



SIRE NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

2017 Joining: NSW (two sites) and WA

Have you ever wondered why some animals consistently perform year in and year out whilst others fade with time? Are there any factors that might help us to better predict superior lifetime performance at young ages? With the growing influence of the lamb industry on Merinos, what's the impact of selecting for growth, reproduction and carcase traits on lifetime wool productivity?

An exciting opportunity exists for ram breeders to be part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project that aims to answer these and many more industry questions. A partnership between AWI and AMSEA will see sires entered into four standard sire evaluation sites located across Australia with ewe progeny retained for annual joining, classing and lifetime assessment.

The **Elders Balmoral** site located at Harrow, Victoria, was the first of the MLP sites. It has now completed its two joinings with the following sites open for new joinings in 2017:

Site	Rainfall (mm)	Ewe Base
MerinoLink (Temora, NSW)	600, slight winter dominant	18um, previous sire evaluation progeny, and studs with ASBVs
Pingelly (Pingelly, WA)	440, winter rainfall	19.5um, meaty Merino ewes
New England (Armidale, NSW)	700+, summer dominant	17um, traditional ultra-fine flock

Would you like to nominate your top sires, young rams, good all-rounders, trait or index leaders, good doers or show winners in this important trial?

The sites will operate like a standard sire evaluation site – following the rigorous and independently assessed measured and visual assessment protocols. At the conclusion of the standard sire evaluation (generally once progeny are between 18 to 24 months of age) AWI will support the ongoing measurement and visual classing of all ewe progeny through 4-5 joinings and annual shearings.

90 ewes will be artificially inseminated to each sire to ensure that there will be sufficient ewe progeny numbers throughout the life of the project.

Entrants at sites will receive a full range of visual and objective results including professional classer assessed performance, within site breeding values and ASBVs.

Annual field days will be held at sites for ram owners and the broader industry to inspect progeny, receive updates on the progress of the project and network with fellow Merino producers.

For more information about the broader aims of the project and further site details please see the project website: www.wool.com/MLP.

We are looking for a range of sires to join in 2017 – and are taking nominations now. Sire entry will incur standard sire evaluation entry costs which range between \$2000 - \$3000 depending on the site.

Sire nominations close 5:00pm October 28th, 2016.



Sire selection process. To achieve the aims of the project, sire entries will be selected for joining in 2017 based on the following criteria:

- **Industry representative:** Involvement of horn/poll, different types, rams with and without Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs). A maximum of one ram from each breeder.
- **Fleece value:** Predicted to maintain, increase or decrease fleece value over time.
- **Performance range:** High and low performance for traits based on percentile band tables.
- A balance of young (progeny yet to be evaluated) and older rams.
- **Impact rams:** Significant show performance or have been highly used in industry (with or without ASBVs).

The final sire lists will be generated by the MLP Executive in consultation with the relevant sire evaluation site committees plus the project Industry Steering Committee. Whilst the project would like to include all rams nominated, regrettably spaces are limited. As such, priority will be given to rams that best meet the project's objectives.

It is hoped that the general industry sire submissions will meet the performance characteristics needed to achieve the objectives of the MLP. However, it should be noted that up to 10% of sires may be specially selected 'research sires' to fill particular project gaps. Research sires will be funded by the project.

Interested? Fill in the attached **nomination form** and **return by 5:00pm 28th of October**. **If selected**, you will be required to have 92 doses of semen from your sire and:

- Donate 47 doses of semen (as per standard sire evaluation practices).
- MLP project will purchase an additional 45 doses of semen at \$10 per dose (reflected in a reduced site entry fee).
- Complete the Entrant Agreement and the AMSEA Sire Entry Form.
- Pay the site entry fee.

Need more information? Ben Swain 0427 100 542 or Anne Ramsay 0400 368 448.

Sire nominations close 5:00pm October 28th, 2016.

2017 Sire Nomination Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please list sires in order of priority for entry:

SIRE 1

Stud/Flock Name: _____

Sire Identification: _____

Sire 16 Digit ID: _____

Preferred site:

Please number in order of preference:

New England
Armidale, NSW

MerinoLink
Temora, NSW

Pingelly
WA

Semen currently available:

YES

NO

Where is semen held?

SIRE 2

Stud/Flock Name: _____

Sire Identification: _____

Sire 16 Digit ID: _____

Preferred site:

Please number in order of preference:

New England
Armidale, NSW

MerinoLink
Temora, NSW

Pingelly
WA

Semen currently available:

YES

NO

Where is semen held?

SIRE 3

Stud/Flock Name: _____

Sire Identification: _____

Sire 16 Digit ID: _____

Preferred site:

Please number in order of preference:

New England
Armidale, NSW

MerinoLink
Temora, NSW

Pingelly
WA

Semen currently available:

YES

NO

Where is semen held?

I have read and am willing to complete and sign the **AMSEA Sire Entry form** as well as the **Sire Entrant Agreement** (*please tick*).

Return to Anne Ramsay, fax (02) 6743 2307 or email stenhouseconsulting@bigpond.com



Entrant Agreement

PLEASE NOTE:

**You can either - complete this Entrant Agreement and the attached AMSEA Sire Entry form now,
OR - wait until accepted into a site**

The Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project is designed to collect data and examine lifetime productivity on progeny from four special Merino Sire Evaluation trials. These trials are coordinated by the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) and sites are located across Australia.

Fundamental to the MLP project is the analysis and publication of results. This will be carried out both within sites (within flock), as well as between sites and other sources of information (across flock). As a result, individual sires entered in the MLP project will have publicly reported results published for a wide range of traits.

In order to achieve maximum benefit for the sheep and wool industry, AWI will retain IP ownership of information/data generated by the MLP project. AWI has granted AMSEA a license to utilise the data for its standard sire evaluation analysis, reporting and publication purposes.

This agreement is intended for owners and breeders (where they are different) of sires entered in the MLP project.

By signing this agreement, the owner / breeder of the sire detailed below:

1. Approves the entry of the sire in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project, and
2. Agrees that AWI will retain full ownership, analysis and publication rights of all data collected as part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project, and
3. Agrees that the sire entered cannot be withdrawn from publication in either AMSEA Site Reports or Merino Superior Sires (both hardcopy and online) without prior approval of AMSEA, and
4. Agrees to receive communications from AWI and AMSEA. AWI will only use personal information in accordance with its privacy policy at www.wool.com/privacy.

Sire Name:

Sire 16 Digit ID:

Name of Owner

Name of Breeder (if different to owner)

Signature of Owner

Signature of Breeder

Date

Date

***Return to Anne Ramsay, fax (02) 6743 2307
or email stenhouseconsulting@bigpond.com***

Sire Entry Form



1. Site details for the sire being entered

Site & year being entered Site: Year:

Other sites & years the sire has been entered:

Has the sire been genotyped: Yes No Unsure

2. Sire details

Sire's stud/flock name:

Sire's identification:

Sire's stud/flock code: Sire's year of drop:

Breed of stud/flock (Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details):

Sire's 16 digit code [see sample code below right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Is the sire currently alive: Yes No

Is semen available for sale: Yes No

Example 16 digit code: 50 - 4697 - 2014 - 140012			
Breed	Flock	Year of drop	On-farm ID

Sire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Grandsire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

3. Owner details - Owner and contact for enquiries about the sire, plus owner(s) permission

Owner:

Contact: First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: Yes No Initial:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: Yes No Initial:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* Yes No Initial:

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

4. Breeder details - only fill in section 4 if the breeders details are different to the owners details in section 3.

Breeder:

Contact: First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: Yes No Initial:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: Yes No Initial:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* Yes No Initial:

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

Note: Sires entered will be included in the AMSEA database and managed by AMSEA.

5. Signature of entrant

I believe all the above details to be true: Date:

6. Stud/flock details - if you are a first time entrant of sire evaluation please provide a short summary of your stud/flock's history and breeding objective.

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