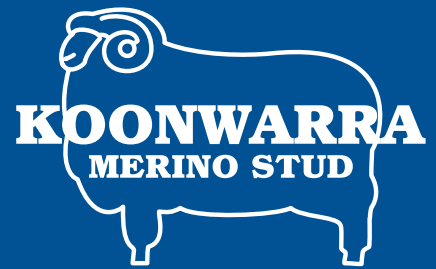


NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

STUD PRINCIPALS CHARLES CURRAN AC, LL.B. FCPA., CHARLIE & JONO MERRIMAN

STUD MANAGERS CHARLIE & JONO MERRIMAN **STUD CLASSER** STUART HODGSON OAM.

Charlie, Jono, Charles, Joe and Stuart sincerely thank our clients, bidders and under bidders for their support during 2010 – our fifth year of having Koonwarra Merino Stud based at Boorowa. We feel that the Koonwarra sheep are certainly developing in the direction we wish and showing us the potential that the Koonwarra sheep have.

We, Charlie and Jono, enjoy our working relationship with Stuart Hodgson and the Curran family and we are very positive about the direction of the Koonwarra stud and its qualities, and look forward to the future.

We feel Koonwarra sheep offer clients the potential of big roomy ewes with a strong constitution and good bone with bright white fine/medium wool that cuts plenty of kilograms.

BEST WISHES FROM ALL AT KOONWARRA FOR A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Koonwarra held its 33rd Annual On-Property Ram Sale on its new date, Wednesday 29 September 2010 at Little Range. We thank all those who attended and your support was most appreciated with 52 of the 60 rams offered being sold for an average of \$1,139. Thank you to Kevin and Helene Grabham from Bathurst, who bought the top priced ram Lot 4 for \$2,100, and to the volume buyers at the sale who each took home 8 rams, Angus and Gayle Oberg from Bowring, and John and Christine Gay from Boorowa.

We do encourage past and present Koonwarra clients to come to the combined Koonwarra / Merrignee Ram Sale Preview Day held in mid September each year – in 2011 it will be held on Monday 19 September. This way merino breeders can inspect and assess the development of the Koonwarra Stud at their leisure and see all the young rams to be put up for auction on 29 September. We do appreciate all feedback on our sheep.

We have some good quality May/June 2009 drop flock rams available for autumn 2011 joining.



Photo from 2010 ram sale, John Gay of Boorowa who bought 8 rams with Jono and Charlie holding a ram, Lot 14, purchased by Sue & Chris Braid of Boorowa.

COMING EVENTS FOR KOONWARRA

FIELD DAY – FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2011

Koonwarra Stud will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm, as part of the Great Southern Supreme Merino Field Day. On display will be the rams that will be for sale at Great Southern Supreme Merino Show and Sale (GSSM) at Canberra Showground, some Koonwarra sires and Stud ewes with their progeny.

G.S.S.M. RAM SALE –

MONDAY 24 JANUARY 2011, 11AM

**In the air conditioned Fitzroy Pavilion
at the Canberra Showground (EPIC)**

Koonwarra will be offering the following 2 rams through Landmark.

NO. 1 RAM. This sire is from the Uniform family which has been a long standing genetic group in the history of Koonwarra stud. His sire, Uniform 2.647, is still used as a sire in the stud and this ram was used in 2009 as a 2 tooth young ram with some of the stud ewes.

He is a big bodied sire with spring of rib and strong rounded rear, very suitable for the merino wether lamb trade. He has a square stance and open head with very strong bone.

The fleece is a medium wool type with good crimp and bright style with length of staple and plenty of bulk for the medium crimp style. He has great figures with micron 17.2, SD 2.8, CV 16.3 and Comfort Factor of 99.7% which ensures that there is no blowout of micron in these better seasons. With a bodyweight of 108 kgs, this sire is very suitable for the meat and wool merino trade, which is now proving to be very profitable for merino producers.

NO. 2 RAM. While this sire is listed as No 2 he certainly has tremendous qualities of his own. His sire is Nerstane 3646, which has been very successful in the Koonwarra stud.

A sire with good frame, a square stance and soft muzzle which generally denote good quality fleece type. With this ram that is exactly

how it develops – he has a rich, well nourished fleece with softness and bulk. He has a very distinctive bold fine wool crimp, with good staple length and well covered down the legs and through his underline.

He has a micron of 18.0, SD 3.4, CV 18.9 and Comfort Factor of 99.8% complimenting the stylish fleece of this ram.

He is very suitable for improving wool type in medium wool flocks and adding fleece weight for fine wool flocks. He weighs 90.4 kgs

KOONWARRA STUD & COMMERCIAL EWE SALE

There will be no Ewe Sale in 2011 due to lack of ewe numbers available for sale and the need for us to build up our own stud numbers after so many years of drought.

However there are some CFA and Two tooth stud ewes available for private sale from mid January.

Enquiries are welcome now as the Koonwarra ewes have been classed before their December joining. If you are interested please give Charlie, Jono or Stuart a call and we can arrange an inspection.

KOONWARRA THOUGHTS FROM CHARLIE

The season has definitely turned around with most areas receiving large amounts of summer rains and the Boorowa district is also having its share, which is a great relief from the past decade of dry, dusty years.

All the different seasons bring their own management problems and most recently it is one of fleece breakdowns and fly problems – the Koonwarra flock are coping very well with these problems at the moment. After nearly 300mms of rain over the past month, Koonwarra ewes and progeny on Little Range have incurred about 5% of the flock being affected.

This ability to handle higher rainfall patterns has to be attributed to the previous owners and classers of the Koonwarra stud for their foresight and merino knowledge to develop a type of large framed, white wool merino that can handle these intense weather patterns. This area of genetics is in constant review by Stuart Hodgson, Jono and I when we discuss new sires that may be used with the stud ewes.

Finally now the merino wool market has the prices up where growers can not only consider the merino meat markets as a profit area. The future for both wool and meat markets staying very viable is why the merino flock is now one of the top money commodities on farms in Australia.

Koonwarra merino sheep with their balance of very good body weights along with their quality wool type are one of the top grade merino bloodlines to take advantage of these profit areas.

I ask clients to view the Australian Government Carbon Credit Review at the website of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and give feedback to the Federal Government ASAP via email by the due date of 21st January 2011 – CFI@climatechange.gov.au

This consultation paper is the first step in a dialogue with stakeholders about the Carbon Farming Initiative. It describes and seeks stakeholder feedback on a range of options in relation to the design of the scheme.

I do not believe that some of the Review is correct or practical, such as the following examples. It mentions – if credits are given, and if stocking rates change then new audits will have to be completed; Single superphosphate will be carbon taxed; ploughed land will be taxed; all properties have to be audited; Government shall have an ownership of land that receives carbon credits; When selling land carbon credits/ or tax have to be assessed and the purchaser must agree to the protocols.

Koonwarra Stud will be exhibiting at the GSSM 22–23 January, Canberra Show 26–27 February, Sydney Royal Shows 13–15 April and Dubbo late August in 2011.

Koonwarra will be offering rams for sale at the GSSM sale on 24 January and Dubbo in late August and at our Annual on property sale on 29 September 2011.

LITTLE RANGE PO BOX 29 BOOROWA NSW 2586
merino@koonwarrastud.com.au www.koonwarrastud.com.au

STUART HODGSON OAM – 02 6924 4042 / 0427 908 831

CHARLIE MERRIMAN – 02 6385 3396 / 0427 289 018

JONO MERRIMAN – 02 6385 3480 / 0427 272 238

