



plevna
merinos

MODERN MERINOS SINCE 1979

CONTACT information

Boydie & Alex Aveyard
Plevna Merinos
P 02 6892 1087
M 0428 921 087
ajaveyard@bigpond.com
www.plevnamerinos.com.au

For your diary

**Plevna merinos
inspection day**
Friday, 15 September

Plevna Merinos ram sale
Thursday, 21 September



Follow us on facebook

For all of the up-to-date
Plevna Merinos news and
happenings.

WOOLPRESS

EWES-LETTER + INVITATION

2017

2017 has been a year of extremes with January & February being as hot as we can remember. Autumn started well with some good general rainfall event's, with mostly ideal sowing conditions. In 2016 it started to rain & really never stopped, 2017 has been the opposite with the tap turning off in late autumn & severe frosts depleting our soil moisture.



Merinos making money

Elmore Field days in Victoria compared 5 breeds of ewes for their lifetime productivity (meat & wool). The trial compared Lambing %, lamb growth & wool production.

The results revealed a Dual purpose Merino to be the most profitable sheep system in a medium rainfall zone.

Prime lambs from Specialist dual purpose Merino ewes with the characteristics of high lambing %, high wool value & good body growth had higher gross margins by an average of 34% than 4 alternative ewe breeds BL X Merino, Dohne, SAMM & a traditional wool focussed flock.

The ewes were run in a single mob until lambing & were joined to either a White Suffolk or Poll Dorset over 6 years & then analysed for their profitability using GrassGro modelling. Results were based on a ewe return however University of MELBOURNE Mackinnon project John Webb noted returns from the BL/Merino & SAMM would be lower when their higher feed intake per HA was taken into account.

This trial does not take into account the added bonus of higher lambing % on Flock age group structure. Higher lambing % allows the producer to have a younger more resilient ewe flock.

EXCERPT FROM THE LAND, 13 JULY 2017

2016 Ram Sale

2016 was our fourth Helmsman sale, thank you to Rob Hellyer, Adam Chudleigh & Hugh Dobell of McCarron Culhinane & Chudleigh for conducting the sale. Prices averaged \$1236 with the top being \$2600. The sale started with a reserve of \$770 & achieved a 100% clearance rate. Thank you to all our buyers. We are looking forward to our next sale on 21 September 2017. ►



BRUCE PATTON GETTING READY TO LOAD UP.



Farewell Eliza Kelly

In June this year Eliza Kelly finished her employment with us & has embarked on a very different challenge entailing being a governess to a missionary family in Ethiopia. Eliza was an asset to Plevna Merinos. Over her time with us, Eliza completed Certificate II & Certificate III in Agriculture. She then took on the Diploma in Agriculture which she completed in her last weeks with us. Eliza was also awarded a Certificate of Excellence & a Rural scholarship from the Royal Agriculture Society Foundation. We loved having Eliza working with us & we wish her well with her new endeavours.

Welcome to Reuben Mcfadyen

Reuben joined us in late June 2017 coming from working for a livestock contracting business in Southern NSW. Currently completing Certificate III in Agriculture, Reuben is hoping to continue further with agricultural studies. A large part of our program is to provide training opportunities to young & enthusiastic sheep industry entrants.



REUBEN MCFADYEN



BOYD AVEYARD AND PAUL KELLY (CLASSER) SELECTING HELMSMAN SALE TEAM FOR 2016.

ASBV Update

This year Boyd attended the Sheep Genetics Regional Forum. After years of collecting data & 5 years of input into SGA we were keen to have a frank assessment of our performance & where we can make improvements. This process was a breakdown of historical data submitted. We were then given a R.U.GG Analysis (Ramping up Genetic Gain report)

Thanks to Caris Jones Development officer from MERINOSELECT for helping us with fine tuning & next steps to further build on our Genetic improvement from that report.

What we have found: Our on farm records for our ewes need to go into SGA, this will give us far higher accuracies in the Data base which will help with linkage. We have also found through our R.U.GG analysis (& told by Caris) that we have a top level of Selection efficiency 71.4%, this means that animals we are retaining for our Ram breeding base are producing a high quality of offspring & low level of culls. This also carries through to our Rams & ewe's purchased from "Plevna".

One of the great aspects of this analysis was learning that our Visual Classing & Objective measurement are working well together.

Technology updates Sheep Immobilizer

In November 2016 we took delivery of our Sheep Immobilizer from Peak Hill Industries & have not looked back. The sheep handler much improves the ergonomics of handling sheep. It weighs & drafts & saves a lot of time & our backs!

DNA testing

An exciting opportunity has been given to us this year. We have been invited to participate in a RamSelect flock profiling pilot study in late 2016. Only animals with data in Sheep Genetics Aust (SGA) database were eligible to participate.

DNA was collected via a blood swab collected from a random sample of 2015 drop Maiden ewes (preferential selection of the animals has no bearing on results)

Results are presented via a chart benchmarking results as a percentile to Merino Stud population, the Plevna blood sheep have performed really well.

In a nut shell this is how we ranked on our main traits collected:

Wool traits: Yearling Clean fleece weight (ycfl) is 14.2% above average, YFD -0.5 finer, Staple length (ysl) 6.6 longer,

Carcase/Growth traits weights are in kgs not%: Post weaning weight (pwt) 3.5kgs heavier, ywt Yearling weight 5.4kgs, Eye muscle depth (pemd) deeper 0.3cm

On Farm

6 monthly shearing continues with still some fine tuning to do. This year we locked in about 50% of our fleece wool. Forward selling is such a great safety net if the market does fall. 2017 has been a great year for wool prices.

Sheep classing

2016 was the year that was sent to test sheep faults, particularly in regards to fleece rot & foot structure. It was great to see how our Plevna wools performed through the big wet of 2016. Sheep classing is offered to all of our ram buying clients & is essential for continuing improvement.



ONE OF MARK & HELEN GRAY'S 2015 DROP YOUNG EWES IN FULL WOOL LAST AUGUST.

First Inspection day

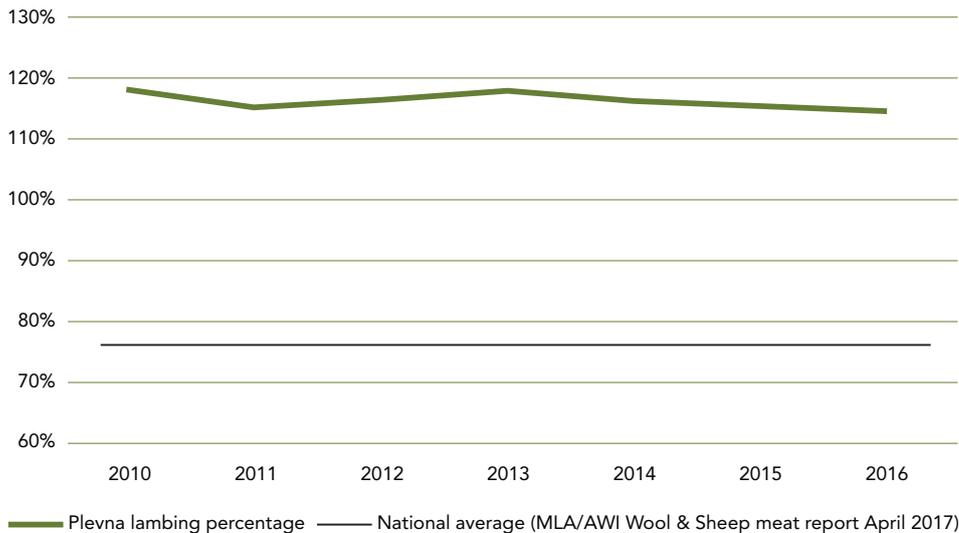
On Friday, 15th of September we are having an inspection day from 12pm to 3pm. Lunch, a sausage sizzle, will be served from 12.30 till 1pm.

This is an opportunity for people to look at 75 top 2016 drop Plevna Merino rams, Sires & Client's sheep. Rams will be penned or tied in their lot numbers this also allows you to come & make some selection decisions prior to sale



day or to have a look at Plevna blood, without the business of a sale being conducted! Catalogues will be available on the day or on our website.

Plevna lambing percentage vs national average



Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Lambing percentage	119	115	117	118	116	115	114

NOTE: NATIONAL AVERAGE 77% (MLA/AWI WOOL & SHEEP MEAT REPORT APRIL 2017)

Flock average, fleece weight & fibre diameter trends



Years	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Micron	21.1	21.3	19.9	20.9	20.7	20.3	20.5	20.4	18.7	19.2	19.8	19.2
Fleece weight	6.46	7.05	6.38	7.56	7.27	7.2	7.59	6.92	7.296	7.5	7.27	7.24

NOTE: 2016 WOOL FIGURES – WE ARE SHEARING 6 MONTHLY. THE COMBINED WOOL WEIGHTS ARE 3.14KGS (MAY SHEARING) & 4.1KGS (DECEMBER SHEARING) COMBINED WEIGHT = 7.24KGS.

5TH ANNUAL HELMSMAN RAM SALE

Thursday the 21st September
2017 Inspections from 10.30am
Sale 75 Rams 1pm onwards

HOW THE HELMSMAN SYSTEM WORKS

The rams are individually penned or tied with their ASBV's on a card above them. There is also a printed catalogue available. Inspections take place prior 10.30am till 1pm. Assistance with selections available from Boyd Aveyard, Rob Hellyer and Adam Chudleigh. The sale starts at \$750. Once buyers are registered bids are placed by paper slip to a MCC team member, the bid is then placed upon a board where all lots are listed. The sale will be completed once bidding has been finalised. The sale will be conducted by Adam Chudleigh, Rob Hellyer & Hugh Dobell of McCarron Cullinane & Chudleigh. For more information contact Boyd Aveyard on contact details given below or Rob Hellyer on 0448 921041



SALLY CAPELL AND JEMALONG WOOL'S STEVE QUIRK AT 2016'S SALE



RAMS 100% GRASS FED

RAM SALE + INSPECTION DAY

INSPECTION DAY FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

- Sausage sizzle 12pm
- Ram inspection 12pm – 3pm
- Rams will be in lot numbers.



plevna merinos
MODERN MERINOS SINCE 1979

RAM SALE THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Heavy cutting commercial sheep

- **FLEECE WEIGHTS:**
Long term average of 20.5 micron 7.5kg in adult ewes.
- **FERTILITY & GOOD MOTHERING:**
High percentage of lambs weaned to ewes joined. Our stud ewes must rear lambs as a maiden to retain their place in the stud.
- **COMPETITION WINNERS:**
First place in the Ted Little Ewe Trial – twice in the last 4 years

5th annual helmsman sale

- Offering top 75 Poll & Merino rams
- Inspection from 10.30am. Inspections prior to the sale by appointment.
- BBQ lunch 12pm
- Sale commences 1pm
- For more information, call Boyd Aveyard 0482 921 087 or Rob Hellyer 0448 921 041.



Visit from the Swedish Ambassador

In May 2017, we had a visit from the Swedish Ambassador Pär Ahlberger & his lovely family & staff for a farm tour whilst they were here for the ABBA festival held in Trundle.



plevna merinos
MODERN MERINOS SINCE 1979

CONTACT information

Boydie & Alex Aveyard
Plevna Merinos
P 02 6892 1087
M 0428 921 087
ajaveyard@bigpond.com
www.plevnamerinos.com.au

For your diary

**Plevna merinos
inspection day**
Friday, 15 September

Plevna Merinos ram sale
Thursday, 21 September