

WELCOME TO THE NEW HOME OF KOONWARRA MERINO STUD

As from January 2006, Koonwarra is owned in a partnership between Charles Curran and his family's Capital Investments Rural Pty Ltd and Charlie Merriman and his family's Merrignee Pty Ltd.

The management objectives for the Koonwarra Stud are to continue to breed the Koonwarra type, which we believe is a large frame sheep, with nourished white wool that has good staple length, a defined crimp and as much fleece weight as possible. Also to develop the other well known traits of Koonwarra, such as their easy care and doing ability - this has been genetically bred into the Koonwarra stud sheep from its foundation in 1947.

We will use the traditional benchmarks of micron, S.D., C.V., Comfort Factor, Fleece Weight and Bodyweight etc, and will subjectively look to increase fleece weight, quality of fleece and to incorporate an overall increase in frame with a lowering or maintaining of micron. We intend to use the new S.G.A. figures, when they are finalised by the A.W.I., to help to further our breeding objectives. We look forward to our clients' views on this area of breeding in the ongoing years.



Charlie and Stuart at 2006 Koonwarra Ewe Sale

While we will be pursuing these goals vigorously, in no way will the genetics of the Koonwarra type be allowed to change their renowned traits. These include their well sprung ribs, length of body, overall structure and their ability to be used in vastly different climate areas of Australia. Koonwarra is known for their ability to improve the profitability of merino flocks, with their heavy fleece weights and their high fertility, and lamb survival rate.



Pip, Charlie and Joe Curran at 2006 Koonwarra Ewe Sale

The Koonwarra A.I. program undertaken yearly will ensure that the breeding objectives can be maintained and developed. We will use Koonwarra sires and some outside genetics, when the management team, Charlie, Stuart and Jono, agree on an appropriate stud sire.

The Koonwarra Merino fits into the new era of versatility required in the industry now, and we look forward to the future, as has been said in previous newsletters "Koonwarra is only as successful as its clients".

KOONWARRA MERINO STUD ANNUAL SHOW & SALE SCHEDULE

JANUARY	Great Southern Supreme Merino Show & Sale (Canberra Showground)
FEBRUARY	Koonwarra/Merrignee Stud and Commercial Ewe Sale, last Thursday in Feb. at 1pm at Little Range. Canberra Show
MARCH	Boorowa Show
EASTER	Sydney Show
JULY	Bendigo (Vic) Show & Sale
AUGUST	Hamilton (Vic) Sheepvention Sale Dubbo National Show & Sale
OCTOBER	Koonwarra Annual on-property Ram Sale, second Friday in October at 1pm

HISTORY

Until 1998, Koonwarra Merino Stud was located at Crookwell, and owned and managed by Mr John Williams, Thalaba, Crookwell. John is a very highly regarded stud master, and Koonwarra amassed many prestigious awards under his guidance and developed a much sought after and renowned Koonwarra sheep type.

In 1998, Mr Charles Curran and his family purchased the Koonwarra Stud and relocated it to Canowindra, where Mr Curran has conducted rural operations since 1980. On his family's property Noojee Lea, operations include the Koonwarra merino flock, together with cropping, lucerne hay, crossbred lambs, Nassau Estate vineyard, and

Springdale thoroughbred stud. Mr Curran was the inaugural Chairman of the Australian Wool Exchange.

Mr Curran employed Mr Stuart Hodgson as the stud classer. He has a proven track record and a high reputation for knowing merino breeding and developing it. We appreciate and welcome Stuart's work and support, now and in the years ahead.

During December 2005 and January 2006, Koonwarra Merino Stud moved to Little Range, Boorowa on the South-West slopes of NSW, under a joint venture, Koonwarra Merino Stud Partnership, between the Curran and Merriman families.

We look forward to working together, Charles, Stuart, Charlie and Jono, for the benefit of the Koonwarra Merino Stud.



Jono with Champion Fine Wool March shorn Ewe at 2006 Canberra Show

STUD MANAGER CHARLIE MERRIMAN STUD CLASSER STUART HODGSON

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