

**Dorper Sheep Society
of Australia Inc**

Servicing both Dorper and White Dorper breeds

Eastern Region Newsletter April, 2011

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Eastern Region Update

The field day at Condobolin Agricultural Research Station was held on the 25th of March and well attended by over 70 people. Of these about 20 were there to gather information about the breed, and the balance were very interested in the conduct of the ram trial and sale. All attending were keen to see Wicus Cronje demonstrate the quality control process of assessing the rams, using the international Dorper Breed standard.

A branch meeting was held after the field day, during which several topics were discussed, some of which are outlined in this newsletter for members to consider.

Marketing Promotion

We have negotiated a four page Dorper feature in the Land Newspaper for the week of June 2nd and again on the week of July 21st. The articles will be about the breed in general and as educational as possible. Included will be contributions from the Dept of Industry & Investment as well as personal stories from producers and processors. If you have any ideas and contact details for such stories, please send this information by email to Graham.Pickles@bigpond.com

Both stud and commercial members are invited to place advertisements in these features. We are offering this opportunity at heavily subsidized rates. The advertisements will all be in colour and the same size, ie 10cm high by 6.4cm wide, and each will only cost \$150 plus GST (normally be over \$400!). Advertisements are limited to one per member per feature. A booking form is attached and should be faxed or emailed to Alice Schmidt at ABRI, by 29th April 2011 .

This provides a good opportunity for studs to promote their animals in the lead up to the ram selling season, while commercial members may like to advertise commercial ewes.

Eastern Region Sale February 2012

It has come to our attention that some members were disappointed that we did not hold an Eastern Region Sale this



year. This is because at the last Eastern Region meeting, there was no-one who was prepared to take responsibility for running the event. It is important to have a minimum of 100 rams to make the economics of the sale work, as it costs \$4500 just to hire the Dubbo showground venue for the day. Even after sponsorship and some society support, the entry fee would need to be around \$90 to allow sufficient funds for advertising, catalogues and other expenses. We agree that such a Sale could be an annual event, but your Eastern Region committee needs member support for this to occur.

If you are interested in supporting this event either by entering stock or as a member of a sale committee, please send an email to Susan Law at matchless.law@bigpond.com. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this appeal.

National Show and Sale 2011

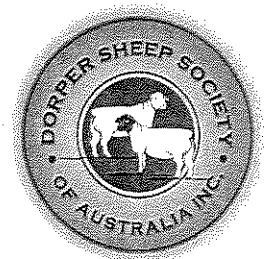
The National Show will be held on Wednesday, the 31st of August & Thursday, 1st September. It will be followed by the National Sale on the Friday, 2nd of September. This will give the Dubbo Showground staff more time to recover from the National Merino sale which will be held during the previous week. It will also give us use of the entire shed, and thus plenty of space to provide better viewing of sale animals.

Start thinking about animals the animals you would like to enter. Initial Booking forms will be circulated at the end of April and deposits for the number of animals you wish to enter will need to be in by the end of May. Final selection and payments for registered animals will be required by mid-July.

Dubbo Show

The Landmark, NSW Dubbo Sheep show will be held on the 27th-29th of May 2011 and the Dorper Breed steward is Mel Pagett. Entries close by May 4th. If you wish to enter animals and have not received a program, contact Janice Bennett on 68828001 or mobile 0428 583 815. NNB: All entries must be registered with the DSSA and you must bring copies of either their original pedigrees or ones downloaded from the internet, to the Show with you.

Please note that there will be a Society Dinner on the evening of Saturday the 28th of May, after the judging of the sheep has been



completed. Booking forms will be sent out as soon as the venue has been confirmed.

February 2012 Intake for Third Performance Trial and Sale

The Performance Trial Committee is looking for approx 200 rams for the third Field Trial intake, which is planned for early February, 2012. Ram lambs born between 15th of July and October 15th 2011 would qualify for this intake. Participants should try and send a minimum of 5 rams by the same sire if possible. The Paddock Trial Ram Sale would be held in late 2012 or early 2013 .

Those interested in participating should send an email to Kent Boyd kboyd@bigpond.net.au or Graham Pickles graham_pickles@bigpond.com
We will send out booking forms for this intake in November 2011 but if you are interested in participating, join your ewes now!

Education Courses

The demand for Dorper education is strong and growing, which is great to see. Approximately 90 people have participated in either the Junior or Senior courses held around the country during March and April this year. There are more courses planned in August and when the dates are finalized, we will circulate both dates and venues and put them on the website.

Congratulations to Murray Conan from Western Australia and Justin Kirkby who both recently passed their second Judges exam and are now qualified judges. This brings us to four qualified, Australian, Dorper breed judges. Also Congratulations to Lorroi Kirkby, Nick Pagett, and Christo Harmse who passed their first Judges' exam. Hopefully, if we can arrange another Judges exam this year, we could have 7 Australian Judges by the end of the year! Next year we should be able to double that again, which will decrease our reliance on the South African Judges and also make it much easier for members to have their stock inspected.



inspections

The base rate being paid to inspectors has gone up to \$500 per day. This has been done in recognition of their expertise, and in order to make it worth their while to allocate the time. An inspection certainly can add that sort of value to a stud many times over.

Wicus Cronje is planning an inspection trip in August. In order to cover his airfares and administrative fees, his inspections cost \$660 per day (ie \$500 + \$100 flights & admin + GST). Would those wishing to book his services, please let us know by email ASAP, and we will do our best to accommodate as many people as possible. Please email your interest in having an inspection by Wicus, to Alice Schmidt on dorpereo@abri.une.edu.au

Dermatosparaxis Testing

NB: The Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, has validated a new sampling protocol for dermatosparaxis testing, which uses blood cards rather than hair samples. They found that the quality of the hair samples was subject to seasonal variation which often led to failed tests and therefore the requirement that samples needed to be re-submitted. They believe that the blood card sampling method will be less likely to have failed results, hence improving the overall quality of their service.

The dorper industry has done a great job in identifying the dermatosparaxis gene. Be safe, rather than sorry, test any rams you are unsure of. As an insurance policy, the test costs very little and will result in peace of mind. For sampling instructions and blood cards, contact ABRI on (02) 6773-3805 or for further information about the test, contact the Menangle laboratory on (02) 4640-6474

Regards

Graham Pickles
Chairman Eastern Region

