

THE DOHNE IN AUSTRALIA

Seeking greater returns from Merino production in Australia an ever increasing number of breeders including many well-known stud Merino breeders have taken the opportunity to introduce Dohne genetics to the Australian Wool and Meat Market.

Since 1997 when the first consignment of embryos were imported from South Africa, further embryo transfer work has seen Dohne numbers increase dramatically across Australia, to the point where, in 2011, well over a million ewes carry Dohne blood. An Australian Dohne Breeders Association has been formed with recordings of the breed done under the guidelines that have proved very successful in South Africa.

There are a number of advantages to be gained through the introduction of the Dohne breed. The breed has a phenomenal ability to reproduce, resulting in an increase of up to 50 percent more lambs to sell over traditional Merinos, in addition to their outstanding lamb growth rates.

Quality wool production can be maintained while creating opportunities for greater financial returns through the alternatives available in wool and prime lamb marketing.

While breeding up to a purebred Dohne status, ewe progeny can be run and joined within the main Merino flock rather than having to be culled as in other prime lamb/Merino crossbreeding programs.

Purebred Dohne ewes can be joined as early as ten to eleven months of age to lamb down when still classified as lambs themselves.

The intensive breeding program pursued by stud breeders now makes available both purebred rams and ewes and purebred semen, embryos and pregnancies, in large numbers

If you agree that the Dohne presents an opportunity for you to increase your returns from wool and meat production and would like more information or to inspect the breed

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FOUNDED IN 1999 FLOCK NO. 0007

The Dohne is a highly productive
dual purpose, all rounder



Purebred Dohne Sires at 18 months of age

Sustainable and Profitable!
Produce prime lambs and quality wool from the
one pure-bred, self-replacing, mules-free flock

WHAT IS THE DOHNE?

The Dohne is a true dual purpose breed, it's attributes having high fertility, prime lamb carcass, quality wool and bare breech.

The Dohne was developed in South Africa in 1934, since 1970 selection of breeding stock has been done with the aid of performance and progeny testing. Comprehensive production records in respect of all recorded animals are maintained in a computerised flock recording system.

Careful selective breeding over seven decades has produced a sheep which has high fertility, ease of lambing and good mothering ability to produce lambs with high growth rates and excellent muscling, which are suited to the domestic and the export lamb markets. The quality of the meat is unsurpassed and carcasses have proven to be the best quality when judged against many other breeds in competitions across Australia. They have proven to be hard to beat both on the hoof and on the hook.

Even though meat has been a driving factor, wool has at no time been overlooked and today's Dohne breeder understands that wool has to be of good quality to suit a changing and very discerning wool market. Dohne wool is white, soft handling with consistently high comfort factors and low CVs. There may be some trade off in fleece weight to maintain the balance of production and ensure body weight is not compromised. However, the high fertility and survivability of the lambs ensures that there is no trade off in wool cut as the number of sheep shorn ensures that the number of bales in wool clips continues to improve. Low microns, high comfort factors, and low CVs, see Dohne wool competing fiercely for top honours in the wool industry and making it suitable for any use within the garment market.

The fact that the Dohne is the only sheep breed in Australia to have it mandatory for all registered breeders to collect performance information on all sheep in every drop and report that information to the database ensures that the breed is always improving as all sheep are benchmarked against the whole Australian Dohne flock and not just within flock.

The Dohne database has the highest quality assurance within the industry and is proud of the fact that it maintains one of the most valuable sheep databases in the world. This is a breed going forward and up in the industry.



Far Valley Sire 095123 - 2009 drop

WHERE CAN YOU GAIN USING DOHNE?

MAINTAIN YOUR WOOL QUALITY, YIELD AND CUT

Purebred Dohne ewes produce from four to six kilograms of high quality fine wool of 18 to 21 micron. Mature bodyweights of ewes range from 60 to 80kgs depending upon the environment.



PRIME LAMB PRODUCTION

Slaughter lambs achieve a marketing liveweight of at least 40kgs at four to six months. Daily gains of 450 grams/day are not uncommon through to weaning. (In one case 240 lambs averaged 42kgs liveweight at four months of age, dressed 19.78kgs, and all exhibited outstanding carcass quality and fat distribution).



GREATER FERTILITY

Lambing percentages range from 110 to 150 percent meaning more lambs are dropped and therefore available for breeding or slaughter. Ewe weaners can be joined as young as ten months of age with conception rates of around 75 to 80 percent recorded. Those failing to conceive can still be culled for slaughter as lambs depending upon bodyweight and condition.

