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2023 Newsletter

2023 RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY
27TH SEPTEMBER

Bundilla On Property Ram
Sale & online with Elite
Livestock Auctions
at 1pm, inspect from 8:30am

OPEN DAY

FRIDAY
15TH SEPTEMBER

Inspection from 9am
at Bundilla property

For any queries please contact Rick
(0429 833837) or Jill (0428 739436).



Bundilla 2022 Sale Results

Our 37th Annual Sale of Bundilla Poll Merino Rams was an incredible result for our family, with 301 of 320 rams sold to average \$3900. The \$18000 top priced ram sold to Stan & Suzanne Hall of Monte Verde, Tenterden WA. 74 registered buyers travelled from Longreach, Queensland across NSW and Victoria to South Australia, Western Australia & Tasmania.

Private Ram Sales were outstanding with over 500 Bundilla rams sold privately plus a large number of surplus ewe sales.

We thank all of our clients for their support and look forward to contacting them in the coming weeks.

2023 Bundilla Ram Sale



Our 2023 Production sale team currently consists of 410 Bundilla Poll Rams, with 480 private sale Poll Rams available post sale. We have completed all carcass testing and fleece testing for this group.

At our Open Day we will display the 330 Production Sale Poll Rams, current Stud Sires & selected 2022 Drop Stud Sires.



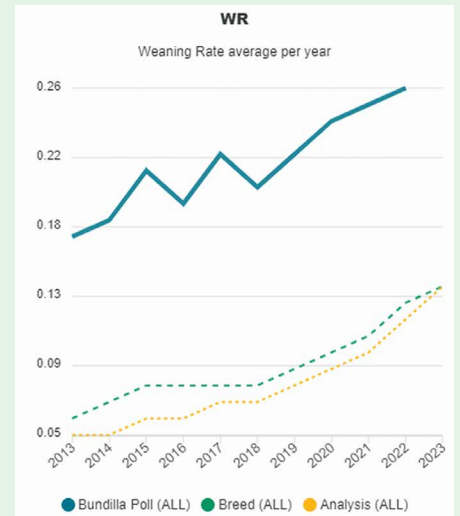
YCFW	YFD	YFDCV	YSL	PWWT	YWT	YFAT	YEMD	EBWR	WR	MWWT	7%DP
25.6	-1.0	-0.8	9.5	6.9	9.0	0.3	1.2	-0.2	0.25	0.7	195

Maiden Ewe Maternal Performance

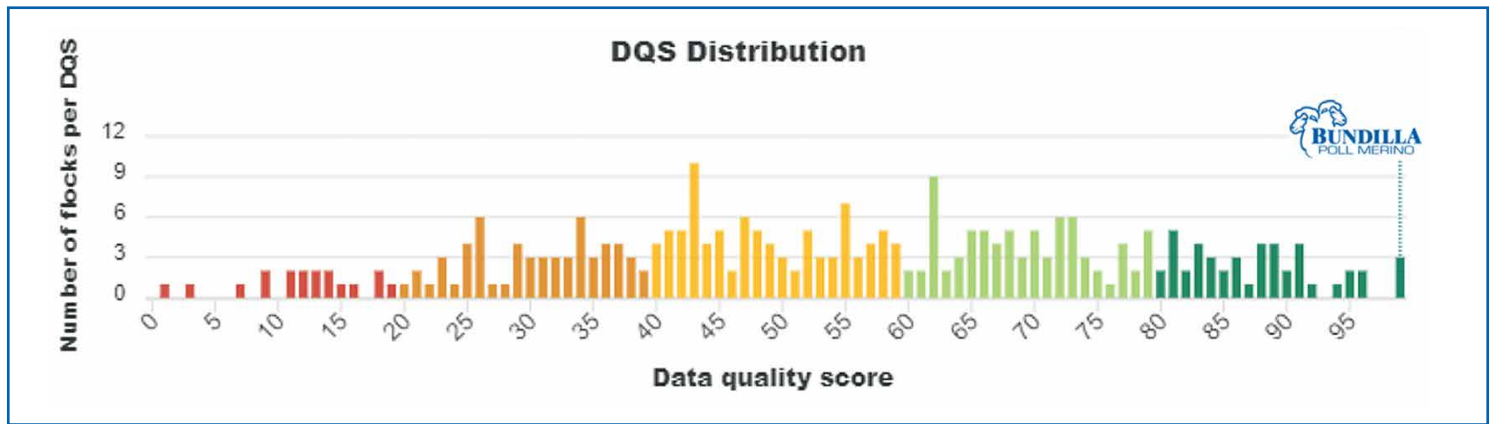
One of the main selection criteria for our stud sires for the last 15 years has been identifying sons of maidens that have been reared as twins from grand dams that have done the same then continued through their life rearing top quality twins.



In 2023, we joined 1054 stud Maidens, with 31 Dry, 310 Singles, 680 Twins & 33 Triplets. Equally a total of 168% foetuses in utero. We are so excited by the quality of lambs and the maternal performance of these young dams. With over 40 years actively measuring, identifying and multiplying top performing ewes in our stud, Bundilla continues to be the Leading Maternal Merino.



Bundilla recognised for Top Data Quality



Sheep Genetics have developed Data Quality Metrics to describe the quality of data submitted for inclusion in genetic evaluation systems and delivered through the RAMPing Up Genetic Gain (RUGG) reports. The RUGG reports are now a more refined feedback tool for breeders to use. They incorporate;

- Data Quality Score (DQS)
- Star rating
- Recommendations and strengths

The report provides targeted advice to assist in management changes, improved data collection and submissions and hence ASBV accuracy. In turn this will assist in more accurate selection decisions and increased rates of genetic progress. **On average, flocks with a 5 star data quality score have higher index accuracies and greater rates of genetic gain.** Sheep Genetics data quality score reflects;

- The amount of data,
- Completeness and accuracy of records,
- Data structure, and
- Timeliness of submission

As you can see in the chart above Bundilla has the highest Data Quality rating (5 star) provided by Sheep Genetics. Giving our clients greater confidence on the predictability of information & performance of the Bundilla Rams.

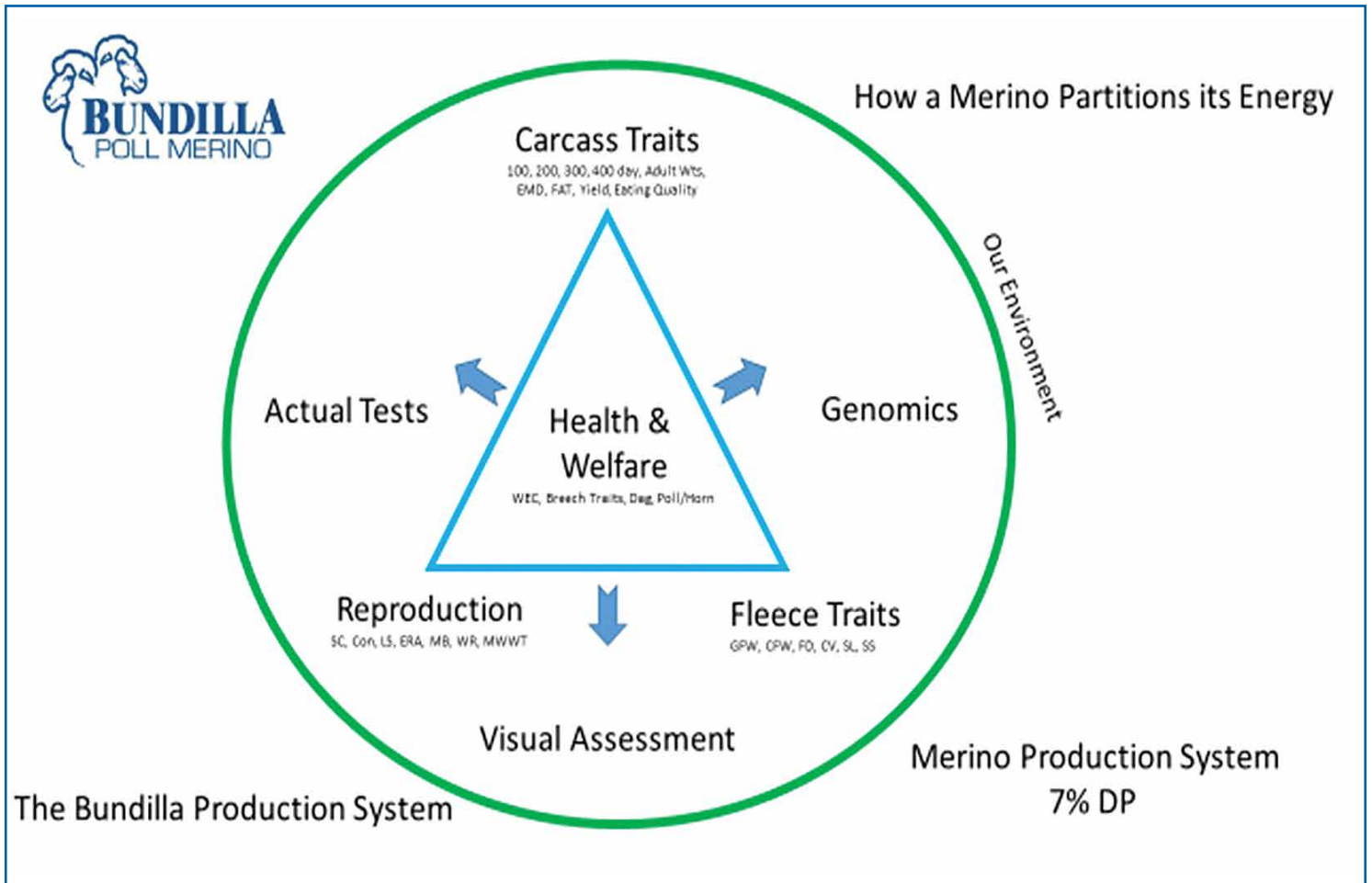
Investing in our Future

In 2023 we will be collecting 50K genomic tests on approximately 4000 lambs making Bundilla one of the largest Genomic tested sheep flocks in Australia. This has improved the accuracy of our ASBV's and pedigrees and has also given us better access to select for improvements in meat eating quality and higher meat yields.

This investment also allows our clients to have more accuracy in results from carrying out genomic flock profiles, and improve decision making when selecting sires to better impact financial gains in their commercial flocks.

Health & Welfare in the Bundilla Breeding

One of the biggest limiting factors in merino breeding is the extremes of our environment that we aim to achieve genetic gain. From having 2 drought years in 2017 to 2019 to experiencing three 800mm plus years from 2020 to 2023. It does not get more difficult than that. Selecting for improved worm resistance, dag score and feet has been a major focus over this wet period and there has been some interesting observations in the process.



Improved worm resistance has no correlation to improved dag score. The best results are a combined approach not trying to have extremes in either but gradual improvements in both. It is difficult year on year to have sufficient worm pressure to improve selection accuracy, and the last 3 years have provided this. There is always a lag for genetic gain but we are now seeing some young sires with improved Worm Resistance which we have combined with improved Dag Scores.

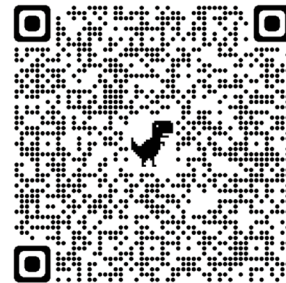
Feet through these wet years is always a hot topic of discussion. We have now collected 4 years of foot score data from our ewe hoggets through to adult ewes and we are seeing some great results. This year we pregnancy scanned 182% to ewes joined, with only 2.1% dry - our best result in years. We are seeing some fantastic weaning rates over a wet winter, and it is hard to find ewes that are not rearing multiples. One of the main observations in our sheep is ewes that rear twins consistently are the ewes with the better foot scores. We will continue to select twin reared sons from these dams with great success.

New Merino Research Indexes

Sheep Genetics has had a review of current indexes and moved to release 5 new research indexes to complement the breeding directions of different sectors of the merino industry. I believe these new research indexes will run alongside the current indexes to complement them and refine selections. We will continue to use the 7%DP index combined with the new SMHR index.

Trait	Maternal + Lamb	Sustainable Merino	Sustainable Merino - HR	Wool Production	Fine Wool
Clean fleece weight	●●	●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●
Fibre diameter	●	●	●	●●	●●●
Lamb growth	●●●	●●	●●	●	●
Carcase composition	●●	●	●		
Adult weight	-●	-●	-●		
Worm egg count			●●		●
Reproduction	●●●	●●	●●	●	●
Breech wrinkle	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Dag			●●		
Condition score	●●	●	●	●	●

If you activate the QR code below you can look at Bundilla 201595 who is well represented by sons in the 2023 Production Sale team. The new reserch indexes add to selection tools for our clients to make better decisions.



Bundilla Merino's - Over 40 year focus on High Fertility & a Dual Purpose Merino

- ✓ 44 years of selecting for high weaning rates
- ✓ 142% weaning av. for 30 years
- ✓ 34 years of body weight recording
- ✓ 29 years of fleece weighing & testing
- ✓ 29 years of WEC testing
- ✓ 26 years of muscle scanning
- ✓ High emphasis on Visual Assessment