

MEDIA RELEASE – SALE REPORT – 8 October 2020

Records tumble at Detpa Grove

Sold 247 of 250 offered

73/73 stud ewes sold to \$2800 & av. \$1402
30/30 stud rams sold to \$23,000 & av. \$6783
143/148 flock rams sold to \$2900 & av. \$1831

The 32nd annual Detpa Grove White Suffolk sale north of Nhill set new records through the auction with a near total clearance.

Stud principal David Pipkorn said he was overwhelmed by the support for the October 8 sale, which he described as a rock-solid result.

There were 247 sales from 250 offerings. All 73 ewes sold to \$2800 at an average of \$1402, a new sales record, all 30 stud rams sold to \$23,000 with an average of \$6783, and 143 of the 146 flock rams sold to \$2900 for a new record average of \$1831.

“The success was wide-spread,” Mr Pipkorn said. “Although we didn’t have extremely high top-prices, the stud rams were very solid and were more consistently making \$6,000-\$10,000”.

“It was probably one of the bigger drafts of ewes that we’ve put up for a while and had 100 per cent clearance with a fantastic average. Last year was \$860 and our previous best was about \$1100 at our Mated Ewe Sale; this year it was over \$1400.”

Over 360 people watched the auction either online or in person. “It was very well supported physically on the day which was pleasing,” Mr Pipkorn said. “The strong online presence with 260 bids via Auctions Plus helped underpin the sale.”

Mr Pipkorn said he was very pleased with the support from both stud and commercial buyers, which he put down to the combination of traits on offer. “I think people have come to expect the depth of quality that we put up,” he said. “They know they are a bit spoilt for choice here.”

The top priced ram, Lot 78, 190113 fetched an impressive high of \$23,000 against stiff competition and was successfully bought by the Wilkinson Family, Camborn White Suffolks, Pooncarie, NSW.

Sired by Ella Matta170300 and out of an elite Detpa Grove ewe, 190113 boasted figures of 12.12Wwt, 19.10Pwt 2.85Pemd with a top end TCP of 161.

Roger Wilkson said, “We only set out to buy two rams, but our agent decided to buy a third and we were happy with that. We have bought there over a number of years. We just like the thickness in the rams and their type. They’re keeping true to the Suffolk type. David is one of the leading blokes in the field; he’s very good at it so we keep coming back.”

The highest bidder in at least two previous sales, Mr Wilkinson proved his commitment to the Detpa Grove genetics taking home to the NSW property two additional stud rams, Lot 76 for \$9,000 and Lot 77 for \$4,000.

The second top priced ram Lot 86, 190064 sold for \$12,000 to long-term client, Mark Williams, Lillimur located near Kaniva. Mr Williams has been buying Detpa Grove sheep for more than 25 years also added a second stud ram to his flock picking up Lot 84, 190223 for \$10,000.

“He’s the best in the world,” Mr Williams said. “You don’t get any better than what David is doing. He knows how to keep making a better ram. Everything stacks up; he has the figures and the size. It’s the complete package and that’s why stud buyers from all over Australia buy there. He’s the benchmark.”

Adding to the great sale result, five stud rams achieved \$10,000 each with Lot 80 headed across the border to Old Ashrose Merino Stud, Hallett, South Australia, Lot 82 was picked up by the Rogers Family, Lot 83 sold to the McDonald Family, Lot 84 to Mark Williams and Lot 87 is on his way to the Mitchell Family stud.

Returning for a second time after purchasing ewes at the 2019 sale was Nick Waldow, Old Ashrose Merino Stud. “We were very happy with those ewes last year and are impressed with the ram we bought today,” he said. “He had a good birth weight, a terrific Total Carcase Production index and terrific presence. He was a very well-structured ram which appealed to us.”

Stacey Bush, Mt Barker WA successfully bid on a stylish BG “Magnum” son in Lot 81 for \$9000. This stud sire currently has a terrific group of lambs on the ground at Detpa Grove.

Bidding online was UNEN Ag International picking up five rams throughout the catalogue for an undisclosed international client topping at \$6,000 with an average of \$3200.

Both Marleigh White Suffolks, purchaser of Lot 75 for \$8,000, and Clover Valley White Suffolks buyers of Lot 89 for \$7,000 also added one stud ram each to their respective operations.

Leading the volume buyers was Craig Bennie, Edenhope, who bought 18 flock rams ranging in price from \$1,000 to \$2,200. Mr Bennie purchased rams both for himself and on behalf of other commercial buyers whose South Australian agent couldn’t attend the sale due to coronavirus border restrictions.

“I’ve been buying at Detpa Grove for more than 20 years,” he said. “They’re pretty well priced and are big, long meaty sheep so I keep coming back.”

With the Stud Ewes setting a record-breaking sale average, the top priced ewe, Lot 26, 190144 fetched a high of \$2800 and was well bought by Banquet White Suffolks, Mortlake.

Sired by Somerset 160067 out of Dam of a stud ram and had been an ET donor ewe, Lot 26,190144 carried figures of Wwt8.75, Pwt15.18, an impressive Pemd3.83 and TCP156

Stud Principal Gordon Branson said, “I’ve been buying rams and ewes from David for more than 15 years; they’re good sheep,” he said. “I’m expanding my ewe program and it’s a bit hard to go past those very good ewes. He has a fantastic line of ewes all the way through. The quality of their stock gives you a lot of confidence in the program. We look for quality and structural soundness and that’s what we get.”

Mr Branson bought a total of nine ewes at the sale including one of the second top priced ewes, Lot 12, 190089, for \$2600. Equal second top price ewe at \$2,600 was Lot 7, snapped up by Aaron Picker, Crookwell NSW who also successfully bid on another standout ewe in what was an impressive draft, securing Lot 1 for \$2,400.

Adding to the group of terrific ewes purchased last year Chris Squiers, Quairding WA, astutely selected three stud ewes on the day for a top bid of \$2,400, and an avg of \$1,800.

James Cleland, Glencorie NSW was delighted to pick up his choice ram for \$3,000 and after being the underbidder on many of the ewes earlier, he came away with two select ewes with an av. price of \$1,500.

Tasmania was represented solely by longtime supporter Will Milroy, Pipers River. Coming off an exceptional Adelaide Ram Sale result, Mr Milroy successfully bid on five ewes ranging in price from \$1,400 to \$2,200.

Other notable studs purchasing stud ewes for their respective operations was Hannaton Merinos, Kaniva with nine and North Ulandi, Kapunda SA taking home seven ewes.

Elders Stud Stock auctioneer Ross Milne has conducted the Detpa Grove auction for nearly 20 years said this was one of Detpa Grove's best.

"It was a very good sale," he said. "The ewe sale on average and numbers sold was probably the best achieved at Detpa Grove, and \$1400 for stud ewes was a very good average and flock rams getting over \$1800 was also a record."

"It was one of their better sales in terms of clearance rates and total gross." Mr Milne said the favourable lamb market and good season influenced the result, but it also reflected the quality offered by Detpa Grove.

"It has been one of the most influential White Suffolk studs in Australia for some time," Mr Milne said. "It's a trusted brand in the industry and that carries through to the sale result."

Online sales through Auctions Plus had a big influence. Along with Victorian buyers, there were purchasers from Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales.

Auction conducted by Elders Livestock and Elders Warracknabeal.

PHOTO: David & Michelle Pipkorn with the Top Priced White Suffolk Ram, Lot 78.