



Nerstane Merino News

December 2007

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



N10 WHO WAS JUDGED CHAMPION FINE WOOL MARCH SHORN RAM AT THE DUBBO NATIONAL SHOW 2007

Nerstane excels in production class

Nerstane's other hopeful new stud sire is N4636 because of his extraordinary skin and fleeceweight.

As a 2 year old ram at Dubbo National show, he was regulation shorn in the production class and was the heaviest cutting, with the finest micron out of all the rams. He cut 16.1 kg of 18.7 micron wool!

Many heads turned when the results were given! Judging by semen enquiries

so far... we aren't the only ones that think he is something unique.

The fleece on the day was valued at \$125.66 and will be on display at the Field Days alongside the ram.

Nerstane entered N4636 in the Tasmanian and Western Australian sire evaluation sites earlier this year.

Real results at Dubbo for new talent

After escaping the judge's eye at the Sydney Royal, N10 received a broad ribbon from a major show. Shorn over six weeks late, (mid April after Sydney) he still managed to win his class and went on to be champion fine wool at Dubbo.

N10 was 125kg at Dubbo (25 months old) with outstanding tests of 17.2 microns, 2.9 SD, 16.9 CV and 99.4% comfort factor.

The Nerstane team has high hopes for this ram and regards him as the next major sire influence for the stud. N10 has exceptional scale and bone for his wooltype. His very strong head and his ability to always stand so correctly and wide on his feet confirm our position on this.

Moreover, N10's first progeny were the best lambs out of the whole 2007 drop!

We have entered him in sire evaluation trials and we'll keep you posted on his results.

Don't Forget

**NERSTANE FIELD DAY
12 JAN 2008
Open all day
ALL WELCOME!**

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On Property Sale
Friday 25 January 2008

Nerstane on top in Craig Wilson Wether Trial

Nerstane is currently leading the Craig Wilson wether trial which is being run at Alectown, near Parkes NSW. The trial has 51 teams of 15 wethers which were independently drafted as weaners.

Extract taken from ABC country hour:
"There are 750 young male merino sheep run together in a paddock near Parkes as

part of Australia's largest wether trial for many decades.

The sheep, from 51 studs, received the same access to feed, treatment and vet medicines. They ran as a flock in the same climatic conditions in an effort to determine their comparative genetic values.

The 18-month-old sheep were valued on the basis of wool cut and carcass.

Craig Wilson, the independent sheep classer and trial operator says there was a \$45 difference from the highest to lowest performing sheep.

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JOCK MCLAREN HOLDS N4615 (NEW NAME "SIR JAMES") WHICH WAS SOLD AT DUBBO 2007 FOR \$13000. LEFT TO RIGHT BEHIND RAM: HAMISH MCLAREN, STUART HODGSON LANDMARK STUDSTOCK SPECIALIST, BRUCE ANGEL, JEFF ANGEL, BROULA MERINO STUD

Broula Merino Stud pleased with purchase

Broula's comments about the ram:

"A son of impact sire N43, this deep barrelled ram carries a supple loose skin and an impressive 17.2 micron fleece boasting top figures with a comfort factor 99.4, a CV of 16.9 and a SD of 2.9. With terrific handle and lustre, his snow white fleece possesses style second to none. Underneath, "Sir James" stands as a sire should. He has a great horn set and soft white muzzle, square back and good coverage. Most impressive however, is this ram's bone, weighing in at 132 kg prior to being sold at Dubbo."

Broula stud has had great success using Nerstane semen and rams. Their last ram purchase was N633 (new name "ZAC") when they paid \$9000 at Dubbo in 1997. We hope Sir James breeds as well as Zac did, who left outstanding progeny all over the country.

Borambil average up again!

Long time Nerstane stud ram clients Borambil Stud near Albury, NSW, once again have had a great ram selling season. Rodger and Kim Mathews, who took over the stud in 2006 from Rodger's father Len, said "The Nerstane sires have outperformed anything else we have used."

Rodger and Kim had 100% clearance at their on-property sale in September, where they sold 110 rams averaging \$1206!

Borambil also sold 5 stud rams at Bendigo averaging \$2000 and 10 stud rams at Hamilton Sheepvention for an average of \$2200.

Rodger is going to start an AI program this year and will also begin mothering up his best ewes to speed up his genetic progress.

NERSTANE SALE
FRIDAY 25 JAN 2008

Looking good despite the weather...

"The lambs are looking great although we have had another failed spring. We are really happy with the sheep and are looking forward to trying some of your newer sires next year." COMMENTS IN AN EMAIL FROM STUART AND CATHY ROBINSON FROM CLUNES, VICTORIA IN LATE OCTOBER 2007

South American purchasers give Nerstane the top average at Armidale 2007

The Armidale Housed ram sale was another successful day for Nerstane. Two of our stud rams (who were actually full brothers) sold extremely well for \$5000 and \$14000, which gave Nerstane the top average on the day.

Andrew Page from Cherry Hill, Uralla was the successful purchaser of N41, who is a beautiful woolled ram with great scope. Andrew has collected semen from the ram for insurance and is going to use him in the Cherry Hill flock through AI in the future if he performs first.

N48 (pictured at right) was the ram that attracted the most interest before the



HAMISH MCLAREN HOLDS N48 WHO WAS SOLD FOR \$14,000 AT THE ARMIDALE STUD SALE 2007 TO REPEAT BUYERS FROM URUGUAY, THE OTEGUI BROTHERS

auction because of his scale and woolltype. This ram had outstanding tests for a ram of his size (18.7 microns, 2.8 SD, and 100% comfort factor). He came out of the paddock and into the shed as a hogget and was our top ram on figures with 134% GFW and a BW of 141%.

N48 was bought by the Otegui brothers of "La Magdalena" Departments Salto, of Uruguay. The La Magdalena farms are repeat buyers of top Nerstane stud rams. They purchased N255 in 2003, which topped the sale that year. This ram has bred well both here and in Uruguay.

What they're saying at Bathurst, NSW...

Bathurst Western Advocate article 14/06/2007

"For the second time during early winter we have had close up look at a well bred Nerstane-blood merino flock in our district.

This flock lives about 50km east of Bathurst and the hoggets are big and fat at present and are a real credit to the breeder. The McLaren family at Nerstane, Woolbrook, must put in a huge effort in their stud to have such even sheep in a client's flock.

Microns have been kept almost to superfine levels in their young sheep."

Sell your ewes with Nerstane's help...

We've had some enquiry about our ewe sale and our clients' ewe sale on Auctions Plus (to be held before the Ram Sale on 25th Jan).

Dollars per head measured at "Old Tombong" with excellent results

The Ingrams have raised sheep on the Monaro since the 1880's. In 2002, Robert and Pam purchased the original Ingram head property at Tombong. They immediately implemented a genetic based breeding program. After running a trial of three bloodlines, they settled on Nerstane genetics.

Robert says that the Nerstane breeding strategy of thorough objective and traditional evaluation of sires provides him with the total confidence that his productivity will improve. "My breeding program is based on selecting sires after meticulous analysis, using detailed sort

routes of the EBVs provided by Nerstane (both their own values and ASBVs) AND their traditional classing information that is provided from the Woolpak program.

We improved our average wool cut by \$9.72 per head on the F1 cross. I can pick the F2 cross by the tip, staple length, style, and softness. We've just got our first F3 Nerstane lambs on the ground and I can't wait to see them at the hogget shearing in March 2008. I know I won't be disappointed because of the rigorous application of science and traditional selection processes at Nerstane."

If you have any ewes for sale and you think it would be a good way to try to sell under the Nerstane banner, please contact us! We'll also be selling a

selection of ewes. We'll probably have around 300 CFA stud ewes, 400 CFA commercials and about 400 2 tooth commercials.

Nerstane on top in Wether Trial

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"This may surprise some people, but not me" he says. "Across a flock of 1,000 wethers that's a massive difference of \$45,000" says Mr. Wilson.

He emphasised this trial as a way to measure genetic variation. "There are thousands of wool growers who are not involved in any genetic evaluation and

they are participating because they don't know where they are going." he says of those not objectively evaluating their flocks says Mr Wilson.

Talking to Craig after the very pleasing result, he stressed that in his experience, the top 10 places don't seem to ever change that much for the future years.

The Nerstane team averaged \$92.44 for wool and carcass per head (wool and meat values were based on a 5 year rolling average).



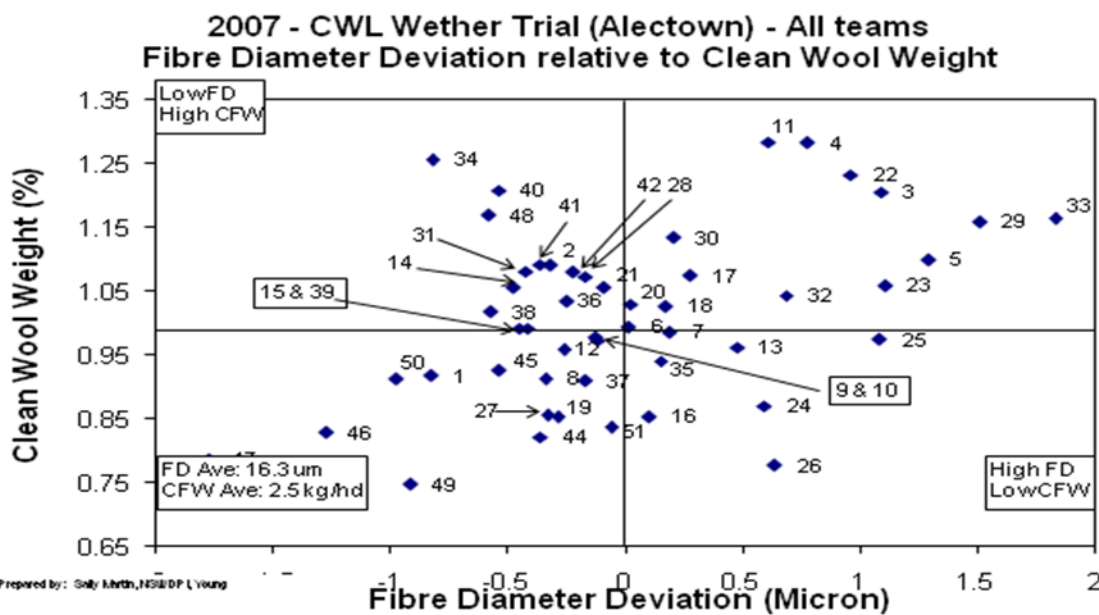
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THIS GRAPH DEMONSTRATES THE RAW DATA OF WHERE THE NERSTANE TEAM SITS FROM FLEECEWEIGHT AND FIBRE DIAMETER ONLY (BEFORE BODYWEIGHT, STYLE, STAPLE STRENGTH ETC. HAD BEEN MEASURED). NERSTANE IS TEAM NUMBER 48.



A word from the McLaren Family...

The future is now looking much brighter for wool (compared to the last few years)! For those of us that have stuck with the Merino, let's hope we have turned the corner.

At the end of the day, the Nerstane team recognises the responsibility that we have to breed the most productive, easy care sheep possible. We aim to help keep you, our ram clients (both stud and commercial), profitable and proud of what you do.

We will endeavour to benchmark ourselves in every possible way to prove to ourselves (and more importantly to you) that Nerstane continues to stay a source of superior seedstock.

NERSTANE FIELD DAY 12 JAN 2008
Open all day ALL WELCOME!

Cheaper rams outstanding too!

The Monaro Merino Ram of the Year for 2007 is the son of a Nerstane ram (by N14) purchased for \$2000 in 2005 by Greenland Merino Stud, Bungarby.

Greenland's 2007 Merino sale was topped by a son of Nerstane 43, which was purchased for \$3500. Another son of Nerstane 43 was also purchased at the Greenland sale for the second-top price of \$3000. Congratulations to the Alcock family.

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