

Detpa Grove demand comes from five states

Strong demand from across the country drove the Detpa Grove White Suffolk sale to new highs once again last week.

The Jeparit stud achieved a 98 per cent clearance of all ewes and rams offered, selling 251 of 255 lots to a sale top of \$24,000, and an overall average of \$2395.

In the breakdown, a total clearance of 28 stud rams topped the sale and averaged \$8357, an increase of more than \$1500 on last year.

The flock ram average of \$1972 was also up on the previous year, and was a record high for Detpa Grove, with 149 of 152 selling to a top of \$2800 three times to three different clients.

The stud ewes were offered up first, and eclipsed last year's top price by \$600, with 71 of 74 selling to a high of \$3400 and averaging \$1169.

Detpa Grove principal David Pipkorn described it as a "cracking sale", with support all the way through every draft.

"Clients were looking for a balance of figures, phenotype and structure and those rams that had it all in the one package had a lot of competition," he said.

Rene stud at Culcairn, NSW, signed the \$24,000 cheque for one of those, the top-priced stud ram Detpa Grove 200182.

Rene principal Scott Mitchell said they were looking for a ram with a balance of structure, depth of body, and really good numbers - and they found it. "It is the best ram I have ever purchased, and possibly the best I have ever seen," he said.

Mr Mitchell said he had been on the hunt for a ram such as this for about a decade, with the "correct shoulder set, White Suffolk type and a heap of meat".

Rene's White Suffolk stud was established from nine Detpa Grove embryos in 2005, and Mr Mitchell said they continue to hold the stud in high regard.

The May 2020-drop ram was an ET lamb by Somerset 170147 and had an Australian Sheep Breeding Value in the top 1 per cent for post weaning weight at 19.60, and for Terminal Carcass Production at 161.

Mr Pipkorn said Detpa Grove had retained semen for their own in-stud use. "It is a very high-performance ram with great type and balance, and a feature on him was sheer volume and depth of hindquarter, and amount of red meat in him," he said.

Despite Covid-19 border restrictions, there was a strong crowd in the stands, and an additional 40 registered bidders on AuctionsPlus. Interstate buyers operated online from Tasmania, South Australia and NSW, especially on the stud ewe and ram offering.

Picking up the second-highest priced lot of the day was Old Ashrose stud at Hallett, SA, returning for a DG 200412 at \$21,000, after purchasing stud ewes and rams from the stud over the previous two sales.

DG 200412 was a June 2020-drop Triplet by DG 190481, with a PWwt in the top 2 per cent of terminal sires at 19.04.

Paul Day of Sunnybanks at Penguin, Tasmania, was quick out the blocks, paying the equal-top ewe price of \$3400 for lot 1, DG 200017.

A twin May 2020-drop ewe by Noble 180374, the ewe had an impressive TCP of 152, and post weaning eye muscle depth of 2.73. Mr Day, who picked up five ewes in total, described lot 1 as “an exceptional ewe”.

“We were looking for some different genetics, and she was a standout ewe in the catalogue with good balanced figures,” he said.

Also paying the \$3400 equal-top for a ewe was Ian and Donna Gilmore of Baringa stud, Oberon, NSW, for lot 2 DG 200083.

DG200083 was also by Somerset 170147, the sire of the top-priced ram, and had a twin brother in the stud offering which sold for \$6500.

“We purchased the ewe off the back of having a twin brother in the stud ram offering, she had very good figures and displayed the carcass attributes we were looking for,” Ian Gilmore said. They picked up three ewes in total as well as a stud sire at \$17,000, DG 200543.

Mr Gilmore said DG 200543 had magnificent carcass and balance, alongside balanced figures high in muscle, and Detpa Grove had kept a semen share in the ram.

The Branson family of Banquet White Suffolks at Mortlake, Victoria were volume operators on the stud sheep, paying to a top of \$1600 for five ewes, and averaging \$10,000 for two rams.

Repeat volume buyer in the flock ram offering was Craig Bennie, Edenhope, picking up 18 rams to a top of \$2800 twice. Mr Bennie, for the second year running, was purchasing rams for himself and South Australian agents and producers who couldn't attend the sale.

He has been buying rams at Detpa Grove for more than 25 years, joining them to first-cross ewes, and said this year's offering was “the best they've ever had”.

Showing the depth of quality in the offering was the \$3800 paid for a ram that was in the flock listing, but will be registered as a stud, purchased by Hopea stud, Dadswells Bridge.

Elders Auctioneer Ross Milne said stud rams sold exceptionally well, with one of the highest averages of the season.

“The flock ram average of \$1972 was also a really good sale, and commercial producers still got good value with some high-performance rams,” he said.

“Detpa Grove has a great combination of phenotype, structure and performance data and that was certainly why we saw such strong results, with NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia all competing on the stud sheep.”

Mr Pipkorn said they welcomed a number of new clients operating on the flock rams as well as their regular supporters.

“It was really pleasing to get the clearance when we had an extra 10 rams in the sale, and we ended up passing in seven which was about right for us, we don't want people to go away with empty trailers,” he said.

By Jamie-Lee Oldfield
On behalf of Outriders Media