

Trigger Vale to \$10,500

Rams sell as far as Western Australia

BY HELEN DECOSTA

THE current market didn't deter buyers at Trigger Vale's ram sale, held at Lockhart last Friday, where several Poll Merino rams sold in the \$8000 to \$10,500 range.

That level being reached on numerous occasions was the highlight for stud principal Andrew Bouffler.

"It's encouraging that in this tough environment people were still willing to invest in quality genetics. This included 10 studs across Australia," he said.

The \$10,500 Poll Merino ram, TV220484, sold to long-time clients J. and M. McDonnell and Sons, Yerong Creek.

The single, May-drop ram had a post weaning weight (PWT) Australian Sheep Breeding Value of +11.7, a yearling weaning weight (YWT) figure of +13.55 and an early breach wrinkle (EBWR) value of -1.34, placing him in the top five per cent of the breed for these three traits.

The home-bred TV190760 son also had values in the top 10pc for eye muscle depth (EMD), at +2.57, and a dual purpose plus index (DP+) of 196.

Rodney McDonnell, of J. and M. McDonnell and Sons, had followed the ram's sire and he liked the ram he bought at the stud's open day for its combination of figures and presence.



Matt Tinkler, Elders, Jamieson and Andrew Bouffler, Trigger Vale, Matt Hawker, H Francis and Co, Rodney McDonnell, J and M McDonnell and Sons, Ruby Bouffler, Trigger Vale, and Tim McMeekin, Elders, with the top-priced ram.



Rams with finer wool and high-quality carcass attributes were well sought. Pictures by Helen DeCosta.

His purchase would be used on select stud ewes to breed rams for his commercial program.

"He was the barest and most open faced in the sale," Mr McDonnell said. "And that's what we look for, we try and aim for the front row in the saleyards."

The company also purchased two other Poll Merino rams to average \$5366 and two White Suffolk rams to average \$1200.

The second top-priced

ram, at \$10,200, was TV220312, which sold to Wanganui Poll Merinos, Wyalkatchem, WA.

Also a May-drop ram, TV220312 had four ASBVs in the top 5pc, including +10.64 PWT, +13.35 YWT, -1.3 EBWR and a DP+ figure of +192.57.

The 18-micron ram also had YEMD and weaning rate (WR) figures in the top 10pc, at +2.52 and +0.25, respectively.

In the Poll Merinos, 201



Rams sold to Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia and throughout NSW.

of the 230 offered were sold to an average of \$3021. An additional four rams also sold immediately post sale.

The White Suffolk rams topped at \$3500 for TV221380, purchased by PD Quilty, Adelong.

The August-drop ram was a late-drop ram from a ewe lamb and had a +18.95 WWT figure, placing him in the top 5pc of the breed.

The single-born ram also had good carcass traits, including a top 20pc EMD

figure, at +3.06, and shear force value of +0.14, along with a lamb eating quality (LEQ) figure of +154.37, also in the top 10pc.

The second-top-priced White Suffolk ram, at \$3100, was TV221057, purchased by Norman Ag Trust, Glenbrook, with figures in the top 10pc for PEMD, TCP and LEQ.

Norman Trust Ag also purchased six White Suffolk rams for an average of \$1837.

Volume buyers includ-

ed Hewitt Foods, which bought 19 Poll Merino rams to a \$9400 top and \$3410 average.

NAS Clutterbuck, Edenhope, Vic, purchased 10 Poll Merino rams to average \$2000, and GH Harro and Sons, Coolac, also brought 10 Poll Merino rams to average \$2280.

Sunbury Park Pty Ltd, Lockhart, bought eight Poll Merino rams to a \$8400 top and \$6175 average, and J, J and J Schirmer, Rushdown, Lockhart, bought eight Poll Merino rams to a \$4600 top and \$2850 average.

Colin Arnold Family Trust, Daysdale, bought five White Suffolk rams to \$1800 and \$1480 average.

In total, 63 of 99 White Suffolk rams sold to average \$1675. An additional seven were sold immediately post sale, which, with the Poll Merinos, took the sale's overall clearance to 85pc.

Trigger Vale's principal Andrew Bouffler said given the environment, he couldn't be happier with the sale, with half a dozen new clients and lots of returning clients.

"Just the faith that people have in our genetics and the broader industry and are coming and buying their sheep with not just a one year view, but a two to three year time frame, is really positive," Mr Bouffler said.

"It just shows that the industry is maturing so much and the quality rams, with good ASBV figures and structure are still in demand."

The sale was conducted by Elders and H Francis and Co, Wagga Wagga, and run online via AuctionsPlus.

Elders agents Matt Tinkler and Harry Cozens auctioned the Poll Merinos, and Matt Hawker, H Francis and Co sold the White Suffolks.

Private Poll Merino & White Suffolk Sales begin NOW

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46th Sale

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Special thanks to all those who helped us make our day a success

Elders, H Francis & Co, Friends of the Urangeline Hall, Active Print and of course the Trigger Vale Crew.