

Calga Dohne hits \$8k record

BY ELIZA SPENCER

TOP prices eclipsed recent years as commercial breeders swooped in on the Calga Dohne 21st on-property ram sale on Wednesday last week.

The top five rams were sold for more than \$4400 each at auction, and to a single buyer.

The Coonamble stud recorded a total clearance and a gross \$185,750 for 70 rams, averaging \$2653.

Highest priced ram Calga CA240331 reached a new record high of \$8000, sold to Jason Clarke for Macada Rural, Baradine.

An April 2024-drop by Cal-

ga CA190729 and from Calga CA210586, Calga CA240331 was ranked in the top 5pc for post-weaning weight and post-weaning eye muscle depth, with estimated breeding values of +11.58 and +1.74.

The commercial operation purchased a total of 10 rams to average \$4375, including the second-highest priced Calga CA240392, sold for \$5250.

By Calga CA200680 and from Calga CA220163, the April 2024-drop ram was in the top 5pc for number of lambs weaned and recorded a yearling clean fleece weight in the top 5pc at +22.71.

Stud co-principal Sandy Pye said it was encouraging to see commercial buyers place their faith in the rams to deliver returns on farm and in the market.

"Commercial breeders have got belief in our genetics ... it's promising to see that compared to a stud sale," he said.

"He's an industry leader on all the traits you get paid for, finishing your lambs, post-weaning weight, fleece weight, good muscle, and number of lambs weaned as well; that's why a commercial buyer would see so much value in him."

Strong local support



Jason Southwell, Clancy Moore, Margie Pye, Holly Pye, Matt Prentice, with Lilli Pye, and Sandy Pye. Picture supplied

buoyed the sale, Mr Pye said, with just under half of the lots sold to local buyers, with a new selection piquing

the interest of buyers across the border.

"It's promising, because rams in our area are fairly popular," he said.

"We had on display our first generation of Calga Poll Dohne, which is a first-cross hybrid we've been working on; they've been sold privately up to Qld."

Malcolm Webb, Miagunyah, Warrambungle, purchased 15 rams to average \$2583.

The rams will be joined to 4500 Dohne ewes at Miagunyah, supporting a mixed wool and meat operation, where heavier post-weaning weights and above-average

wool cuts can make a notable difference in the operation, Mr Webb said.

"We've bought at every sale for 21 sales. I'm quite happy with the product, getting a heavier carcase and a bit more fertility," Mr Webb said.

Greg Smith, Argilla Pastoral, Coonamble, purchased seven rams to average \$1571, while Alfoxton Dohne Stud, Uralla, secured Calga UC240273 for \$3250.

The sale was facilitated by Nutrien Coonamble and Elders Coonamble, with auctioneer Paul Jameson, Elders Stud Stock, with Clancy Moore and Matt Prentice.

Top of \$5500, full clearance for Macquarie

BY ELKA DEVNEY

BUYERS sought structure and well-nourished wool at the Macquarie Dohne sale, at Carinya, near Ballimore, on Wednesday last week.

All 162 lots sold to a top of \$5500, twice, to average \$2960, up \$769 on last year.

David Berrell, Midgery Dohne stud, Walgett, secured the first \$5500 ram, MD241741.

Son of MD228013 and out of MD191564, the June 2024-drop ram had Australian Sheep Breeding Values at +5.84 post weaning

weight, +0.14 post weaning eye muscle depth, +8.81 yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) and -0.38 yearling fibre diameter.

Mr Berrell also purchased MD-214317 son, MD241776, for \$4500. His family-run mixed enterprise includes Angus cattle, cropping, a Dohne stud and 4000 commercial Dohne ewes.

The commercial flock averages 20.5-micron, cuts six kilograms of wool per head and scans at 143 per cent.

"[The top ram] is an all-round correct ram with a strong back end and

well-nourished wool," he said.

Both purchases will return to the stud, each running with 60 to 70 ewes in a February-March joining.

Last year, Mr Berrell sold 2300 wether lambs to Fletchers, Thomas Foods International and through the saleyards, averaging \$292 a head.

CA and JM Ross, Balmoral, Victoria, bought the other top-priced ram, MD241770, for \$5500.

Son of MD228067 and out of MD181144, the June 2024-drop ram ranked in the top five per cent of the breed

for +2.02 yearling eye muscle depth and top 20pc at +14.05 YCFW, and +0.10 number of lambs weaned. The Ross family purchased three other rams to average \$4125.

Volume buyer Thomas, Annie and Michael O'Brien, Brigalows, Carinda, purchased 31 rams to average \$2806.

Stud co-principal John Nadin, Macquarie, said he was thrilled with the sale's result.

Nutrien Clemson Hiscox and Co, Walgett, conducted the sale, with Paul Dooley as auctioneer. AuctionsPlus provided the interface.



James Nadin, Macquarie, Bruce Bryant, Peter Milling and Co, Paul Dooley, Tamworth, David and Lucy Berrell, Midgery, with the top-priced ram. Picture by Elka Devney

Gullendah Dohnes to \$5000

BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON

A RAM that "looks like a ram" and another that was "hard to fault" have set the standard at the Gullendah Dohne and Poll Merino on-property sale held at Baldry on Tuesday.

There was full clearance of 150 rams, with the Dohne offering increasing its average by just shy of \$550 on the 2024 result.

While the Poll Merino average was back from last year, when it was among the 10 highest Merino or Poll Merino average in the country, the stud lifted its top price and clearance. All up, 100 Dohnes sold to \$5000, averaging \$2940, while 50 Poll Merinos reached \$7000, averaging \$2430.

The top-priced Dohne ram was bought by the Mattiske family, trading as DJ Partnership, Forbes, with the winning bid placed by sheep

classer Allan Clarke, Dubbo.

Mr Clarke said his brief had been to select a ram that "looks like a ram", with him deciding Gullendah 240302 fit the brief.

The 111kg, twin-born, April 2024-drop, son of GD209087 had a fibre diameter of 18.1 micron, 3.1 micron standard deviation, 17.1 per cent coefficient of variation and 99.8pc comfort factor.

He also had breeding figures of +5.5 post-weaning weight, +1.18 eye muscle depth and +6.8 yearling greasy fleece weight and a +142.5 Dohne plus index.

Mr Clarke said the ram was structurally sound with stylish wool.

"He's a good, big-framed sheep and he's got a lovely quality wool," he said.

"(The buyers) are prime lamb producers so that works out even better still."

All up, DJ Partnership



Allan Clarke, Paul Dooley, Andrew Hughes, Peter Hughes, Paivi and Robert Cox, and Brad Wilson.

bought three rams - one Poll Merino and two Dohnes - for an average \$4166.

Also highly sought among the Dohne offering was GD240967, a twin-born son of GD220728, bought for \$4750. The 118kg ram's measurements included a 16.8M fleece, 3.0SD, 17.9CV, 99.5CF, as well as a

+157.8 Dohne-Plus index, a +5.3PWWT, +1.35 EMD, and +0.43 fat. He was bought by Yarraford Trust, Glen Innes, among its five lots, averaging \$3950.

In the Poll Merinos, "stylish" \$7000 ram Gullendah 242081, attracted plenty of bidding competition before being knocked down to re-

turning buyers Robert and Paivi Cox, Manildra.

The 108-kilogram, April 2024-drop son of K212338 had fleece measurements of 19.1M, 2.8SD, 14.5CV and 99.8CF, with a greasy fleece weight of 122pc.

The Coxs have been running a split joining with their 1000 ewes, in spring and autumn.

"If you pay \$7000 for a good ram, and use them twice, it's better than paying for two average rams," Mr Cox said.

Another top price Poll Merino ram was lot GP 242474, by GP 212018, bought for \$6750. The 117kg, 19.7M, 2.8SD, 13.9CV, 99.8CF and 119GFW ram is heading to Victoria with new owners Gledfield Ag, Rossbridge, among its five rams, averaging \$3900.

There were plenty of bidders selecting in bulk,

especially among the Dohne selection, with 15 rams heading to Loongana Pastoral Co, Longreach, Qld.

Loongana has been buying at Gullendah for about two decades, with Mr Clarke also bidding for this client.

All up, Loongana Pastoral bid to \$3500, averaging \$2567.

Brenda Station, Goodoo, picked up 13 rams from throughout the Dohne catalogue, paying to \$4500 and averaging \$3442.

Perola Park Pastoral, Augathella, Qld, bought 10 Dohne rams to \$4250, averaging \$2975, while RA and CM Barden, Cunnamulla, Qld, selected nine to \$3250, at an average \$2694.

Suttor Family Trust, Bathurst, bought seven Dohnes to \$3000, averaging \$2583.

The sale was conducted by Nutrien stud stock with Paul Dooley the auctioneer.

Kardinia Dohne stud celebrates a milestone

KARDINIA Dohnes at Corowa celebrated their 20th on-farm annual ram sale last Thursday, alongside some new faces and other commercial producers who have bought from the Mills family for their entire stud journey.

Of the 50 Dohne rams on offer, 42 sold to average \$1700 and top at \$3800.

The best-priced sire was 15-month-old Kardinia Dohne 241478, by KD220405.

Purchased by Richard Johnston, Esk Farm, Longford, Tasmania - a client of Kardinia's for the past 15 years - his new ram

presented with Australian sheep breeding values including top 10 per cent of the breed for yearling clean fleece weight.

"He is a balanced ram and suited to Mr Johnston's program," stud co-principal Donald Mills said. "His white, soft wool fits his environment."

The Kardinia Dohne wool clip averages 19.5 micron and is managed as non-mulesed and accredited under the Responsible Wool Standard, selling into Australia's largest traceable wool program, Genesys,



Kardinia Dohne's best-priced sire KD241478 went to clients in Tasmania. Picture supplied by Kardinia Dohnes.

through Fox and Lillie.

One of Kardinia's longest customers, Col and

Dan Withers, of Cawarra Pastoral Pty Ltd, Mulwala, went home with two lots at

\$3600, including KD241555, by KD220285, with 10pc for index value, yearling clean fleece weight, post-weaning fat and post-weaning weight.

First-time buyer Scott Francis, Rutherglen, bought three rams, telling the Mills family - Donald, Karen and Matt - that the Dohne sires would add value to his wool clip without compromising growth and fertility in his composite flock.

Volume buyer was Wokolena, Wagga Wagga, who bought 11 rams to average \$1650 and top at \$2200 for KD241532, by KD220285,

presenting with top 10pc figures for lambs weaned, along with post weaning fat.

The season in the Riverina has improved in recent times and Mr Mills said producers expressed "quite a bit of optimism" going forward.

"Wool prices are sustainable now since the rise, the largest gain since before the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is trending in the right direction," he said.

The sale was hosted by Elders Albury and Nutrien Stud Stock with AuctionsPlus collecting online bids.

— JAMIE BROWN

Alfoxton Dohne creates strong bidding

BY ANDY SAUNDERS

THERE was solid demand at the 23rd annual on-property Alfoxton Dohne at Armidale on Monday, with two major volume buyers securing large numbers.

Repeat buyers Oakhurst Partnership, North Star and Bucknell Grazing, Inverell, were in stiff competition.

The sale resulted in 44 from 55 Dohne rams selling to an equal top of \$3250 to average \$1539.

Geoff Bucknell, Bucknell Grazing, purchased an impressive draft of 21 rams to

average \$1273.

Mr Bucknell runs more than 7500 Merino ewes and crosses a Dohne ram over one-third of his flock, with the other two-thirds to Poll Dorset rams from Yasloc Poll Dorset, Glen Innes.

"The Dohne ram is very unified within the wool, but it's more the carcase that it offers," said Mr Bucknell.

"The carcase from the Dohne is the better half of a cross-bred carcase and their progeny produces a good lamb, the wool is just a bonus."

Oakhurst Partnership

purchased one of the equal top priced rams for \$3250 and rounded out their sale draft with 13 rams for a \$2000 average.

Oakhurst Partnership has been purchasing from Alfoxton Dohne for more than 15 years.

His top pick was Alfoxton 231148, by Calga 181491.

Justin Tombs, Armidale, was the other equal top-priced buyer, paying \$3250 for Alfoxton 230991, a son of Tablelands 210116.

Mr Tombs was the underbidder when Alfoxton successfully purchased Ta-

blelands 210116 for \$4400 from the stud's sale at Guyra in 2023.

Chris Clonan, Alfoxton, said progeny from Tablelands 210116 were well sought after, with 15 sons averaging \$1650.

Mr Clonan said buyers commented on the draft's wool quality and carcase traits.

Alfoxton held its Merino sale just under a week ago, where it averaged \$1941 from 51 of 64 rams.

The sale was covered by AWN Squires, Inverell, with Robbie Bloch the auctioneer.



Robbie Bloch and Harold Manttan, AWN Squires, buyers Kate Cutler and Ian Uebergang, Oakhurst Partnership, North Star, and Chris Clonan, Alfoxton.