

Home of The Most  
Versatile Sheep  
Breed in Australia



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*The Far Valley Team will be conducting the*

**12th Annual Field Day on Thursday, September 3, 2013**

*Far Valley invites you to the*

**12 Annual On Property Sale Thursday, October 3, 2013**

*Inspection from 10am*

**Sale Commences at 1pm**

Offering 120 Rams

**120 Rams for Private Selection**

Commercial Ewes and Stud Ewes available by appointment



Come and meet Big Easy at our  
12th Annual On Property Field Day

# To have Dohnes on your farm gives you a great advantage

In 2013, WA has had a very confused start to the season, good conditions in some places and in eastern parts a horrible start. It makes a hard job even harder in these times when the seasons go against us. To have Dohnes on your farm gives you a great advantage as the doing ability of them will certainly help you through the tough times. Here in Arthur River, we have enjoyed a good start and the sheep have made the most of it. At the time of writing, widespread rains have gone through most of the eastern parts, so I hope it is in time for those farmers concerned.

This years Ram line up will again be an improvement on last years, which holds the stud and its commercial breeders in good stead. Very sound bodies and wools, I think will satisfy the most discerning of breeders. We are continuing to monitor Fleece Weights and will make sure that we don't put too much on, so as to interfere with their production potential. It is important to note that the moment you exceed 7% Woolcut, versus Bodyweight, you will start to impact on all other traits. The Dohne is designed to be the True Dual Purpose sheep and one must always be mindful of having a negative impact on other very important traits, such as fertility and growth rates. Whilst Wool remains and always will remain an important part of our Dohnes, it is my belief that fertility in our ewes and the growth rate of our lambs is at least as equally important in our quest to make sustainable profits.

Perhaps to further illustrate my point, if you run 8 ewes and cut 40 kg of wool per ha, you can expect a return of about \$280 per ha. If you have 10 lambs and sell only the male portion you can expect  $5 * \$90$  which equals \$450, and you still have a female to sell. Whilst at best this is only a rough guide, it does illustrate the importance of having a dual purpose Dohne and that all traits contribute to the overall success.

I believe that those who stick to running their Dohnes can and will make good profits from them. To go all cropping is fraught with danger and makes the farm enterprise too one dimensional and totally reliant on chemicals to control all weeds. We have all suffered from frosts for example, whilst the crop is totalled and of no commercial worth, the sheep perform brilliantly on these crops and still provide some sort of return on investment.

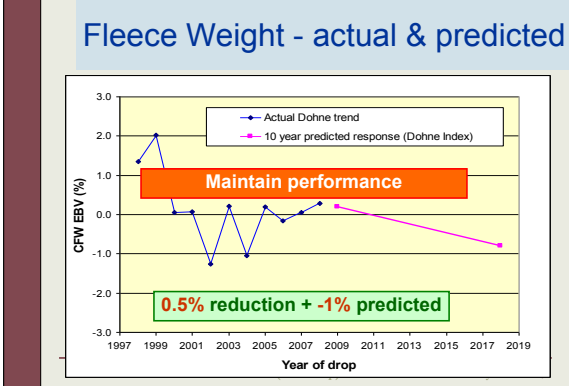
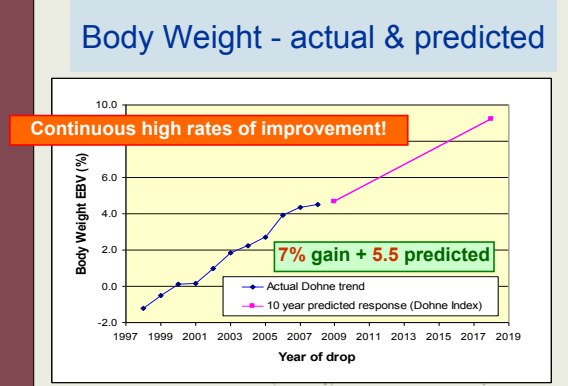
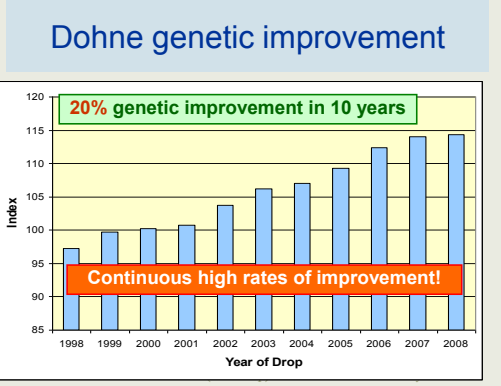
In WA, once again due to harsh conditions and the state of the live export industry, many have got rid of their sheep. The time is coming to those who have retained their sheep to claim their just reward and I think there could be a very good chance of this occurring this coming spring and autumn. In the past 4 or 5 years, our state flock has been decimated to the extent that it is only a shadow of what it used to be. Lamb remains the preferred meat for our consumers, lets make sure we provide them with it.



## Adaptability

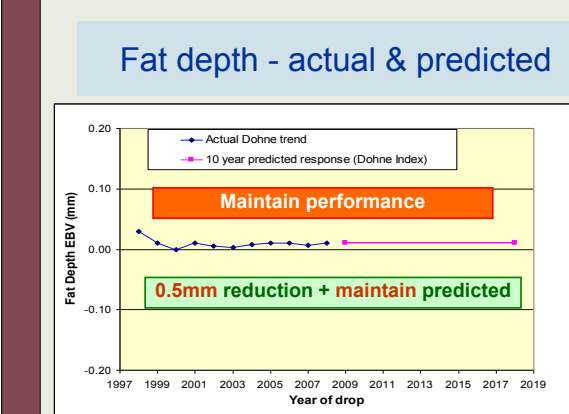
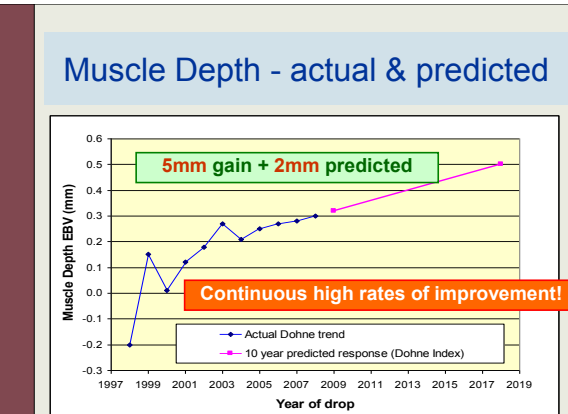
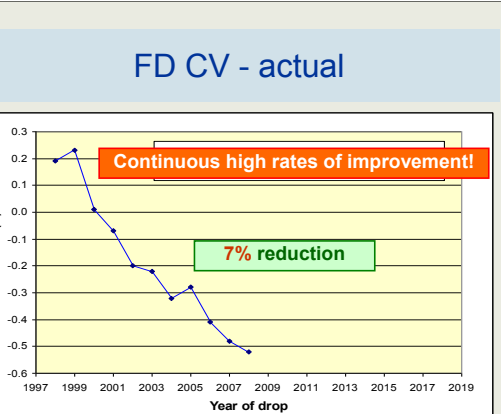
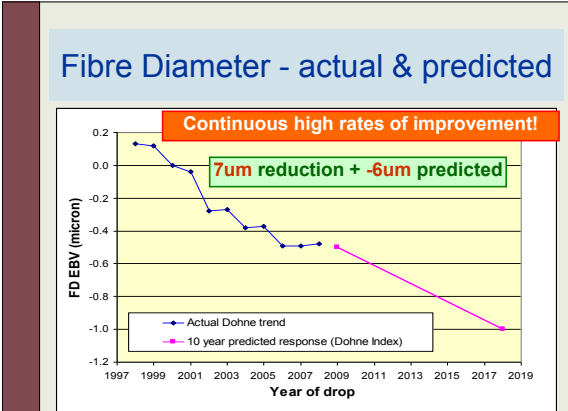
Dohnes easy care features include:

- Excellent confirmation
- Plain body
- Bare Breech
- Clean face
- Higher fleece rot and fly strike resistance
- Small, vigorous lambs for easy birthing
- Have the ability to cease mulesing



## Far Valley Statistics

## Actual & Predicted



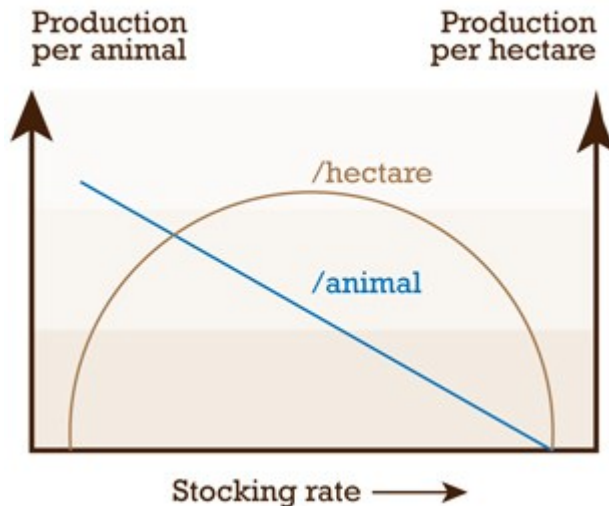
# Improve your Gross Margins with Far Valley Dohnes

The number of head marketed per hectare per annum (turnoff) is the single most important factor that influences flock profitability and gross margin.

**Maximizing the turnoff per hectare involves the following aspects:**

1. **Flock Composition** — Maximum number of ewes in relation to total flock—minimum 60%
2. **Lamb Growth Rate** — The faster the lambs grow, the earlier they can be marketed at better prices, freeing production resources for a higher relative number of breeding ewes. **The early marketability of lambs is therefore the key to higher ewe numbers, more lambs to market and higher profitability.**
3. **Stocking Density** — Maximize turnoff per hectare by carrying the optimum number of ewes for your particular situation. The correct balance needs to be found between ewe productivity and stocking density. Maximizing return per hectare does not equate to maximizing return per ewe. Figure 1 illustrates how stocking density influences productivity per animal. Stocking density must be set a level which will maximize return per hectare from ewes capable of efficient production at that level.

**Figure 1. Stocking in relation to Ewe Productivity and Production per hectare (Voermol Feeds, SA)**



Production per hectare is maximized by an increased number of ewes at a feed level that optimises production per unit of feed. At this level ewes face competition for feed. To achieve this level of production ewes must be genetically adapted to these conditions — which relates to the crucial importance of the next aspect.

4. **Type of Sheep** — Ewes must be hardy, easy-care and efficient converters of even low quality feed. They must be non-selective grazers. They must have high reproduction rates, good maternal ability for high lamb survival and good milking ability for high lamb growth. Plain bodies and the optimum relationship between wool production and body size. (WPP%) are essential attributes of the type of sheep capable of this level of production under hard commercial conditions. High wool production potential impedes reproduction and growth rate. Fine wool of the highest possible quality will enhance returns.
5. **Managing planning** — Plan lambing time in relation to maximum fodder flow, wean early and consider Feed lotting or marketing to Finishers. Good hygiene and animal health management is important to consolidate success.

6. **Dohnes are the ideal breed with which to maximize profit because:**

- They were developed in a region of severe environmental and nutritional constraints (The sour grassland of the Eastern Cape in South Africa). Commercial objectives were set at the outset and selection, particularly during the initial phase, was done under very severe nutritional and environmental stress, laying the foundation for its inherent hardiness, adaptability and superior productivity.
- Plain bodies and Easy-care features reduce management and input costs. Vigorous rams can be joined at 1% and less.
- Excellent conformation, muscling and fat distribution mean that prime lambs fully meet the highest market specifications.
- Dohnes produce high quality Merino wool. Selection over generations for high quality fine wool and resistance to fleece rot and body strike means that maximum value is achieved from the wool component of the enterprise.