



Nerstane Merino News

January 2012

The latest information on Nerstane Merino Stud's Proven Results and Performance

NSW Ram of the Year's progeny set to perform well in the paddock

There has been some very different bloodlines trial semen from N910. This is a real compliment to Nerstane as the ram was so correct in many ways.

N910 exceeded all expectations in the show ring this year. He won Grand Champion August shorn Ram at Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Walcha Shows (NSW). He was awarded Champion August Fine Wool Ram at The Sydney Royal Easter Show. As a long wool sheep, N910 won Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram at Bendigo and was a close second for Supreme by all accounts. He then went on to Dubbo where he was awarded Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram and then Supreme Exhibit and NSW Ram of the Year.

We hope he'll be as good in the paddock as he was in the Show ring. Nerstane will have plenty of his progeny for sale in 2013, and you'll see them at our Field Day on 14 January with N910 in his working clothes. There'll also be a full brother (younger) on show who in our opinion is another outstanding animal.



LEFT TO RIGHT: HAMISH, JOCK AND JOHN MCLAREN WITH N910 WHO PERFORMED WELL AT THE SYDNEY SHOW, BENDIGO, AND WAS THEN JUDGED DUBBO SUPREME EXHIBIT AND NSW RAM OF THE YEAR IN 2011



N590

Potential Sire Lot 1 at On-Property Sale

Although we were originally going to use N590 at Nerstane, we have decided instead to sell him at our on-property sale. He is a son of N15 (who was a full brother to N4636), and out of a daughter of 'Droopy' who was a huge woolcutter and a son of N142.

N590 is a huge ram that has bone and tremendous depth through the flank. This ram has a massive strong head on him with coverage right to the points. N590 is very correct on all four feet standing wide and proud. He weighed 136kg on 30/12/2011 and tested 20.7 microns on full feed as a 2 year old ram. We will mid side sample him again before the sale.

Visit
www.nerstane.com.au
for a full catalogue or call
0429 772 778

On-Property Sale
Friday 27 January 2012

Major improvements within 7 years for the Branson's South Australian enterprise

The Branson's mixed farming operation is at Stockport, South Australia, one hour North of Adelaide. The sheep enterprise includes a flock of 1100 self replacing pure merino ewes while the CFA ewes are used for a Poll Dorset terminal operation.

Their merinos started in 1958 with the purchase of a line of fine/medium wool Peppin ewes. They were put over a famous SA bloodline and produced a lot of wool initially but over time cut less and became too strong. In 1995 with the aim of increasing wool cut and fining the clip down the Bransons changed to a famous NSW stud. This was successful with the micron dropping from 24u to 21u and there was a

significant increase in wool cut, but the sheep had become extremely hard to shear and in their words, "the shearers were not happy with them" and it became evident that they needed to change direction again.

In 2005 they changed to the Nerstane bloodline, which in the Bransons' opinion was "a stud with similar breeding goals and objectives" to theirs and one that "used performance indicators with a strong eye on the animal."

"Today, the micron of the main lines is down to 19u and the hogget wool 18u. Last

year's main adult shearing had an average greasy wool price of 1056c/kg with the top line making 1550c/kg. The wool cut is down slightly from the 2000's, but the extra price for the wool has easily made up for this and the shearers don't complain anymore. The culls have improved also with the percent culls well down on the earlier bloodlines and they have to find reasons to cull some of the hoggets now. "

The size of the sheep has not dropped much from the SA bloodline days, and the Bransons are selecting for the larger framed rams from Nerstane's on-property ram sale.

The Bransons see the future of the flock in decreasing micron to meet the consumer demands of natural soft feeling fabric and increasing wool cut while maintaining body size for feeding the prime lamb enterprise. After their experiences over the past 7 years, they have concluded that the Nerstane bloodline "fits in well" with their goals.

Pens of 3 still a better price option for people

This year Nerstane is aiming to have approx. the same number of rams (200-220) for sale as last year.

We will again offer Pens of 3 at the conclusion of the single pen ram auction.

The reason we are doing this again is because we want to ensure that there are a range of price options available to all of our clients. By having the Pens of 3, people can buy much cheaper rams and get a few numbers together as well.

At last year's sale, for example, the average of the pens of 3 was 60% cheaper than the single pens inside.

NEW ENGLAND FIELD DAYS
NERSTANE
SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2012
EVERYONE WELCOME
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!
OPEN ALL DAY

Thank you again to our long-time Stud clients

The Armidale Housed sale in February was supported by Terry and Kath Dolbell taking our only ram home to Bathurst for \$6,000. Terry and Kath also made the trip down to Hamilton to purchase N745 which was our second top price.

Coryule Merino Stud again supported us at Hamilton purchasing N779 who topped the sale at Hamilton Sheepvention going for \$9000. Coryule (Nerstane's latest daughter Stud) sold for the first time at Ballarat and topped the sale at \$5500 with a son of N10. (See photo on right) Congratulations Craig and Russell.

N785, who was awarded the Champion Fine/Medium Wool Ram at Bendigo, was sold at Dubbo to Rodger and Kim Mathews from Borambil Stud for \$16000.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

LEFT TO RIGHT: CRAIG TRICKEY AND RUSSELL SLOAN FROM CORYULE MERINO STUD WITH BUYER GRAEME HARVEY WITH THEIR EQUAL TOP PRICED RAM AT THE BALLARAT RAM SALES IN JULY



Things looking very good for progeny of N318: first lambs here

We are VERY excited about N318's initial progeny. N318's first lambs hit the ground in August and they are extremely even and have that same rich wool as their father. Nerstane has kept full semen rights in this ram and have also entered him in the 2011 New England CTSE site.

N318 was Grand Champion Fine/Medium wool Ram at Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Walcha and Sydney Royal.

At Sydney he then went on to be judged Best Ram of the Show and then Supreme Exhibit. He was shorn at Sydney and also won the production class cutting 14.3kg and scanning 40mm eye muscle. Nerstane used the ram and then offered him for sale at Bendigo in July 2011.

N318 was sold for \$26,000 to a syndicate of three studs including Beaufront Stud (TAS), Eilan Donan and Mt Widderin Studs (VIC).

AT RIGHT: HAMISH MCLAREN HOLDING N318 AFTER WINNING SUPREME EXHIBIT SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2011



ABOVE: N318 IS WITH (L TO R) ANDREW CALVERT T.P JONES STUDSTOCK, GEOFF NOTMAN MT WIDDERIN STUD, JOCK MACRAE EILAN DONAN STUD, JOHN, HAMISH AND HELD BY JOCK MCLAREN



Why you'll get return on investment from Nerstane genetics

Nerstane sheep are not always the biggest or the finest. However, it's the balance of subjective and objective measurement that we consider to be most important indicator of performance.

For us, performance in someone else's paddock is more important than winning in the show ring.

Nerstane selection outcomes and genetic trend have been used to monitor and report on the progress of the flock. Nerstane has maintained a personalised breeding objective and associated index that in recent years has included a high level of emphasis on Fibre Diameter and moderate emphasis on Fleece Weight and CV. Nerstane's breeding objective also includes emphasis on Worm Resistance,

Body Weight, and Staple Strength to maintain or slightly improve these traits' performance. Visual assessed traits are also an important part of Nerstane's objective to maintain the highest standards of structural soundness, wool quality and fleece rot resistance.

Nerstane genetics have been getting benchmarked in the showring and in Superior Sires for well over twenty years.

This genetic gain has not been at the expense of traits that are not reported in black and white. Independent judges have over a long period regularly identified a large number of the stud's leading sires and their progeny as being of a very high standard for structural conformation, wool quality traits and fleece rot resistance.

"Since introducing Nerstane into our flock 5 years ago we are continually seeing improvement in our sheep. We choose to use Nerstane because of the stud's continual commitment to improve their sheep, which in turn benefits our flock. The McLaren family is nothing but helpful and willing to answer any questions when it comes to ram selection. For these reasons we will continue to use Nerstane in the improvement of our flock and we can do it with confidence."

-Daniel Rayner, Sheep Manager for Pegela Pastoral Company who will be joining 10,000 ewes this year at "Mayfield" near Oberon, NSW

Nerstane's view on the wool industry...

The merino is at last on the move in the right direction and producers should look forward to a good year in 2012 and beyond. The correction in the market that we had to have has hopefully now happened - fingers crossed we'll see only gradual rises now.

The EMI has finished the first half of the season at 1189¢, 158¢ higher than in the same week last year. The season average of 1233¢ is 302¢ higher than the season average at the end of Week 24 last year.

Obviously the problems in Europe are a concern to all of us, and if something more negative happens there in the future, the

Chinese may try to exploit the situation tenfold.

The good news is that there are so many in the developing countries getting richer by the day. In fact, the world has never experienced a period where so many people are improving their standard of living at the same time. This, along with the complete shortage of wool, has to be an enormous plus for the future of the wool market.

Producers can also continue to look forward to great prices for merino ewes as numbers are down and as always there is large demand from the meat sheep breeders.



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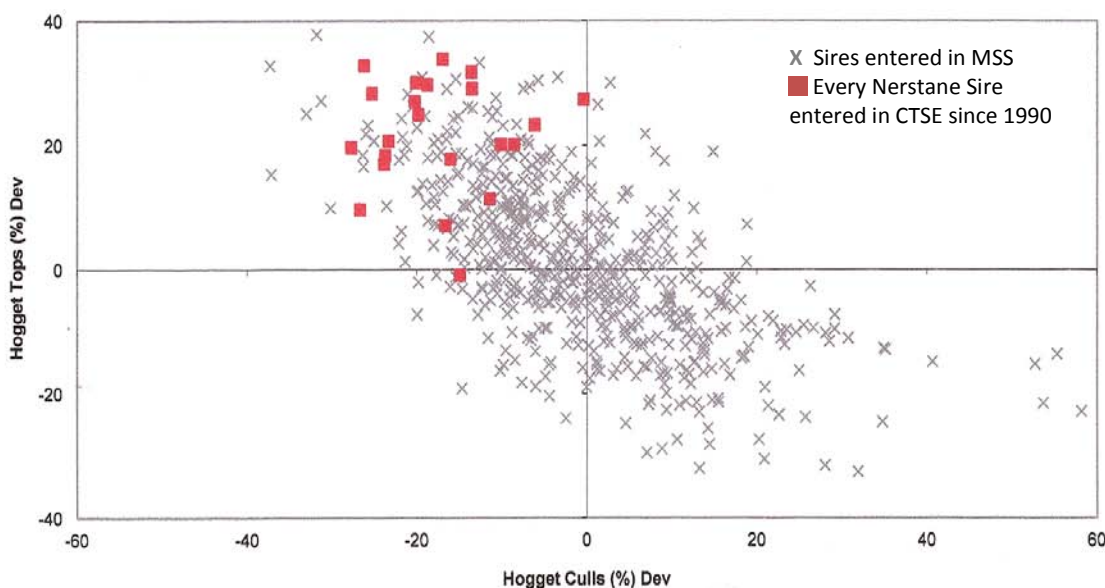
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Nerstane genetics will make the difference you've been looking for in your breeding program

Nerstane is one of the only studs that benchmark themselves against the rest of the industry in every possible way. We enter our genetics in Central Test Sire Evaluations, the show ring, wether trials and fleece competitions. We do this so that you, our clients, can buy Nerstane genetics with confidence and know that you have maximised the profitability for your breeding enterprise. Rest assured that we want to see you make money and do well in 2012 just as much as you do.

Merino Superior Sires: Hogget Tops & Culls (1989-2009 Drops)



This graph shows one of the most important reasons why Nerstane can consistently ensure you'll have better sheep to keep and higher priced ones to sell.

*SOURCE: Advanced Breeding Services
Sheep Industry Development Centre
Orange Agricultural Institute NSW*

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