Merryville again took out four Grand Champions and Supreme Merino Exhibit.



🏠 Merryville's Grand Champion Superfine Wool ram was named 'Merryville Jason' and sold shortly after the show to Jason and Michael Hoadley and family of Blayney, NSW. The March Shorn, 6 tooth ram tested at 16.5 micron fibre diameter, with a 2.8 micron SD, 17% CV and 99.7% CF.



🏠 Another Merryville ewe sired by Pemcaw Poll was awarded Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe. The 4 tooth ewe carried a 16.9 micron fleece.



🏠 A 2 tooth, Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ewe was Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ewe, Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Ewe and then Grand Champion Poll Ewe. Sired by Pemcaw Poll the ewe's micron was 17.6, SD 3.2, and CF 99.7%.



🏠 Congratulations to Allan and Jenny Johnson on being awarded the Elders' Southern Supreme Clip of the Year at the 2016 Hamilton Sheepvention. The Johnsons of 'Echo Cottage', Lamont, Tasmania, are the first Tasmanian's to win the award.

'Giant Test'

Merryville's Sydney 2015 Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram 'Giant Test' has gone on to sire some impressive lambs. These include a 40kg ram lamb with the drop averaging 31kg upon weaning at 3.5 months of age.

Lambing Rates

Merryville clients Lynoch Pty Ltd, Armidale and R & C Westmore, Patterdale, Tasmania have reported satisfying lamb rates using their Merryville rams as sires.

Lynoch Pty Ltd reported a marking percentage of 100% and up to 130% in the best mob. Doug White, Manager for the Westmores, reports a 93% lambing rate in Tasmania, including maidens.

Merryville Wethers

Merryville Stud had some notable sales in November 2015 with their wethers reaching a Wagga sale top of \$105 per head.

This was backed up with further wethers selling the next week for a sale top of \$104 per head.

The next fortnight saw our wethers top the Merino section at \$104.50 per head.

Highlights

Merryville

GSSM 2016

Most Successful Exhibitor

Champion Superfine Wool Sale Ram

Champion Fine/Medium Wool Sale Ram

Champion August Shorn Fine Wool Ewe

Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Poll Ram

Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Poll Ewe

7 rams sold to a top of \$10,000 and average of \$4,321

Top price of \$10,000 sold to P & J Lette, Conrayn Merino Stud

Armidale 2016

Top price of \$12,000 sold to Lynoch Pty Ltd, Armidale

David Grills Partnership, Armidale \$11,000

Greenland Merino Stud, Bungarby \$8,500

5 rams sold to a top of \$12,000 and average of \$7,700

Mudgee 2016

8 rams sold to a top of \$3,000 and average of \$2,375

Royal Canberra Show 2016

Most Successful Exhibitor

Grand Champion Poll Ram

Grand Champion Poll Ewe

Champion Superfine Wool Poll Ewe

Champion Fine Wool Poll Ram

Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe

Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Ewe

Champion August Shorn Fine Wool Ewe

Champion August Shorn Medium/Strong Wool Ram

Sydney 2016

Supreme Merino Exhibit

Supreme Merino Ram

Most Successful Superfine & Fine Wool Exhibitor

Most Successful Exhibitor in March Shorn Poll Merino Section

Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram

Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Ram

Grand Champion Poll Ewe

Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe

Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ewe

Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Ewe

Champion Superfine Wool March Shorn Ram

Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Ewe

Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Ram

Champion Fine/Medium Wool August Shorn Poll Ewe

Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ewe

Bendigo 2016

Most Successful Superfine Wool Exhibitor and Fine Wool Exhibitor

Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ram

Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe

\$10,000 equal top price Poll Merino Ram sold to a syndicate of Tasmanian buyers including W & C Von Bibra of Ross, Mayfield Estate of Little Swanport and Winton Estate of Campbell Town.

Private Sales 2016

WC & MA Doak, Bundarra \$10,000

HL & JL Dew, Mangoplah \$5,000

Glen Brothers Pty Ltd, Guildford \$4,500

Merryville clients

CONGRATULATIONS to the many clients who have continued to enjoy success in the past twelve months, including:

2016 GSSM WINNERS

- The Walton family, Wurrook, Rokewood – Supreme Exhibit, Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ram, Champion Sale Ram, Champion and Reserve Champion March Shorn Ram, Champion Fine Wool Sale Ram, Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ram, Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Ram, Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe, Champion August Shorn Superfine Wool Poll Ram, March Shorn Group 1st, Pairs 1st.
- Peter & Jayne Lette, Conrayn, Berridale – Champion August Shorn Superfine Wool Ram, Reserve Champion August Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe, Reserve Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe.

2016 SYDNEY WINNERS

- The Walton family, Wurrook, Rokewood – Supreme Merino Ewe, Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Ram, Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Ewe, Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ewe, Champion August Shorn Ewe, Most Successful August Shorn Exhibitor.
- The Van Eyk family, Shalimar Park, Walcha – Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Ewe.

2016 BENDIGO WINNERS

- The Crawford family, Rockbank, Victoria Valley – Grand Champion Poll Merino Ram and Victorian Bred Ram of the Year.
- The Walton family, Wurrook, Rokewood – Supreme Merino of Show, Victorian Bred Ewe of the Year, Grand Champion Merino Ewe, Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Ewe, Junior Champion Superfine Wool Ewe, Grand Champion Fine Wool Ewe,
- Peter & Jayne Lette, Conrayn, Berridale – Grand Champion Merino Ram, Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Ram.
- Paul & Margy Seaman, Rosemont, Crookwell – Grand Champion fleece.



Wurrook's Supreme Merino of the 2016 Australian Sheep & Wool Show was sired by Merryville Hamilton Giant. Hamilton Giant also sired Wurrook's 2015 Supreme Merino at this show and was the sire of Merryville's Supreme Ram at the 2013 Sydney Royal Show. Merryville's Sydney 2015 Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram 'Giant Test' was also sired by Hamilton Giant. Conrayn's Grand Champion Ram was by another Merryville sire, son of Merryville Big Brilliant.

Merryville Annual Highlights

Dubbo Performance Class 2015

Merryville Stud recorded a record wool weight of 18.36kg in the performance class of the 2015 Dubbo Show and Sale. The ram won the class with a micron of 17.8, SD of 2.9, CV of 16.8% and CF of 99.8%. The fleece was valued at \$155.33 and received 160 points from a possible 160 for the fleece value. The eye muscle depth and fat depth also obtained maximum points.

Ovens Valley Wether Trial

The final shearing of the three year Ovens Valley Wether Trial hosted at Everton occurred in May 2016. Our Merryville team recorded average microns per year of 17.0, 17.9 and 18.3 for an average of 17.73 for the 3 year trial. Our yields were 71.5%, 77.5% and 78.2% for an average of 75.73%. The fleece weights of 6.75kg, 6.8kg and 6.7kg resulted in a three year average of 6.75kg per head. No sheep were lost during the trial and their live weight value was \$103 per head at the conclusion of the trials. Our three year group wool average value was \$73.93 per head.

2015 On Property Ram Sale

In September 2015 Merryville Stud held their 16th Annual On Property Ram Sale with 129 rams sold to a top of \$4,800 and an average sale price of \$1,869.

John McArthur, Central Otago, New Zealand, purchased the \$4,800 top priced ram for his Strathclyde Merino Stud. The Ultrafine wool Ram was a September 2014 drop ram by Grand Monarch Super 5th tested at 15.6 micron, with a 2.6 micron SD, CV of 16.7% and CF of 100%.

The second top priced ram was purchased by Lingara Pty Ltd, Mockinya, Victoria for \$4,600. This Medium wool, May shorn ram tested at 18.9 micron, 3.1 SD, CV of 16.4%, CF 99.1% and was sired by EM Syndicate.

David Grills Partnership of Armidale secured the first Superfine wool ram of the sale for \$4,500 and went on to purchase the last Superfine wool ram for \$4,400.

Tony & Winsome Price, Boiga View, Pyramul took home another 4 rams to continue with their 45 years of using Merryville blood.

2016 On Property Ewe Sale

'Geegullalong', Boorowa, was the venue for Merryville Stud's 32nd Annual On Property Ewe Sale. Held on Friday 22nd January 2016, our annual stud and flock ewe sale is held in conjunction with the Great Southern Supreme Merino Field Day.

The 670 stud ewes offered sold to a top of \$235 per head and an average of \$98. First time buyer Aaron McDonald of Williamsdale, paid the top price for the first pen, 26 CFA Ultrafine wool stud ewes.



2015 Dubbo Performance Class winning ram.

The Hoadley family, Blayney, returned to the sale and between them took home 219 stud ewes. Jason Hoadley secured 94 superfine and fine wool maiden ewes while parents Michael and Roanne purchased 125 superfine and fine wool CFA ewes.

First time buyers, Matthew & Elizabeth Hernan, travelled from Victoria to purchase both stud and flock ewes to stock their new property. They purchased 186 mostly maiden Fine wool stud ewes and 409 flock ewes.

Ray Palmer of Bijiji Pastoral Co Pty Ltd, Corowa, returned to purchase 52 medium wool CFA stud ewes at an average of \$128 per head.

2016 Great Southern Supreme Merino Show and Ram Sale

Merryville Stud sold the top priced ram at the 2016 GSSM Ram Sale to Peter and Jayne Lette of Conrayn Merino Stud in Berridale, NSW. They paid \$10,000 for the 17.1 micron ram sired by a son of Merryville Big Brilliant. As mentioned elsewhere, Big Brilliant also sired Conrayn's Grand Champion Ram at this year's Bendigo Show.

Another Merryville ram sold for \$7,000 to the Feilen family of Merrigang Pastoral Co., Ando, NSW. Merryville Stud's 7 rams sold averaged \$4,321 for the sale.

During the show Merryville was awarded the Most Successful Exhibitor, Champion Superfine Wool Sale Ram, Champion Fine/Medium Wool Sale Ram, Champion August Shorn Fine Wool Ewe, Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Poll Ram and Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Poll Ewe.

Merryville Stud Structure

The Current Breeding Families

STYLE

** all micron tests shown are on full feed*

ULTRA FINE

This type traces back to the original Ravensworth sheep and is about 80 years old. The sheep range from ultrafine (it is not uncommon for some to be tested to 14.0 micron) to 16.5 micron. Pure Saxon wool with style and high spinability

Average of Adult Ewes	16.5 mic	4.5 kg cut/hd
Sires Used		
Ringmaster Centenary 3rd	16.7 mic	
Goulburn Supreme by Ringmaster Francesco	16.1 mic	Supreme Exhibit at GSSM in 2010

SUPER FINE

This type traces back to the original Ravensworth sheep and is about 80 years old. The sheep range from ultrafine (it is not uncommon for some to be tested to 14.0 micron) to 18.5 micron. Pure Saxon wool with style and high spinability

Average of Adult Ewes	17.5 mic	5.1 kg cut/hd
Sires Used		
Ringmaster Superior 9th	18.1 mic	AI
Grand Monarch Super 5th	17.4 mic	Long bodied, Superfine. Not shown.
Francesco Syndicate		Three sons of Ringmaster 40th Francesco by Ringmaster 37th Francesco. Francesco was Grand Champion Superfine Sydney Sheep Show 2000 and has been a major superfine influence.
Merryville Giant Test	17.4 mic	Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram Sydney Royal 2015, cut 16kg wool.

FINE

Larger framed, heavier cutting, 66s 70s type, staple length 90mm, white – highly crimped wool, genetic source of the Merryville Commercial Flock and represent about 40% of stud numbers

Average of Adult Ewes	18.5 to 19.0 mic	6.0 to 7.3 kg cut/hd
Sires Used		
Giant Test	17.4 mic	
EM Supreme	18.4 mic	Supreme Exhibit Sydney Royal 2010. Cut 15.6kg, weight 128kg.
Big Brilliant Syndicate	18.6 mic	Supreme Fine Wool Ram at Campbell Town show in 2009, sire of the second top (\$20,000) and third top (\$16,000) price rams at Bendigo 2013
Grand Monarch 44th	18.7 mic	Supreme Merino and Grand Champion Fine Wool ram Sydney Royal 2013. Supreme Merino GSSM 2013.
Brilliant Example Syndicates and fine-testing Uniform Syndicates of young rams for progeny testing		

MEDIUM

Large framed ewes with 64s type wool. Main families are Uniform and Grand Monarch which trace back to Wanganella ram 'Sir Francis' 1929.

Average of Adult Ewes	19.0 mic	7.1 kg cut/hd
Sires used		
Grand Monarch 42nd by Grand Monarch 37th	18.9 mic	Not shown, reserved as a 2 tooth. 3rd season.
Uniform 41st	19.4 mic	Reserve Champion Sydney Medium Wool ram 2006
One Oak Magnussen	18.5 mic	Purchased at the One Oak dispersal sale for \$16,000. Reserve Grand Champion Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2013. Heaviest cutter in the Trangie Sire Evaluation.

MURGHA

The Murgha stud was established with ewes bought from the Murgha dispersal sale pure Wanganella blood. Highly regarded at the time, esteemed studs such Uardry, Koonawarra and Pemcaw can trace their origins back to the Murgha dispersal sale. The sheep have been joined to Merryville medium types and are like a separate family in the Merryville medium type

Average of Adult Ewes	19.0 mic	7.1 kg cut/hd
Sires used		
Sons of East Mundulla	19.4 mic	East Mundulla by WA Purple (contains Merryville blood) out of a Collinsville Olympic ewe (Merryville background). First drop produced Grand Champion Medium Wool Ram, Campbell Town 2009, 19.8 micron, 142 kg.
One Oak Magnussen	18.5 mic	Purchased at the One Oak dispersal sale for \$16,000. Reserve Grand Champion Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2013. Heaviest cutter in the Trangie Sire Evaluation

POLL MERINOS

The type and style of the Merryville Poll Merino sheep mirror the Merryville horned types and families

FINE

Average of Adult Ewes	19.0 mic	6.0 kg cut/hd
Sire Used		
Uniform Poll 13th	18.5 mic	Champion Fine Wool Poll at Bendigo and Dubbo 2005

FINE/MEDIUM

Average of Adult Ewes	19.3 mic	6.8 kg cut/hd
Sire Used		
Pemcaw Poll	18.7 mic	Purchased at Dubbo 2012 for \$44,000 cut 13.7kg wool, weight 131kg.
Merryville Poll ES	18.2 mic	

Merryville Poll Merinos

Continuing on from last year, the Poll Stud is performing at the highest levels.

In 2015 Merryville Poll Merino Stud won the following:

GSSM: Junior Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram, the Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Poll Ram (who went on to become Reserve Champion March Shorn Poll Ram), the Champion March Shorn Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram and the Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Poll Ewe (who became the Reserve Champion March Shorn Poll Ewe).

This Junior Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram then placed 3rd in the Objective Measurement Class at the 2015 Sydney Royal Show. With a 19.5 micron fleece this was the highest yielding and most valuable fleece of the class at 82.1% and \$125.39 respectively.

Canberra Royal Show: Champion Superfine Wool Poll Ram, Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe.

Sydney Royal Easter Show: Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Ram, Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Ram, Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Poll Ram, Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor.

A lot of these sheep were sired by Pemcaw Poll, an outstanding sire who is proving his worth throughout Australia. As well as the Merryville Champions, he has sired the Grand Champion Ram at Wanaka in New Zealand in 2015, a top price poll ewe of \$12,000 and a grandson was Victorian Ram of the Year and Grand Champion Poll Ram at Bendigo in 2016.

Merryville Poll Stud's results at the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show include:

- Most Successful Exhibitor in March Shorn Poll Merino Section
- Grand Champion Poll Ewe
- Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe
- Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ewe
- Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Ewe
- Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Ewe
- Champion Fine/Medium Wool August Shorn Poll Ewe
- Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ewe

In the Objective Measurement class, a Merryville 2 tooth poll ram had the highest eye muscle depth at 40.0 mm, with a fat depth of 3 mm. This ram also had the 2nd highest poll fleece value of the class.

Performance & Production

Increasingly shows are including Performance Classes in their schedules to give a more objective view of a sheep's value.

These Performance Classes use objective measurement for both wool and meat, looking at Frame & Confirmation, Body Weight, Fat Depth, Eye Muscle Depth, Staple Strength, Coefficient of Variation and Fleece Value.

Merryville Stud has proven the profitability of both its rams and ewes in the Objective Measurement Classes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in recent years. In the 2016 Objective Measurement 2 to 4 tooth class, Merryville had the second highest fleece value for 'Merryville 14' (the Supreme Merino Exhibit) with a 15.4kg, 18.5 micron fleece with a yield of 72%. A Merryville 2

tooth poll ram had the highest eye muscle depth at 40.0 mm and a fat depth of 3 mm. This ram also had the 2nd highest poll fleece value of the class.

In 2015 Merryville placed 2nd in the Ram 6 tooth and over class with a 125.5kg ram with 18.8 micron wool, a fleece yield of 74.9% and fleece value of \$138.06. A younger poll ram in the 2 to 4 tooth class placed 3rd in his class. With a 19.5 micron fleece this was the highest yielding and most valuable fleece of the class at 82.1% and \$125.39 respectively. In the 2 to 4 tooth Ewe class Merryville secured 2nd place with a 17.7 micron, 12.5kg fleece valued at \$108.23.

The Objective Measurement Class for Rams 6 tooth and over at Sydney in 2013 was won by a Fine/Medium

ram from the Merryville Uniform family during his first showing. This ram weighed 113.5kg after shearing a 12.4kg fleece of 18.1 micron wool yielding 75.2% and valued at \$116.66. The ram's total value was \$409.00 and its eye muscle measured 42mm with a fat depth of 4.2mm. This eye muscle measurement was the highest in the class. Merryville's entry in the Ram 2 to 4 tooth class also had the highest eye muscle measurement of 41mm.

Merryville won the Objective Measurement Class at Dubbo in 2013 with a ram cutting 14.6kg wool with a micron of 17.4 and 139kg body weight. The ram scored a perfect score for his fleece which was valued at \$126.44. This follows on from Merryville's Castellon ram which cut 14.8kg at 19.2 micron in 2012.

FLOCK RAMS

Free delivery to most areas – All sheep vaccinated

Available Mid-September

In all grades to suit your stud or flock

VALE



John Kensit

John Kensit was a friend and contemporary of Dad's, in fact they went to school together in Canberra. John founded the Evermore Stud near Crookwell in 1952 on Merryville blood, using Uniform family sheep, producing a bulky, fine wool type.

The star of the show was a ewe he called Lady Gillian who was Grand Champion Ewe of Sydney Sheep Show three years in a row. Another ewe, Lady Helen was Grand Champion ewe in 1963.

John also turned his hand to cattle breeding, firstly with Poll Shorthorn and then with Poll Herefords with considerable success. John Kensit carried himself with kindness and decency and left friends wherever he went.



Tony Carlon

Tony Carlon was another friend and client who passed away in March 2016. Tony was Studmaster of the Queenlee Stud at Uralla in NSW.

Queenlee was founded on Merryville and Tasmanian bloodlines, mostly Ringmasters with a clip average of 17.4 micron of true superfine type.

Tony and Barb built their holding up to 7000 acres and won first prize in the Ultimate Clip Competition in 2002. Tony was a good friend and an astute Studmaster and our thoughts are with Barb, Phillip, Jenni and family.

LADY KATE 'SHOWS OFF' MERINO WOOL

Now in its third year, Penny's knitwear business Lady Kate continues to do well. Penny started the label in 2014 to 'show off' Australian merino wool to a new generation of women. The brand prides itself on using good quality, 100% Australian merino and Lady Kate's customers are really noticing the difference.

Penny said she is hearing from a lot of women that they are impressed with the quality and durability of the jumpers.

"A lot of women are telling me they have been wearing their jumper for three years and still get compliments on it," she said. "Some of them are surprised that the garment continues to look good – previously their experiences of wool have been mixed."

"I meet women who have never worn merino wool before and women who have bought a merino jumper but found that it's itchy or pills after a few wears.

"When they buy a Lady Kate jumper they realise that merino actually feels luxurious and it wears beautifully – I try and explain to them that this is how it should be!"

Penny said the most rewarding part of running Lady Kate is changing women's perception on wool.

"If every Lady Kate customer becomes a lover of merino wool then they advocate the fibre to their friends and the story grows," Penny said. Lady Kate is certainly finding this is the case, with women all over Australia ordering through the website. Penny says the next step is pushing sales to Northern Hemisphere customers.

"I'm getting a few enquiries from Europe and the UK so I'm hoping to grow the business in those areas. Australian Merino wool is such a beautiful fibre. I'm proud to show it off!" Lady Kate jumpers are available at www.ladykate.com.au

Strong prices across the board

The 2015/16 selling season, which ended on the 15th of July, saw strong prices across the board with the Eastern Market Indicator averaging over 1250ac for the season and finishing at 1311ac.

These strong prices have been assisted by the lower AUD, which is currently trading at around 75usc, as well as a smaller total national offering, which has reduced by approximately 7% from last season.

Superfine and fine fleece wools have been selling between 1450ac and 1550ac over the past 12 months with best top making types (40NKT+) pushing over 1650ac towards 1700ac, due to limited availability. One main influence over prices received throughout the year was whether the wool was purchased for the Italian or Chinese market. Due to the Italian market having tighter specifications, hence a smaller selection, strong premiums were received for suitable lots. A main issue facing

superfine wools from certain regions was the greasy length of the wool being too long, as the processors prefer 85-95mm greasy average. Longer wools promote a higher mid-break, which affects the CVH (Coefficient of variance hauteur) of the processing batch, meaning that only a few of these longer lots can be used in each batch. The season just passed showed strong stability overall with the EMI averaging 150ac more than the previous season.

Much like the fleece, the room 2 types saw high demand which translated into historically high prices particularly in the skirtings, which were well over 1350ac for most of the season. There was plenty of VM (vegetable matter) around this season, which made the low VM lots (<2%VM) very desirable. These longer, low vm skirtings can be used in an Indian blend and often fetched good prices. However, there were many lots that went through the sale room that were very mixed quality and often had stain and

heavy jowls present in the sample. These lots were noticeably discounted, which reiterates the importance for correctly classing the wool. Cardings are coming off a couple of very strong years but were still receiving decent prices, especially for 'good colour' lots.

There has been a slight shift in China as processors are moving away from XB wools and focusing back on merino fleece, which is expected to remain strong for the foreseeable future. It has been estimated that there will be a slight bump in the national offering in the coming season however the split between merino and XB remains to be seen. Although the demand for merino fleece is expected to be strong, the AUD v USD drastically influences the prices received at farm gate. Fortunately, with expected further interest rate cuts and historically low iron ore prices, the AUD is projected to stay low allowing wool prices to remain high.

Alec Merriman, Wool Buyer, Lempriere

MERRYVILLE ANNUAL SALES



ON-PROPERTY UNHOUSED RAM SALE
145 RAMS

Friday 9th September 2016
Sale commences 1pm

2017 SALES
ON-PROPERTY EWE SALE – 2017 FIELD DAY
Friday 20th January 2017
Commencing at 1pm

Also selling at

◆ GSSM ◆ Armidale ◆ Glen Innes ◆ Mudgee
◆ Bendigo ◆ Ballarat ◆ Hamilton

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