



# Newsletter March 2010

**RW Redwood**  
**WS White Suffolks 661**  
**Poll Dorsets 4474**

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## Replacement ewes—where from?



CFA ewes sold on-property for \$135/head, in February 2010

Prices received for lamb and mutton have been consistently high for some time. This makes it tempting to sell ewe lambs for meat to increase cash flow rather than retain replacements. The National Ewe Flock is diminishing making replacement ewes hard to source. Purchasing replacement ewes is an expensive exercise as they can be as high as \$170 each (source-SJ 11/3/2010). It would seem a better business decision to breed those replacement

ewes yourself. Therefore, selecting the best ewe lambs from your flock to be your replacement ewe breeding flock makes good business sense and is not difficult to manage. This frees up cash for the purchase of good ram genetics to mate to these ewes and improve your flock and profitability further.

Research in WA has shown that a self-replacing merino flock was significantly more profitable in the pastoral areas, than dorpers, wiltipolls and damaras. Even though the merino flock used more labour the value of the ewes fleece was extremely important to profitability. Therefore a self-replacing merino flock cutting quality wool, and to breed replacement ewes for a crossbreeding pro-

gramme for lamb, makes sound business sense.

Wool quality has long been the hallmark of "Orrie Cowie" bloodline sheep. Woolgrowers from all over Australia tell us they buy "Orrie Cowie" sheep to improve their wool and have never been disappointed. They often report near legendary improvement in wool cuts and quality straight from the first drop.

Remember:

BETTER RAMS

BREED BETTER LAMBS.

*"it is our desire that you purchase profitable, easy-care sheep, capable of taking you quickly along the breeding path we have already forged"*

### IMPORTANT DATES in 2010

- **11TH AUGUST: ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE**
- 10TH AUGUST: PRE-SALE INSPECTION DAY
- 10TH AUGUST: PRE-SALE SHED "PARTY"
- 4TH-5TH JUNE: "SHEARING OF RAMS" REENACTMENT AT NORTH TUPPAL
- 16TH-18TH JULY: ASWS, BENDIGO
- 2ND-3RD AUGUST: HAMILTON SHEEVENTION
- **FLOCK RAMS ARE AVAILABLE NOW**



**Better rams breed better lambs -**

**The right wool from the right genetics on the right bodies**

**Orrie Cowie continues to be one of the nation's leading flocks**

Visit our website: [www.orriecowie.com.au](http://www.orriecowie.com.au)

◆ **Quality robust Merino & Poll Merinos backed with full & factual performance data** ◆

**Come and see for yourself**

**Next Annual Sale - Wednesday 11th August 2010 -**

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Call us to receive our newsletter &/or sale catalogue when available

Also breeders of  
**RW Redwood**  
**WS White Suffolks**

National  
John's  
Program  
MN3V

## 2009 RAM PURCHASES



Purchased a son of "Belka Valley Max" From Phil and Robyn Jones, Bruce Rock, WA, pictured with Heather And John

In keeping with our aim to produce profitable, easy-care sheep we purchased several poll sires in 2009. By doing this we were able to increase the genetic pool of our poll merinos and make more poll families available to you to select your replacement poll merino sires from.

**Nep16** purchased from Newport Stud, WA, is an early-maturing, long-bodied sheep carrying a long-stapled, crimped, well-nourished medium wool.

Semen is available. His lambs look terrific.

**BVMax** purchased from Belka Valley Stud, WA is a nourished, fine-medium wool ram, measuring 18.4 $\mu$  FD, 3.0 $\mu$  SD, 14.8% CV and 99.8% CF. Semen is available.

We purchased the top-priced ram from Radnor stud, Murray Bridge—a big, upstanding ram with well-nourished medium wool, measuring 18.8 $\mu$  FD, 2.9 $\mu$  SD, 15.4% CV, 100% CF



Purchased top-priced ram from Radnor Stud, Murray Bridge SA. Pictured with John are Tom Penna, Elders Stud Stock, Steve and Eric Koehler

### REMEMBER

Tom Roberts' famous painting "Shearing the Rams".

## "Shearing the Rams" Re-enactment

Once a day the painting will come to life (on the 4th and 5th June) at North Tuppall Station. The machines will be silenced, so 72 blade shearers can recreate history.

Now run by the Atkinson family and situated at Tocumwal (NSW) on the River Murray, after 100 years the old Tuppall Station Wool Shed will come to life. Shearing 5,000 sheep, a

staff of 300 will showcase the spirit and history of the sheep industry, and 125 years of competition shearing in Australia.

Friday is for guests and schools only. Saturday is open to the public with demonstrations, hands on displays, merchandise and catering.

Sport Shear Australia Asso-

ciation and the Atkinson family welcome you to join us support the Australian Team to the Golden Shears World Championships "Royal Welsh Show" Wales 2010.

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Dennis showing visitors the 4-5 month old poll lambs on display.

## Interest at Burra

Orrie Cowie's display at the SA Merino Field Days held at Burra on March 15th., created a lot of interest.

The quality wool shorn from paddock run ewes made a superb entry to see the quality young rams on display. All except the 4-5 month old lambs will be available at our on-property ram sale on

11th August. Mark this date on your calendar.

White Suffolk rams will also be for sale on the day, allowing you to purchase all your ram needs at the same time.

This year's wool clip was the result of a successful change to summer shearing aimed at shearing in much more pleasant conditions for the ewes.

We cut an average of 8kg of fleece into the press over all lines (studs and commercial) with a maximum 21.2 $\mu$  and hoggets at 17.5 $\mu$ . Yields were down a bit due to a sandy mallee block but staple strength averaged near 40NKT.

CLIP RESULTS: AAAM

21.2 $\mu$  FD, 97.5% CF, 1.6% VM, 70.5% Yld, 98mm SL, 36NKT  
20.0 $\mu$  FD, 98.7% CF, 3.2% VM, 64.5% Yld, 83mm SL, 39 NKT