

New ventures achieve wonderful lift in returns

The historically successful Allendale Suffolk, Poll Dorset and White Suffolk studs run by the Day family at Bordertown staged their 37th annual on-property sale on Friday, achieving lifts in most categories and resulting in a 94% clearance and an \$83,000 increase in sale gross.

This was the first sale since the dissolving of the original family partnership, with Graham and Prue Day 'retiring' and sons Lachlan and Alastair and their families taking over different sections of the sheep operation. Lachlan and Lou now run the White Suffolks under the Days Whiteface prefix, while Alastair and Jayne will continue with the Allendale stud name for the Suffolks and Poll Dorsets.

The sale was a magnificent kick off for their new ventures that saw 370 of the 392 head offered averaging \$953.65. The highlights were \$9,500 for a Days Whiteface White Suffolk stud ram; a \$7,500 top for Suffolk stud rams along with a \$3,833 average for that draft, continued high demand for Suffolk stud ewes and very solid and sustained bidding on the great flock ram offering of 257 flock rams.

The overall sale top price of \$9,500 was paid by Peter Angus, Maroola White Suffolk stud, Mallala for the first White Suffolk stud ram offered, D312, whose twin has been retained in the Days Whiteface stud breeding program. Sired by Allendale B351/06, the 2007 Melbourne Champion, this soundly structured and well balanced ram displayed terrific Suffolk breed type and was supported by great Lambplan ASBVs and indices for all measured traits.

Other top sales in the White Suffolk stud rams included D176 to the Belladonna stud of Anthony and Roxanne Smith, Horsham for \$5,000 and D65 for \$4,000 to RH & JC Batters, St Arnaud. Both these rams were also sired by B352. The 18 White Suffolk stud rams averaged \$2,566, up 98% on last year's result.

The Suffolk breed has produced the sale highlights for the last few years and again continued to meet high stud demand this year. The 12 stud rams sold very strongly to average \$3,833, even up \$333 on last year's very strong result. The top of \$7,500 was paid by repeat Allendale buyers Bill and Sandy Harbison, One Tree Hill. This was for lot 6, brought forward to the start of the sale. This ram, A344Twin was wonderfully balanced both subjectively and objectively and was very hard to fault.

A331Twin, catalogued at lot 1 and sired by the new Brooklands (NZ) 38/06 sire was a first prize winner at Hamilton, Adelaide and Melbourne. He sold for \$5,000 to David Bascombe through Elders, Pt Lincoln. Don Millard, Sheoak Lodge stud, Kapinnie and buying through Landmark Cummins paid \$4,500 for lot 4, A337 Twin, the Adelaide Royal bare shorn class winner. He then added lot 9, another excellent ram by Dorie 52/05, also sire of the top priced ram.

Cameron Grundy, Landmark Naracoorte put some spark into the Poll Dorset stud ram offering by successfully bidding \$5,500 for A154, by the New Zealand sire Clarendon 270/05 and the first ram catalogued in this section of the sale. This was double last year's top for Poll Dorset rams. The Koch family, Tallagreira Pastoral Co and also buying through Landmark Naracoorte went to \$4,000 to secure A90, a top structure, breed type and performance sire and late addition to the catalogue. The 16 Poll Dorset stud rams averaged \$1,856, up \$314 on last year's average.

Several astute flock ram buyers operated on the stud rams that did not attract stud interest and were able to pick up outstanding rams at values often less than the top flock ram prices that followed. One was Will McDonald, Strathalbyn who paid \$1,700, \$1,100 and \$1,000 for 3 top Poll Dorsets.

Another was CJ & KA Hilton, Bordertown and operating through PPH&S. They bought 2 Poll Dorset studs at \$1,200 and \$1,000, White Suffolk studs at \$1,100 (x2) and \$1,000 and later added 1 Poll Dorset flock ram and 4 White Suffolk flock rams to total 10 great value rams.

The biggest volume flock ram buyer at this sale was Russell Robinson, TMP Pty Ltd, Lucindale who bought 30 White Suffolks from \$650 to \$1,150, putting very solid competition right through this draft of 120 rams. The real value in this draft was in the early lots as several buyers waited expecting rams to get cheaper, when in fact they got dearer due to the extra competition which kicked in about a third of the way through the draft.

AG Landy Pty Ltd and buying through Elders Leongatha was one those who benefitted by getting in early, their 10 rams averaging \$840, only \$6 above the draft average.

Long time Allendale supporters G Smith & Co, Mt Gambier and buying through O'Connor & Graney's Charles Smith, also purchased 2 of the stud rams @ \$1,200 and \$1,000 and then added 5 White Suffolk flocks to \$750 and later 3 Poll Dorsets to \$800 to average \$800 for the 10 rams; below the draft average despite buying top rams.

The Suffolk flock ram section has been exceptionally strong in recent sales, this year starting off in the same vein. Martin Hann picked the eyes out of the top quality draft. He paid to the top of \$1,500 and averaged \$1,150 in purchasing 6 rams for the family's very successful Penola based livestock enterprise. Munga Developments, Frances provided the volume buying strength, purchasing 11 Suffolk rams and paying to \$1,000 six times. Eight buyers operated in this section but despite the top end strength, they filled their orders two thirds of the way through the 46 ram offering, resulting in a 67% clearance.

As the last draft offered, the Poll Dorset flock ram offering has also met incomplete clearances in the last couple of years, but this year 23 buyers were attracted to bid on the quality draft of high performance rams.

This resulted in very solid competition, much more in line with the quality on offer, with 90 of the 91 rams clearing to \$1,250 and averaging \$787. Still great value, this was up \$170 on last year's average. Brian Johnson, LS Johnson & Son provided the backbone support purchasing 14 of these rams from \$550 to \$1,100, buying through Elders Naracoorte.

Bergan Park, buying through Spence Dix & Co, Keith went to the equal top of \$1,250 in purchasing Poll Dorset flock rams, while the other \$1,250 buyer was Leo Munro, buying through Elders Naracoorte. They purchased 6 rams to be one of 5 buyers who purchased that number of Poll Dorset rams; the others being JA Malone, through Landmark Naracoorte (6 to \$950). RG Hillier, through Landmark Bordertown, (6 to \$1,000), GE & MJ Hinge, through Landmark Bordertown (6 to \$700) and GW & KM Pilgrim, Bordertown (6 to \$750). The Pilgrims also purchased 5 White Suffolks to \$900.

In the stud ewe offerings, the Suffolks continued to set the pace, with 40 all selling to a top of \$850 and averaging \$497.50. This was up \$150 on last year's excellent result. David Heinrich, Landmark Naracoorte paid the top price of \$850 in purchasing 9 of the pick ewes for Falla Brae Pastoral, Kingston. They also purchased a stud ram for \$4,000. Charlene Holly, Macclesfield was the biggest volume buyer of Suffolk ewes, purchasing 9 to a top of \$550.

Long time supporters in all 3 breeds, Kent and Rose Martin, Kalangadoo were the volume White Suffolk ewe buyers, picking up 9 at \$250 each. J & V Barker, Nyngen, NSW purchased 7 ewes to the \$450 top for this section of the sale, while S & S Carter, Winchelsea, Vic purchased 6 to \$400 to also be significant contributors to the result.

Poll Dorset ewes have attracted very little interest in the last 2 years, but this year competition returned to give a reward for the quality offered. I & K Nunan, Robe purchased 5, including 2 at the \$450 top price, while Spence, Dix & Co, Keith purchased 6 at \$250 each A/c Bergan Park to be the volume buyers of Poll Dorset ewes.

Sale summary

Stud ewes

	2009	2008	White Suffolks	2009	2008	Poll Dorsets	2009	2008
Suffolks								
Offered	40	30		29	33		20	34
Sold	40	30		29	22		14	6
Top	\$850	\$1,025		\$450	\$425		\$450	\$208
Ave	\$497.50	\$348		\$287	\$272		\$321.40	\$208

Stud rams

	2009	2008	White Suffolks	2009	2008	Poll Dorsets	2009	2008
Suffolks								
Offered	12	14		18	17		16	18
Sold	12	14		18	17		16	18
Top	\$7,500	\$8,000		\$9,500	\$2,250		\$5,500	\$2,750
Ave	\$3,833	\$2,661		\$2,566	\$1,295		\$1,856	\$1,542

Flock rams

	2009	2008	White Suffolks	2009	2008	Poll Dorsets	2009	2008
Suffolks								
Offered	46	38		120	87		91	91
Sold	31	38		120	83		90	72
Top	\$1,500	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,000		\$1,250	\$1,250
Ave	\$877	\$987		\$834	\$639		\$787	\$617

Agents: Landmark, Elders & Spence Dix & Co

Auctioneers: Malcolm Scroop (Landmark), Larryn Gogel (Elders) & Jono Spence (Spence Dix & Co)



Peter Angus, Maroola White Suffolks, Mallala is pictured with the \$9,500 top priced White Suffolk ram he purchased from the Days Whiteface offering and held by Graham Day, Bordertown.



Cameron Grundy, Compass stud, Naracoorte is pictured with the \$5,500 top priced Poll Dorset ram he purchased from the Allendale Poll Dorset offering and held by Graham Day, Bordertown.



Graham Day, Bordertown holds the \$7,500 top priced Suffolk ram from the Allendale offering, purchased by Bill & Sandy Harbison, One Tree Hill.