

Detpa Grove still shining on silver anniversary

While the averages were back on last year's exceptional Detpa Grove White Suffolk sale, the Pipkorn family still shone through with a very good sale result last week at Jeparit.

This was Ron and Barb, and David and Michelle Pipkorn's 25th annual White Suffolk sheep sale and over that time, their Detpa Grove stud has continuously set the breed benchmarks for quality, performance and prices.

As Ross Milne, auctioneer for sale agents Elders said pre-sale "I wouldn't have thought it possible that the Detpa Grove sheep quality could get any better, but when you inspect this offering, it is quite clear they have."

That expression would have been seconded by a vast majority of the crowd of 60 plus registered bidders and their connections who attended this year, or connected via the Auctions Plus network, coming from all states except Queensland.

In line with most sales around the country this year, stud competition was weaker, but the commercial producers who use these genetics maintained their buying strength, appreciating the results they are getting in their paddocks with prime lambs.

Having said that, 37 stud rams were penned for buyer competition, up six on last year, all selling to a \$16,000 top price, the same as last year. However there was not the sustained depth of top end stud competition this year and 13 rams from this offering were picked up by astute top end flock ram buyers, making the most of the opportunity presented. Thus, the average for the 37 dropped from last year's exceptional \$5871 down to a lesser, but still very solid \$3134.

The biggest drop-off over the last two years was in the stud ewe result where 39 of 67 ewes sold to a top of \$1000 and averaged \$514. This is an indication that the breed's expansion has slowed a little.

The commercial producers kicked in just as strongly, to see 113 flock rams sell to a top of \$1800 and average \$979, just \$20 less than last year.

While there was less stud competition, buyers who did not miss out were Steve and Ros Funke, Bundara Downs, Western Flat, SA and Ian and Donna Gilmore, 'Tattykeel', Oberon, NSW. They combined forces to purchase DG120213, an impressive son of DG110084 and boasting Lambplan figures of 17.11 for post weaning weight, - 0.94 for fat, 1.31 for muscle and a Carcase Plus index of 204. They paid \$16,000, with Max Whyte, WA underbidder via the Auctions Plus network.

The biggest difference from the previous year's sale was that seven rams sold for more than \$10,000 last year, whereas the \$16,000 top was the only one this year. The next best price this year was \$6500, paid twice. Clarrie Bell, a long term local Detpa Grove supporter was one. He purchased DG120580, an outstanding son of DG110059 and from an ET sister to Detpa Grove's great sire DG 'Storm Force'.

Tim Jorgensen, Antwerp came for a specific purpose to purchase select elite genetics and went home with DG120073, a big, powerful and very well-muscled son of DG100313, also at \$6500. He had earlier paid the \$1000 top ewe price for an Anden 080276 daughter as his only ewe purchase.

Mark Williams, Lillimur, also a Detpa Grove regular paid \$6000 for DG120116, an extremely powerful and impressive son of 'Storm Force'.

While Max Whyte missed out, Anthony McDonald, Kuloomba Farming, Esperence did not. Making the long trip and attending in person, he picked up DG120647Tw, by Anden 080276Tw, also for \$6000. With the money saved he was able to also purchase DG120377 for just \$3500, plus four ewes at a bargain \$4000 each.

Bruce Buswell, Matilda Downs stud, Mt Barker, WA paid the equal \$16,000 top last year, but was a recipient of a real bargain this year with a wonderfully balanced ram with outstanding breed type and structure for just \$2750.

Paul Routley, Almondvale stud, Urana, NSW was a strong stud bidder. With seven ewe purchases from \$400 to \$700 he was the biggest volume ewe buyer. He then added two well balanced and high performing rams for \$5500 and \$3500.

Ian and Donna Gilmore, Tattykeel, also purchased a powerful and very correct son of DG100638Tw for \$3750.

The Weidemann family, 'Sunnydale', Rupanyup, Vic is another regular and strong stud supporter of Detpa Grove genetics and after a few years of paying top end prices, they too were the beneficiaries of a sale with less top end competition. They picked up the first stud ram offered, DG120648Tw for just \$5000. With a growth EBV of 17.78 and a Carcase Plus index of 213, the highest in the catalogue; it was no surprise to learn that Detpa Grove are keeping a semen share in this ram. With the money saved, the Weidemanns also picked up another bargain stud ram for \$2500.

Rounding out the key stud purchasers were Trevor and Annette Smith, Marleigh White Suffolks, Gymbowen, Vic with six stud ewes from \$400 to \$600. The Auctions Plus network provided several bidders and purchasers of two stud rams and six stud ewes.

The flock ram buyers provided consistent bidding strength in the sale with several jumping in and grabbing top stud rams. Michael Todd, Lagoon Partnership, Cavendish finished his buying in the stud draft, purchasing five from \$1400 to \$1500.

Blythwood Pastoral Co, Macarther, Vic selected two of these at \$1200 each and then added five flock rams from \$1000 to \$1500, rounding out their buying average at \$1257 for seven rams.

There is a very strong group of repeat flock ram buyers who are back each year on the back of what these Detpa Grove rams produce in their paddocks. They come from a wide variety of regions and environments, demonstrating the adaptability of these genetics.

The Sporn family, Murrayville is prominent amongst them. Through Rodwells Keith they purchased nine rams from the very top end of the flock ram catalogue, paying from \$1500 to the top flock ram price of \$1800, averaging their buying out at \$1611. Their willingness to invest in the best might explain why they have just received top end prices for a large draft of their prime lambs.

Also paying the \$1800 equal top price was the Schmidt family, Bulart, Vic. New to Detpa Grove genetics, they purchased two rams to test in their program, the other at \$1400.

The biggest volume buyer was Garry Jensen, Raywood, Vic buying through Elders Bendigo. He purchased 10 rams from \$700 to \$1000 in great value buying. Several Elders Bendigo clients are strong supporters, with the six buyers registered through that agency collectively purchasing 25 rams.

Simon Mulraney, PPH & S Naracoorte also provided strong agency support with six clients purchasing 21 rams. The most prominent of these were Irving Partners with seven rams from \$600 to \$900 and the Bennie family with six from \$600 to \$1600.

The local Wimmera region was also strong in support with two DMD Nhill clients, Zanker Grains and Pitts Run the most prominent with six rams each.

Overall the sale produced a very good result in a year when seasonal conditions leading up to mid-winter saw a big cleanout of ewes across Victoria and consequently many sales have seen a downturn in results. Detpa Grove continues to lead the industry in quality presented and results.

Sale Summary	Stud rams	Stud ewes	Flock rams
Offered	37	67	129
Sold	37	39	113
Top	\$16,000	\$1000	\$1800
Average	\$3134	\$514	\$979

Agents: Elders

Auctioneers; Ross Milne and Tony Wetherall



Pictured with the \$16,000 top priced ram at Detpa Grove are Detpa Grove principals David and Michelle Pipkorn and the two purchasers in partnership, Steve Funke, Bundara Downs, Bordertown, SA and Ian Gilmore, Tattykeel, Oberon, NSW.



Paul Routley (centre), Almondvale stud, Urana, NSW was the purchaser of seven stud ewes and two stud rams at the Detpa Grove sale. Here he is pictured with the ram he purchased for \$5500 and Detpa Grove principals David and Michelle Pipkorn.



David Pipkorn holds this top ewe purchased for \$600 by David and Annette Smith (centre), Marleigh White Suffolks, Gymbowen, Vic, while Michelle Pipkorn looks on. The Smiths were prominent, purchasing six stud ewes.



Long term Detpa Grove supporters of Detpa Grove genetics are the Weidemann family, Sunnydale White Suffolks at Rupanyup. They were big beneficiaries of the decreased top end stud competition by purchasing this impressive young stud ram with a 213 Caracase Plus index for just \$5000. Pictured are Andrew (2nd left) and Rodney Weidemann (right) with Detpa Grove's David and Michelle Pipkorn.