

NEWSLETTER

June 2008

ASHMORE WHITE SUFFOLKS *“Genetics that perform”*



This newsletter is a brief update on activities at Ashmore as well as highlighting some changes at Ashmore. It also contains an introduction to our 2008 ram sale.

Fourth Generation Fischer returns to SA to take up ram breeding operation

Youngest son Troy and his wife Nette have recently returned to SA and are now living on the farm and heavily involved in the ram breeding operation. On a personal note, Troy and Nette are expecting their first child which ironically is due on the same day as the ram sale – September 22 – clearly a topic of debate is whether Troy will attend the sale or the birth! It will no doubt be a busy time once the spring drop arrives! The Fischer Family has been farming in the district for almost a century and with the fifth generation soon to arrive the outlook for Ashmore White Suffolks is promising.

Seasonal outlook

The first 3 months of 2008 were exceptionally dry with very little rain recorded. With climate change on everyone's lips one has to wonder what is happening after the heat wave during March which scientists estimate was a 1 in 3000 year event! Since then, a very good start to the season has been experienced by much of the state with good opening rains around ANZAC day and reasonable follow up over the past month. With much of the crop in most districts planted now, we hope the rain continues. We are certainly breeding our rams to withstand a more uncertain climate so that the lambs you produce reach market weights faster, are more efficient feed converters and respond faster when feed is available – all of which means there is less risk if the season gets tough.

Sale Team

The ram sale team is looking well at the moment and represents an outstanding line up of high performance genetics. With our breeding program heading in the right direction for every major trait, each drop represents a steady accumulation of better genetics than the previous year. It is fair to say that the ram team to be offered this year represents some of the best genetics in the White Suffolk breed – you can view the Lambplan figures of our 2007-drop sale rams on our website which speak for themselves: www.ashmorewhitesuffolks.com/sales

A few stats about the flock of rams from which the sale team will be selected:

- 106 rams in top 20% of all terminals for Trade Dollar Index (T\$Index over \$110.5)
 - 81 rams in top 20% of all terminals for post weaning weight (ASBV over +11.7kg)
 - 53 rams in top 20% of all terminals for post weaning muscle (ASBV over +1.5mm)
 - 63 rams in top 20% of all terminals for Carcase Plus Index (C+ Index over 177)
 - 134 rams are sired by rams with negative Worm Egg Count ASBVs (i.e. more worm resistant)
- Therefore, there will be high performing ram to suit every market and environment in the sale.

Every sale ram will be above the White Suffolk breed average for performance, which means every ram is going to produce you more valuable lambs than breed average White Suffolk rams and the gap is widening because the Ashmore sheep are improving at a faster rate than the rest of the White Suffolk breed. The sale team display excellent growth rates (turn lambs off faster or heavier weights) and impressive muscling (higher value carcasses).

Ashmore has been steadily growing the size of the ram breeding operation at around 20% each year over the past 5 years with a doubling of production achieved. Given this increase we will be producing different ram types to cater for different joining times:

- 13-16 month old rams sold in Spring for Summer joining/Autumn lambing
- 8-10 month old ram lambs sold in Summer for Autumn joining/Spring lambing

With this expanded level of production and broader range of ram types, we encourage you to spread the word about Ashmore rams to prime lamb producers in your district. In an effort to tailor our rams to better meet your needs we always welcome any feedback.

Annual on property ram sale, Monday 22nd of September @ 1pm – and don't forget Rhonda's famous roast lamb rolls for lunch! Be sure to mark this date on your calendar, we look forward to seeing you then.

All the best for the coming season.
Yours sincerely,
Brian, Rhonda, Troy and Nette Fischer

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Do you want to breed this?

Or this?

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Ask yourself...

