



**Pick of the Drop**

**RAM SALE**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018**



Sale rams on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**110 SELECTED HIGH PRODUCTION RAMS**

July-August 2017 drop

**25 YEARS of Prime Lamb Sire Improvement**

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# CORONGA WHITE SUFFOLKS



*Thanks from Peter and Julie*

It continues to be a tough season for most of us, but we marvel at the fortitude and resilience of our friends and clients in some parched areas of the state. We continue to enjoy and value our relationships with our Coronga ram clients. Once again we welcome you and hope you enjoy inspecting our rams, and catching up with others producers. Your support in a difficult year is appreciated.

What a blessing the lamb markets have been, with quality stock profitable in spite of high feed costs. Top genetics such as those we aim to supply at Coronga are even more important to maximise profit in prime lamb production.

John Blunden has again carried the burden of the sheep operation this year, and we thank him for all his efforts and enthusiasm. John is a conscientious and reliable stud overseer.

On offer today are 110 super rams for prime lamb production. Our pick selection of July-Aug 2017 drop.

*Our breeding has a simple philosophy. Maximise client profit.*

Our breeding targets adapt in response to market demands and to assist your profitability. In particular we strive for the best balance between growth, muscle, fat and an efficient birth weight. Your selection of the best rams for you will depend on the ewes producing your prime lambs.

Coronga rams continue to excel for muscling. The resultant high dressing percentages and yield of prime cuts adds more dollars to ram value.

The fecundity of our flock is demonstrated in the catalogue by the number of twins and triplets in the sale rams. They are well grown and will pass on their top genetics. They should make excellent terminal sires, and their fecundity will enhance their value as sires of breeding ewes. The BT column in the catalogue indicates born as single, twin or triplet. We are confident of your ability to assess all the rams on their structure and ASBVs. The triplets are at random throughout the catalogue, and often lose nothing in size to the other rams. We recommend them with confidence.

This year at Coronga marks 25 years striving to breed profit enhancer rams for prime lamb producers. Lambplan and artificial breeding and a lot of commitment were rewarded by satisfaction that enormous progress has been made towards our goals. The prime lamb industry has matured in many ways, with a small contribution by Coronga.

Some are retaining Coronga White Suffolk X Merino ewes, based on high lambing rates and milk, combined with carcass attributes, resulting in top quality breeding ewes. Current trial results show favourable comparison of Merino/White Suffolk ewes as profit producers compared to 7 other ewe groups.

# Coronga Breeding Guidelines



## Growth

Growth is a dominant profit driver and is very responsive to genetic improvement.

The aim at Coronga is to maximise growth to the extent that it does not lessen the overall profit from a client enterprise by diminishing profit from other factors such as lamb survival, Carcase, and over-leanness. There is a strong positive correlation between growth and birthweight, so be aware of high birth weight when selecting for high growth.

Growth is only a part of getting the **balance** to maximise client profit from their prime lambs.

Growth potential is reflected in Australian Sheep Breeding Values asbv's for Post Weaning Weight

### **PWWt example**

PWWt difference of 4 (eg: 12 vs 8) produces 2kg heavier lambs = 1kg dressed weight or \$6 per lamb. If 200 lambs born per ram = \$1200 **extra** (conservative estimate per ram in just 3 years)

Some of the Coronga sale rams illustrate how a good balance of traits can result in the ideal ram.

The value of Coronga rams should reflect the additional profit to be made in using them.

Our ewe flock benefits from the huge improvements made in recent years, and provide a fantastic resource for continued improvement. At Coronga each and every ewe is evaluated pre-joining to select the best sire to achieve our aim of balance to maximise client profit.

Client feedback is an integral **to refining** our target guidelines. **Thank you.**

# Coronga Breeding Guidelines



## Fat and Lean and Eating Quality

We have for the last few years deliberately bred rams **to assist easy finish of lambs**. That means to breed away from too much leanness. This can be seen in the **pfat numbers, with 43 of the sale rams positive (top 15%), and 87 in the top 50% pfat band**. The leaner rams may suit some who join 1st cross ewes  
Check your selection against the percentile chart in this catalogue.

ASBVs for contributions to meat eating quality are now available, including shear force, and indexes such as LEQ. At the present time there is no market premium for these, but Coronga is utilising them in our programme, as long as they do not lessen the profitability of your ram purchases. It is clear that intra-muscular fat, which in lamb is microscopic, is a major contributor to meat eating quality. This in turn is well correlated to pfat values, so **Coronga is ahead of the game for meat eating quality**.

My summation of meat eating quality at this stage needs these questions answered:

- 1) Meat science knows that eating quality is detrimentally effected by poor handling, stress, time from paddock to slaughter, and time of chilling post slaughter. These effects need to be quantified and valued, and then controlled by the post-farm supply chain. Some excellent meat science is attempting to solve these issues.
- 2) Processors need to value superior eating quality and pay accordingly if producers can demonstrate that they are consigning higher quality meat.
- 3) Genomics and DNA testing can identify animals with superior eating quality, but selection for those genes can lead to selection away from genes which enhance profitability in current marketing conditions.
- 4) Coronga stud is aware of, and considers, meat eating ASBV values when selecting sires. Therefore our sale rams and overall flock will improve in meat eating quality with each generation. This sale offers 25 rams in top 20% LEQ and 85 in top 50%.
- 5) I believe that commercial prime lamb producers should, until the above concerns are resolved, continue to select rams which enhance their profitability under prevailing conditions.

The percentile band chart for all terminals, produced from Sheep Genetics August results, is on page 10 of this catalogue. Included in the percentile chart is LEQ which incorporates eating quality.

## Coronga Breeding Guidelines



### Muscling: what is 1mm of EMD worth?

One study ( at just half today's lamb values) gave these results:

- 14.6 c/kg @ 22.8 kg for 2.2mm of depth = \$3.33 per lamb
- 15.8 c/kg @ 26 kg = \$4.10 per lamb
- Yield was 1.3% higher but value 2.4% higher due to shift of meat from forequarter to loin and leg

**So the simple answer is select for EMD and everyone wins ie: more**

**lambs > more yield > more \$\$**

- ↗ In the saleyards, buyers usually allow dressing percentages of 44% to 46%.
- ↗ Over the hook feedback on **lambs by Coronga rams often show 49%** and above.
- ↗ @ \$7/kg DW that could mean an extra \$7 for a 50Kg liveweight lamb.
- ↗ If a ram sires 300 lambs, his bonus to you could be **\$2100** because of the extra muscling alone.

Percentile Bands - all terminals

Sheep Genetics August 2018

	BWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	Carcase Plus	Lamb 2020	Trade\$	LEQ
Top value	-0.8	24.4	5.6	2.7	254	122.7	119.5	175.7
Top 1%	-0.5	18.5	3.7	0.9	221	117.1	114.6	151.5
Top 5%	-0.4	17	3	0.4	212	115.6	113.5	144.2
Top 10%	-0	16.2	2.7	0.2	207	114.7	112.8	140.4
Top 20%	0.16	15.2	2.3	-0.1	200	113.7	111.9	135.6
Top 30%	0.23	14.5	2	-0.2	195	112.8	111.2	132.4
Top 40%	0.28	13.8	1.7	-0.4	190	112.1	110.4	129.7
Top 50%	0.32	13.1	1.5	-0.5	185	111.4	109.6	127.3
Top 60%	0.37	12.3	1.3	-0.6	179	110.6	108.8	125
Top 70%	0.41	11.4	1.1	-0.7	172	109.7	107.9	122.7
Top 80%	0.45	10.2	0.8	-0.9	164	108.6	106.9	120.1
Top 90%	0.52	8.6	0.5	-1.1	154	107.3	105.5	116.5
Bottom value	0.92	-9.3	-2.6	-3.2	45	90.4	63.7	74.1



# Coronga Breeding Guidelines



## Lamb Survival

Healthy big Lambs at birth grow fast, but dead lambs don't grow, and birth difficulties are expensive and time consuming. Easy birth is a combination of ewe health and condition and lamb size shape and foetal position.

Lamb survival is a really major driver of prime lamb profitability. Ewe management before and during lambing is critical, including adequate nutrition for single and multiple bearing ewes. Nutrition management of ewes can result in variations of half kilo in birth weight of lambs.

Using rams for easy birth includes correct conformation and low birth weight. At Coronga, we are very conscious of selecting sires with shoulders which are not too thick. White Suffolks have in general had this trait, but it will remain a focus at Coronga. Selection of rams with lower birth weight ASBVs can be a significant profit contributor. A ram with BWt ASBV of 0.5 will produce lambs about 0.25kg heavier than one with BWt of 0. The average BWt of all terminals is 0.32.

Lambs too small will have lower survival and at Coronga this trait, like all others, is evaluated to maximise client profit. Obviously, maiden ewes benefit from low birth weight lambs, but the number of dystocias in mature ewes lessens as well. It is unavoidable that some ewes will have positional dystocias.

Let us all strive to have better than 90% of all lambs born survive to weaning. Our July-Aug 2018 lambing at Coronga, with supplementary feed during lambing and in a district which is a haven for foxes, managed 90% survival at marking. Most losses were the triplets who had more mismothering with hand feeding.

If all producers improve lamb survival by 3%, it represents extra profit of \$3000 to \$6000 per 1000 lambs.

If a ram sires 300 lambs over a working life years, the 3% extra survival means \$900 to \$1800 per ram. A lot of "what ifs" above, but we cannot avoid the profitability of improved lamb survival.

## Coronga Breeding Guidelines



Coronga rams since 1994 have obviously improved after 25 years of stringent selection.

Conformation, soundness and general phenotype have made obvious and significant gains.

In addition, after 25 years of quantitative measurement and selection, Coronga is a source of top genetics for that majority of serious prime lamb producers who need predictability of performance in their genetics

The 2018 Pick of the Drop Ram Sale offers over 100 rams with balanced Lambplan asbv's including high value individual asbvs.

25 rams Pemd > 2.8 top 7%

25 rams Pfat > 0.2 top 10%

25 rams BWT < 0.12 top 15%

25 rams PWT >15.6 top 15%

25 rams 20:20 index > 114.6 top 10%

25 rams C Plus index > 208 top 10%

25 rams trade\$ index > 113 top 10%

25 rams LEQ index > 135.6 top 20%



Thank you for supporting our sale today