



# Chrome Sheep Studs

▪ Coopworth ▪ Maternal Composite ▪ Perendale ▪ ICON Poll Dorset

In typical Sheepvention style our wet and cold wet Western District winters seem to be back with a vengeance. After more feed than we could poke a stick at during the summer, the surplus is quickly starting to disappear as the wet slushy conditions set in and ewes start lactating. The wool market has kicked along beautifully making it more profitable to still have wool on maternal ewes.

Scanning results across the district seem to be more varied than normal, perhaps due the prolonged wet spring and summer without the hot dry spell we normally get. The early scanings seem to be a bit hit and miss, however some of the later ones (March joining onwards) seem to be very good with some extremely high percentages about.

Our 2011 scanning results are as follows:

Mixed age maternal stud ewes	179% (to ewes mated including 1.5yo)
Mixed age commercial ewes	172% (to ewes mated including 1.5yo)
Stud maternal ewe lambs	139% (to ewes mated)
Commercial ewe lambs	144% (to ewes mated)

Many of our clients have also reported scanning results around 180– 200%

## NEW WEBSITE

Just in time for Sheepvention we have launched our new look website. Our website at [www.chromesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.chromesheepstuds.com.au) covers all the facets our stud operations in detail and gives you up to date information on the latest news as it comes to hand. You will notice we have dropped the Icon logo and in time our Icon Poll Dorset Stud will be run under the Chrome banner.

## SHEEPVENTION 1st & 2nd August

We will once again have a stand in the Sheep Marquee (site 135) at Sheepvention. Our New Zealand Perendale sires, as well as a sample of our 1yo Maternal Composite, Perendale infused and Icon Poll Dorset rams will be displayed.

Drop in and say hello, have a look at the rams over a cuppa and let us know how our rams are performing for you at home.

## MN1 STATUS

We have recently joined the MAP programme in Victoria and had a negative test for OJD. This now gives us MN1 accreditation and **5 ABC** points which allows us to continue selling rams into South Australia and NSW. Good news for our S.A. clients!

# RAM SALE Sat OCT 8th

## On Property at CHROME

▪ **Brucellosis Acc. Free** ▪ **MN1 (5 ABC Points)** ▪ **Lambplan recorded**

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## THE PROS AND CONS OF BREEDING / BUYING YOUR MATERNAL EWES

Analysis conducted by a leading Australian Agricultural Consultant concludes the following.

- The range of profitability between the two management systems is not significantly different.
- The important thing is the range varies enormously.
- The range of lambing % was 82% to 167% in the Maternal Central Progeny Test, comparing the two systems.
- Benchmarking data shows no significant difference in average income between the two management systems.
- The **key economic driver** of both management systems is the weight of lambs weaned as a % of the body weight of the mother.
- **Genetics** are the principal explanation for differences in performance that do exist within each management system.

Therefore, which management system gives you the opportunity to **INFLUENCE** the outcomes.

### **WEAKNESSES** in buying ewe replacements

- It is difficult to exert any control over genetics when buying 1st cross ewes
- Cull merino ewes are generally used in this management system.
- It is unlikely that you can purchase young ewes that are the top genetics from a Maternal Flock of any breeding, as your annual replacements.
- It is unlikely that you can exert much influence on the type of ewes you buy.
- It is unlikely you can exert much influence over genetic health and disease issues.

### **STRENGTHS** in breeding your ewe replacements

#### You can exert optimum influence over

- ✓ Type and visual carcass traits. e.g. Moderate frame score
- ✓ Measured performance data in your ram selection. e.g. Fertility and Growth
- ✓ Minimize animal health issues and disease risk
- ✓ Guarantee of availability
- ✓ Consistent product