

# CHROME - an expanding ram business

CHROME SHEEP STUDS near Hamilton, in Western Victoria, breeds self-replacing maternal meat sheep and Poll Dorset's. It is our aim to be at the forefront of the prime lamb seed stock industry in Australia.

To achieve and maintain this high quality level of production, it is necessary to get many things right and constantly improve the genetic quality of our sale sheep. This year we have undertaken 2 extensive Embryo Transfer programs to improve both quality and quantity of the genetics we supply in the future. Chrome has a large stud ewe base of over 1,500 mature age stud ewes which gives greater genetic diversity and a wide selection.

## **Self Replacing Flocks**

A self replacing flock gives you, the producer, control over your breeding flock. YOU have control over the genetics that you use and can tailor your breeding program to suit your target markets. Cut down the risk of introducing diseases such as OJD, lice and footrot. You also have the option of breeding all maternal lambs and selling surplus ewes and ewe lambs as breeders.

## **Key economic driver**

It is our belief that the key economic driver of prime lamb production is the weight of lambs weaned as a percentage of the body weight of the mother. The logical extension of that means we do not want excessively large ewes, because quite simply, they eat too much for what they produce. For this reason, we are focussed on moderate frame score ewes at CHROME.

To demonstrate our belief in this logic, a number of years ago we trialled NZ Perendale genetics in our maternal Stud at Chrome. Perendales have been used extensively in N.Z. for many years and are an extended cross of Cheviot and Romney from many years ago, in much the same way that the Coopworth is originally a cross of Border Leicester and Romney. The Perendales are active and hardy, have a moderate frame score, have powerful maternal characteristics, and are very fertile with excellent carcase shape.

## **Easy Care**

All maternal sheep at Chrome are run in a commercial environment as much as possible. Over the last 6 years, stud ewes over the age of 2 years have only had one drench in that time, which highlights the resilience these sheep display to internal parasites as well as very low susceptibility to any foot problems.

## **ICON POLL DORSETS**

The aim of the Poll Dorset stud is to produce Terminal sires to suit today's prime lamb markets. Early maturing, thick bodied rams that are not too lean are high on the priority list. Icon rams have been increasing in demand every year, giving us confidence that the rams are doing the job.

Come and see our display in the new Sheep Tech Marquee at Sheepvention.

