

MEDIA RELEASE

Significant purchases by Orrie Cowie

The Dalla family, Orrie Cowie stud, Warrooka, South Australia, made two significant purchases during their visit to WA Merino Week last week. Their biggest outlay was \$15,000 for a young Nepowie sire.

After initially spotting the ram on the first day of field days, the Dallas returned to Nepowie on Friday on their way back to the airport to make a final decision. Orrie Cowie co-principal Heather Dalla said the Nepowie ram was one of the best Poll sires they had seen during the field days. "He has good growth and was 50 per cent above the Nepowie average for bodyweight at 11 months of age," she said.

"He shows excellent length of body and structural correctness and carries a crimpy, well nourished, sirey, medium wool."

Another factor influencing the purchase was his breeding predictability.

Nepowie N16, was a May 2008-drop and ET bred, sired by N787 and is out of one of the stud's top ET ewes. Both N16's sire and dam were on display at the stud's field day as were four of N16's direct ET brothers, with all very even throughout. Nepowie stud principal Cameron White said N16 is very similar to his sire with both early maturing, long bodied sheep with very good wool, which is long stapled and with excellent crimp definition.

"He is a frame sheep with very good wool," he said.

When N16 was shorn on April 6 along with other stud reserves and sale rams, his bodyweight was 22kg above the overall average, all straight out of the paddock at 11 months of age. His current bodyweight is 102kg, he is very good on his feet and measures 21.5 microns.

The stud's other purchase was on Thursday at the Rabobank Katanning Show and Sale where it also bought a ram privately for \$5000 from the Jones family's Belka Valley stud, Bruce Rock.

John and Tim Dalla spotted the fine-medium wool, March shorn, Poll Merino ram during judging at the show and took an immediate liking to it.

John said the ram, which was sired by Belka Valley Max, was a lovely, big two tooth.

"He has beautiful white, nourished wool," he said.

"Given our location, which is coastal, we require a lot of nourishment in the wools."

"It doesn't get too cold where we are, so flies can be a problem which is why we breed wools that are white and well-nourished."

"This ram will complement our breeding policy perfectly."

Belka Valley stud principal Phil Jones said the ram was judged the champion fine-medium wool March shorn Poll Merino ram of the show and tested at 18.4 micron, 3 SD, 14.8 CV and 99.8pc CF. It weighed in at 130kg.

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Nepowie stud principal Cameron White with Nepowie N16, which the stud sold for \$15,000 to the Orrie Cowie stud, Warooka, South Australia, last week.



Belka Valley stud, Bruce Rock, sold this ram privately for \$5000 to the South Australian-based Orrie Cowie stud, Warooka, during WA Merino Week. With the ram are Belka Valley stud principals Robyn (left), and Phil Jones and buyers Heather and John Dalla, Orrie Cowie stud.