

Quality lifts most Callowie results

Richard and Jacquie Halliday's 5th annual Callowie Poll Merino ram sale reflected the continued rise in quality produced by their Bordertown based flock.

Each year the stud has enjoyed a progressive rise in sale average and this year was no exception. Buyers were greeted with an even quality line-up of robust, elite woolled sheep with carcass meat capable of driving commercial profitability. The mainly repeat buyers pushed the sale average to a new Callowie record of \$1001.

The only let down was the 73% clearance at auction, which was a reflection of state-wide seasonal demand with buyers seeking fewer rams, primarily due to lesser ewe numbers. However they are conscious of the benefits of breeding from better quality genetics and are prepared to bid to higher prices to get them.

Neighbours of the Hallidays, David and Jessame Wagenknecht paid the \$2,000 top price for one of their 3 purchases on the day. The sale topper impressed them with his great constitution and outstanding wool traits, with measurements of 21.2 micron, 3.5 SD. CV of 15.9 and a CF of 98.4; all on a bodyweight of 90kgs.

His sire, the homebred Callowie Buddy 5.82 produced the Champion SA fleece at the 2009 Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo in July with a bright, white 20 micron fleece weighing over 10 kgs.

The average of \$1001 was very good considering the top was \$2,000. The first 10 rams averaged \$1,400 but competition tapered off as buying orders were filled.

Among the volume buyers were Cove Station, Serviceton with 5 rams for a \$1,240 average, and Pitlochry Station, via Kingston with 6 rams from \$400 to \$800.

Stud principal Richard Halliday said Callowie was achieving its aim of producing sheep with heavy cutting medium woolled sheep with dual purpose capabilities.

"At the end of the day it is about filling bales of wool and getting more ewes in lamb and the big framed, productive ewes are the ones that do this," Richard said.

He also indicated that he was pleased that their regular clients were able to secure the sheep they wanted while attracting a few new clients each year. He was excited by the prospects for next year's offering which will include AI progeny from Collinsville 52; one of the highest priced Poll Merino rams sold in Australia last year.

Sale Summary

Offered 48

Sold 35

Top price \$2,000

Ave \$1001

Agents: Landmark Auctioneer: Malcolm Scroop



Pictured with the \$2,000 top priced ram from the Callowie Poll Merino ram sale are Richard Halliday, Landmark Keith livestock manager Cameron Paul, Jacquie Halliday and buyers Jessame and David Wagenknecht, also from Bordertown.