



Nerstane Merino News

December 2012

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

More tough times ahead for sheep breeders but we still love what we do and what we can produce

While the wool market is holding on quite well compared to most commodities, the sheep market has taken a battering over the last 12 months. The dry weather in Western NSW has not helped this year - the processors are the only ones operating. Above average summer rains (which are predicted) will bring in restockers and create some competition for the trade instead of them just reducing and setting prices. The world is still buying our meat and the experts continue to say that we could not produce enough mutton for the demand that is out there. We can only hope!

The wool market also has not broken any records this last year. Prices have recovered a lot since October with the market now at a 6 month high. The futures prices are all higher than last week's quotations which look quite promising for the New Year. However, with Europe still in a very bad way and our ridiculous exchange rate, the short term future for our wonderful product does not look brilliant. China is going to continue to be our number one client and for this reason alone we need to cut as much wool per head as possible.

Nevertheless, we were very pleased to be awarded Grand Champion Superfine Ram and then Supreme Exhibit at the Armidale Show and Sale for the first time



LEFT TO RIGHT: HAMSH MCLAREN HOLDING N582 WITH PRESIDENT OF THE ARMIDALE SALE RODNEY KENT WHO LATER BOUGHT THE RAM FOR \$22,000, HER EXCELLENCY NSW GOVERNOR MARIE BASHIR, RICHARD TORBAY MP AND ANZ NORTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER PAUL FORD

in February this year with N582. The ram was sashed by the NSW Governor, which was a great honour. The well renowned Kurrajong Park Stud at Delungra owned by Rodney and Graham Kent were the successful purchasers. Thank you Rodney and Graham.

Two years in a row at Bendigo

For the second year in a row, Nerstane won the Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo, VIC. N343, was sired by Langdene's Australian Ram of the Year L4073, who was a son of Nerstane 43. Photos in Show Results on the Nerstane website www.nerstane.com.au

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

On Property Sale
Friday 25 January 2013

Merino ewes could be much cheaper this year

If you are looking to buy more breeding ewes for the coming season, this might be the time. Compared to last year, the market has come off a long way.

Many forecasters are still saying that Asia can take all our lambs and mutton in the future so hopefully they are right and prices can improve to somewhere between current prices and the silly

levels that were reached last year.

The Australian sheep flock is still well down on numbers. The merino ewe is still the backbone of any cross breeding enterprise and it will take years to rebuild these numbers when things improve. Nerstane will offer approximately 300 CFA and surplus Stud ewes, 600 CFA flock ewes and 200 young ewes (2 teeth) at the On-Property Sale on January 25th.

A wide range of pricing available

Nerstane will offer "pens of three" again at the end of the single pen rams at the On-Property Sale. We do this so anyone can either average out on the day or just put some numbers together at a far cheaper rate.



Coryule Cleans up in Melbourne

Long-time clients and recent Nerstane daughter stud Coryule Merino Stud gained the top gong at the Royal Melbourne Fleece show held in August. Their fleece (which was from the Grand Champion Restricted Ewe at Bendigo this year) was judged Best Superfine Wool Fleece and then went on to become the Champion Skirted Fleece of the Show. Her fleece tested 17.7 micron and cut 5.9 kg of skirted fleece wool (blade shorn). Congratulations to Russel and Trish and of course Craig!

AT LEFT: MANAGER OF CORYULE MERINOS, CRAIG TRICKEY, HOLDING THE BIG RIBBON AT THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW 2012

N290 proves himself in Tasmania

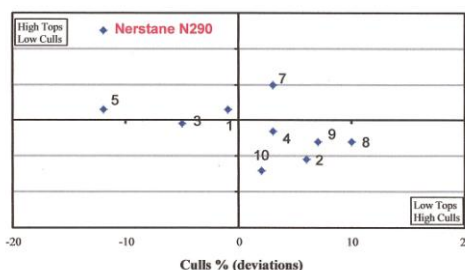
One of Nerstane's most consistent sires, N290, has just had his progeny results released from the Tasmanian Central Test Site. As he has done at Nerstane, N290 has performed outstandingly.

On a combined measured traits and visual trait performance, N290 was recorded as the best sire on all three indexes. *Figure 3* (see a bigger version of the graph on the back page) shows why this ram is such a valuable animal with his extremely high tops and virtually no culls in his progeny.

If you are looking for a semen sire that ticks most of the boxes have a look at our website or follow this link:

<http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au/to pic/101> Watch for his sons in the 2013 sale catalogue. There will be quite a few.

Figure 3. Classer's Grade: Tops and Culls



Nerstane's new website now up and running

We have recently (finally!) updated our website. We have tried to make it more useful and informative and we'll be keeping it updated regularly.

All feedback and suggestions for changes would be much appreciated! You can view our new website at the same address as the old one

www.nerstane.com.au

Years of rigorous testing pays off for the Bignells at Bendigo

When Roger Bignell was contacted and informed their fleece had just been awarded Champion Commercial Fleece at the Australian Fleece Competition at Bendigo, he was absolutely delighted. The fleece beat over 480 others that were all fully measured. He had entered in the memory of his late father, Jeffrey.

In Roger's words, Jeffrey "was very passionate about the wool industry and even after he retired I would send him all the sheep test figures and he would spend hours going through them and working out which were the best performing sheep."

The Bignells have been performance recording for 30 years at Waterhouse, in the North East of Tasmania and have been using Nerstane genetics predominantly for the last 15 years. The top 50 ewes join an elite ewe flock classed in from testing their



ROGER BIGNELL WITH HIS WIFE ALISON AND MOTHER JUDY WITH THEIR CHAMPION COMMERCIAL FLEECE AND AWARDS AT THE AUSTRALIAN FLEECE COMPETITION IN BENDIGO, VIC IN JULY 2012

whole drop of 900 ewes each year and then visually classed and joined using artificial insemination from outside sires that meet the Bignells' breeding objectives. The rams bred from this system are the only source of rams used in the flock. By using this system consistently over many years, the Bignells have built up some very valuable performance records for every one of their 4800 ewe flock.

The winning fleece (which will be on display for a year at The Australian Wool Exchange in Melbourne) tested 17.7 microns with a comfort factor of 99.9%, and cut 7.0 kg which was valued at \$78.06.

Congratulations to all the Bignell family for receiving this prestigious award.

Nerstane's Ram of the Year 2011 breeding on

N910, our NSW Ram of the Year in 2011 so far is having an extraordinary time as a semen sire. Nerstane will have over 20 sons in our On-Property Sale by him and an Armidale Housed ram. We've had many repeat semen orders (which is usually the best indication of all), and there has already been major ribbons awarded to progeny of this exciting new sire.

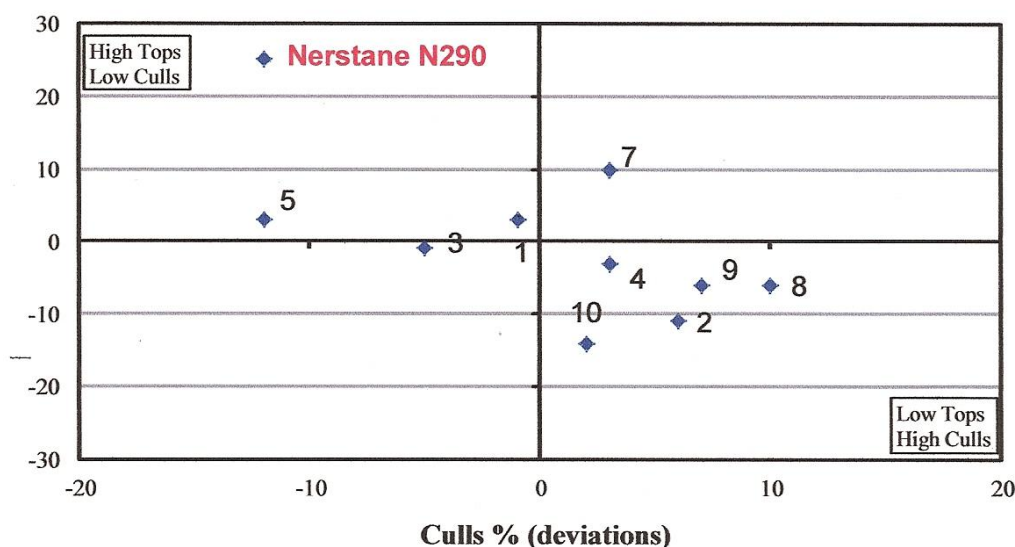
Mick and Jane Corkhill from Grassy Creek Merino Stud at Boorowa NSW bred a son of N910 who was judged Champion March Shorn Fine Wool Ram at both Bendigo and Dubbo this year. Their ram, GC187, tested 18.2 microns, 2.5 SD, and 99.8 CF. Mick has also ordered more N910 semen for next year, as well as using him for some embryo transfer work.



MICK CORKHILL HOLDING HIS CHAMPION MARCH SHORN FINE WOOL RAM (BENDIGO AND DUBBO 2012) – THIS WAS THE FIRST N910 PROGENY TO BE SHOWN AND TO BE AWARDED A BROAD RIBBON

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Figure 3. Classer's Grade: Tops and Culls



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DUBBO 2012



LEFT TO RIGHT: HAMISH MCLAREN, ANDREW CALVERT FROM ROBERTS LTD, BUYERS WILL AND SIMON ALLEN FROM DENHOLM GREEN MERINO STUD AND JOCK MCLAREN HOLDING N394 WHO WAS SOLD AT DUBBO FOR \$10,000 IN AUGUST

Long time client Will Allen from Denholm Green Merino Stud, Hexham, VIC was the successful purchaser of our best stud ram at Dubbo this year. N394 was a son of N060010 and weighed 142kg and cut 13.2 kg after the sale which was very pleasing for his wooltype which was a good

70's. Thank you Will. The Allens have bought several Nerstane rams over the years, including a top-priced Hamilton ram and they were also in the syndicate that purchased Nerstane's top-priced Dubbo ram for \$29,000 in 2009.

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