

Callowie Poll Merino's



Callowie heading in the right direction

Richard and Jacquie Halliday and family presented a very good line-up of 45 Poll Merino rams for competition at their on-property Callowie ram sale at Bordertown on Monday. 28 rams sold to \$2300 and averaged \$1039, a lift in average and rams sold on last year.

The rams were exceptionally even and prompted Landmark auctioneer Richard Miller to say, "The depth of quality and presentation is a real credit to the Halliday family, especially considering the tough season in this area."

He also highlighted the confidence in the sheep industry at present in both the wool and carcase sectors. These Callowie rams certainly had plenty of bale-filling and visually appealing wools, plus their carcase measurements were exceptional for both muscling and fat cover. With bodyweights in the 90 to 110kg range, their muscle EBVs were all positive except two and topped at +1.4, while their fat covering, so important for meat quality, fertility and survival averaged -0.06 over the whole offering.

The buying support was dominated by four repeat Callowie clients. The Wagenknecht family, Bordertown has regularly chased the best Callowie rams and did so again this year, paying \$2300 for Callowie 47, ultimately the top priced ram. Plus 4 for fleece weight EBV, positive 0.3 for muscling, -0.1 for fat and -1.4 for fibre, this 20.9 micron ram by the renowned Callowie Pugsley impressed most people present. They also picked up another superb woolled son of Callowie 11059 later in the catalogue for just \$1200.

Underbidder on the top priced lot was Keith Nutt, AK & AH Nutt, Orroroo. He travels down each year to purchase Callowie rams, greatly appreciating the quality he is able to get at great value. He paid the second top price of \$2200 for Callowie 193, by C11287, very similar in all measurements to the sale topper. He added four other pick rams to \$1900; his five purchases averaging \$1660.

Ben Dunstall and David Jaensch representing Cove Station, Dinyarrak and bidding through Kyle Livestock's Stuart Kyle were the volume buyers. Also long-time Callowie supporters, they purchased eight rams, paying to a top of \$2000, but averaging a wonderful value \$938.

Pitlochry Station, buying through PPH & S Naracoorte's Scott Bittner was also back again and picked up six rams at the extreme value average of \$633.

On their second sale after the Johnes debacle, the Hallidays have concentrated on ensuring their long term clients who have stuck by them are well catered for. Other producers have also had the opportunity to participate, but to date most have missed that opportunity to secure very good quality rams at exceptional value. These rams would also be some of the most scrutinized and accredited available for health status, while also having full ASBVs with Merino Select. The

Halliday's plan to offer even greater selection numbers next year to allow wider selection for repeat and new clients.

Sale Summary	2015	2014
Offered	45	30
Sold	28	25
Top	\$2300	\$2800
Average	\$1039	\$988

Agents: Landmark Bordertown

Auctioneer: Richard Miller