

Demand drives Denvale Dohnes to \$2550

By JODIE RINTOUL

IT was another quality line-up of Dohne rams on offer from the Sounness family at their annual Denvale on-property ram sale at Mt Barker last week and buyers responded positively, pushing prices to a high of \$2550.

All up there were 60 sires up for grabs and right through the sale Nutrien Livestock auctioneer Charlie Staite found plenty of lively competition from the 14 registered buyers to ensure a positive sale result for the Sounness family.

The final result was nearly a mirror image of last year's sale when seasonal conditions were much better, with the stud selling one less ram than last year and the average back just \$33.

When Mr Staite knocked down the last ram in the sale, 14 different buyers from as far north as Moora had cleared 50 rams under the hammer at an average of \$1057.

Mr Staite said it was a very buoyant and solid sale with good competition throughout.

"The sale clearance was in



□ Five generations of the Sounness family were on hand at last week's Denvale Dohne on-property ram sale at Mt Barker where this ram sold for the \$2550 top price. With the ram were Nutrien Livestock Mt Barker representative Matt Mullally (left), Denvale's Greg, Jacob holding son Jasper and Robert Sounness, buyer Brendon Watterson, Yuelup Farms, Tenterden and Tyler, Amy and Cecilia Sounness.

line with expectations given many of the stud's clients have reduced their ewe numbers because of seasonal

conditions," Mr Staite said.

"The vendors are very happy with the final sale result and they were pleased that all

their clients still bought despite needing less rams.

"Overall the sale represented good value."

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)
Offered: 60
Sold: 50
Top: \$2550
Gross: \$52,850
Average: \$1057

Equally happy with the sale result was Denvale co-principal Greg Sounness who said they were impressed with both the clearance and prices considering the season.

"Some of our clients because of where they are located have faced a challenging season, so to achieve a very similar result to last year is very pleasing, as we were not expecting the sale to be as good as last year," Mr Sounness said.

"It was really pleasing to see strong support from our long-term clients again as it reinforces we are on the right track with our breeding program."

Taking top price honours in the sale was an upstanding sire in lot 22 when it was knocked down at \$2550 to return buyer Brendon Watterson, Yuelup Farms, Tenterden, who also purchased two of the three top-priced rams last year.

The well-balanced ram has Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) of 6.7 weaning weight (WWT), 7.0 yearling weight (YWT) and 9.7 yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) and a Dohne index of 187.

Along with securing the top-priced ram the operation also purchased the stud's team leader a 2018-drop stud sire for \$1500, which had ASBVs of 5.1 WWT, 8.5 YWT, 8.0 YCFW and an index of 172, as well as another ram at \$1400 to finish with a team of three at an average of \$1817.

A second ram in the sale also sold beyond the \$2000 mark when AG & KF Hooper,

Frankland River, paid \$2100 for a ram which showed true Dohne traits in lot 27.

It was sold with ASBVs of 4.7 WWT, 8.4 YWT and 2.9 YCFW, while its Dohne index is 162.

The Hoopers also picked up a second ram during the sale at \$1000.

In the volume buying stakes, return buyers the Hood family, Marshall Hood & Co, Kojaneerup, like last year took home the title when they finished the day with 10 rams at an average of \$1170.

The team included a ram at \$1550 which had ASBVs of 4.2 WWT, 6.1 YWT, 6.9 YCFW and an index of 171.

They also paid \$1500 for a sired with a Dohne index of 164 and a highly impressed YCFW value of 14.3.

The next biggest buyer was repeat stud client MJ O'Halloran, Cranbrook, securing eight sires for an average of \$988 and to a high of \$1200, while AJ & RJ

Dufty, Mt Barker, went home with five rams on the back of the ute at an \$870 average.

Locally based return buyer Woogenellup Estate, Mt Barker, was again a good supporter of the catalogue averaging \$1063 across a team of four rams which topped at \$1500 for a sire with a Dohne index of 144, while Wicklow Estate, Mt Barker, paid \$1150 and \$900 for its two selections.

Return buyer FH Bryan & Co, Moora, showed they were not afraid to travel to Denvale to select rams for their operation, highlighting the stud's rams not only perform in the lower Great Southern but also do well in Wheatbelt conditions.

The Moora operation finished the sale with four rams at an average of \$963.

Also travelling from outside the local area to purchase ram was the Muresk Institute, Northam, which bought two rams to a high of \$1350.