

LIVESTOCK

Macquarie's \$21k record ram

BY KYLIE NICHOLLS

AN "EXCEPTIONAL" ram combining elite wool and quality carcase traits set a new on-property record for the 23rd annual Macquarie Dohne production sale on Wednesday last week.

Held at Carinya, near Balmore, the sale delivered an outstanding result, with all 165 lots selling under the hammer to a full clearance and an average of \$3842, up \$885 on last year, with a sale high of \$21,000.

Strong competition for the unhoused rams came from long-term repeat clients and several new buyers, with spirited online bidding through AuctionsPlus adding further depth to the buying base.

There were 52 registered buyers in total with 72 people attending the sale and 41 online.

Rams headed to Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and across NSW, with plenty of support from the Walgett area. A bidder from Argentina also registered for the sale.

The Perry family from



Macquarie Dohnes' John Nadin, buyers Ellen, William and Stephen Perry, agent Chris Clemson, and auctioneer Paul Dooley, with the top-priced ram. Picture supplied.

Wyndabyne, Marthaguay, paid the record price for lot one in the catalogue, MD241852.

A son of MD228076, out of MD228044, the April 2024-drop ram had an

18-micron fleece with a 17.9 per cent coefficient of variation and 99.7pc comfort factor. Carcase scanning recorded an eye muscle area of 38 square centimetres and fat depth of four millimetres.

Bred from the proven Wardry sire line, his grand-sire, MD162966, was one of the top-performing sires in the Coonong Dohne Sire Evaluation trial.

Stephen Perry said the

\$21,000 ram immediately stood out for his wool quality and carcase traits, when seeing him for the first time on sale day.

"He was an exceptionally good Dohne ram and had an elite wool type that we're aiming to continue to produce in our breeding program," Mr Perry said.

"He has also got a really good carcase shape with plenty of depth. He's not overly large, but too many sheep these days have too much daylight under them. He's a very deep, wide and thick ram."

Long-standing Macquarie clients, David and Annie Berrell, Midgery, Walgett, bought the second-top-priced ram, MD253228, for \$7000.

Sired by MD231335, the May 2025-drop ram, from the Olympus family, recorded one of the highest Dohne Plus indexes in the catalogue at 168.26.

The Berrells have predominantly used Empire and Wardry bloodlines through the years and were looking to introduce another family line into their flock.

Volume buyers were the O'Brien family, Brigalows Pastoral Co, Walgett, who took home 27 rams for an average price of \$4296, while DP O'Brien from Walgett bought 19 rams to \$6000, averaging \$3868.

JG and SK Currey Partnership, Walgett, secured 11 rams paying to \$5500 for an average of \$4045; Coomalah Farming, Walgett, bought 10 rams to average \$2250 and Woomera Pastoral Co, Gurrey, took home eight rams, averaging \$4000.

Other buyers included Clark Birch and Son, Cunnamulla, Qld, which bought eight rams to average \$2312, while Rosscommon Farming, Mungindi, purchased seven rams, paying to \$5000 for an average of \$4071.

Macquarie stud principal John Nadin was thrilled with the result, particularly the return of long-term clients and the broad spread of buyers across five states.

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

Repeat buyers push Calga Dohnes to \$6000

BY KYLIE NICHOLLS

STRONG support from local and repeat buyers underpinned the success of the Pye family's 22nd annual Calga Dohne production ram sale, held for the first time on their property at Calga Station on Wednesday last week.

The stud sold 88 of 88 rams for an average of \$3139 and a top price of \$6000.

The Calga rams attracted strong support from local buyers, along with clients from Queensland and, while there was also interest from South Australia, including

the purchase of a stud ram.

The top-priced ram on the day was tag CA250190, which sold for \$6000 to Macada Rural, operating through Elders Bathurst.

Mr Pye said the twin-born, April 2025-drop ram combined a balanced set of figures with an excellent phenotype.

He recorded a post-weaning weight of +13.54, placing him in the top five per cent of the Dohne breed, while his post-weaning eye muscle depth of +1.46 ranked him in the top 10pc.

The ram also recorded a

Dohne Plus index of 231.39, ranking him in the top 5pc of the breed for overall performance.

Macada Rural operates four properties, with Goorianawa Station manager Jason Clarke selecting the rams to be run at its Cudall-based property.

Macada Rural also secured two further Calga rams, for \$4250 and \$4000.

Tag UC250352 was the second top-priced ram at \$5000 and will join the Hillview Dohne stud's breeding program at Streaky Bay, South Australia.

Volume buyer was the Webb family, Miagunyah, Warrumbungle, who bought 15 rams for an average of \$3116, paying to \$4750, while O'Sullivan Farms, Goornong, Victoria, bought 11 rams averaging \$2500. The Smith family, Argilla Pastoral, Coonamble, securing 13 rams at an average of \$2615, while Cosgrove Farming Trust, Warren, selected six rams averaging \$3666.

Nutrien and Elders Coonamble conducted the sale, with Nutrien's Brad Wilson handling the auctioneering duties.



Jason Southwell, Clancy Moore, Jason Clarke, Brad Wilson, Margie, Holly and James Pye, Kelsa Horne, Lilla Pye, Sandy Pye, Matthew Prentice and Richard Pye.

Kardinia Dohne hits \$3800

BY KYLIE NICHOLLS

SOLID support from repeat buyers, along with several new clients, reflected continued demand for dual-purpose genetics at the Mills family's 21st annual on-property Kardinia Dohne ram sale at Corowa last Thursday.

Of the 50 rams offered, 43 sold to an 86 per cent clearance, averaging \$1860 and topping at \$3800. The sale average was \$160 higher than last year, with buyers coming from across NSW, as well as Victoria and Tasmania.

The top-priced ram was tag KD250238, bought for \$3800 by the Lowry family, Glenmore, Wymah, who have been clients of Kardinia for more than 15 years.

Sired by KD220373, the July 2025-drop ram recorded a post-weaning weight ASBV of +6.2 and post-weaning eye muscle depth of +0.98, placing him in the top 30 per cent of the Dohne breed. His post-weaning fat depth of +0.54 ranked him in the top 10pc.

He also ranked in the top 10pc of the breed for yearling



Kardinia Dohne stud principal Don Mills and his son Matt were pleased with the result of their annual Corowa on-property ram sale, which averaged \$1860 and topped at \$3800. Picture supplied.

fibre diameter coefficient of variation at -1.34, number of lambs weaned at 17pc and the Dohne Plus index at 179.58.

Glenmore's David Lowry said the top-priced ram

appealed to him for both his visual attributes and Australian Sheep Breeding Values.

"He stood up really well, had nice, white, clean wool, and his figures backed him

up really well," he said.

"I don't shy away from bidding on figures. I think that's important these days, and we can trust them a lot more. That's our first guide, we identify what we want to look at by the figures and then assess them visually."

Mr Lowry runs 1100 pure Dohne ewes in a mixed-grazing operation and said the hardiness of the Dohne was a major reason for the breed's suitability to their hilly, high-rainfall country.

"My father started buying at Kardinia and we've continued that way," he said.

"They're strong sheep and survive well in our environment which is what we really like about them. They stand up really well to our country."

"Getting a good quality fleece of wool doesn't hurt either. We're getting paid reasonably well for 19 to 19.5 micron wool, and we get a decent lamb at the end."

Mr Lowry also bought another ram, with both sires to be used in December.

One of Kardinia's long-time clients, Col and Dan Withers of Cawarra Pastoral Pty Ltd, Mulwala, took

home four rams, paying the equal second-top price of \$3600 for two lots. One was KD250589, which recorded impressive figures, ranking in the top 10pc of the breed for post-weaning weight, yearling clean fleece weight and the Dohne Plus index.

First-time buyer Cathcart Nominees, Deniliquin, secured seven rams paying \$3400 for KD250555. The ram ranked in the top 10pc of the breed for post-weaning eye muscle depth, post-weaning fat and yearling clean fleece weight, while his post-weaning weight and Dohne Plus index ranked in the top 30pc.

Operating on Auctions-Plus, the Hopewood Family Trust, Coolac, bought six rams for an average of \$2166 paying to \$3000, while Mount Pleasant, Marinna, took home five rams, and IC Boyes Est, Esk Farm, Longford, Tasmania, bought three rams, paying to \$2000 twice.

Kardinia stud principal Don Mills was pleased with the result, with strong support from repeat buyers a particular highlight.

"About 90 per cent were regular clients, which was

good to see," he said. "Those people keep coming back to buy our rams, which gives us a lot of confidence in our genetics."

"Some buyers were a bit apprehensive about what they were going to pay for rams, but I think the sale proved prices were in line with other years and pretty affordable."

Mr Mills said the strength of both the wool and sheep meat markets was creating renewed interest in true dual-purpose sheep.

"It's an interesting point in the industry where wool, lamb and mutton are all good," he said.

"I think buyers now are looking for a real, true dual-purpose animal that is good in both its meat and wool attributes. When they see an animal that fits both criteria, that's what they're looking for."

The sale was jointly conducted by Elders Albury and Nutrien Albury, with Nutrien South East stud stock manager Peter Godbolt handling the auctioneering. AuctionsPlus provided the online interface.



AWN Squires' Robbie Bloch; Ian Uebergang, Oakhurst P/S, North Star; AWN's Harold Manttan; Kate Cutler of Oakhurst P/S, and Alfoxtton's Chris Clonan. Picture supplied.

Alfoxtton Dohnes sell to \$3500

STRONG competition from two loyal buyers underpinned prices at the annual Alfoxtton Dohne ram sale, on-property near Armidale on Monday.

As a result, 45 of the 55 Dohne rams offered were sold to a top of \$3500 and averaged \$1666, an increase of more than \$100 a head on last year's sale average.

Alfoxtton stud principal Chris Clonan said a highlight was the return of several local buyers after a break.

The \$3500 sale-topper was bought by the Uebergang family, Oakhurst Partner-

ship, North Star, who have been buying Dohne rams from Alfoxtton for more than 20 years. The twin-born ram had a 17.9-micron fleece with an eye muscle depth of 36 millimetres and a yearling clean fleece weight of +13.2 per cent which put him in the top 30pc of the Dohne breed.

Oakhurst Partnership bought nine rams in total for an average of \$2583, also paying \$3250 for the second top-priced ram in the sale.

Both rams were by the home-bred sire, Alfoxtton 22-0939, which Mr Clonan said was producing progeny with

exceptional wool quality.

For the second year in a row, Geoff and Sam Bucknell and their son Tom, Bucknell Grazing, Inverell, were the volume buyers on the day, taking home 17 rams for an average of \$1264.

The Bishop family, Bando Station, Mullaley, bought four rams paying to a top of \$2500 and an average of \$2000, while Wilson's Creek Pastoral Co, Uralla, bought three rams paying to \$2500.

The sale was conducted by AWN Squires, Inverell, with Robbie Bloch as auctioneer.

— KYLIE NICHOLLS