



Nerstane Merino News

January 2010

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

Australian Ram of the Year success is just the sort of thing Nerstane likes to see

The Nerstane team enjoys nothing more than seeing others do well and make their own merino businesses successful and profitable.

Nowhere has this been more evident than the Cox family of Langdene Merino Stud at Dunedoo winning The Australian Ram of the Year for 2009 with a son of Nerstane 43. Congratulations to the Cox family for winning this prestigious award.

The ram, Langdene 4073, was also judged Grand Champion fine Wool Ram at Sydney as an August shorn beating Nerstane's Champion March shorn (N47, who is our leading Armidale Sale ram for 2010). L4073 then went on to win Supreme at Bendigo, and then NSW ram at Dubbo before being judged Australian Ram of the Year for 2009.

The ram's constitution was as close to

perfect as you would see and he was a massive 144kg at only 17.0 micron.

In his winning speech, Gary Cox particularly thanked the Nerstane team for producing N43.... a gesture of goodwill that is refreshing in the stud merino game.

Thank you Gary and we hope 4073 breeds as well as he looks. Nerstane will certainly be using him in 2010.



LEFT TO RIGHT: GARY, SONYA AND KAITLYN COX, COLLEEN AND GORDON COX WITH LANGDENE 4073 WHO WAS JUDGED THE RABOBANK 2009 AUSTRALIAN SUPREME MERINO RAM AT THE DUBBO NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE

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THE BEST FOR A
SUCCESSFUL 2010
- FROM THE
MCLAREN FAMILY*

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On Property Sale
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Outcross results show Nerstane genetics working well for our clients over different types and environments

Over the last few years it is pleasing to see that the studs that have been willing to try Nerstane for an outcross have had success. The ability to have the size, structure and bright stylish wool on a large percentage of our proven sires' progeny gives people a greater chance of

getting superior genetics, both for their own use and their sale teams. From superfine to medium there have been some outstanding results. Haddon Rig '07 and '08 sale toppers have been by different Nerstane sires. We also know of Borambil, Broula, Langdene, Middle View

and One Oak studs that have all topped their 2009 on-property sales with a Nerstane blood ram.

Congratulations to all these studs and families and we look forward to these results continuing into the future for you.



LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN MCLAREN, HAMISH MCLAREN, BEVAN JOLLY, PAUL DOOLEY AND JOCK MCLAREN HOLDING N57 WHO WAS PURCHASED BY THE CENTRAL LANERA CO-OPERATIVE OF URUGUAY FOR \$14,000 AT THE ARMIDALE HOUSED RAM SALE 2009

Uruguay buying again for consistency, size and proven results

Over the past five years, the Central Lanera Co-Operative has been extremely satisfied with the results they've achieved from using Nerstane sires and semen.

They've found that their environment is very similar to our New England one, and as such, they've been able to use Nerstane genetics to increase their productivity and produce whiter wool. N57 is the ram that Nerstane won the production class in Sydney with, cutting 15.8kgs of 17.7microns. He was also a member of Nerstane's Stonehaven Cup team. N57 is a full brother to our successful semen sire N222 (see page 3).

An excellent reason to keep breeding merino ewes

According to the ABS, the national sheep flock has had a 55% decline since 1990 and is at its lowest number since 1916. All we seem to have been hearing lately is about the dwindling merino flock, the shortage of merino ewes for the cross breeder and the overall sustainability of our industry.

However, as we all know, the merino ewe is central to any crossbreeding

enterprise, and there have recently been some incredible prices achieved for good merino ewes. The forecasts are that this is going to continue.

At Nerstane we continue to breed these more productive ewes that are "good doers", cut heavy stylish fine wool fleeces and are easily framey enough for the cross breeder. We hope our clients are able to benefit from these lucrative prices and continue to produce more merino sheep.

Nerstane used for consistency and rapid genetic gain

Greg Johnsson, vet surgeon and consultant with the Kangaroo Island Sheep Production Group, South Australia, commented about the influence of Nerstane sires on the Group's flock. "Nerstane was chosen for its extremely high performances on fleece weight, fibre diameter and overall production value. The wool type that Nerstane rams produce is highly productive, resistant to fleece rot and has very bright, white wool. Nerstane is a true breeding flock, so you can be quite confident that the type of wool you are going to produce from their rams is very typical of their style."

N222 continues to achieve

N222 has performed very well at Nerstane, at various other studs (many of whom been repeat purchasers of his semen), and at the Trangie Central Test site where he had the best tops to culls ratio out of all the entrants.

N222 had the lowest CV and the highest staple strength while being in the top 3 in all of the merino indexes.

N222 is one of those rare sires that keep getting better the more of his progeny that are evaluated. He is an extremely valued sire at Nerstane. Note that N222 is also a trait leader for EBWR (Early Breach Wrinkle) which would explain his very plain body. Inspect him any time at Nerstane. N222's semen is for sale at \$50 + GST.

(view figures on the back page).

"I wish I'd found your sheep 10 years ago"

-Geoff Notman of Mount Widderin Stud at Skipton, VIC

Geoff's comment after going through the show rams at Nerstane in 2009. Geoff and his wife Di bought N74 at Bendigo and then bought a syndicate share in the full brother N59, at Dubbo in late August.

Reality of wool's commercial market pushes syndicate toward Nerstane genetics

In August last year, Trefusis Merino Stud from Ross in Tasmania headed a syndicate of 5 studs (2 TAS and 3 VIC) to secure Nerstane 59 for \$29,000. Possession of the ram to be taken by Trefusis. The semen partners Eilan Donan Stud, Denholm Green Stud and Beaufront Merino Stud have all been past users of Nerstane genetics while new client Mount Widderin Stud bought N74 at Bendigo, who was a full brother of N59.

Hamish Wallace, co-principal of the Trefusis Merino Stud commented that a combination of requiring better value per head and the reality of the lack of return on investment preparing and producing true superfine wool helped to nudge Trefusis toward Nerstane genetics. "In the past, our sheep have cut around 4.5 kilograms, but now we want to go to bigger, early maturing sheep that add that extra kilogram to wool cut."

Jock Macrae, principal of Eilan Donan Merino Stud, Elphinstone, VIC, said about N59 "I liked the balance between his carcass and fibre – he's got a really magnificent skin. I think he's the best fine wool ram I've seen for sale for many years".

Andrew Calvert, who was instrumental in setting up the syndicate, said that "N59's wool is almost 10 ½ out of 10 if you can have such a thing." He said the ram had a good head, good spring of rib and was

well covered in long stapled, rich wool – "almost as good as it gets."

The syndicate has a very good chance that N59 will breed true to type as he is a full brother to N222 who has performed extremely well at Nerstane, in other studs and in Central Tests (see above).



LEFT TO RIGHT: JOCK MCLAREN HOLDING N59, HAMISH MCLAREN, ANDREW CALVERT OF TP JONES AND CO LAUNCESTON, JOCK MACRAE OF EILAN DONAN STUD ELPHINSTONE VIC, AND ZENA ALLEN OF DENHOLM GREEN STUD HEXAM VIC AT THE RABOBANK DUBBO NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE 2009

... Continued from page 3 (N222)

| | YWT | AWT | YEMD | YCFW | YFD | YDCV | YSL | YSS | YWEC | NLW | EBWR | 7%DP Index | 7% Index | 10%ss Index | 14%ss Index | 3.5%DP Index |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| NERSTANE-040222 | 5.0 96% | 2.2 87% | -0.3 63% | 19.8 95% | -1.8 97% | -1.8 96% | 8.4 87% | 3.1 81% | 11 90% | 2% 41% | -0.3 95% | 165 | 175 | 181 | 166 | 156 |
| Averages | 1.8 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 6.7 | -1.1 | -0.5 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -3 | 1% | 0.0 | 128 | 129 | 131 | 125 | 125 |

ABOVE: FIGURES FOR N222. NOTE THE BLUE SHADING MEANING TRAIT LEADER (TOP 10%).

SOURCE: MERINO ASBVS 21/12/09 FROM THE SHEEP GENETICS WEBSITE



Nerstane's thoughts on the future of our industry in 2010 and beyond...

The Australian sheep flock is at levels not seen for 100 years. The merino is a great animal and has an ability to suit a range of climates, to produce a wonderful natural fibre and to provide food with its meat production.

With the world needing to be fed, the merino is a great converter of grass and it also has an excellent clean green image producing a fibre that has many good uses. With AWI doing some exciting work on the promotion side with new products, it is looking better for wool and with the world monetary situation gradually on the rise, it should help to give wool prices a lift in the new season.

With the shortage of merino sheep and the need for merino ewes in the crossbreeding side of the equation, one would expect the sheep market to take a lift especially now that it has rained. Mutton prices are excellent and should remain so or get better again due to

supply and demand with the shortage of numbers.

Nerstane sheep are not always the biggest or the finest. However, the balance of subjective and objective measurement is very important to us, and if you look at SG indexes, sire evaluation summaries or wether trial results, you will find the Nerstane genetic package consistently at or near the top.

There's no doubt that merinos are reliable and profitable. Last year's Industry and Investment NSW analysis showed that the top gross margin per hectare was a self-replacing merino ewe used for a prime lamb operation, then merino ewes mated for merino lambs, then merino wethers, then cattle yearling production and then wheat production.

So, with these positive outlooks for the merino let's hope that we all breed more as our Australian merino is a world leader.

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Why Nerstane genetics will make a difference to your business

Nerstane is one of the only studs that benchmarks itself 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 2010 just as much as you do.

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