

\$4000 Far Valley Dohne heads to Victoria

By LYNETTE CAREW-REID

ANOTHER top quality Dohne ram was on its way to Victoria – the second in as many days – after selling for the \$4000 top price at the Far Valley on-property ram sale at Arthur River last Friday.

Local bidders from diverse farming regions, such as Newdegate to Augusta, competed strongly throughout the sale but were no match for Darren and Fiona Cameron who set their sights on a single sheep for their Hamilton Run stud at Goroke in the Mallee region of Victoria.

At Kintail Park previous day they set the State's \$11,600 top Dohne price for 2022 and they wanted a travelling companion for their purchase.

The family owns three Dohne studs in Victoria and South Australian and Ms Cameron said they wanted the ram in pen 77 specifically for their Hamilton Run stud because it was similar in wool type and offered an outcross of genetics.

Despite spirited bidding on nearly every lot in the sale, lot 77 – a stretchy ram with a nourished well-defined wool – took the competition to another level fuelled by Elders auctioneer Nathan King's glowing appraisal.

Every word he said was backed by Australian Sheep Breeding Values that culminated in a 205.15 Dohne Plus index that was significantly higher than anything else in the sale.

The index was made up of 2.72 maternal weaning weight (MWWT), 8.06 weaning weight (WWT), 21.95 yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW), all of which were in the top five percent of the breed based on the latest August figures.

The ram was by FV182126, a sire that stud principal David Kain said had the X-factor.

"He could throw some



Elders Graeme Alexander (left), with Far Valley Dohne principal David Kain, buyers Darren and Fiona Cameron, Hamilton Run Dohne stud, Goroke, Victoria, holding the \$4000 top-priced ram at last week's Far Valley on-property ram sale at Arthur River.

progeny with very high weights and big eye muscle," Mr Kain said.

"This ram is a late June drop and younger than most but he still had a very big weaning weight."

He was extremely pleased with the day's overall sale result saying it was one of the best line-ups he had presented in 22 years of on-property sales.

Mr Kain said the rams were in tremendous condition, even a bit too good given the season.

He was pleased to see clients from across such a diverse region, even though it was a challenge to have the

right sheep for all areas from the eastern Wheatbelt to the Karri forests.

The sale delivered a top result all round and only thing he wished for was a bit of warm sunshine to give the wools some "bounce".

Only one ram was overlooked in the offering and the 114 sold returned a \$2008 average compared with \$1584 in 2021.

A bonus for the vendor was the activity from two new buyers, one of which took values to the \$3500 second top price.

Jason Taylor, who farms with his father Michael west of Wagin, bought their first

Dohne rams last year at Williams.

This year, in the middle of shearing, they sought the convenience of a closer stud and bought four rams, and including the second top price ram (also by FV172126) he averaged \$2275.

Mr Taylor said they ran an 1800-head Merino ewe flock on their property Ketchualling and normally kept their wethers until three to four years of age but with the live export future now under a cloud, they were changing to multi-purpose flock so they could keep their wool clip and sell prime lambs.

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)
Offered: 115
Sold: 114
Top: \$4000
Gross: \$228,900
Average: \$2008

The change also meant they could increase ewe numbers.

Prices in the sale surpassed the \$3000 mark many times and Tasman Farm, Boyup Brook, bought three rams for \$3200, \$3100 and \$2700 to average \$3000.

Locals David Robinson and son Daely were one of the day's two volume buyers, taking home 11 rams for up to \$3100 and paying a \$2190 average.

They ranked among the longest-standing clients for the stud after buying for more than 15 years and the purity of their 3000-ewe flock was reflected in a consistently high lambing percentage in the 105-110 percent range.

As predominantly cropping farmers, sheep were an integral part of the system because of the amount of non-arable land on their properties.

They were chasing rams with good conformation and higher fleece weight and muscle depth ASBVs.

Sam Burgess, Arthur River, also went to \$3000 to get the best of four rams early in the sale; NWE Harding, Boyup Brook, bought three rams paying \$3200 and averaging \$2733; HA & SA Panizza, Williams, bought four rams for up to \$3000 and paid a \$2700 average.

Another long-term buyer Graeme and Pat Risborough,



□ Daely Robinson (left) and father David, Arthur River, have been buying Far Valley Dohnes for more than 15 years. At last week's sale they were one of the biggest buyers taking home 11 rams.

who run a small flock at Lower Chittering, stretched to \$3200 and spent a \$2567 average to get three rams.

With 25 of the 26 prospective buyers on the buying register successful on the 115-ram offering, there were few who managed to put big teams together.

One of the few volume buyers was Jesse Martin & Co, Williams, who bought 11 rams for between \$2500 and \$3200 and paid a \$2764 average.

Chris Buller, Darkan, worked through the middle range of values and took home nine for a \$1511 average and John Dunkeld, Newdegate, managed to get seven for a \$1429 average.

Elders spokesman Graeme Alexander said the sale was a huge success.

"The rams looked fantastic and they attracted strong competition to produce an exceptional clearance," Mr Alexander said.

"It was good to see a couple of new buyers and the number of repeat buyers says they are obviously happy with the product."

UPPER BLACKWOOD STUD SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Dinninup RAM SALE

**Friday, October 7, 2022
at the Dinninup Showgrounds**