



Trust

TRIGGER
VALE

Est. 1952

Genetics

2021 Newsletter

Welcome . . . to the 2021 Trigger Vale newsletter. For anyone who has seen the old classic Groundhog Day it will make perfect sense when used in reference to our current Covid situation in Australia. The joy as we approach the 2021 ram selling season and our 44th On-Property Auction Sale is regardless of what Covid throws at us we are confident that we have the product and mechanisms in place to ensure "the show will go on".

After listening to clients and conducting a team debrief after the 2020 sale it was clear that the new initiatives, we introduced to counter covid restriction would become part of our ongoing sale landscape regardless of the Covid situation.

These initiatives that enhance the buyers experience and counter some of the Covid 19 restrictions include, having Auctions Plus operating allowing buyers to bid remotely, an inspection day which will be held on Friday 20th August and our already extensive catalogue will again include photo and video footage on each ram. We think that Trigger Vale clients are better positioned than most to purchase rams remotely due to us doing the hard work for over 30 years with regards to collecting full pedigrees and extensive objective measurement on all traits that drive commercial profitability. With a full range of very high accuracy Australian Sheep Breeding Values potential buyers can get a very clear picture of the genetic merit of each ram and target their purchases to fit their own individual breeding objective.



On both a personal and stud level we have had a massive loss in our lives with the passing away of my father Jim in early April. It's impossible to overstate the impact he has had on a personal, family, Trigger Vale stud and broader sheep industry levels. One of Dad's greatest gifts was his ability to develop sincere friendships with people from all walks of life and he once told me the saying that "nobody cares about how much you know until they know about how much you care". Like dad I believe one of the greatest

things about owning a sheep stud is the genuine friendships that you build with clients over time. His experience, guidance and friendships will be missed by many.

An interesting KPI that could be used to illustrate the success of Trigger Vale is that we had outgrown our auction sale selling complex shed. I remember saying at the time that it was built that we had probably made it to big and it would certainly see me out. Well, we have just added two more bays and closed in the western end of the shed. The clients that have attended our information days and sale over the years will appreciate the significance of filling in the western side as we have had an uncanny ability to have unseasonal, bitterly cold rainy weather on many of these days over the past decade. With ever increasing demand for both our White Suffolk and Poll Merino rams this will allow us to continue to increase numbers so clients can fill their orders. This year we intend to increase Poll Merino and White Suffolks by 20 in each breed resulting in 210 Polls and 96 White Suffolks being penned. We could not be happier with the 2020 drop rams and are frustrated that once again we haven't been able to show them off through events like Bendigo and Hamilton Sheepvention.

The next opportunity for old and new prospective clients to obtain our "Top of the Drop" Trigger Vale rams is Friday 3rd September at our 44th On-Property Auction Sale. The sale will commence at 12.30 with inspections from 8.30am. A light luncheon will be provided from 11.30am. Post sale refreshments will also be available, and we hope all the people involved can join us for a drink and a debrief after what is always a massive day. Our pre-sale Inspection Day will be held on Friday 20th August. The rams will be penned by 9.00am and we will be available all day to discuss your ram requirements and breeding objectives.

With Covid continuing to be an ongoing negative influence on our lives its fantastic that we live and work in a rural environment where the impact is minimal. With a return to higher rainfall seasons across most sheep producing areas and very strong prices for lamb, mutton, wool and surplus sheep we are participating in a great industry.

Lastly, the team at Trigger vale wish everyone great spring rains and a fantastic finish to the year. Above all else we hope you and your families remain fit and healthy.



www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au

Andrew Bouffler (02) 6920 7656

Importance of FAT in Breeding Programs

For over 20 years Trigger Vale has had a heavy weighting in our breeding objective for increasing fat levels in our Merino. (See graph 1 for our genetic trends for this trait). The theory being in a commercial sense Yfat as an ASBV is important as it expresses itself as a better Condition Score (CS). Two years ago, at our open/information day our key note guest speaker was Professor Andrew Thompson from Murdoch University who spoke about his teams ground breaking research in this area. I personally believe that this is the most significant research to be carried out in decades in Merino's and I have asked Andrew and his project leader Sarah Blumer for a brief update.

The aim of the project is to use selectable traits to try to establish a more accurate estimation of per hectare profitability for sheep farming systems. An add-on to the Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) program, the Genetic Evaluation: Productivity, Efficiency and Profitability (GEPEP) project has over the past two years involved extensive animal house measurement of intake, liveweight and composition for 640 three-year-old wethers from 29 MLP sires, in 2016-drop and 2017-drop cohorts.

The result was a massive amount of data which over the next two years will inform economic modelling to determine the role of energy related traits to evaluating the profitability of different genotypes. The body composition data allowed researchers to calculate a whole-body energy store in megajoules for each wether. Individual energy ratings, averaged to a 61 kilograms liveweight, allowed researchers to directly compare the energy conversion in sire teams under different feeding regimes.

“One of the end results, adjusted for liveweight, was a 3 megajoule or 20% range in intake between sire groups under ad libitum conditions” Ms Blumer said. “And when fed at levels expected to achieve liveweight maintenance, liveweight change for each sire team differed, from actual liveweight maintenance for a couple of teams, through to teams losing more than 90g/head/day,” she said. “Also, for every kilogram of liveweight gained, the proportions of fat and lean tissue can be quite different.”

These differences in proportion of fat and lean tissue have an impact on whole-body energy because 1 kg of fat tissue stores 35.9 MJ of energy whereas 1 kg of lean tissue only stores 5.3 MJ of energy. “The value in that fat tissue is when you need to draw down on it, and those animals with a propensity to convert feed to fat can be considerably more efficient.

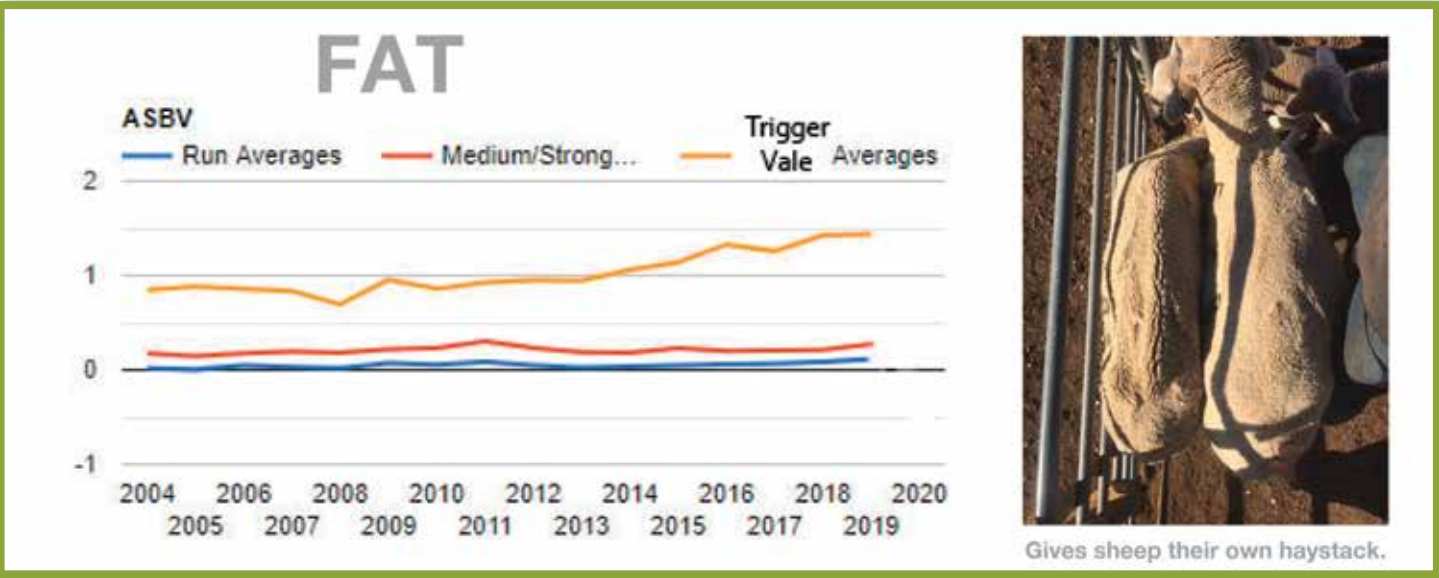
“Based on analysis to date there does not appear to be any relationship between fatness and wool cut and this indicates plenty of scope to select animals that carry fat and produce lots of wool,” Ms Blumer said. “We are looking at dollars per hectare, rather than dollars per head.”

Dr Thompson said the research was broadly based on the premise “a fatter animal is a more profitable animal”. “That’s the concept that we need to lock away and be 100 per cent certain on,” he said of the research teams’ task. “(For example) there’s a perception in the industry that you can’t have a fat animal and cut wool,” Dr Thompson said. “But we think you can and we’re hoping to be able to identify those animals,” he said.

But the research has already shown the potential major economic benefit from fatter sheep - sheep efficient in converting less feed to more fat - will come from being able to run more of them in the same paddock. “The benefits from a fatter animal will come from running higher stocking rates,” Dr Thompson said. “Potentially this is a big change in how we value traits so understandably we have to be pretty confident in the data, hence it will take some time to translate into changes in how some ram breeders and commercial producers might select their rams’.



Andrew Thompson talking at TV 2019 info day.



Graph 1

Dad’s Passing

The passing away of Jim Bouffler in April this year is probably the most significant single event that has occurred in the 70-year history of the Trigger Vale studs. While writing his eulogy I couldn’t help but wonder where he found the time to run a successful farm business while contributing so much to both the local and broader community. While there is a list as long as your arm of committees and volunteered positions that dad held, I feel the overriding legacy that he has left is in the Australian sheep industry. He was quiet literally a pioneer in the development of a completely new breed of sheep. While Thomas Bond was the initial founder of the Bond Corriedale type of sheep Dad’s father, Jack Bouffler and Dad were his first clients and it was predominantly them and the Trigger Vale stud name that developed and grew the breed. During the period that the Bond Corriedale was linked to the Corriedale’s Dad spent many years on both the NSW and National Corriedale Council including times as Chairman. During the 1970’s as the Bond Corriedale developed and became quite different to the traditional Corriedale. It became evident that the Bond type of sheep and the small group of innovative breeders needed to break away from the more traditional breed society. In a meeting held in Lockhart in 1983 over 150 sheep breeders met and formed an official new Breed Association called the Australian Bond Association in which I am extremely proud of the fact that Dad was the inaugural president. While Dad’s influence and impact over the Australian sheep industry was massive for me it was his expertise and experience within our own Trigger Vale stud flock where he really made the difference. I cannot overstate the fact that his eye for a good sheep, willingness to adopt new technologies and his vision of the type of sheep that was required to suit the Australian landscape was unmatched. Over 50 years ago he had different vision to the mainstream Merino industry in that he was breeding for a polled, wrinkle free meaty dual-purpose genotype that was profitable and easy

care. Well guess what people that is exactly what the industry is trying to breed currently. If that’s not a visionary in his field I don’t know what is.

Probably the biggest impact Dad had on our lives occurred as he transitioned from his farming life to nearly full-time horse racing involvement as Chairman of the MTC in Wagga. This involved the handing over of the reins of the farm. Dad and Mum making this decision provided Mandi and I with an incredible opportunity and the independence to move forward and create our own farming lives and identities.

I wasn’t at all surprised to see many Trigger Vale clients attending Dad’s funeral as he developed many quality lifetime friendships through the stud and always said that the people you meet and the relationships you build is the best thing about being in the seed stock industry. I couldn’t agree with his sentiments more.



New Staff

I’m Toby Polkinghorne, and I’m the newest member here at Triggervale Sheep Studs. I originate from Griffith, NSW (2 hours from Lockhart).

My passion for agriculture started like most as a kid finding the freedom of farms a great escape from school. Through curiosity I found a greater passion for the systems and the cycles of farming.

I completed my final year of school in 2014 and moved to the UK for 10 months working with my uncle on his farm compromising of summer cereals, hay, cattle and sheep. Following this I moved to Canada and worked on a large-scale family-owned farm which focused on cropping barley and Canola and exposed me to large scale machinery and enterprise.

I moved back to Australia after this time and enrolled at Marcus Oldham College where I started my Bachelor of Agriculture in 2018. My time at MOC was littered with great times spent making new friends, abundant opportunities to expand my knowledge on agricultural science, business, economic, finance, production and human resource skills.

I decided to join the team here after seeing the advancements in EBV usage and the intrigue into the capabilities of the “Modern Merino” to improve the industry as a whole. The measuring and intensity in measuring has been a real eye-opener in how we can target traits in livestock and improve herd health and increase their profitability without needing extensive scale advancements.

The entire programme diversity in having the two sheep stud enterprises and a commercial Merino flock, accompanied by a large cropping programme keeps the day-to-day operations interesting.



2021 Viewpoint – Genomics and DNA testing

There has been a lot of noise recently in industry about the increased usage of Genomics technology in the Australian seed stock industry. It is often wrapped up in individual stud’s promotional videos and marketing campaigns and portrays them as leading the industry regarding technology and innovation. While in many cases this might be true like so many other things in a modern social media/ fancy marketing world that we operate in it is worthwhile to scratch the surface and see what’s happening underneath.

Fundamentally there are two types of tests that you can use regarding genomics. There is a basic test which can be used to identify parentage of an animal and the more expensive 15K test that gives predicted information on the individual animal’s genetic potential. With the parentage test you take a small sample of ear tissue and send it away for analysis and the individual DNA sequencing is matched up with animals already in the database to predict who the parents might be. For this to work it requires that all the potential sires and dams of the individual have been previously tested and are already in the database so a match can be found. In many cases studs don’t have all their ewes tested due to the numbers involved and associated costs so this is used to get sire information for pedigree only.

The fundamental building blocks for accurate and predictive ASBV’s is generational full pedigree, Date of birth, Birth Type, Rear Type and age of Dam. To get future accurate comparison between a group of animals for all lifetime measured traits its imperative that this information is known so that these environmental influences can be accounted for. For example, if two lambs both weight 35 kgs at weaning but one is a 12-week-old twin out of a maiden ewe and the other is a 14-week-old single out of a 4-year-old ewe then clearly the first animal has superior genes for early growth. The fundamental problem with using DNA testing to source pedigree regardless of how impressive the dollar figure involved is that the other vital information isn’t known.

At Trigger Vale, on our core stud breeding flocks we have been doing the hard yards for 40 years getting full pedigrees and associated information. With our White Suffolks this involves

tagging and weighing lambs at the birth site within hours of being born. With the Poll Merino we are in the paddock daily capturing date of birth, birth type and rear type followed up by painfully slow yard matching up for pedigree. We have tried other methods of mothering up including being the second property in Australia to use Smart Shepard tracking collars but in my opinion, technology still hasn’t come up with a better way to achieve full pedigree while gathering all the other vital associated data points.

The second type of genomic test you can undertake is the 50 K test. This is more expensive test that gives you parentage along with predictive ASBV’s based on the individual DNA sequencing of the animal. The ASBV’s that are generated include the ones that are easy to measure like growth, wool cut or micron along with the hard to measure traits like Intra Muscle Fat and Meat yield. Both tests also give you the Polled status of the individual.

Taking a blood sample and sending it off to a lab while expensive is a very easy way to get ASBV’s generated but they haven’t got the accuracy of knowing the animal’s full pedigree and measuring the actual traits of its progeny. While compiling this newsletter I grabbed a random pencard of a 2020 drop ram TV 200380 likely destined for our 2021 auction sale to highlight the amazing depth of information that is being used to compile Trigger Vale Breeding Values (see Figure 1). Going back 4 generations of full pedigree there are a total of 12666 animals in 157 different flocks across Australia whose individual measurements are contributing to the generation of his Breeding Values. There are also his own actual measurements and how he has compared with his contemporary group on over 30 measured traits.

The way Trigger Vale predominantly targets the use of the 50 K genomic tests is we sample the top 10-15 % of rams every year to even further enhance the accuracy of the breeding values generated especially on the hard to measure traits like Meat Eating Quality. The overall result is Trigger Vale generates gold quality high accuracy ASBV’s to not only enhance and improve our own future breeding decisions but also our clients.

In summary, I am certainly not critising the use of genomic testing in our sheep industry as it is become a very important tool in our own and many other studs breeding program’s. They have become increasingly important as we strive to maximise genetic gain for clients while ensuring our rams will repeatedly perform in client’s flocks as predicted by their breeding values. I hope this article highlights that genomics should be used as an extra tool to enhance the accuracy and generate the very best Sheep Breeding Values possible not as the only tool to generate a lower accuracy product from seedstock providers looking for the easiest pathway.

Doing the hard yards for clients

While doing the 2021 yard pedigree mothering up I started monitoring the steps taken each day on the App on my I-phone. I have always known I do a lot of walking on these days but was surprised to see I was averaging around 22,000 steps which equates to around 17 kms. On average we would spend around 10 days a year doing this job which equates to 170 kms per year. Were it starts to get scary is that I have been doing it for over 35 years which means I have clocked up over 6000 kms. A quick google maps search told me Perth is 2850 kms from Lockhart so next time you see a Trigger Vale pedigree spare a thought that it’s not unreasonable to suggest I have walked to Perth and back to make it happen.

Clients Comments – Sunbury Park

Our family have been purchasing Triggervale rams for over 40 years now which started right back with my dad and grandpa. We have watched Andrew and Mandi work tirelessly to improve their genetics and traits, the amount of work they put into their business shows how passionate they are not only about their sheep but the entire industry. We purchase their rams with the utmost confidence that we are selecting from data that has been accurately and confidently obtained so that we can make an informed decision on which rams will best suit our program and breeding values.

We like to use Triggervale Poll Merino rams because of their fat, muscle and growth genetics, we have seen such improvements to the quality of our lambs that we produce through from scanning, marking, shearing and to the sale yards. When using the Triggervale rams over our Triggervale ewes we are finding through the drier years that the ewes are maintaining a healthy condition score of around 3.5-3.7 on minimal feeding out. They are great feed convertors which saves us time and money.

Andrew and Mandi have bred such a plain bodied merino that we have been able to cease mulesing 2 years ago. This as well adds extra profit to our business due to the premiums been paid on un mulesed wool. We shear twice a year and cut on average 3.8kg fleece weight at each shearing.

Amazing Client Result

On the 6th May 2021 long term Trigger Vale clients the McDonnell Family from Bidgeemia achieved something at the Wagga Saleyards that to the best of my knowledge has never been achieved before when a pen of their Poll Merino wether lambs topped the entire market. It’s an amazing testimonial to their breeding program and the true dual-purpose nature of the product they presented to top the 1st and 2nd X lambs penned on the day.

HIGHLIGHTS SPONSORED BY ALBURY WAGGA REGION POLL DORSET ASSOCIATION www.pollidorsel.org.au									
Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre LAMB & SHEEP SALE 06/05/2021									
LAMBS	Agents	No.	WETHERS						
J & M McDonnell, Urrung	H Francis & Co	78	Edgars Farming, Gairns	Nutren	6	\$208.00			
AJ & CF Dean, Old Junee	Robbette	182	Reuch Family Trust, Angello	WFL	5	\$244.00			
Robbitt Ag Pty Ltd, Old Junee	RLA	130	Col Sales, Wodahalgary	WFL	2	\$244.00			
Proffice Bros, Murrumbidgee	RLA	50	PL Hardy, Sutton	Bales	81	\$235.00			
Robbitt Ag Pty Ltd, Old Junee	RLA	227							
Quinn & Goldstone, Sarnes	Robbette	133							
OW & NA Douglas, Lockhart	Robbette	104							
Lester Farming Co, Herby	RLA	206							
Proffice Bros, Murrumbidgee	RLA	80							
Quinn & Goldstone, Gairns	Robbette	94							
Kearney Partners, Coolah	Bales	104							
AM & NA Connors, Urangundy	Bales	87							
GP & MM Howard, Wagga Wagga	WFL	15							
Vines Pastoral, Lockhart	H Francis & Co	50							
HP & CO Goldsworthy, Jervis	Elders	96							
Robbitt Ag Pty Ltd, Old Junee	Robbette	206							
MERINO LAMBS									
J & M McDonnell & Sons, Yerrong Creek	H Francis & Co	18							
JW McDonnell, Yerrong Creek	H Francis & Co	15							
J & A Mitchell, Yerrong Creek	H Francis & Co	24							
JC SR, 10 Burgin, West Wyalong	Nutren	294							
JC SR, 10 Burgin, West Wyalong	Nutren	143							
Murphy Pastoral Company, West Wyalong	Nutren	19							
M Ryan, Berrumbidgee	Edgars	88							
JP McGrath & Sons, Berrumbidgee	Edgars	1							
Buile Farming Pty Ltd, Gungahlin	Nutren	108							
HOGGETS									
Croftberry Park Pty Ltd, The Rock	RLA	8							
W & J Anderson, Sydneyville	WFL	6							
French Partnership, Bourke	WFL	30							
Col Sales, Wodahalgary	WFL	4							

Last week's top pen of lambs were sold for \$287.30 per head by J W McDonnell, Urrung through agents H Francis & Co.



Last year we sold our 10 month old merino wether lambs for \$300 per head, add to this a lamb shearing wool cut with a return of around \$25 per head and you have a very profitable quick growing sheep.

We are proud of how much our flock has improved and we look forward to continuing our business with Andrew and Mandi.

Kurrle Family - Lockhart



White Suffolk News

While The Poll Merino part of our business gets quiet a bit of exposure and news due to the innovative nature of our mules free maternal focus breeding program it certainly doesn't mean our focus on breeding the very best commercially focused White Suffolks is any less. I believe the year-on-year genetic gains we have made in the past 12 months is the highest since we formed the stud over 20 years ago.

The main reason we selected the White Suffolk breed to create a "one stop shop" for our clients was they were renowned for smaller birth weights and smoother front shoulders leading to better lamb survival and marking percentages. Regardless of how incredible the genetics are for growth it becomes irrelevant is the lamb dies of dystocia or other birthing issues. The challenge terminal breeders face is that while growth ASBV's are without doubt the main driver of production and profit in commercial flocks they are negatively correlated with Birthweights. Or in other words if you focus on growth alone in your breeding programs then you will also get higher birthweights by design. The reason we spend all winter chasing lambs at birth, tagging and weighing them all, is to find the genetics that break this negative correlation so clients can confidently purchase White Suffolk rams from Trigger Vale that will aid in lamb survival then grow like buggery. The genetic trends on the opposite page illustrate that for the 2020 drop rams we have significantly improved growth rates while slightly decreasing birthweight ASBV's – happy days.

The other traits that we have made very positive movement in are Intra- muscular fat and shear force. In a nutshell IMF is the juiciness of the lamb and SF is the tenderness. These are hard to measure traits that rely on good linkage to the reference population and DNA analysis to get a clearer picture. Why improvement in these traits are important to clients is explained by a recent announcement by the first abattoir in Australia at Gundagai that they are developing a new price grid that

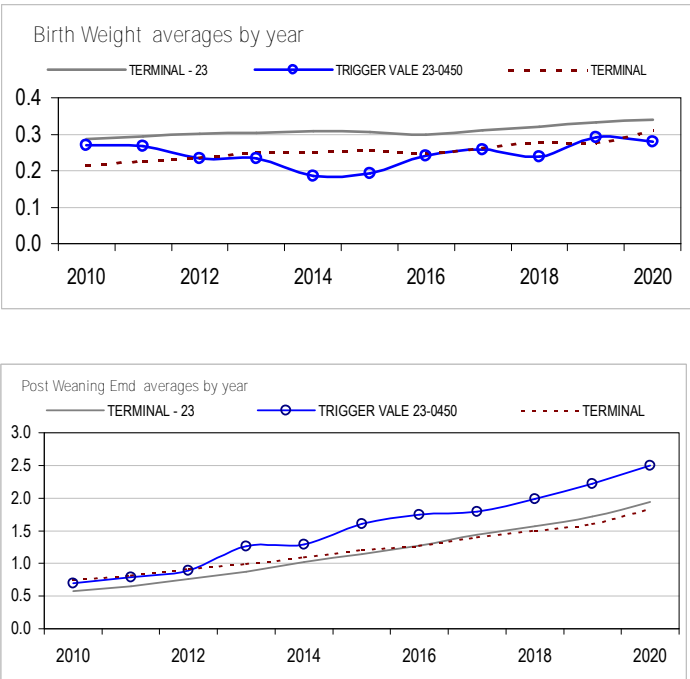
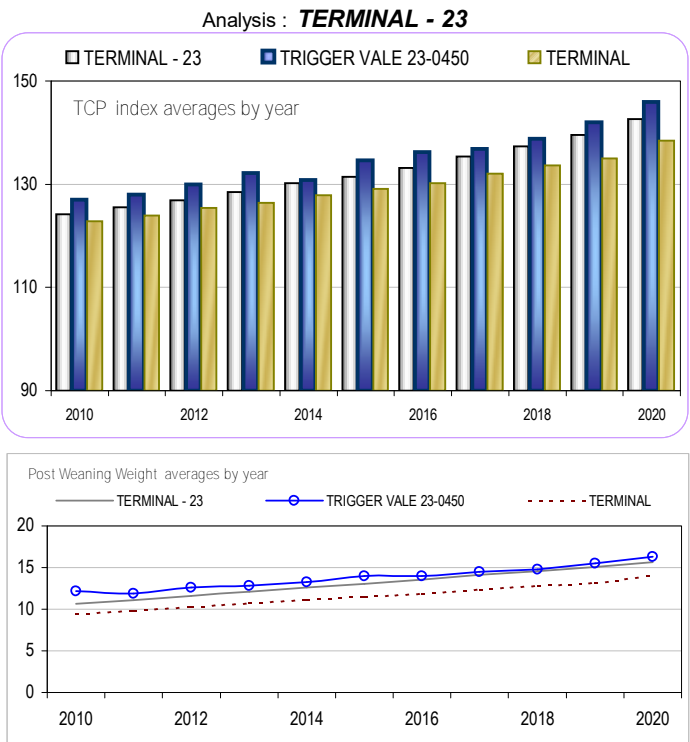
incorporates these traits. Industry has been talking about Meat Standards Australia (MSA) being introduced in the lamb industry along similar lines to the beef industry for decades and it looks like it has finally arrived. We have been working on our White Suffolk genetics for over a decade to ensure clients will be well positioned to take advantage of these price premiums when introduced so this is a great good news story.

The great benefits of our involvement with the Superwhite Young Sire Program continues. This results in Trigger Vale getting access to leading White Suffolk genetics and giving us linkage to other progressive studs resulting in higher and better accuracy in the ASBV's we generate. We have been a part of this program for over 15 years, and it is a great honour to be nominated and to take on the role of Chairman at the recent AGM.

Lastly, I would like to flag to existing clients that after selling out very early in 2020 we are likely to face a similar situation in 2021. A combination of many factors with the main one being an unprecedented high percentage of ewe lambs being born compared to rams in 2020 has resulted in the numbers available for sale in 2021 will be tight. Our over riding goal is to make sure our current client's requirements are satisfied so regardless of whether you purchase at our auction sale or privately please contact us so we can do our best to satisfy current client demand. Due to last year sharp jump in average price at auction we will be offering about 20 more rams at our on property sale.



Trigger Vale White Suffolk Genetic Trends:



Covid Update

With all the changing rules and regulations regarding lockdowns, zones, border bubble areas and essential workers permit the best plan I can come with regards to physically attending our sale is to not bother making a plan until a few days out from our inspection or auction sale days.

For Victorians the link below will take you to the area on the Victorian website to apply for a essential worker permit to enter NSW. I have recently spoken to a client from Victoria whom just prior to Victoria Lockdown 6 applied and was granted a permit to visit our farm. The address he used was 80 Soldier Settlement Rd for destination location. Unfortunately, only recently the Lockhart Shire was removed from the border bubble due to political point scoring as to date the Lockhart Shire has never had a positive case which makes things a bit more difficult.

While getting a permit seems quiet straight forward the difficulty lies in what procedures Victorians must comply to on returning home. This depends on what Zone the Victorian Government places Lockhart in at any point in time.

The link is - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travellers-eligible-to-apply-for-specified-worker-permit>

As it stands now NSW clients should be able to attend like any other normal year with strict Covid rules and procedures being followed.

Once again, we have every confidence that with the availability of auctions plus, video's of the rams, our high accurate ASBV's and our attention in only presenting structurally sound animals, that clients will be able to purchase remotely if required.

Please don't hesitate to phone us with regards to any questions you might have regarding how we can help in any way to facilitate you securing the rams you require.



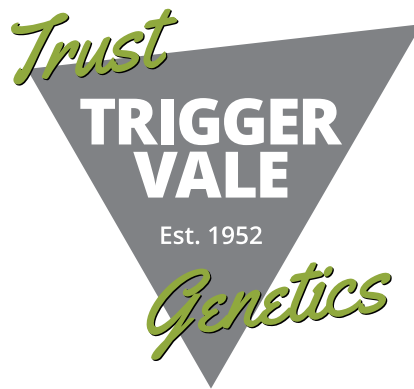
ON A LIGHTER NOTE . . .

A toothless termite walked into a pub and asked
"Is the Bar Tender here?"
.....
I don't mean to brag, BUT
The cashiers are always checking me out.
.....
I had a dog named "5 Miles"
so I could tell people I walked "5 Miles"
But today I ran over "5 Miles"



Need cheering up?
Watch your wedding video backwards.
You'll love the end bit where you take the ring off
Go backwards down the aisle
Jump in the car and head off with your mates.





Inspection Day
20th August, 2021 9am-4pm



44th Annual On-Property Auction

Friday 3rd September 2021

Inspections 8.30am onwards, Poll Sale commencing at 12.30pm

Covid Protocols in place see website for Details



Rabobank



210 Poll Merino Rams
6 Stud White Suffolk Rams
90 Specially Selected White Suffolk Rams

Vendors: Andrew & Mandi Bouffler 0427 207 656

Stud Classer: Michael Elmes 0429 847 552

Sheep Genetic Advisor: Mark Ferguson

Nextgen Agri 64 21 496 656

Selling Agents: Tim McMeekin: Elders Ltd Wagga 0427 830 003

Matt Hawker: H. Francis & Co Wagga 0418 861 320

3% rebate to outside agents introducing clients on day of Sale

Luncheon Available

Catalogue online two weeks before the Sale

MN1
Gudiar Vacc
Brucellosis
Accredited



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