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

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

FERTILITY
High Lambing Percentages

GROWTH RATES
More lambs to achieve 500+grms/day

WOOL
To produce a soft white crimpy wool of fine medium micron

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

2011 saw a good result all round

Our 2011 Ram Sale was very well attended and many went home with their requirements quite happy, the first 60 or so rams sold very well, as clients jostled to obtain the higher rated rams with the EBV's that they were in particular, looking for.

At the other end of the scale we passed in 8 rams, so at least everyone was able to complete their orders. Over all Far Valley averaged $1500 per ram sold, so with the increase in wool and lamb prices, most buyers were happy with the result. I know I was delighted with the result, it helps to justify, the effort we put into these sheep.

This year we shore all our wether lambs in February, and put them on live export boats, as there was very little difference between the boats and butcher prices, so the commercial decision was made not to spend money on pellets to finish the lambs in the feedlot. We got $95/head for the lambs, plus the wool, which will still be a good result from the wether lamb portion of our flock.

Far Valley DOHNE

"The All Rounder"

At Far Valley we have an OJD status of 6pts - Bruccellosis Accredited

INVITATION

11th Annual Field Day
Tuesday, September 4, 2012
Commencing at 1pm

On-Property Sale
Thursday, October 4, 2012

Inspection from 11am

Sale commences 1pm
Offering 140 Rams

*Inspection welcomed
please make an appointment*

Premier Dohne Stud Sire Sale
Adelaide
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
at 3.30pm

Far Valley
Offering 2 Rams
Inspections by appointment

100 Flock Rams available for private selection plus stud ewes and commercial ewes

When only the best will do "Come to The Valley"

Far Valley Dohne's shine

After the bumper finish to the season of 2011, I was very interested to see what would happen with our conception rates this year. The ewes stayed in good condition throughout the summer and on just completing our pregnancy scanning the girls did not let me down. The mature ewes came in at 160% and the maidens were up also to 135%. It was amazing consistency in the mobs. By seperating the multiples from the singles we will be able to adjust our nutrition to the ewes as required. With the recent rains and a green pick emerging we are off to a great start to 2012. I will cross my fingers and hope that the actual lambing rate will also break any previous records here at Far Valley. It would be a great result to have anything in excess of 140% lambs weaned, from ewes mated. Once again it was interesting to watch the body weights of the Dohne commercials during late Autumn, they seem to thrive on hard conditions, I do not know how else to explain it, but it happens every year.

In these times of measurements, ASBV's just remember some things we do not as a rule test in our commercial Flocks, **but we do at Far Valley**, eg:

1. Survivability of our lambs, weaners and ewes.
2. The eveness of our lambs and weaners, Dohne's have less culls.
3. Hardiness, their ability to still survive and perform when things are tough.
4. Woolcut, we have increased the average woolcut on our rams by a good Kilo/head in the last 4 years, without scarificing the quality that we at Far Valley are renowned for.

All these things, normally slip under the guard of the average Commercial breeder, but when you look at it, there is a lot of money saving and increased earnings in the above list. As we all try to fight rising costs, we have to increase our productivity on our farms, so what better way than to use a Ram from Far Valley, where we always take these things into account and it is built into the product you buy from here.

At this years Field Days, we will endeavour to explain the difference between the movement to ASBV's from EBV's, so any interested persons, please attend, you will be made welcome. Also on display will be our sale team for 2012.

It is business as usual here at Far Valley, no stone unturned in our quest for the best sheep we can produce for our clients. If the Far Valley stud is performing well, then it will flow onto all our clients and this we aim to continue to do, to the very best we can do and with the help of technology.

By 2014, we will have developed into our system the ability to identify and cull the bottom 10 or 12% of our Commercial flock each year. All dry's and ewes that fail to rear their lambs are culled automatically. Those big beautiful looking ewes that only rear small lambs, those skinny average looking ewes that rear twins very successfully each year will all be identified. Trust me, it is an eye opener to what can happen. By removing the bottom 10% of our commercial ewe flock each year, it is my calculation that we will ultimately improve our productivity by 20% in earned income. That will help safeguard the future and as a result of doing this every year, will have the effect of continuing to improve each year as your standards become higher and higher. Things like weaning weights on all lambs, mothering up of all lambs, woolcuts, fleece measurements mature bodweights of ewes and hoggets, will be all collated into a purpose built index and rated accordingly. The technology is already here for us to do this, and at Far Valley we are into our 13th season of doing it with the Stud Flock, but now have the expertise and knowledge to do this on a commercial basis, that will be friendly for the user.

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 carcase quality and fat distribution).

At Far Valley we strive for consistency
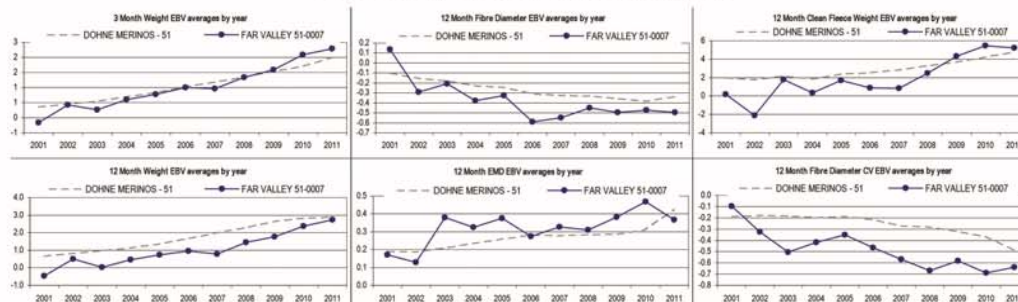
Understanding Dohne ASBVs

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) ASBVs 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.

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 if this sheet or "The Dohne Index" sheet.

Trait	Dohne (365 Day) Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs)										Dohne Index Value	Dohne Assessor Grade
	NLW (%)	MWWT (kg)	wWT (kg)	PWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFat (mm)	yCFW (%)	YFD (µm)	YCV (%)		
ASBV	4.0	0.5	3.7	3.8	4.4	0.8	-0.5	2.6	-2.4	-1.2	141.5	AA

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 00 (zero). A lower CV% is associated with higher staple strength.

Dohne Assessors Grade is a summary of the Dohne standard for visually assessed traits. AA grade is a stud quality ram and A is a high quality commercial flock ram. Sheep are graded to Dohne visual standards by independent breed approved Assessors. The sheep must also meet all the strict Dohne quality standards for measured performance data - if this is not met the sheep is graded UR (unregistered).

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.

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 for the Australian Dohne drop average (the 50% Percentile Band – for FD this currently -0.5).

Percentile Band Table – see over page – the current drop's performance benchmarks.

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 evaluation procedure 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 environmental differences between rams in a drop, such as early or late born, twin or single, maiden or adult dam, or management differences between the rams.

Dohne Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs)

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), live weight (WT), muscle depth (EMD), fat depth (Fat), fleece weight (CFW), fibre diameter (FD) and coefficient of variation (CV) of FD (see over page for more detail).

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 – Dohne Dual Purpose 9% MP

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.

Benchmark to the current Dohne breed standard – Percentile Band Table

The performance of a registered Dohne sheep relative to the current Dohne breed standard (2011 drop – the most recent drop) is reported in the percentile band table below. For example, if a Dohne ram has a yearling weight (YWT) ASBV of 4.5 this sheep is in the highest 20% for YWT when compared with the current Dohne standard. That is they have a higher YWT then the 20% band (4.3 kg). The sheep is not in the highest 10% as they would need to have an ASBV of 4.9 or higher. In this context "highest" means the extreme end of performance for a trait; it does not indicate "best" as best is defined by a breeder's objective.

An ASBV of 0.0 (zero) is the average of the 2000 drop ram breeding flocks. The 50 percentile band is the average of the current drop, e.g. YWT is 3.1 kg.

Percentile Band Table – brenchmark to the performance of the current Dohne drop (01 May 2012 analysis)

Percentile Band	NLW (%)	MWWT (kg)	WWT (kg)	PWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFat (mm)	YCFW (%)	YFD (µm)	YCV (%)	Dohne Index
10	0.0	1.2	3.4	3.5	4.9	0.9	-0.2	11.0	-1.0	-1.3	132.5
20	0.0	0.9	2.9	3.0	4.3	0.7	-0.1	8.0	-0.8	-1.1	129.0
30	0.0	0.7	2.6	2.6	3.8	0.6	0.0	7.0	-0.7	-0.9	126.4
40	0.0	0.6	2.3	2.4	3.4	0.5	0.0	6.0	-0.6	-0.7	124.1
50	0.0	0.5	2.0	2.1	3.1	0.4	0.1	5.0	-0.5	-0.6	122.0
70	0.0	0.2	1.5	1.6	2.4	0.2	0.3	2.0	-0.3	-0.3	117.4
90	0.0	-0.1	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.0	0.5	-1.0	0.0	0.2	110.9

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

Age abbreviations
W: Weaning
P: Post weaning
Y: Yearling

Example when combined
YWT = yearling bodyweight

Ref: Understanding Dohne ASBVs – 2012 – g .doc

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