

Only one-third of Dohnes sell

VICTORIAN DOHNE INVITATION RAM SALE

BY PHILIPPE PEREZ

*10 of 31 rams sold to \$1750, av \$1225

WHILE the quality of Dohne sheep on offer was of good quality, only a small crowd showed up to the Ballarat Showgrounds for the 18th annual Victorian Dohne Invitation Ram Sale last week.

It did not spur on a large amount of competition during the auction, with the top-priced lot being a 2021-drop lamb, Lot 25, tag MD214016, belonging to Macquarie stud, Ballimore, NSW.

That ram recorded a post-weaning weight of 6.31 kilograms, a post-weaning eye muscle depth of 0.17 millimetres, and a post-fat measurement of 0.08mm.

It was sold to Richard Johnston, Longford, Tas, who had bid remotely at the sale.

Macquarie stud principal John Nadin said he was glad the Dohne breed was offering some good-quality stock, but floods in NSW kept many interstate buyers away.

"There was a small crowd,



Macquarie stud principal John Nadin, Ballimore, NSW, with Nutrien stud stock agent Peter Godbolt and the top-priced Dohne ram, Lot 25, tag MD214257, which sold for \$1750. Picture by Philippe Perez.

but there was a good-quality line up of rams and regular buyers in attendance," he said.

"It was a tough day to be honest but I think there were a couple of factors including

us having to move the date of the sale all because of the inclement weather."

Mr Nadin said the sale wasn't a reflection of the Dohne breed, and many vendors at the mainly com-

mercial flock sale had "come off the back of some pretty solid on-property sales".

He said the top-priced ram from the stud had some great depth, and handled very well.

"He's got a good deep body and is structurally very correct," he said.

"He's the ideal type we believe for Victoria... and he's got a very good, bright, soft handling, '70s-style wool,

and is around the 18.5 micron measurement."

The auction was tough going for the majority of it, with lots being passed in up until halfway into the sale, when volume buyer Ben Coad, Shelford, picked up seven lots of 2021-drop rams from various studs for a total of \$7500.

Mr Coad said he had shown interest in Dohnes for their ease of management.

"They have really good qualities right from when they are lambs," he said.

"The sale was a little bit dull today... but I'm glad I picked a number of them up."

While there is a bit of toughness through winter, Mr Coad said his region suited Dohnes very well throughout the summer.

"During the hotter months they are much more easy to look after, easy to assemble and are tough," he said.

"You generally have to watch them really well during wet times like these really well, but we're up to doing that."

Gippsland-based Buxton Ag also bought two lots at the sale, both for \$1500 each.