

Far Valley on-property sale tops \$7900

By KIERA BRIDCUTT

THE Far Valley on-property ram sale at Arthur River last week signified the close of one chapter and the start of a new one.

The 25th annual sale for Far Valley stud, run by Elders, was the last under the ownership and management of David Kain, who has spent 26 years breeding Dohne rams.

Mr Kain sold his stud to the Applegate family, Mollerin Rock Dohne stud, earlier this year due to ill health.

In a pamphlet provided on the day, Mr Kain reflected on the sadness involved with parting from his stud.

However, he looks forward and has confidence in Mitch Applegate and his family to keep improving the Far Valley stud flock.

Mr Kain's dedication to the stud over the years was rewarded with strong bidding from customers, seeing a top price of \$7900.

The sale had a clearance of 98 out of 99 rams, averaging \$1942, up \$618 from last year's sale result.

Last year, the stud offered 101 rams and sold 72 for a high of \$4000.

The top-priced ram from lot eight, had Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) of 4.77 weaning weight (WWT), 7.44 post weaning weight (PWWT), 8.79 yearling weight (YWT), 1.29 yearling eye muscle depth (YEMD), -1.04 yearling fibre diameter (YFD) and a Dohne index of 167.9.

Mr Kain said the ram had unbelievable wool, with good, all-round figures.

"It was out of one of my best wool families," Mr Kain said.

The ram was sold to Fiona and Darren Cameron, Nurcoun, Victoria, who run Koonik Dohne stud, Hamilton Run Dohne stud and Jag Dohne stud.

They run 2000 ewes in



□ With the \$7900 top-priced ram and the third top-priced ram were Elders auctioneer and WA stud stock manager Nathan King (left), buyers Darren and Fiona Cameron, Koonik Dohnes, Nurcoun, Victoria, and vendor David Kain, Arthur River.

addition to their cropping program, which includes wheat, barley, oats, lentils and chickpeas.

In addition to purchasing the top-priced ram, the Victorian-based stud purchased a second ram for \$7200, the third top price, with ASBVs of 5.59 WWT, 7.74 PWWT, 9.7 YWT, 1.31 YEMD and a Dohne index of 164.84.

Ms Cameron said they were focusing on meat and eye muscle at the auction.

"When we saw lot eight, we couldn't not take him home," Ms Cameron said.

"He'd be the best wool sheep in this shed, that's why I ended

up purchasing the two of them.

"Lot six is probably the best dual-purpose we could find, with really excellent wool, high muscle and fat, and great weight.

"A good all-rounder."

The Camerons have previously purchased from Far Valley and came across this year to say farewell to Mr Kain.

TG & RC Browne, Nyabing, paid the second top price of \$7300 for a ram from lot 96.

The ram had ASBVs of 4.87 WWT, 6.69 PWWT, 8.14 YWT, 2.08 YEMD, -1.51 yearling fibre diameter coefficient variation (YFDCV)

and a Dohne index of 178.11.

It is ranked in the top five per cent for EMD, YFDCV and Dohne index.

"Why I bought this ram was for his high muscle and his fat," said Rachel Browne, Chirmiminup stud principal.

"He was the highest or one of the highest fat and eye muscle rams in Dave's sale today, which is what I was chasing."

The Browne's also purchased a ram from lot 47, taking their average to \$5150.

Ms Browne plans to use the rams over her Dohne ewes.

"We sell around about 200 rams at auction every year and

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)

Offered: 99**Sold:** 98**Top:** \$7900**Gross:** \$190,300**Average:** \$1942

run about 12-1300 stud ewes," she said.

Ms Browne also has a cropping program, consisting of the "standard" grains such as canola, wheat and barley.

The volume buyer on the day was Jesse Martin & Co, Williams, securing 17 rams, averaging \$2329.

Michael Martin said they were previously 100 per cent cropping but changed to sheep.

He said they have been running Dohnes for 10 years.

Jesse Martin & Co was also the volume buyer at last year's Far Valley sale, purchasing 15 rams.

Other volume buyers included CE & WR Watkins, Arthur River, which purchased 12 rams, averaging \$1267, and WW Farms, Arthur River, which purchased nine rams, averaging \$1344.

Mr Kain said he was very happy with the sale result, with a lot of repeat and loyal clientele showing their support for his final sale.

❑ RIGHT: With the \$7300 second top-priced ram were stud principal David Kain, with buyer Rachel Browne, TG & RC Browne, Nyabing, and Nathan King.

"I really hope that we get the rewards, those that stayed in the (sheep) game, that they get the rewards now and over the next four or five years," he said.

"The previous three have had a huge drain on our finances.

"It's looking good at the moment."

Elders WA stud stock manager, Nathan King, said it was pleasing to see the ram values way up from last year.

"A good crowd of buyers kept the competition consistent throughout the catalogue," Mr King said.

"There were a lot of good sires here today, highlighted by their ASBV figures."

Mr King said the Applegates had bought the Far Valley stud because of its excellent genetics and genetic diversity and he hoped it went well for them in the future.

"And it was really good to see David (Kain) rewarded today as he closes his breeding chapter," he said.

A full clearance was achieved with the final ram sold privately after the auction.



❑ Lindsay Marsh (left), Karlgarin, with his father, Robert.

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