

Mollerin Rock/Far Valley sale averages \$1805

By KYAH PEETI

DOHNE clients from far and wide travelled to the Applegate family's Cadoux-based stud on Monday to secure rams from their Mollerin Rock and Far Valley stud flocks.

Whether they were new or returning clients, plenty of bidders flocked to the Mollerin Rock stud, which hosted its first sale incorporating the Far Valley genetics since the Applegate family purchased the Far Valley stud last year.

On offer in the sale line-up were 143 true-to-type Dohne rams which exhibited quality wools and top meat characteristics, backed by some very good Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), to ensure there was a ram to suit all selection criteria.

The line-up of rams were a reflection of the Applegate family's commitment to the Dohne breed and the sheep industry, and this resulted in plenty of competition throughout the sale.

When the final ram was knocked down the stud had cleared 131 rams of the 143 on offer to an increased sale average of \$1805, which was up \$360 on last year's sale.

Last year the stud averaged \$1445 when it sold 99 rams from 108 offered.

Elders WA stud stock manager, Nathan King, said he was very pleased with the sale result, particularly given that a young stud breeder has invested in the Far Valley stud, which is the oldest Dohne stud in Australia.

"Now with Mollerin Rock and Far Valley genetics being sold together, it's one of the best-placed studs to purchase top-quality genetics because of the genetic pool they have," Mr King said.

"For buyers interested in the Dohne breed, they should definitely have a look here."



□ With the \$3900 top-priced ram at the Mollerin Rock and Far Valley Dohne on-property ram sale at Cadoux on Monday were buyers Anthony (left) and Peter (second right) Smith, LR & MJ Smith, Carnamah, Mollerin Rock and Far Valley stud principal, Mitchell Applegate (second left) and Elders WA stud stock manager, Nathan King. The Smith family bought four rams in the sale at an average of \$3625.

As a Dohne classer and assessor, Mr King said from a commercial and stud point of view he understands how hard it is to find new Dohne genetics to help the breed moving forward.

"Therefore I think Applegates are well-placed to provide the best Dohne genetics in WA going forward," he said.

Attracting plenty of attention from buyers in the front half of the catalogue in lot 25, was a very impressive 101 kilogram ram.

When bidding started on the upstanding ram, they bids came in thick and fast, but in the end it was Peter and Anthony Smith, LR & MJ Smith, Carnamah, who outlasted the competition to secure the ram for the sale's \$3900 top price.

The ram has ABVBs of 6.4 weaning weight (WWT), 9.4 post weaning weight (PWWT), 10.7 yearling weight (YWT), 1.2 eye

muscle depth (EMD), 20.4 yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW), -0.4 yearling fibre diameter (YFD), -0.5 yearling coefficient of variation (YCV) and a Dohne index of 195.5, along with wool figures of 17.9 micron and 99.2 per cent comfort factor (CF).

The Smith family bought another three rams from the line-up, to finish with a team of four at an average of \$3625.

Included in their purchases was one of two rams which sold at the sale's \$3700 third top price.

This 120kg ram had ASBVs of 7.2 WWT, 10.7 PWWT, 12.8 YWT, 1.9 EMD, 11.3 YCFW, -0.5 YFD, -0.5 YCV and a Dohne index of 201.2, along with wool figures of 17.9 micron and 99.8pc CF.

It was the Smith family's second year buying from the stud, and Peter Smith said wool weight was the main

selection point.

"Eye muscle area and bodyweight is also important to us," Mr Smith said.

"We go through the catalogue first and pick out the rams we like and then match them up to the rams visually in the pens," he said.

"We look for strong woolled rams because the stronger the wool is the more wool there is."

The Smith family has been running Dohnes since the early 2000s and they love how hardy the breed is.

"They do well in the hardest of conditions," he said.

"We produce prime lambs each year and sell some early, in wool, and we will sell the remainder of them soon after they are shorn."

The sale's \$3800 second top price ram was secured by existing Far Valley client, Brendan Watterson, Yuelup Farms, Tenterden.

At \$3800 Mr Watterson purchased a 110kg ram with ASBVs of 6.1 WWT, 7.8 PWWT, 8.8 YWT, 1.7 EMD, 10.6 YCFW, -0.7 YFD, 0.5 YCV and a Dohne index of 176.7.

The ram has wool figures of 16.8 micron and 99.8pc CF.

Mr Watterson rounded out his purchases with a 104kg sire from lot nine for \$3500.

Mr Watterson said he was mainly selecting rams based on wool quality.

"I want nice white wool and a good size ram with good conformation, overall," he said.

"I select rams based on visual appraisal and figures."

"More so visually, and then use the figures to confirm and help with selection."

Yuelup Farms runs a few thousand Dohne breeding ewes.

"We generally sell our lambs to WAMMCO and Fletchers, and any late

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)

Offered: 143**Sold:** 131**Top:** \$3900**Gross:** \$236,400**Average:** \$1805

ones will most likely go to lotfeeders," he said.

Purchasing the other ram to sell at the sale's \$3700 third top price, was the sale's volume buyer Jesse Martin & Co, Williams.

The whopping 122kg ram had ASBV's of 7.3 WWT, 11.0 PWWT, 10.6 YWT, 0.7 EMD, 16.6 YCFW, -0.2 YFD, -0.3 YCV and a Dohne index of 195.5, along with wool figures of 18.3 micron and 99.7pc CF.

Along with securing the

sale's \$3700 third top price ram, the Martin family secured another 11 rams during the auction to load up a total of 12 rams post-sale at a \$2267 average.

Other bigger buyers in the sale were NP Burges & Co, Meckering and W Emmott & Sons, Dowerin, which both bought teams of 11 rams each.

The Burges family paid an average of \$2372 and to a top of \$3100 on three occasions, while the Emmott family bought all of its 11 rams for \$800 each.

Mollerin Rock and Far Valley stud principal Mitchell Applegate said a big thank you to the stud's clients.

"A big thank you on behalf of me and the team, we are very grateful for the support," he said.



Looking over the line-up of rams were Marchagee producers, Robyn Goods (left) and Frank Crago.



The second top price ram was bought by existing Far Valley client, Brendan Watterson, Yuelup Farms, Tenterden, for \$3800. With the ram were Elders, Wongan Hills branch manager, Jeff Brennan (left) and Mollerin Rock and Far Valley stud principal, Mitchell Applegate. Yuelup Farms bought two rams for an average of \$3650.



MOLLERIN ROCK DOHNE

PREFIX: MR FLOCK NO: 115



PREFIX: FV FLOCK NO: 007

Thank you to our new and existing clients for your support at this year's Mollerin Rock and Far Valley Dohne Ram Sale.

We really appreciate it and we will continue to be committed to improving our breeding objectives for you.



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