

The 2020 season at The Yanko provided an exceptional sheep breeding year for which we are seeing the benefits of in our sheep flock. At general shearing in March the 1,050 Stud and 4,600 Commercial ewes, together with 2,600 ewe weaners all presented in excellent condition, with wool cuts up and the ewes in great lambing condition.

Rains in late March carried us through a dry Autumn and early Winter, but by May we were feeding all ewes. Rain in June has given the season a positive outlook with clovers growing well and lots of healthy lambs. In the maiden ewes, 101% lambs were marked to ewes joined.

Our breeding objective continues to be heavy cutting, stylish and high yielding wool on plainer body ewes with good constitution.

2020 Auction Results – Due to increased demand an offering of 90 horned and poll rams were put up for auction. A top price of \$5750 was reached for a Merino and twice the Polls made \$5250 with an average of \$2412 over 89 rams.

The top priced horned ram was purchased by long term client Nauvess Pty Ltd, Longwood Victoria. Nutrien Agent David Welsh, Benalla, commented “he is an upstanding ram, with very white stylish wool which suits our high rainfall country. We are getting very good lambing percentages and recently sold wether lambs 10-11 months for export.” Both Poll rams went to return client Bungeelap, Glenhope Victoria



The top priced ram with Stephen Chalmers, Nutrien, Ian Cameron, The Yanko



Elizabeth Cameron, The Yanko, with her Ram Shed favourite “Clive” who was sold to David Gregory, North Coree, Jerilderie, and Ian Cameron, The Yanko

THE YANKO MERINO – GENETICS THAT WORK

The Yanko has always been happy to compare ourselves to other flocks knowing our genetics will perform in a commercial enterprise. We test our breeding decisions in our own commercial flock and continue to achieve great results. In 2020 the commercials marked 116% to ewes joined and in 2021, 106%.

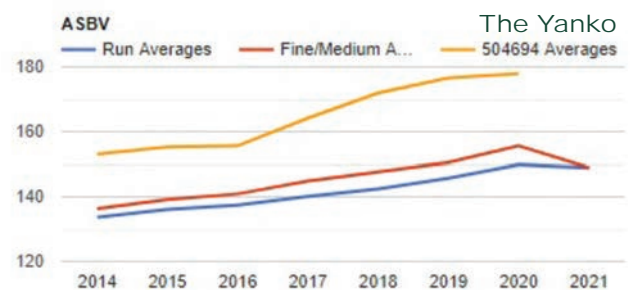
DNA pedigree is continuing to be a valuable investment, allowing us to identify ewes that consistently breed high quality progeny. These dams are then assessed physically for special joining or ET and AI programs.

Our goal of producing an animal with high quality fibre, frame and fertility remains and we can provide all information necessary for our clients to make sound selection decisions. Our use of certain ASBV traits, such as yearling clean fleece weight and post weaning and yearling weight, is still important to help provide confidence in what we are selecting.

Our use of the MP and DP Indexes has changed over the last five years with less emphasis on the index as a ranking system and more on traits that suit our goals. It is our view that with the way indexes are calculated, too often animals are promoted with traits that do not match our selection criteria. Even though we have reduced emphasis on the indexes the entire 2020 drop average is in the top 10% of the analysis for MP+ and top 20% for DP+. MLA is currently updating the indexes and we look forward to the release of these.

With a number of clients moving towards a non-mulesed flock we have started collecting more traits focused on this transition. Breech wrinkle and cover scores were collected at lamb marking and adult wrinkle will be collected post shearing. This data will be available as ASBV traits next year.

To further benchmark and increase data accuracy for our rams, we are currently entered in the SA Merino Sire Evaluation 2021 drop, 2021 MLA Resource Flock and North East Sire Evaluation (2019).



Sheep Genetics. MP+ Index averages by year. Analysis dated: 7-Jun-21.

GOING FORWARD IN 2021

The 2020 drop rams are a very even group, showcasing our typical high quality wool on an uncomplicated animal. They have tested well for YCFW, YWT and PWWT, and present as a strong line of sires.

Michael Elmes has now been assisting with classing for seven years and with a full generation of his selections we are very happy with the direction of the stud. Over this time our Poll numbers have continued to grow, and they are now sitting at 50% of the stud.

THE YANKO MERINO

2021 On-Property Ram Sale

90 Merino and Poll Merino Rams

Thursday, 23 September, 2021

Inspection 10.00am - Sale Commencing 12.30pm

We are displaying Rams at the following venues for a chance to inspect at leisure and have time to go away and think of the virtues of a purchase from The Yanko, prior to our Ram Sale on 23 September!

Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo - 16-18 July

Deniliquin Sheep Expo - 13 August

South West Slopes Field Day, Harden - 31 August

Private inspection prior to the Ram Sale can be organised, please contact Ian if you require this.

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For the latest updates visit: www.theyanko.com

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Merino