

2015 National Dorper and White Dorper Sale

1st and 2nd September 2015 at the Dubbo Showground

Tuesday - Society AGM, LambPlan / MSA / Prime Dorper Lamb branding talks, classing, trade displays, coffee and food available on site



LIVE STREAMING OF CLASSING AND TYPING ON THE DSSA WEBSITE!!!



Wednesday - National Sale starts 10.30am, interfaced with Auctions Plus

Newsletter - August 2015

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Board Meeting Update

Since the March newsletter two Board meetings have been held; one in April and one in June. Discussion in the April meeting focussed on advertising, the upcoming National Show, the National Sale, and the possibility of introducing an export certificate that would not require animals to be registered, keeping costs down for members exporting animals to China and elsewhere.

The June meeting involved discussion on a range of topics including: Inspector day funding, National Show and National Sale updates and the Prime Dorper Lamb project.

The next meeting is a teleconference on the 25th August 2015.

Office Update

TYPING ON DATABASE

Typing is now able to be put on the database with animal registrations. It will be shown on the DSSA website along with the name of the Inspector and the date of inspection. The exact mechanism for this to take place is being worked out currently, since many animals are typed before they are registered. All members will be informed when more information about this process is available.

INVOICES EMAILED

From next month, 1st September, invoices will be emailed rather than posted out to those members receiving emails from us. If you currently received Society information by post, then you will also receive your invoices by post. However, if we are posting certificates to you we will post your invoice out with them.

DERMATOSPARAXIS

A reminder that as of 19th June 2015 the price of a dermatosparaxis test increased from \$15 to \$20 per test if done through the Society and Lincoln University in NZ. This price will remain until 19th June 2016 after which time prices may increase to as high as \$30 per test.



PRIME DORPER LAMB COOKBOOK

This beautifully presented cookbook has over 90 pages of delicious lamb recipes, as well as a special selection of tasty condiments to spice up everyone's lamb eating experience! This excellent value for money cookbook is still available at the low price of \$25 + postage. To place your order you can fill in the form on the DSSA website under merchandise, or email the office now at dorper@abri.une.edu.au.

OLD REGISTRATION FORMS / NUMBERS

Some people are still using old registration forms which don't require all the information we need. Printing out your LambPlan pedigree is not acceptable either. Please use the forms available on the website. Also please don't use old animal number formats as these are not in our database. The number must be 6 digits and start with the year of birth. You can look the correct number up on our website by looking up animals in your ownership.

CONTACT US

As always Nicky and Deearn at the office are happy to help with any queries, questions or issues you are having. We are very busy, so if you have urgent work to be done please get it to us in plenty of time and we will endeavour to complete it in a timely manner.

CAC - Marketing Techniques Part 2

ORGANIC DORPER LAMB

The organic lamb industry in Australia is a fast growing and integral part of the sheep and lamb sector for those growers with Organic Certification. Initially developed in the late 1990s, supply of quality organic lamb had always constrained the growth of the industry. While not specific to the Dorper breed, the growth in the national Dorper flock has now facilitated the rapid growth of the sector, especially in the past 5 years. What was historically a niche market has now grown to supply many domestic and export markets, almost exclusively with Dorper lambs.

In general Organic Certification can be obtained through one of two main certifiers, NASAA (National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia) or ACO (Australian Certified Organic).

Most organic lamb producers tend to be in low rainfall, low input pastoral zones due to the decreased need for fertilisers, herbicides and animal health treatments, although there are increasing numbers of organic sheep farmers in higher rainfall areas. At this stage, over 90% of organic lambs still come from producers in lower rainfall areas.



At present the organic lamb market generally requires lamb in the 18-30kg carcass weight range, although processors will take lighter lambs down to 14-15kg when supply is tight. Unlike conventional lamb production with high quality pastures and or feedlotting, organic production based on natural pastures is dependent on seasonal conditions, so

processors are more flexible at times with weight requirements to fit in with producers conditions. The Dorper breed is ideally suited to organic production as they can reach liveweights of 35-40kg even under dry conditions and still be killable (fat score 2 or better). Depending on the processor and quality of the breeding, lambs will generally yield from 45-50%, with some producers reporting even higher figures for well bred sucker lambs.

Prices for organic lamb usually mirror the conventional lamb market with a premium that can range from as little as 10c/kg up to \$1/kg at times of low supply. A good guide over a 12 month period is an average premium of around 50c/kg which can be anywhere from \$8-\$15/lamb depending on carcass weights. In good seasons producers must be aware that lambs in the 25-30kg dressed weight range can attract heavy penalties if they are fat score 5. Similarly, in dry seasons, yields may disappoint so growers should err on the side of caution and always fat score lambs that are borderline.

Organic lamb is sold both into domestic and export markets with most exported lambs going to the US. For this market producers require USDA accreditation which can be obtained through your certifying body. The greatest volume of organic lamb is processed by either Thomas Foods International (TFI) or the Arcadian Meat Company killing at Junee NSW. Other options such as Bultarra Australian Saltbush Lamb are now killing larger consignments of lamb for both domestic and export markets. Several other mid-sized processors have also trialled consignments of organic lamb and have received positive feedback. The industry expects these operations to grow as supply and quality increases. Smaller operators such as Silverwood Organics in Western QLD market small numbers of organic lambs via internet sales. There are also numerous boutique sellers of organic lamb at farmers markets or through local butcher shops and restaurants across the country.

The organic market provides another option for lamb producers with attractive premiums paid for quality lambs. The Dorper breed has now become the organic lamb of choice across the sector. Strong demand especially in the export market will continue to see the organic lamb industry grow as more supply becomes available with the growth of the breed Australia wide. The success of the organic brands relies on a reliable supply of predominantly Dorper lambs. It is up to commercial growers to strive to breed top quality lambs to meet the demand.

Supreme Dorper and White Dorper Sale Bendigo

The Southern Region held their annual Supreme Dorper and White Dorper Sale at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo on the 19th July and it was deemed the most successful Bendigo sale yet. Of the 93 lots on offer, 83 lots sold. A White Dorper ram sold for \$8,000 which is the highest price ever for the sale, and a Dorper ewe reached the top price of \$5,000 for the ewes.

The \$8,000 ram, 22 month old Wirlinga Park 130203, was sold by Julie and Grant Glinski of Wirlinga Park White Dorpers, Wirlinga NSW. His sire, African G041, also fetched a high price of \$11,000 at the Society's National Sale in Dubbo in 2012. The young ram was purchased by Andrea van Niekerk of Dumisa Dorpers and White Dorpers, Moama NSW. Of the 23 White Dorper rams offered, 21 sold to average \$2,559.



*Top priced ewe Dell Dorpers 130077.
L-R: Buyer Grant Glinski with vendor Andrea van Niekerk, Julie Glinski and Lachlan Collins from Landmark Echuca.*



*Top price of the sale; White Dorper ram Wirlinga Park 130203.
L-R: Lachlan Collins, Landmark Echuca with buyer Andrea van Niekerk and vendor Julie Glinski*

Dell Dorpers, Moama, offered the top priced ewe, Dell Dorpers 130077. She was sired by Dell Dorpers 110046 from African FD092 (ET). Grant and Julie Glinski from Wirlinga Park White Dorpers purchased the ewe for \$5,000. All 22 lots of Dorper ewes sold to average \$1,790.

Bulmar Dorper Stud in Orange presented the top priced Dorper ram, Bulmar 130155, which was purchased by Brendan Duncan, Glen Esk Station, Wentworth for \$5,000. The ram was sired by Kaya 110931 from Kaya 111159. Out of the 34 Dorper rams offered, 28 sold to average \$2,278.



*Top priced Dorper ram Bulmar 130155.
L-R: Lachlan Collins, Landmark Echuca with Bully Malherbe from Bulmar Dorper Stud, Brendan Duncan and John Settree from Landmark Dubbo.*

The top price for the White Dorper ewes was \$2,100 reached by African J478 offered by African White Dorpers, Moama. The ewe was sired by Dumisa 10011 Mr Perfect out of African G021. John Voitin of Maladorn White Dorpers, Geelong purchased the ewe. All of the eight White Dorper ewes offered were sold to average \$1,375.





Region Updates

Central Region

On Saturday 23rd May about 80 people descended upon the home of Genelink and Australis White Dorper and Dorper studs just out of Nairne in the Adelaide Hills for an information day. This was sponsored by the DSSA Central Region, Pro-Stock Livestock, Hills Farm Supplies, Coopers Animal Health, Australis White Dorpers and Genelink Dorper and White Dorper Studs. Speakers included Denis Russell on breed introduction and small flock management, Anthony Pearce from Hills Farm Supplies on animal nutrition, Julie Christie from Coopers Animal Health on routine vaccinations and lice and Dave Whitenbury from Pro-stock on current market trends and the popularity of Dorpers; he also offered Pro-Stock's monthly marketing services for small producers.



L-R: Dennis Russell and Annabel Mangal, and Charlie and Bronte Mawson at the information day.

Bronte Mawson manned the BBQ providing a scrumptious lunch of Wagyu sausages, loin Dorper lamb chops and stuffed Dorper lamb leg. All meat was produced and donated by Bronte Mawson and Annabel Mangal. People attended from far and wide including Hamley Bridge, Lameroo, Waitpinga, Wentworth, Kangaroo Island, Eudunda and Sandlewood. The feedback received has been extremely positive and our Dorper information packs were well received. We are all looking forward to the event being repeated annually. The Central Region thanks Bronte and Annabel for all their work with the organising and setting up for this information day.

If any Central Region Members are willing to host an information day to promote Dorpers in any way the Central Region will help sponsor your day up to the value of \$500.



A large crowd of interested people attended the information day in the Adelaide Hills.

We held our Central Region AGM on Sunday 2nd August at the Hackney Hotel in Adelaide and wish to advise members of the following future events being planned for the Region. The Sheep CRC in conjunction with Landmark are holding a Ram Select day in Ceduna; details are currently being finalised.

Southern Region

Once again the Southern Region's pinnacle event was "The Dorper and White Dorper Supreme Sale" which is held annually at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show (ASWS) in Bendigo Victoria each year. The sale was a great success averaging \$1000 more than last years sale for 93 lots. Buyers came from all over Australia. This year we made it compulsory for all the sale sheep to go through the international inspection system which helped in lifting the average of the Supreme Sale.

The National Dorper & White Dorper Show was held in conjunction with the ASWS this year. The event turned out to be the largest National Show in Australia for our breeds with 470 sheep shown. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the generous sponsors, Bruno Trazzera and his Southern Region Events Committee as well as the volunteers that helped at the event. These people are pivotal to making this event the success that it is.

I would also like to thank Shaelene Knight for giving up her time for 3 years to be one of the regions most successful secretaries. Shaelene has put her heart and soul into her volunteer position and will be missed.

Field days are an important part of the Southern Region's publicity events to advertise the Dorper breed and we will once again be participating in the Elmore Field Days which is one of the southern hemispheres biggest agricultural field days. Good luck to all the breeders of our great breed in the future.

Andrea van Niekerk.



L-R: Marius Loots, Adrian Veitch and generous sponsor Ian Cooper from animal health giving a prize for the Grand Champion ram at the National Show.

Western Region

The Western Region held its AGM on 9th August. Congratulations to the following new office bearers:

- **President:** Tim Stevenson (Riverside White Dorpers)
- **Vice President:** Anthea Brown (Macabee Dorpers)
- **Secretary:** Collin Jeffery (Bridgetown Dorpers)
- **Board Representative:** Jill Wilson (Lumani White Dorpers) was re-elected for another term, and
- **Board Representative:** Tim Stevenson continues

The Committee is: Kay Frearson (Kaylor Dorpers), Loxley Fedec (Dorper Stud Park) and Sue Beeton (Sundridge White Dorpers). Thank you to Collin for the fantastic job he did as President over the last few years.

The Western Region committee would like to encourage all WA members to come to Dowerin Field Days in August and the Royal Show in September where members will be displaying / showing / selling. It was also great to see some of you in Katanning last week!

Rabobank WA Sheep Show + Expo – Katanning Thur 20 / Fri 21 August

This has traditionally been a Merino event, but the organisers extended it to 2 days, opening it up to other breeds and including more activities. This year 6 DSSA members displayed their sheep. DSSA members are keen to encourage all parts of the event to be open to other breeds in future (eg the sale component which is now only Merinos). We are now looking forward to next year - this Katanning event is a useful venue to promote the Dorper and White Dorper breeds and hopefully it will get bigger and better.

Perth Royal Show and Sale – September 30th / October 2nd

The Schedule for the Perth Royal Show is now out – nominate by 26th August. See <http://www.perthroyalshow.com.au/best-in-show/competition-entries/sheep-and-prime-lamb.aspx> Dorper/White Dorper judging will be on the afternoon of Wed 30th September and the sale will be on the afternoon of Friday 2nd October. All in the Jim Horwood Pavilion at the Claremont Showgrounds.

National Sale Agenda

September 1st

- 9.30am AGM
- 10.30am LambPlan talk
- 11.30am Meat Standards Australia talk
- 12.10pm Prime Dorper Lamb talk
- 12.30pm Classing starts

We have an interesting day planned for you. Please don't miss the Society AGM. We have Will Chaffey from LambPlan to give an overview of the benefits of using this objective measurement tool, and to answer your questions. Then Jarrod Lees from MLA will talk about MSA and how we can use this to underpin our Prime Dorper Lamb brand. This leads nicely into a brief talk about Prime Dorper Lamb which Colin Rex is going to give us.

The classing will start at approximately 12.30pm and will be live streamed via the DSSA website for anyone who can't make it to the event. This will be a quality production which can be rewound if you don't get the start, or can be watched at any time during or after the event until the end of the week.

September 2nd

- 8.00am Buyer inspections commence
- 10.30am Sale begins - interfaced with AuctionsPlus

Inspector's Day

On the 20th of July a meeting was organised by the Dorper Sheep Society for all Dorper inspectors. The date was chosen straight after the National Show with the feeling that most of the inspectors would attend the Show and be available to attend their yearly Inspectors Day.

Brad Edson as the Boards representative chaired a very informative meeting with a lot of great outcomes, one of which, an electronic system for inspections, will be used at this years sale at Dubbo. Some of the group's discussions included the need for more classing days so that we can get more inspectors trained up in Australia. It was decided that there had to be a minimum of four Junior and Senior courses available to attend in Australia each year and two Inspectors courses.

The Inspectors were informed that the Dorper Sheep Society has purchased a program to collect and record animals that have been inspected and typed which will be linked to animals pedigree for ease of use.

On the 21st the Inspectors and the invited junior inspectors-in-training headed out to the van Niekerk family's farm at Moama. Freddie Dreyer had spent the Monday going through all of the van Niekerk's rams to select animals with potential faults. Freddie discussed with the inspectors group some potential problems that are becoming apparent in the Dorper breed world wide so that all inspectors here in Australia are aware of them and are all on the same page as to how to class Australian animals.

All the inspectors enjoyed the two days and a great deal was discussed and worked through. A huge thank you to Freddie for staying in Australia for the extra two days; it was highly appreciated by all who attended.

A big thank you also to the van Niekerk family for hosting the day, it was very much appreciated, and Dave thanks for the yummy pies.



L-R: Lorroi Kirkby, Wicus Cronje, Adrian Veitch, Freddie Dreyer, Brahm Cronje and Marius Loots.



L-R: Moozie and Jean van Niekerk and Lorroi Kirkby getting the rams ready for inspection. Far right is most of Wicus Cronje.



L-R: International inspector Freddie Dreyer with junior inspectors-in-training Brahm Cronje and Marius Loots talking to Tanya Edson.

