

Bluechip Livestock 2011 Young Sire Program

Central Test Sire Evaluation *Within Flock Analysis*

2011 Drop 2nd Assessment

Conducted by



under the auspices of

The Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association



1 March 2013

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (1 March 2013). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with an appropriate adviser.

The product trade names in this publication are supplied on the understanding that no preference between equivalent products is intended and that the inclusion of a product name does not imply endorsement by the site over any equivalent product from another manufacturer.

Recognising that some of the information in this document is provided by third parties, the author and the publisher take no responsibility for the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of any information included in the document provided by third parties.

Bluechip Livestock Young Sire Program - Central Test Sire Evaluation

The Bluechip Livestock Young Sire Program is a new initiative in sire evaluation, in addition to the AMSEA requirements the site has full pedigree and Australian Sheep Breeding Values on all the progeny. The male progeny were kept entire and we were able to participate in the Sheep CRC Genomic II Pilot Project.

Stud ewes were purchased from the highly regarded Billandri Poll Merino Stud in Western Australia, these 5 and 6 year old ewes have Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) and have been inspected and classed. Several of these ewes are MERINOSELECT trait leaders.

The Bluechip Livestock Young Sire Program is an accredited Central Test Sire Evaluation (CTSE) site. It conforms to the requirements of the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA).

As a service to clients and a way of complementing the Peter Westblade Memorial Merino Challenge, Bluechip Livestock co-coordinates the Young Sire Program at the Temora Agricultural Research and Advisory Station (TARAS) that commenced in January 2011.

Bluechip Livestock is jointly owned by Marty Moses (Moses and Son Woolbroker), Craig Wilson (Craig Wilson & Associates) and Bluechip Livestock aims to provide and market quality independent information to the wider Australian sheep industry.

Sally Martin has played an integral role in the coordination of the BLYSP. Sally's dedication and attention to detail has made this unique evaluation possible. On behalf of Bluechip Livestock we thank Sally greatly.

The classing for the first assessment was conducted by Mr Malcolm Peake, Bogo Merino Stud and the second assessment was conducted by Mr Steven Phillips, Yarrawonga Merino Stud and we fully acknowledge their professional contribution to the visual assessments.

We trust that everyone has achieved something out of this initial program and we look forward to providing leading genetic evaluation tools into the future.

Craig Wilson and Marty Moses
Directors, Bluechip Livestock

Site Contacts

Name	Phone	Role
Craig Wilson	0428 250 982	
Marty Moses	0417 691 308	
Sally Martin	0400 782 477	Data Management; Report

For further information on this report please contact:

Sally Martin, Sally Martin Consulting
288 Maimuru Road, YOUNG NSW 2594
Mobile: 0400 782 477 Email: sallymartin777@gmail.com.au

Report authors:

Sally Martin¹, Craig Wilson² and Andrew Swan³

¹ SMC, 288 Maimuru Road, YOUNG NSW 2594

² CW&A, 1 Featherwood Road, Wagga Wagga NSW 2560

³ AGBU, UNE, Armidale, NSW 2351

Date of publication: 1 March 2013

The information in this site evaluation report provides a comprehensive assessment of the 2011 drop 2nd Assessment of the sire's progeny performance, both measured and visually assessed traits. **The information reported is based on a within flock analysis of the sire progeny being evaluated.**

The 1st Assessment was made at 10 months of age with 10 months of wool growth. The 2nd Assessment was at 18 months of age in 8 months wool.

Five graphs and a table provide a summary of the results. Eight tables provide the detailed performance information.

Contents

	Page
Sire details	5
Management report	6
Assessment and management program	7
Visual trait assessment and site Breeding Objective	8
 Results – 1st Assessment	
Summary Figure 1a: Combined measured and visual trait performance (FPP)	9
Figure 1b: Combined measured and visual trait performance (MPP)	10
Figure 1c: Combined measured and visual trait performance (DPP)	10
Table 1: Index values and Classer's Grades	11
Figure 2: Fleece Weight and Fibre Diameter	12
Figure 3: Classer's Grade: Tops and Culls	12
Detail Understanding the results – Measured trait performance	13
Table 2: Major measured trait and Classer's Grade performance	14
Table 3: Other measured trait breeding values	15
Understanding the results – Scored trait performance	16
Table 4a: Wool quality	17
Table 4b: Wool quality & Pigmentation	18
Table 4c: Conformation	19
Table 4d: Breech	20
Other assessment results	
Table 4: Ram averages for measured traits	21
Understanding the results – Information to assist the use of results	
Index options	22
Accuracy of Flock Breeding Values (FBVs)	23
Link Sires	23
Calculation of combined information	23

Sire and owner details

Sire and owner details

Ram code	Breeders flock, Ram number Ram ID #, Breed [†]	Contact name, address Phone, Fax
1	Bundilla, 090121 504081-2009-090121 Merino	Rick, Jill & Ross Baldwin, Bundilla, Tubbul Rd, Young NSW 2594 P 02 6383 3802 F 02 6383 3805 E bundillamerinos@bigpond.com
2**	Pooginook, Silver 500788-2008-081290 Merino	John Sutherland, Pooginook Stud Manager, Paraway Pastoral Company, Pooginook, Jerilderie NSW 2716 P 02 6954 6145 F 02 6954 6168 E j.sutherland@parawaypastoral.com
3**	Roseville Park, 090014 504166-2009-090014 Merino	Matthew & Cherie Coddington, Glenwood, 39R Dilladerry Road MS3 Dubbo NSW 2830 P 02 6887 7286 F 02 6887 7103 E rpmerinos@bigpond.com
4	<i>Identity with-held at breeder request.</i>	
5	Hazeldean, 9.794 500383-2009-000794 Merino	Jim Litchfield, Hazeldean Pty Ltd Cooma NSW 2630 P 02 6453 555 F 02 6453 5526 E admin@hazeldean.com.au
6*	Coromandel Poll, ET2 600553-2007-070002 Poll Merino	Michael Campbell, Coromandel, Gairdner WA 6337 P 08-9836 6044 F 08-9836 3099 E coromandel6@gmail.com
7	Pastora Poll, B2893 601090-2008-082893 Poll Merino	Tim Westblade, Pastora, Lockhart NSW 2656 P 02-6920 5122 E trwesty@bigpond.com
8#	<i>Identity withheld at breeder request.</i>	
9	Woodpark Poll, 090700 601151-2009-090700 Poll Merino	Stephen and Carol Huggins, Eurolie, HAY NSW 2711 P 02-6993 4616 F 02-6993 4122 E eurolie@bigpond.com
10	<i>Identity withheld at breeder request.</i>	

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

^{UR} Unregistered Flock. Sires bred in an unregistered flock are identified in the table by a UR following the sire's code.

- Sire ID provides a unique number for all sheep. A sire ID has 16 digits.
 - 2 for the breed of the flock, e.g., Merino (50), Poll Merino (60), Dohne (51), SAMM (48), Afrino (AF)
 - 4 for flock code, AASMB Registered flock code or unregistered code.
 - 4 for year of drop.
 - 6 for tag number used in the breeder's records.

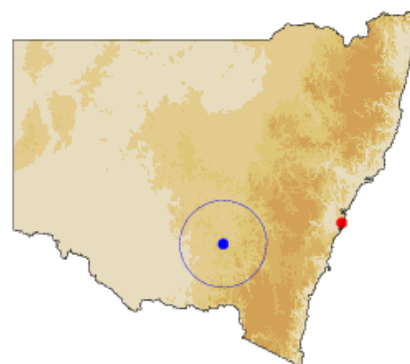
Example 16 digit code: 50 - 4967 - 2009 - 090012
 Breed Flock Year of drop On-farm ID

[†] Breed of flock in which the sire was born.

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual classing grades and traits.

1. Location

- Temora Agricultural Research and Advisory Station (TARAS) is located 6km north of Temora. The property is approximately 600 hectares and has an average rainfall of 524mm. TARAS is geographically central to the South West Slopes of NSW and is in a typically mixed farming area.
- The topography of TARAS is quite flat with the soil type varying little across the property and can be described as moderately acid clay loam duplex soil.
- TARAS operates as a research facility and as a commercial farming operation.



2. Selection and mating

- 400 Billandri Poll Stud ewes were mated by Artificial Insemination to 10 sires.
- The ewes were evenly allocated to each ram using the 7% Dual Purpose index. This allowed each sire group to have a range of ewes with high and low indexes. The average 7% DP index was 129.
- The insemination program was conducted on 16th and 17th January 2011.
- The insemination program was conducted by Genstock (NSW).
- 40 ewes were allocated to each sire entered.

3. Pregnancy and lambing

- Pregnancy scanning took place on 4th April 2011.
- Ewes were managed as one contemporary group until 5 days before lambing.
- Adequate pasture and a supplementary feeding program ensured that nutritional requirements were met during all stages of pregnancy.
- Sire groups lambed down in separate paddocks.
- Lambs were tagged and mothered within one week of lambing and groups brought together and boxed into one contemporary group of ewes and lambs.

4. Weaning and seasonal conditions

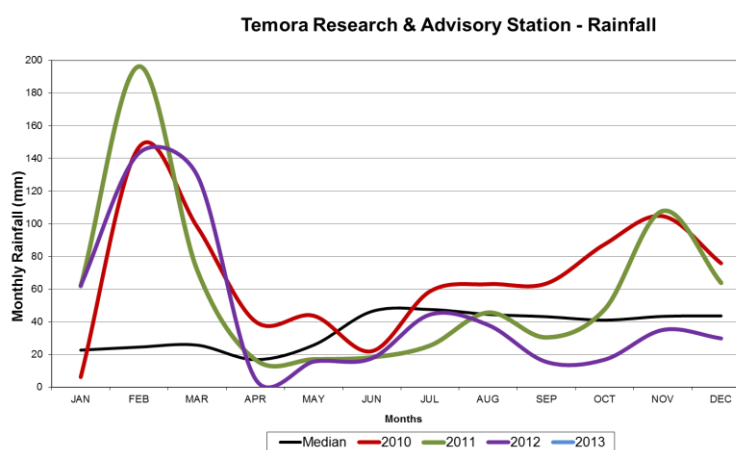
- The lambs were marked, scored and electronically tagged on 28th July 2011.
- The lambs were weaned onto improved pasture on 13th September 2011.
- Pasture conditions were adequate from birth to their first shearing.

5. Visual Assessments

- 1st stage visual assessments were carried out by Malcolm Peake, Bogo Merino Stud.
- 2nd stage visual assessments were carried out by Steven Phillips, Yarrawonga Merino Stud.

6. Rainfall - TARAS

	2010	2011	2012	median
JAN	6.2	61.8	62.2	22.7
FEB	146.8	196.2	143.2	24.5
MAR	98.1	71.6	129.6	25.7
APR	40.2	16.8	5.0	22.2
MAY	43.7	17	15.6	26.8
JUN	22	18.2	17.6	47.3
JUL	58.6	25.4	44.4	48.5
AUG	63	45.6	38.0	45.1
SEP	63.4	30.4	15.4	43.6
OCT	87.4	47.6	16.8	43.5
NOV	104.6	107.8	35.0	43.5
DEC	75.8	63.8	29.8	43.8
Totals	809.8	702.2	471.0	533.4



*Source: TARAS records and BOM. Average 1988-2013.

Assessment and management program

Activity	Date/s	Age (months)	Wool (months)
Selection of ewes & allocation of ewes for mating	01.12.2010		
Artificial Insemination	16.01.2011		
Pregnancy scanning	04.04.2011		
Separated into sire lambing groups	08.06.2011		
Lambing: start – finish	13 to 20.06.2011		
Lambing mobs boxed to 1 sex management group	25.06.2011	14-21 days	
Tagging/pigment scores (age in days)	25.06.2011	14-21 days	
Marked and scored for breech traits	28.07.2011	45 days	
Weaning (age in days)	13.08.2011	92 days	
Pre assessment (even-up) shearing	NA		
Crutching			
• 1st	03.01.2012	7	7
• 2nd			
Fat and eye muscle scanning and body weight	25.03.2012	10	
Fleece sampling assessment			
• 1st	29.03.2012	10	10
• 2nd	08.01.2013	18	8
Staple length assessment			
• 1st	29.03.2012	10	10
• 2nd			
Classer's Grade assessment			
• 1st	29.03.2012	10	10
• 2nd	08.01.2013	18	8
Pre shearing scoring assessment			
• 1st	29.03.2012	10	10
• 2nd	08.01.2013	18	8
Assessment shearing			
• 1st	30.03.2012	10	10
• 2nd	09.01.2013	18	8
Post shearing scoring assessment			
• 1st			
• 2nd	08.01.2013	18	8
Body weigh assessment			
• Weaning	13.09.2011	3	
• Early Post Weaning	15.11.2011	5	
• Post Weaning	02.01.2012	7	
• Yearling	25.03.2012	10	
• Adult	09.01.2013	18	
Worm egg count sampling			
• 1st	19.11.2011		
• 2nd			
Sire's Progeny Group Evenness assessment			
Vaccination	Marking, weaning, post shearing		
Drench	As required based on worm egg counts		
Supplementary feeding: start – finish			
Field day or public display of sheep	(1) 10.10.2011; (2) 29.11.2011; (3) 30.03.2012		

Visual trait assessment

2nd Stage Assessment

Classer's Grade: Steven Phillips

Trait Scores: Steven Phillips

Site Breeding Objective used to assess the Classer's Grades – 2nd Stage Assessment

The Breeding Objective used to select the Classer's Tops (20%), Flock (60%) and Cull (20%) was based a visual assessment where the animal performed well for growth, structurally sound with good wool quality traits including long soft handling wool and fleece weight. *(For the first assessment of the 2011 drop no reference was made to measured performance and was based on the visual presentation of all traits).*

Within Site Analysis

This report provides information within site on the performance of the progeny of the sires being evaluated. Adjustments have been made for singles and twins. The ASBVs have not been taken into consideration in the within site analysis, however will be used in the across site (MSS) analysis.

All the rams (excluding the link and common sire(s)) were unproven prior to be entered in the Bluechip Livestock Young Sire Program. The information presented is a reflection of one sires performance, not the bloodline.

Publication of results in both Merino Superior Sires (MSS) and MerinoSelect will be presented as across flock Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) and will included additional data collected on farm, at other sire evaluation sites and the Information Nucleus Flock sites.



Bluechip Livestock Young Sire Program – Ram progeny - prior to 1st Assessment

Figure 1a. Combined measured traits and visual trait performance

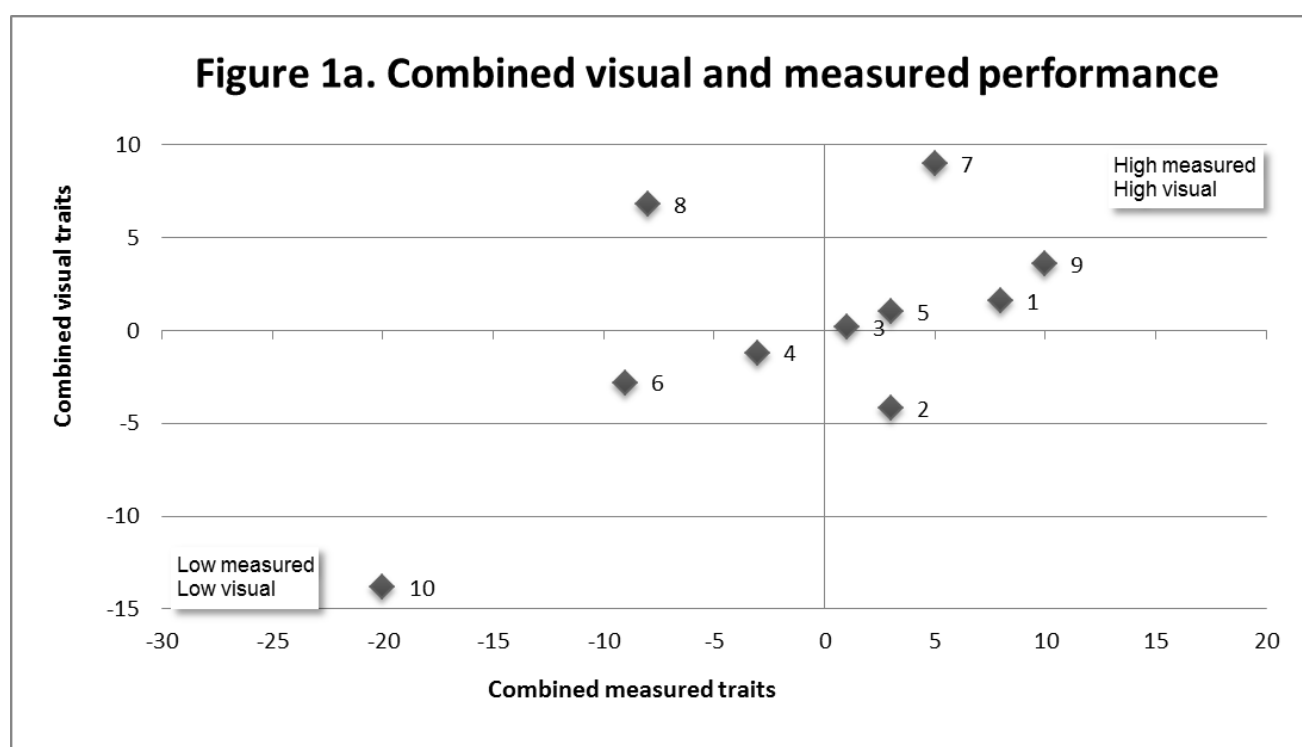
Summary graph: visual and measured performance

Each ram meeting the AMSEA index accuracy threshold assessed at 1st Assessment is located on Figure 1a, 1b and 1c and describes the performance for combined measured traits and combined visual assessment.

A different graph is proved for each of the three production indexes. Each graph the combined measured traits are based on the AMSEA index and the visual trait performance is a combination of Classer's Grade performance (Tops and Culls). More information is found in "Calculation of combined performance" (page 23).

Rams that are above average performers for combined measured traits and Classer's Grade are located in the top right hand quarter.

Figure 1a is based on an **AMSEA Fibre Production Plus (FP+)** index (large reduction in fibre diameter, large increase in staple strength, moderate reduction in WEC (if measured) and small increase in fleece weight).



Rams reported in Figure 1a, 1b and 1c			
Ram code	Breeders flock, Ram number	Ram code	Breeders flock, Ram number
1	Bundilla, 090121 - 504081-2009-090121	6*	Coromandel Poll, ET2 - 600553-2007-070002
2**	Pooginook, Silver - 500788-2008-081290	7	Pastora Poll, B2893 - 601090-2008-082893
3**	Roseville Park, 090014 - 504166-2009-090014	8#	Identity withheld at breeder request
4	Identity withheld at breeder request	9	Woodpark Poll, 090700 - 601151-2009-090700
5	Hazeldean, 9.794 - 500383-2009-000794	10	Identity withheld at breeder request

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual traits and classing grades.

Figure 1b is based on an **AMSEA Merino Production Plus (MP+)** index (moderate increase in fleece weight, staple strength and meat traits and a moderate reduction in fibre diameter).

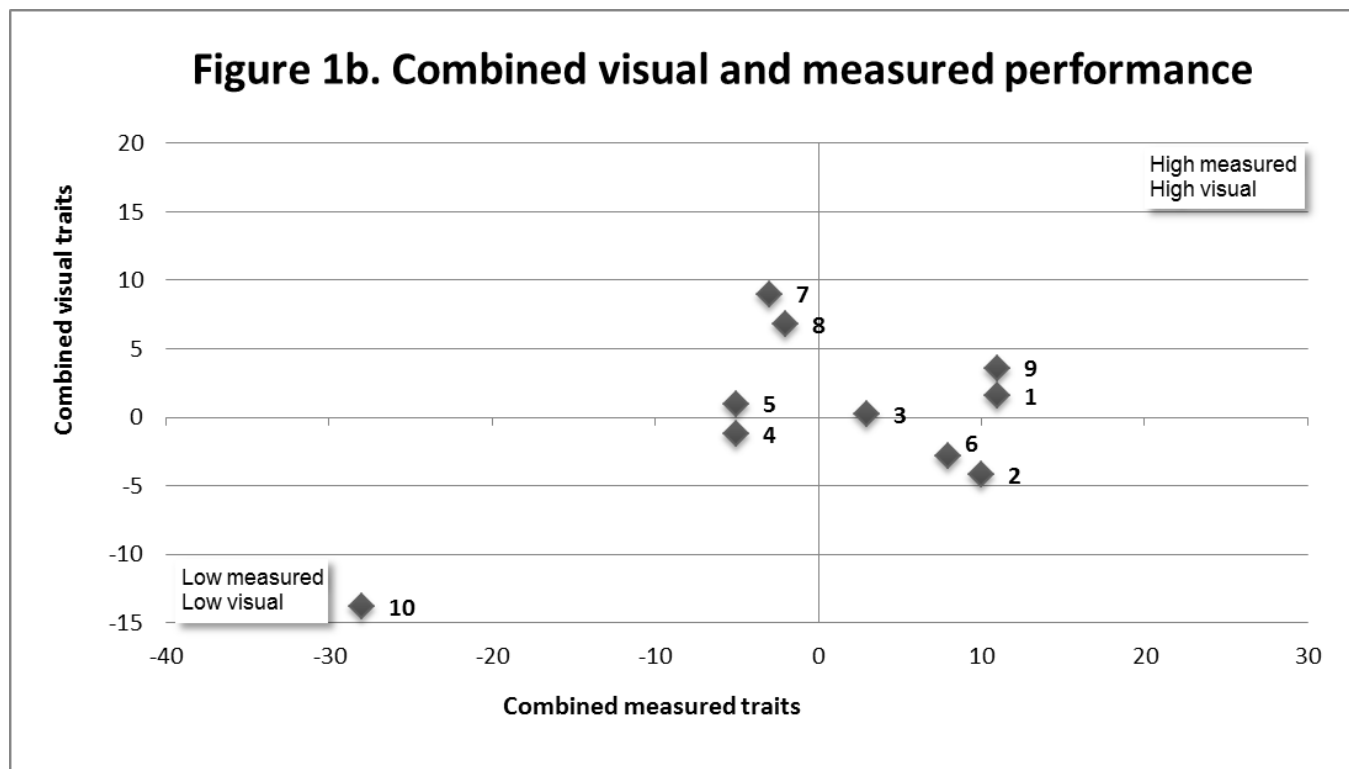


Figure 1c is based on an **AMSEA Dual Purpose Plus (DP+)** index (meat focused production system where surplus progeny are sold as lambs and a portion of ewes are jointed to terminal sires with a high increase in meat traits, reproduction, moderate increase in staple strength and minimal emphasis on fibre diameter and fleece weight).

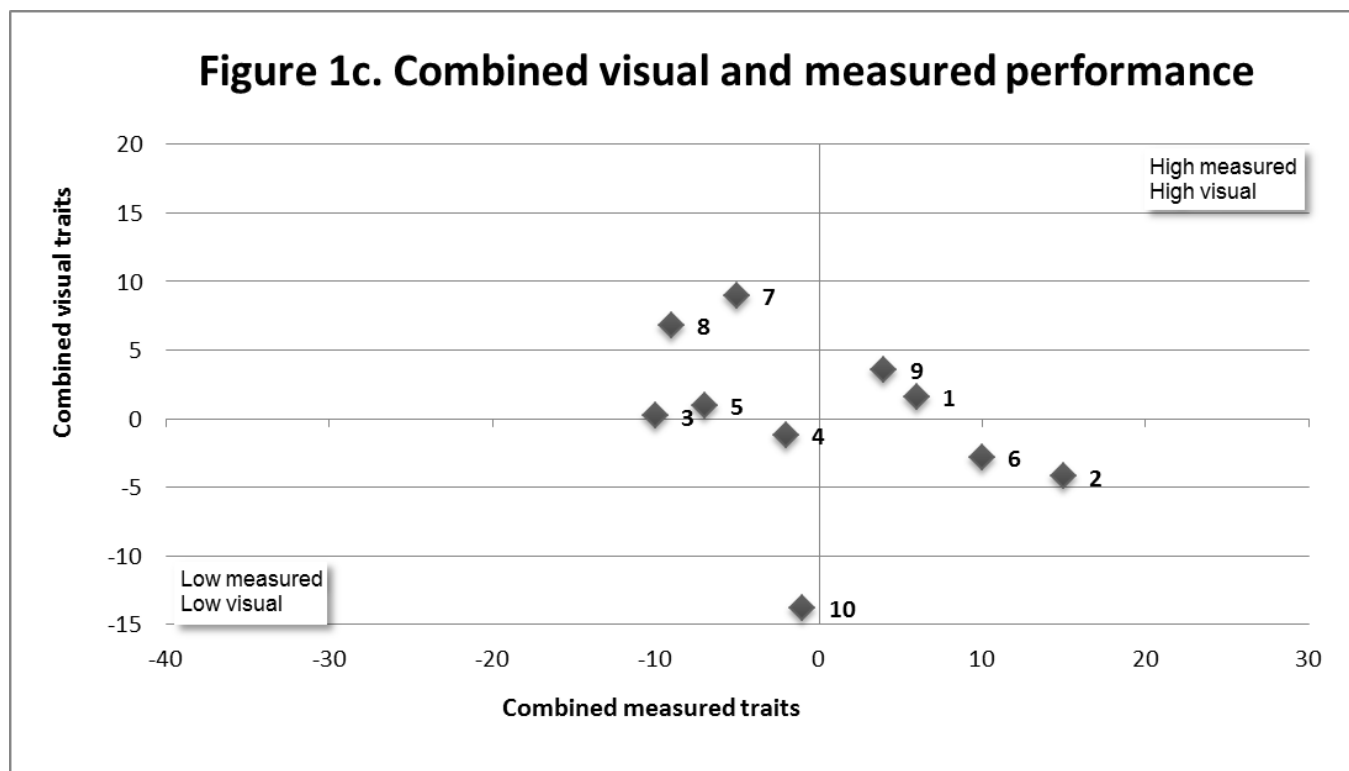


Table 1. AMSEA Index values and Classer's Grade

The highest performing 3 rams for each trait (i.e., trait leaders) are highlighted by shading. Each ram is listed for Classer's Grade and the same three indexes at all site evaluations. An additional index (Fine Merino 20% + SS) considered relevant to this site evaluation is also reported. The index values reported are based on Flock Breeding Values (within flock) measured trait performance with varying emphasis on fleece weight, fibre diameter, body weight, staple strength and worm egg count. (See 'Index Options' on page 22 for more information on the indexes presented in the table below.) **AMSEA Indexes are the same as MERINOSELECT Indexes apart from NLW (Number of Lambs Weaned) which is given a zero FBV value in AMSEA calculations.**

Fibre Production Plus		Based on a wool focussed production system where wethers are retained, operating in an environment where worms cause economic losses. Large reduction in fibre diameter. Large increase in staple strength. Moderate reduction in WEC (if measured). Small increase in fleece weight. Little change in meat traits. (Will rank animals similar to 14%+SS index)							
Merino Production Plus		Based on a balanced wool and meat production system where surplus progeny are sold as hoggets. Moderate increase in fleece weight, staple strength, meat traits and reproduction. Moderate reduction in fibre diameter. (Will rank animals similar to M7 and DP7 Indexes).							
Merino Dual Purpose Plus		Based on a meat focused production system where surplus progeny are sold as lambs and a portion of ewes are joined to terminal sires. High increase in meat traits, reproduction. Moderate increase in staple strength. Maintain fibre diameter and fleece weight. (Will rank animals similar to DP3.5 and DP7 Indexes).							
Fine 20% +SS		Very high emphasis on fibre diameter and an emphasis to approximately maintain staple strength, fleece weight, and body weight.							

Ram code	Breeders flock, Ram number	No of Progeny	AMSEA Indexes values				Classer's Grade			
			Fibre Production Plus	Merino Production Plus	Dual Purpose Plus	Fine 20%+SS	Tops % (dev)		Culls % (dev)	
							Y^	A	Y	A
1	Bundilla, 090121	12	108	111	106	104	3	-7	-15	-18
2**	Pooginook, Silver	13	103	110	115	93	-1	-9	-11	7
3**	Roseville Park, 090014	10	101	103	90	104	27	-8	-14	-13
4	<i>Identity withheld at breeder request</i>	13	97	95	98	103	-17	-11	10	-7
5	Hazeldean, 9.794	13	103	95	93	109	-6	6	10	-3
6*	Coromandel Poll, ET2	17	91	108	110	97	5	-4	-3	6
7	Pastora Poll, B2893	8	105	97	95	112	10	41	-1	-8
8#	<i>Identity withheld at breeder request</i>	4	92	98	91	96	-2		2	
9	Woodpark Poll, 090700	9	110	111	104	114	1	19	-3	-1
10	<i>Identity withheld at breeder request</i>	12	80	72	99	69	-19	-28	24	38
Average performance		11	100	100	100	100	18	29	19	29

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between site evaluations and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

^ Y = Yearling (300 to 400 days). ¹ Classer's Grade is expressed as the percentage deviation of average Tops% and Culls%

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual traits and classing grades.

Figures 2. and 3. Summary Graphs: Fleece Weight by Fibre Diameter, Tops by Cull Grade

Figure 2 Fleece weight by fibre diameter - describes performance for fleece weight on the side axis and fibre diameter on the bottom axis. Rams that are above average for fleece weight and below average fibre diameter are located in the top left hand quarter.

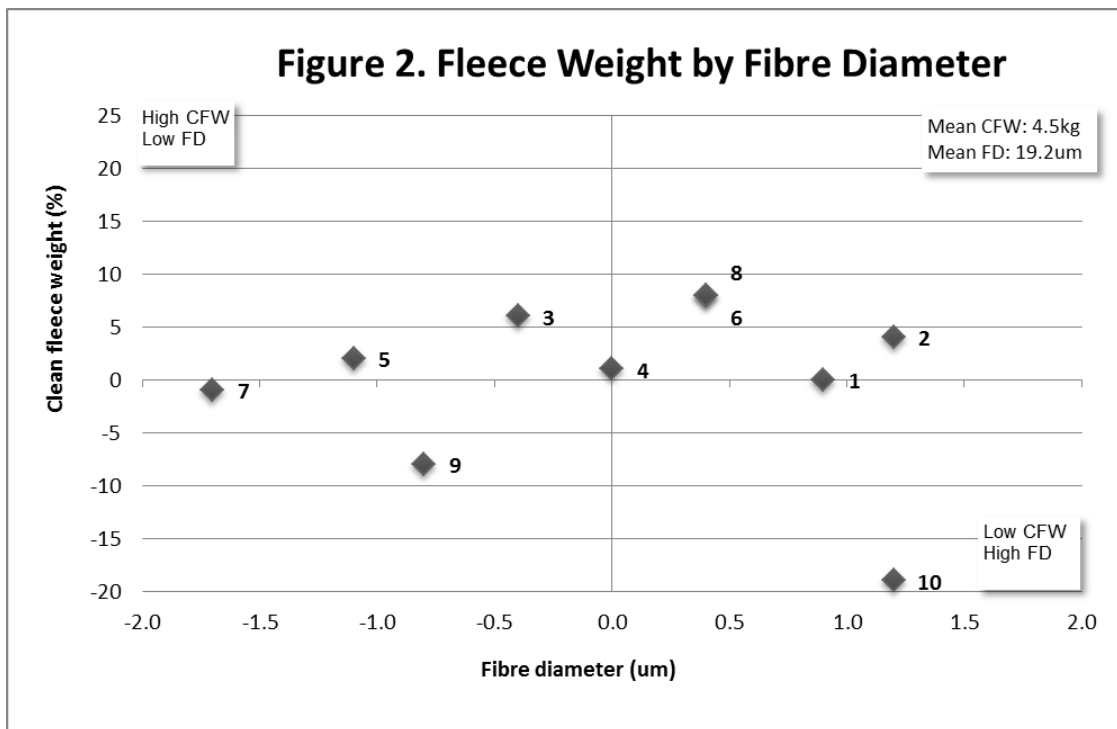
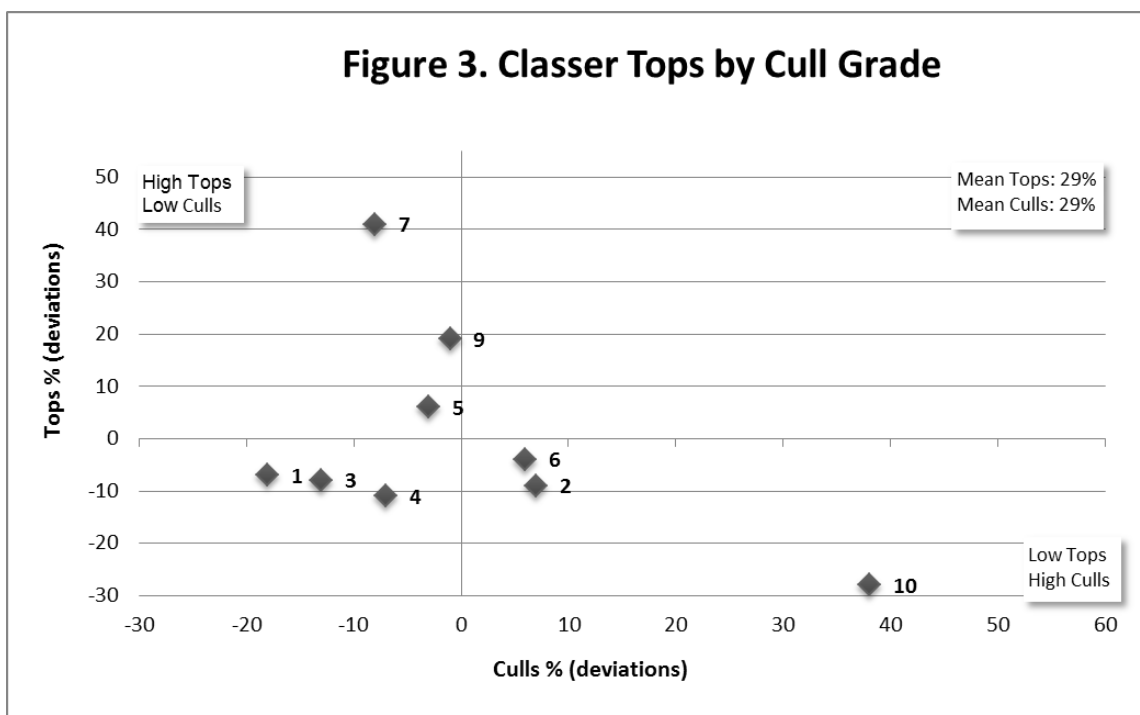


Figure 3 Classer's Tops by Cull Grade - describes performance for Classer's Tops Grade on the side axis and Cull Grade on the bottom axis. Rams that have above average Tops and below average Culls are in the top left hand quarter. Classer's Tops (20%), Flock (60%) and Cull (20%) is based a visual assessment where the progeny performed well for growth, structurally sound with good wool quality traits including long soft handling wool and fleece weight.



Understanding the results – measured trait performance

Measured trait performance and Classer's Grade – Tables 2 and 3 – pages 14 and 15

Ram code:	Allows a ram to be located on the summary graphs and some tables.
Ram name:	Identity of the breeder's flock and the ram's number or name.
Number of progeny:	The number of progeny a ram had at the most recent measured analysis.
Flock Breeding Values:	Flock Breeding Values (FBVs) are Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) calculated by Sheep Genetics for the ram's evaluated in this report. Only data from this site evaluation is used in the calculation of these FBVs. FBVs describe the relative breeding value (genetic performance) of the rams (in this case based on the performance of their progeny). A ram's progeny will express half of their ram's FBV. FBVs do not necessarily reflect the rams observed performance, which is a combination of both genetic and environmental influences. FBVs are an estimate of the genetic component of the sheep's performance.
Traits:	<p>GFW: Greasy fleece weight (percentage).</p> <p>CFW: Clean fleece weight (percentage).</p> <p>FD: Average fibre diameter (micron).</p> <p>WT: Body weight (kilograms).</p> <p>FDCV: Fibre diameter coefficient of variation (percentage).</p> <p>SL: Staple length (mm) at the mid-side.</p> <p>SS: Staple strength (N/ktex) at the mid-side.</p> <p>EMD: Eye muscle depth (mm) at the 'C' site.</p> <p>FAT: Fat depth (mm) at the 'C' site.</p> <p>CURV: Fibre curvature (degrees)</p> <p>WEC: Worm egg count (% deviation in worm burden of ram's progeny)</p>
Abbreviation, trait and the (units reported)	
Age at assessment:	<p>Y = Yearling - 300 to 400 days (10 to 13 months of age).</p> <p>H = Hogget - 400 to 540 days (13 to 18 months of age).</p> <p>A = Adult - 540 days or older (18 months and older).</p>
Classer's Grade:	A classer grades all progeny as Tops, Flocks or Culls based on visual assessment of all traits relative to the site's Breeding Objective (page 6). The percentage deviation from the average of Tops and Culls is presented in this report.



Table 2. Major measured traits and Classer's Grades

Ram code	Breeder's flock, Ram number	No. of prog.	Flock Breeding Values (deviations)								Classer's Grade ¹			
			GFW %		CFW %		FD um		WT kg		Tops % (dev)		Culls % (dev)	
			Y [^]	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A
1	Bundilla, 090121	12	5.0	1.0	4.0	0.0	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.7	3	-7	-15	-18
2**	Pooginook, Silver	13	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	1.3	1.2	3.0	4.2	-1	-9	-11	7
3**	Roseville Park, 090014	10	10.0	5.0	12.0	6.0	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-1.0	27	-8	-14	-13
4	Identity withheld at breeder request	13	-6.0	-1.0	-4.0	1.0	-0.1	0.0	-3.0	-2.9	-17	-11	10	-7
5	Hazeldean, 9.794	13	4.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	-0.9	-1.1	-1.8	-3.4	-6	6	10	-3
6*	Coromandel Poll, ET2	17	5.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	-0.1	0.4	1.6	0.9	5	-4	-3	6
7	Pastora Poll, B2893	8	-2.0	0.0	-4.0	-1.0	-1.3	-1.7	-2.1	-2.2	10	41	-1	-8
8#	Identity withheld at breeder request	4	4.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	0.1	0.4	-0.9	0.0	-2		2	
9	Woodpark Poll, 090700	9	-1.0	-6.0	-3.0	-8.0	-0.5	-0.8	1.3	1.2	1	19	-3	-1
10	Identity withheld at breeder request	12	-24.0	-19.0	-24.0	-19.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.5	-19	-28	24	38
Average performance		11	4.1	5.4	2.9	4.5	17.8	19.2	50.2	43.4	18	29	19	29
			kg	kg	kg	kg	um	um	kg	kg	%	%	%	%

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between site evaluations and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

[^] Y = Yearling (300 to 400 days); H = Hogget (400 to 540 days); A = Adult (540 days and older).

¹ Classer's Grade is expressed as the percentage deviation of average Tops% and Culls%

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual traits and classing grades.

Information on how to use the results in the table above can be found on page 12.



Table 3. Other measured traits

Ram code			No. of prog.	Flock Breeding Values (deviations)								
				FDCV %		SL mm	SS N/ktex	Curv deg/mm		Fat mm	EMD mm	WEC%
				Y^	A	Y^	Y^	Y^	A	Y^	Y^	P^
1	Bundilla, 090121	12	-0.9	-0.9	5.7	6.2	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-0.6	-29	
2**	Pooginook, Silver	13	-0.5	-0.6	5.5	3.6	-7.8	-6.2	0.4	0.7	-40	
3**	Roseville Park, 090014	10	0.9	0.6	1.2	-3.0	-1.1	-1.2	-0.9	-2.3	4	
4	Identity withheld at breeder request	13	0.5	0.8	-4.7	3.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.1	67	
5	Hazeldean, 9.794	13	0.3	0.4	5.0	-4.2	-3.5	-4.1	1.0	-0.1	-15	
6*	Coromandel Poll, ET2	17	0.7	0.4	-5.1	-1.9	2.6	1.3	-1.0	0.1	110	
7	Pastora Poll, B2893	8	1.1	1.3	-0.4	-4.2	1.0	1.4	-0.7	-0.2	6	
8	Identity withheld at breeder request	4	0.2	-0.2	-5.1	-1.5	0.0	-1.9	-0.8	-2.1	68	
9	Woodpark Poll, 090700	9	-1.2	-1.1	1.3	0.8	1.6	3.2	0.1	0.2	-20	
10	Identity withheld at breeder request	12	-1.1	-0.7	-3.3	1.2	6.7	7.4	1.9	4.3	-66	
Average performance			11	16.4	17.9	82.0	38.5	92.5	100.7	2.7	26.3	
				%	%	mm	N/ktex	deg/mm	deg/mm	mm	mm	%

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between site evaluations and sites so that the all evaluations can be combined into one report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

[^] Y = Yearling (300 to 400 days);

Information on how to use the results in the table above can be found on page 12.



Understanding the results – scored performance traits

Scored trait performance – Tables 4a to 4d – pages 17 to 20. The following description of trait scores is a summary of the detailed word and diagrammatical description of these scores in the Visual Sheep Scores booklet (free on application to AWI telephone 02 92995155). A deviation from the average trait score for all progeny is reported as well as the percentage of the ram's progeny recorded for each trait.

■ Fleece rot:	The severity of fleece rot from 1 (no fleece rot), 2 and 3 (bands of bacterial staining but no crusting), and 4 and 5 (bands of crusty fleece rot).
■ Wool colour:	Greasy wool colour scored from 1 (whitest) to 5 (yellow).
■ Wool character:	Definition and variation of crimp between and along the staple scored from 1 (well defined and regular) to 5 (undefined and large variation).
■ Dust penetration:	Degree of dust penetration from 1 (only tip <5%) to 5 (80 to 100% of staple).
■ Staple weathering:	The deterioration due to light and water from 1 (least, <5% of staple) to 5 (most, 30 to 50%) reflect the depth and degree of deterioration.
■ Staple structure:	The size and diameter of each staple from 1 (<5mm) to 5 (30 to 50 mm)
■ Face cover:	Wool cover on the face scored from 1 (open face) to 5 (fully covered face).
■ Feet/Legs:	Conformation of feet and legs scored from 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor).
■ Body wrinkle:	The degree of body wrinkle from 1 (no wrinkle) to 5 (extensive wrinkle).
■ Jaw:	Under- or over-shot lower jaw (and teeth) relative to the top jaw. Three scores: 1 (very well aligned), 3 (marginally under or over) and 5 (heavily under or over).
■ Back/Shoulder:	Conformation of the back and shoulder from 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor).
■ Fibre pigmentation:	The percentage of dark fibres on any part of the sheep from 1 (0 pigmented fibres at any site) to 5 (76 to 100% pigmented fibres at one or more sites). This trait does not include random spot or recessive black.
■ Non-fibre pigmentation:	The percentage of pigmentation on the areas not shorn from 1 (0 pigmentation at any site) to 5 (76 to 100% pigmented area on one or more bare skin sites, and/or 76 to 100% of the total hoof area).
■ Recessive black: (black)	Recessive black (black) is identified by relatively symmetrical markings on both sides of the face. There are two scores 1 (no recessive markings) and 5 (recessive markings). This trait does not include random spot or fibre pigmentation.
■ Random spot: (spot)	Random spot (spot) is identified by rounded wool or hair spot/s, not symmetrical. There are two scores 1 (no spot/s) and 5 (spot/s). If both sides of the face or body are spotted the sheep should be scored as a recessive black.
■ Breech cover	Size of natural bare area around the breech from 1 (large) to 5 (no bare).
■ Crutch cover	Size of natural bare area in the pubic and groin from 1 (large) to 5 (no bare).
■ Breech wrinkle	Degree of wrinkle at the tail set and kind legs from 1 (nil) to 5 (extensive).
■ Dag	Degree of dag adhering to the breech and legs from 1 (nil) to 5 (extensive).
■ Injury/Disease:	Non-genetic effects due to injury, misadventure or infection – Yes or No.

Table 4a. Visual trait assessments – Wool quality

Traits are reported as a deviation (Dev) from the average trait score for all progeny. The percentage of a ram's progeny assessed for each score is also reported. For the majority of breeder's objectives a negative deviation would be considered favourable and the larger the deviation the better.

Ram code	Wool Quality																							
	Fleece Rot						Wool Colour						Wool Character						Dust Penetration					
	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5
1	-0.6	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	92	0	8	0	0	-0.3	42	50	8	0	0	0.0	0	67	33	0	0
2**	0.1	77	0	0	23	0	0.0	85	7	8	0	0	0.2	15	54	31	0	0	0.1	0	54	46	0	0
3**	-0.1	82	0	9	0	9	0.0	91	0	9	0	0	0.0	27	55	18	0	0	-0.1	0	73	27	0	0
4	0.0	85	0	0	7	0	-0.2	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	23	62	15	0	0	-0.2	0	85	15	0	0
5	0.2	77	0	0	15	8	0.1	85	0	15	0	0	0.1	38	16	46	0	0	-0.1	8	54	38	0	0
6*	0.4	65	0	11	12	12	-0.1	94	0	6	0	0	0.2	24	41	35	0	0	0.0	0	59	41	0	0
7	-0.1	78	0	11	11	0	0.2	78	0	22	0	0	-0.3	67	11	11	11	0	0.0	0	67	33	0	0
8#																								
9	-0.4	89	0	11	0	0	-0.2	100	0	0	0	0	-0.5	67	22	11	0	0	-0.3	0	89	11	0	0
10	0.5	58	0	17	25	0	0.2	75	8	17	0	0	0.6	0	42	58	0	0	0.5	0	17	75	8	0
Avg.	1.6	79	0	7	10	3	1.2	89	2	9	0	0	1.9	34	39	26	1	0	2.4	0	63	36	1	0

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual traits and classing grades.

Information on how to use the results in the table above can be found on page 15.



Table 4b. Visual trait assessment – Wool quality and pigmentation

Traits are reported as a deviation (Dev) from the average trait score for all progeny. The percentage of a ram's progeny assessed for each score is also reported. For the majority of breeder's objectives a negative deviation would be considered favourable and the larger the deviation the better.

Four pigmentation traits are reported as described on page 15. These are Fibre pigmentation, Non-fibre pigmentation, Recessive "black" and Random "spot". Fibre pigmentation and Non-fibre pigmentation are scored **1** to **5** however recessive black and random spot are scored **1** (no pigmentation of this type) or **5** (when the trait is expressed). Only the percentage scored 5 are reported for recessive black and random spot.

Ram code	Wool Quality											
	Staple Weathering						Staple Structure					
	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5
1	0.0	0	67	33	0	0	-0.2	25	67	8	0	0
2**	0.1	0	62	38	0	0	0.1	15	62	23	0	0
3**	0.0	0	73	27	0	0	0.4	0	64	36	0	0
4	-0.2	0	92	8	0	0	0.2	23	38	31	8	0
5	-0.1	16	46	38	0	0	-0.2	31	62	7	0	0
6*	0.1	0	59	41	0	0	0.4	12	41	47	0	0
7	-0.1	0	78	22	0	0	-0.4	56	33	11	0	0
8#												
9	-0.2	0	89	11	0	0	-0.4	56	33	11	0	0
10	0.4	0	33	67	0	0	0.3	0	75	25	0	0
Avg.	2.3	2	66	32	0	0	2.0	24	53	22	1	0

Pigmentation												
Fibre pigmentation						Non-fibre pigmentation					Black	Spot
Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	5
Fibre Pigmentation was not scored at 2 nd Assessment; see 1 st Assessment Report for details	Non-Fibre Pigmentation not scored at 2 nd Assessment; see 1 st Assessment Report for details										0	0
											0	0
											0	0
											0	0
											0	0
											0	0
											0	0
											0	0

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites.

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual traits and classing grades.

Information on how to use the results in the table above can be found on page 15.

Table 4c. Visual trait assessments – Conformation

Traits are reported as a deviation (Dev) from the average trait score for all progeny. The percentage of a ram's progeny assessed for each score is also reported. For the majority of breeder's objectives a negative deviation would be considered favorable and the larger the deviation the better. Face cover and body wrinkle are possible exceptions when for many breeders the optimum score is in the middle of the range.

Ram code	Conformation																													
	Jaw						Legs and Feet						Shoulder and Back						Face Cover						Body Wrinkle					
	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5
1	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.1	92	0	8	0	0	-0.3	0	42	58	0	0	-0.1	25	58	17	0	0
2**	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	-0.1	100	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	7	85	8	0	-0.6	77	8	15	0	0
3**	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.1	91	0	9	0	0	0.1	0	9	82	9	0	0.5	0	45	55	0	0
4	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	-0.1	100	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	100	0	0	0.5	0	54	46	0	0
5	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	-0.1	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	8	92	0	0	0.1	0	85	15	0	0
6*	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	94	0	6	0	0	-0.1	0	18	82	0	0	0.2	6	65	29	0	0
7	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	-0.1	100	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	100	0	0	-0.1	11	89	0	0	0
8#																														
9	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.2	89	0	11	0	0	0.1	89	0	11	0	0	0.1	0	0	100	0	0	0.0	0	100	0	0	0
10	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	100	0	0	0	0	-0.1	100	0	0	0	0	-0.1	0	17	83	0	0	-0.5	58	33	9	0	0
Avg.	1.0	100	0	0	0	0	1.0	99	0	1	0	0	1.1	96	0	4	0	0	2.9	0	11	87	2	0	2.0	19	60	21	0	0

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites

Insufficient progeny at second assessment to report visual traits and classing grades.

Information on how to use the results in the table above can be found on page 15.

Table 4d. Visual trait assessments – Breech

Traits are reported as a deviation (Dev) from the average trait score for all progeny. The percentage of a ram's progeny assessed for each score is also reported. For the majority of breeder's objectives a negative deviation would be considered favorable and the larger the deviation the better. Breech scores were recorded at lamb marking.

Ram code	Breech																							
	Breech Cover						Breech Wrinkle						Crutch Cover						Dag					
	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5	Dev	1	2	3	4	5
1	-0.2	0	0	0	36	64	-0.2	23	36	27	14	0	Crutch cover not scored	Dag no scored										
2**	0.1	0	0	0	14	86	-0.5	39	32	21	4	4												
3**	0.2	0	0	0	4	96	-0	20	36	28	16	0												
4	0.1	0	0	0	11	89	0.7	3	15	41	37	4												
5	-0.3	4	0	10	10	76	0.5	8	29	24	29	10												
6*	0.1	0	0	0	9	91	0.2	18	21	39	18	4												
7	0.0	0	0	0	21	79	0	25	21	29	25	0												
8	0.0	0	0	0	22	78	0.1	12	33	44	11	0												
9	0.0	0	0	0	18	82	-0	29	18	41	12	0												
10	0.1	0	0	0	13	87	-0.6	48	30	9	13	0												
Avg.	4.8	0	0	1	16	83	2.5	23	27	30	18	2												

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites

Information on how to use the results in the table above can be found on page 15.



Table 5. Ram averages for measured traits

Ram averages are the average performance of all the progeny of a ram. No account is made for factors that can improve the ram average value accuracy.

No.			Ram averages for measured traits (deviations)															
Ram code	Breeders flock, Ram number	of prog.	GFW %		CFW %		FD um		WT kg		Fat mm	EMD mm	FDCV %	Curv deg/mm		SL mm	SS N/ktex	
			Y^	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	
1	Bundilla, 090121	12	0.2	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.7	-0.2	-0.6	-0.6	1.2	1.5	5.1	6.7	
2**	Pooginook, Silver	13	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.8	2.6	2.3	0.1	0.4	-0.5	-7.7	-2.2	3.8	3.9	
3**	Roseville Park, 090014	10	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.2	-0.5	0.9	-0.4	-0.2	-2.0	0.2	0.6	-2.1	1.0	-2.6	
4	Identity withheld at breeder request	13	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.2	-3.0	-1.3	0.2	0.1	1.0	1.5	-0.4	-3.3	4.0	
5	Hazeldean, 9.794	13	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.8	-0.6	-0.9	-3.1	0.5	-0.1	0.3	-2.2	-3.0	5.1	-4.4	
6*	Coromandel Poll, ET2	17	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.5	1.0	0.5	-0.4	0.4	0.1	2.5	0.9	-4.6	-2.2	
7	Pastora Poll, B2893	8	0.0	0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.9	-1.5	-2.2	0.2	-0.3	0.1	1.4	0.9	0.3	-0.2	-2.7	
8	Identity withheld at breeder request	4	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	-0.3	-1.3	-0.2	-2.2	0.0	-0.1	-1.7	-5.0	-2.9	
9	Woodpark Poll, 090700	9	0.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.8	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	-1.2	0.2	2.7	0.7	0.4	
10	Identity withheld at breeder request	12	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-0.5	0.7	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.4	3.7	-0.6	3.1	4.0	-2.7	-0.2	
Average performance			11	4.1	5.4	2.9	4.5	17.8	19.2	50.2	43.4	2.7	26.3	17.9	92.5	100.7	82.0	38.5
				kg	kg	kg	kg	um	um	kg	kg	mm	mm	%	deg/mm	deg/mm	mm	N/ktex

* Link ram: Ram evaluated to provide links between years and sites so that the all site results can be combined into a single report, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*.

** Common rams (in addition to Link Rams) between this CTSE site and other sites

[^] Y = Yearling (300 to 400 days); H = Hogget (400 to 540 days); A = Adult (540 days and older).

Understanding the results

Index Options – indexes reported on page 5.

Breeding Objective index options provide the relative value of sires based on a combination of the measured traits' genetic performance. The indexes used in this report are only some of the many indexes that can be used to describe an individual breeder's objective for measured traits.

If a breeder is considering using a sire in this report it is critical to consider the performance of the breeder's flock relative to the performance standard in this report. The relative performance must be considered to establish the result that can be expected when a sire is used in a breeder's flock.

All AMSEA site evaluation reports present 3 standard indexes to provide combined measured trait performance. These 3 AMSEA indexes are DP+; MP+; and FP+. These indexes are the same as MERINOSELECT indexes of that name however as there is no direct reproduction records captured by sire evaluation AMSEA do not include a Reproduction (NLW) FBV in their index calculations. As a result the 14% contribution by NLW in the DP+ index is not effectively applied by the index calculation.

This report has added an additional index – the AMSEA Fine 20%+ SS.

Index production system and breeding objectives

AMSEA

DP+

Dual Purpose: Based on a meat focused production system where surplus progeny are sold as lambs and a portion of ewes are joined to terminal sires. High increase in carcass traits and fleece weight, moderate increase in reproduction, fibre diameter maintained, maintain or small increase in staple strength.

AMSEA

MP+

Merino Production: Based on a balanced wool and meat production system where surplus progeny are sold as hoggets. Moderate increase in fleece weight, staple strength, carcass traits and reproduction, moderate reduction in fibre diameter.

AMSEA

FP+

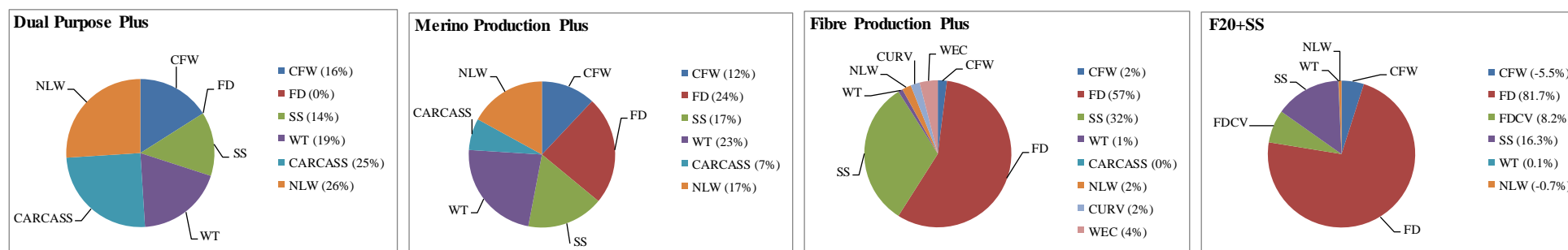
Fibre Production: Based on a wool focussed production system where wethers are retained, operating in an environment where worms cause economic losses. Large reduction in fibre diameter, large increase in staple strength, moderate reduction in WEC (if measured in the breeding program), small increase in fleece weight. Little change in carcass traits and reproduction.

AMSEA

Fine 20%+SS
(F20% +SS)

High emphasis on fibre diameter and staple strength. There is adequate emphasis on other traits to maintain performance except a moderate reduction in reproduction (number of lambs weaned – NLW).

Traits contribution to economic gain: The percentage contribution of the traits listed to economic gain in a commercial flock that selects rams using the index.



Understanding the results – continued

Accuracy of Flock Breeding Values

Flock Breeding Values (FBVs) are reported by Sheep Genetics (SG). FBVs express the expected performance of progeny of a ram relative to another ram in the evaluation when mated to the same standard of ewes. FBVs improve the accuracy of ram results because they account for the association between traits, adjustment for birth effects and the number of progeny a ram has in the analysis.

True Breeding Values would be achieved if the number of progeny evaluated for each ram were infinite. Because the number of progeny in the evaluation is not infinite, performance shown in this report is described as *Flock Breeding Values*.

Without progeny test information the correlation between the *Flock* and *True Breeding Value* of rams from different sources would be zero (0.0%). The correlation between *Flock* and *True Breeding Value* improves rapidly from 0.0% with no progeny to 77% with 10 progeny. The rate of improvement in correlation slows from 86% with 20 progeny, to 90% with 30 progeny and 92% with 40 progeny. With an infinite population the correlation is 100%. Note that the correlation used in the above example is for a trait such as fibre diameter with a high heritability (0.5).

A heritability of 0.5 indicates that half or 50% of the measured performance is passed onto offspring. A heritability of 0.35 indicates 35% is passed on. The FBVs that are shown in this report have already accounted for heritability and therefore describe the performance that can be expected from a ram's progeny.

Link rams

Link rams provide the 'genetic link' between CTSE sites located across Australia to allow all rams entered in these site evaluations to have their performance reported relative to each other in *Merino Superior Sires*. *Merino Superior Sires* reports rams from across all effectively linked CTSE sites and across all evaluations at these sites. Link rams are therefore a vital component of the Central Test Sire Evaluation.

To be used as a link a ram must have at least 25 progeny assessed at 1st Assessment at one accredited site. Site reports provide valuable information not reported in *Merino Superior Sires* however *Merino Superior Sires* reports the performance of a large number of rams which can provide a wider perspective of the elite rams available across many flocks in Australia and New Zealand.

Combined measured trait and combined visual trait performance

Combined measured trait performance is calculated as (7% MP Index – 100). Combined visual trait performance is calculated as: (Classer's Grade Tops% – Culls%)/5, expressed as a deviation from (average Tops% – average Culls%)/5.

Example

- Ram's performance:
- AMSEA 7% MP Index value = 119.7
 - Tops% = 25.5 (average Tops% = 25.1)
 - Culls% = 17.6 (average Culls% = 16.4)
-
- Combined Measured = $119.7 - 100 = 19.7$
 - Combined Visual = $((25.5 - 17.6)/5) - ((25.1 - 16.4)/5)$
 $= 7.9/5 - 8.7/5 = 1.58 - 1.74$
 $= -0.16$



Under the auspices of

The Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association



Supporting businesses

