

News from the Valley

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David Kain, Arthur River, WA 6315
p. 08 9862 6012 m. 0427 626 012 f. 08 9862 6056 e. kain@fvdohne.com w. www.fvdohne.com

INVITATION

You are invited to the
ON PROPERTY FIELD DAY
Tuesday September 6, 2011
Commencing at 12.30pm
and concluding with a
BBQ & REFRESHMENTS
*Taste the succulence
and flavour of Dohne meat*

**10th ANNUAL
ON PROPERTY SALE**
Thursday October 6, 2011
at 1.00pm
Inspection from 11.00am

140 DOHNE RAMS
For Private Sale
100 PURE BRED DOHNE RAMS

*Inspection welcomed
please make an appointment*

Mark Mahney - 0427 996 629
Murray Dradge - 0428 253 033



First WA commercial Dohne ewe sale

On the 6th of October, before the Far Valley Ram sale, we will be conducting a sale in conjunction with AuctionsPlus, Elders and Landmark.

This will be the first ever combined Dohne Ewe, Wether and Ewe Lamb Sale conducted in WA.

I invite any of you who has Dohne sheep for sale this spring to contact me in regards to putting sheep into this sale.

Given the current demand for sheep, especially Dohnes (be that they are F1's through to pure) you can expect a very good price. We will be targeting farmers from across Australia and of course locally.

I urge you to seriously consider this, as I feel that all Dohne sheep, sold together this way, will command a premium and will be worth the effort.

We already have enough Dohnes entered into the sale, for it to be of interest nationally, but like anything like this, the more the better, so once again, anyone of you who will sell sheep this spring of Dohne blood, be a part of this. Your sheep will not have to leave your farm, unless they are sold and you will be guaranteed of a National audience.

I think this year, more than ever before the time is ripe, for a sale like this. Those that enter into this sale will be automatically included in the sale next year if they wish.

At this stage it will become an annual event, sheep are the flavour of the month, especially dual purpose, such as the Dohne.

For anymore information, please contact me, by email or phone.

David Kain

m. 0427 626 012 p. 08 9862 6012 e. kain@fvdohne.com

WA COMMERCIAL DOHNE EWE SALE

**AuctionsPlus
Elders
Landmark
Inaugural Sale
October 6, 2011
Prior to the Far Valley
On Property Sale**

Australian Sheep Breeding Values

Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) describe the expected performance of the progeny of a sheep, not just the performance of the sheep itself.

An ASBV therefore describes the breeding value of the sheep - and as a breeder isn't that what you want to know? Dohne ram breeders produce ASBVs for major measured performance traits, including number of lambs weaned (NLW), maternal weaning weight (MWWT), body weight (WT), muscle depth (EMD), fat depth (Fat), fleece weight (CFW), fibre diameter (F) and coefficient of variation (CV) of F.

Dohne ASBV performance is based on the measured evaluation made by the ram breeder. The measurement is then value added by accounting for factors that breeders recognise can improve the ability of the measured performance to describe a sheep's breeding value. Factors accounted for include the trait heritability, if the sheep was a twin or single, date of birth of the sheep, maiden or adult dam age, the sheep's pedigree (relative's) performance and difference in environment between groups.

Pedigree performance records allow ASBVs to be compared across-years and flocks. Dohne rams and ewes from large and small Registered Dohne ram breeding flocks can in this way be directly compared.

A Dohne ASBV describes the expected performance of a Dohne's progeny for a trait relative to the performance of all Registered Australian Dohne ram breeding flocks.

The Dohne Index - Dual purpose 9% MP (P 9%)

The Dohne Index summarises into one number the performance of a Dohne for measured traits - number of lambs weaned, weaning and yearling weight, muscle depth, fat depth, fleece weight, fibre diameter and CV of fibre diameter. Having one number to use simplifies and improving the accuracy of selections. The balance in which traits are combined matches the Dohne Breeding Objective.

improve reproduction, growth rate, muscle depth, and reduce fibre diameter.

maintain fat depth, fleece weight and staple strength.

Meat traits contribute approximately 75% of the commercial flock gain and wool traits 25%.

The Dohne Index is based on a 9% MP (micron premium) wool market and high return lamb market that values high growth and reproduction.

Traits abbreviated

NLW: number of lambs weaned
MWWT: maternal weaning weight
WT: body weight
EMD: eye muscle depth
Fat: fat depth
CFW: clean fleece weight
FD: fibre diameter
CV: coefficient of variation of FD

Age abbreviated

W: weaning
PW: post weaning
Y: yearling

Example

YWT: yearling bodyweight



Understanding Dohne ASBVs

Rams with a more positive number of lambs weaned (NLW) ASBV will sire daughters that wean a higher percentage of lambs. This ram will sire daughters which, on average, will wean 2% more lambs than a ram with a NLW ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

Rams with a positive ASBV for bodyweight (WT) will produce lambs that grow faster and reach their target weights sooner. This ram will generally breed progeny that are genetically 2.2kg heavier than those of a ram with a YWT ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

Rams with a lower fat depth (Fat) ASBV will produce lambs that are leaner at the same weight. This ram's negative ASBV means that his progeny are leaner than those sired by a ram with a positive Fat ASBV.

Rams with a lower fibre diameter (FD) ASBV are finer. This ram with an ASBV of -2.4 will breed progeny that are genetically 1.2 microns finer than those of a ram with a FD ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

The Dohne index value is a summary of the sheep's performance for measured traits. A ram with a higher index value will breed progeny that are more suited to the Dohne Objective. For more detail see the reverse side of this sheet or 'The Dohne Index' sheet.

Rams with more positive ASBV for maternal weaning weight (MWWT) will breed daughters which will wean heavier lambs. This ASBV reflects a combination of the daughter's ability to milk and provide a better maternal environment.

Rams with a higher ASBV for eye muscle depth (EMD) will produce lambs that have a higher lean meat yield. This ram will breed progeny that genetically have a 0.4 mm deeper eye muscle area than a ram with an EMD ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

Rams with a higher ASBV for clean fleece weight (CFW) will produce progeny that cut more wool. This ram will generally breed progeny that genetically cut 1.3% more wool than progeny of a ram with a CFW ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

Rams with a lower ASBV for fibre diameter coefficient of variation (CV) will produce progeny that have less variation in FD in their fleece. This ram with an ASBV of -1.2 will generally breed progeny that are genetically 0.6% lower CV than those of a ram with a CV ASBV of 0.0 (zero). A lower CV% is associated with higher staple strength.

Dohne Grades are a summary of performance. Assessors Grade is a summary of the Dohne standard for visually assessed traits. Measured Grade is a summary of traits in the Dohne Index. The Final Grade is the lowest of the Assessors and Measured Grades and in general a AA Final Grade is a stud quality ram and A is a high quality commercial flock ram.

Dohne (365 Day) Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs)										Dohne Grades			Dohne	
Trait	NLW%	MWWTkg	WWTkg	PWWTkg	YWTkg	YEMDmm	YFatmm	YCFW%	YFDµm	YCV%	Assessors	Measured	Final	Index Value
ASBV	4.0	0.5	3.7	3.8	4.4	0.8	-0.5	2.6	-2.4	-1.2	A	AA	A	10.5

As a commercial breeder how can I relate a ram's ASBV to my flock's performance?

1. Ask a local Dohne breeder how a Dohne flock will perform on your property.
2. Relative to this flock performance define your breeding objective for each trait, e.g. reduce FD.

3. Select rams for this breeding objective, e.g. rams with an ASBV finer than average (0.0).

A ram's own performance (e.g. FD of 17 micron at 11 months of age) is not a good indication of the performance of the flock the ram will breed. Firstly, the age, wool growth and testing system of a ram is very different from the flock he will breed. Secondly, a ram's own

performance will not have accounted for the very significant pedigree and early age effects (such as early or late born, twin or single, maiden or adult dam), or management differences between the rams for sale.

Note: Where there is no ASBV reported the accuracy of the ASBV is too low for the trait to be effectively reported - normally due to a lack of performance information.

For more information contact:
Dohne Database, Forest Road ORANGE NSW 2800
P 02 6391 3901 F 02 6391 3922 E dohne.data@dplnsw.gov.au
Allan Casey M 0408 279 719
Authors: Allan Casey, Brett Wilson & Jac Staines, NSW DPI (9 June 2011)

The tough get going at Far Valley



They say when times get tough, the tough get going and that is certainly the case at Far Valley according to stud principal David Kain.

"I can honestly say this is the perfect fit for the Far Valley Dohnes," David said.

"With WA having its hardest and driest year on record, the Dohnes did not let me down."

At Far Valley the ewes reared 128 per cent lambs, from ewes mated, and had their lambs with very small losses and still cut five kilograms of 18 micron wool.

"They still amaze me with their doing ability and the way they still get in lamb and rear them with so little fuss," David said.

But probably the most outstanding result for Far Valley in 2010, was the mating of 804 pure Dohne yellow tag ewes.

These ewes reared and weaned 1256 lambs meaning the ewes weaned more than 150pc.

"This is a great result in anyone's eyes and I cannot praise the purebred commercial Dohne ewe enough," David said.

David said selling the wether portion of last year's lambs was much easier than expected with some great prices being received for large lines of lambs.

"Once again due to last year's harsh season we finished them in the feedlot and at one sale in Katanning achieved the second highest price on the day with a price of \$155 a head," David said.

"The buyers liked the shape and length of the purebred lambs."

When David sold lambs to V & V Walsh in early March he averaged \$144 a head for a line of 282 lambs, which dressed out at 22.8kg and received \$6 for the skins.

David said he gains a great deal of satisfaction out of watching the stud performing really well and then seeing the stud's success mirrored in his commercial operation.

"I hope that my clients can and will be able to share in this success as they gradually reach purebred status in their flocks," David said.

The recipe for this excellent fertility at Far Valley is quite simple.

"We endeavour not to mate our ewes below score two or three, if they are less than this I recommend lupin flushing prior to mating," David said.

"I normally flush ewes with lupins, because you can increase your lambing percentages by up to 12pc.

"You then need to improve them during mating and then maintain them at that level. The rest just leave it up to them.

"We are hard, any ewe that does not rear a lamb is sold, even in a hard year like the one we are experiencing.

"It is not really hard, as your returns will far outweigh your costs."

David said clients would notice the difference between last year's and this year's rams and probably the biggest

differences would be the improvement in fleece weights, bodyweights and eye muscle depth.

This improvement is due to the culminating of a change in breeding objectives about five years ago.

"I decided that I was quite happy with the type of sheep I was producing, they had good body conformation and excellent wool quality and therefore it was time to start working on the EBVs.

"As most growers know, it takes a lot of time when dealing with animals to change even the smallest detail.

"But I must say I am very happy with what we are achieving at Far Valley, but will admit that nothing gets past myself or assessor Murray Drage.

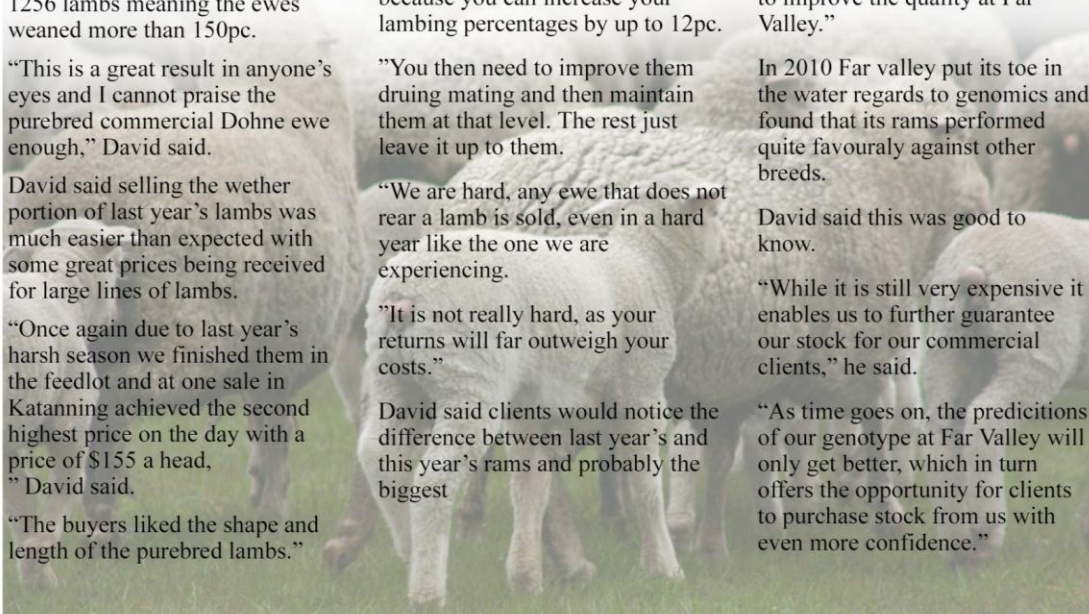
"We do anything and everything to improve the quality at Far Valley."

In 2010 Far valley put its toe in the water regards to genomics and found that its rams performed quite favourably against other breeds.

David said this was good to know.

"While it is still very expensive it enables us to further guarantee our stock for our commercial clients," he said.

"As time goes on, the predictions of our genotype at Far Valley will only get better, which in turn offers the opportunity for clients to purchase stock from us with even more confidence."





At Far Valley, our Dohnes must be all-rounders. They must excel at:

1. CONSTITUTION & STRUCTURE

Good long top line and spring of rib with a hoof in every corner

2. FERTILITY

High Lambing Percentages
(Stud aiming for 140-150% lambing)

3. GROWTH RATES

More lambs to achieve 500+grms/day
(the faster we grow them, the sooner we sell them)

4. WOOL

To produce a soft white crimped wool of fine medium micron

5. MEAT

To produce good long lean meaty carcasses, with improving eye muscle depth

Genetics - the key to success

While I don't want to mention how tough the first six months of the 2011 season have been, it is relevant to understand the many reasons why commercial sheep breeders are flocking to DOHNE genetics.

Tough as nails, highly fertile and fast growing to mention a few.

Being able to handle a few bumps in the road in seasons like this and respond rapidly when the season turns around is critical in the cost of production. With very high meat prices and the return of much better wool prices finally, being able to capitalise on these is paramount going forward.

While we all hear the new dual purpose characteristics from every corner, is 'dual' meaning a focus on one thing while accepting the bonus of another or does it or should it mean a balanced breeding approach to genetics that will give the commercial producer many avenues to make a better return. I like the balanced approach myself. This is the most profitable long term over many fluctuating seasons and prices. While dual is a fairly loose word when describing the Dohne. It is a good place to start. Those who have tried them know that there are many profit drivers hidden within the Dohne genetic package. Those who haven't should ask their local commercial Dohne breeder why they have them.

I have been involved with Far Valley genetics over many years and hold them in very high regard. David made a conscious decision a few years ago to improve the length and eye muscle in the stud. The year 2011 is showing this in large quantities. Big long well muscled sheep with soft white wools and constitution to match. The genetic progress at Far Valley has been outstanding, and with the way David approaches breeding, leaving no stone unturned, I am sure the progress will be ongoing. If you are looking for Dohne genetics, you could do worse than giving David Kain a call.

All the best for the season ahead - Murray Drage

David Kain, Arthur River WA

p. 08 9862 6012 f. 08 9862 6056 m. 0427 626 012
e. kain@fydohne.com w. www.fydohne.com

For higher returns and lower costs the Dohne shines.

The higher rate of genetic progress planned by Dohne breeders was achieved in 2010.

Commercial breeders who use Dohne rams are reaping the rewards of higher returns and lower cost.

Traits such as lamb growth rate, muscle depth, reproduction and fibre diameter have been the priority for Dohne breeders.

In the lamb and wool markets these are the traits, that if improved, will make money for commercial producers.

Lamb growth (WT) is a combination of body weight gain (about 30 per cent) and muscle and fat depth (about 10pc).

The emphasis on muscle is to provide a moderate level of improvement in this trait while maintaining fat depth.

Number of lambs weaned (NLW) is also a major contributor to commercial gain.

The improvement that has been made by Australian breeders is the cream that allows commercial producers to stay highly productive.

The independent inspection of all stud sheep has also delivered continuous improvement to the structural soundness and fleece quality traits.

This improvement ensures Dohne sheep are low maintenance.

Low breech wrinkle has become fashionable in Merino sheep in recent years but this has been an absolute requirement of the Dohne sheep in South Africa and Australia since their introduction.

This emphasis ensures the Dohne is low maintenance while at the same time highly productive.

While the genetic gain in the last 10 years has been outstanding, the Dohne breeding objective for the next 10 years has been set to continue the improvement.

Yearling body weight and muscle depth improvement along with maintaining fat cover and conformation inspection, allows the Dohne to deliver the high rates of lamb growth and ideal carcass and skin conformation.

**Far Valley
On-property
Ram Sale 2011
Thursday 6.10.11
Commencing at 1pm**

Offering

**140 Dohne Rams at Auction
100 Purebred Dohne Rams for private sale**

At last year's Far Valley on-property sale 112 rams went under the hammer, pushing the top price to an outstanding \$2,600.

With a massive 37 registered buyers, and achieving an average of \$1,370.

The quality line-up of rams encouraged active bidding with many buyers taking home large teams of rams.

Regular client Hawthornden Farm, was the volume buyer of the day, taking home an impressive team of 11 rams to a top of \$1,500 on two occasions and an average of \$1,300.

Far Valley 2010/11 Wool Clip - Rob Young

FAR VALLEY once again achieved good prices for their wool clip producing in excess of 25,000 kilograms of wool for the 2010/11 season.

The 122 bales of fleece averaged 19.3 micron, with the average length of 91 millimetres.

All fleece lines were classified by the Australian Wool Exchange Ltd as best top making Merino wool.

20 bales of lamb's wool averaged 18.5 micron.

All wool attracted very strong support from both European and Chinese buyers.