

As another season swiftly flies by, the ram selling season is looming very quickly. After a wet start (and thankfully a dry June) normal August rainfall puts us in a fairly typical position for this time of year.

It was good to catch up with so many of our clients at Sheepvention, Hamilton in early August. Once again some great conversation around the influence of Chrome Genetics and the prime lamb job in general.

Scanning results and marking percentages so far have been exceptional this year right across the board. Some mild weather through June/July has meant great survival rates from scanning to marking for those that have already done so.

For us at Chrome we have experienced our best scanning results ever. MA stud ewes 187%, 2yo stud ewes 178% and our 700 stud ewe lambs a whopping 157%. It's pleasing to see our clients following suit. As our own stud flock increases fertility it's great to report that our clients are experiencing lifts in production as well.

It's interesting to see a bit more publicity over recent times about the issue of mature ewe weight in our self replacing flocks. It's certainly been on our agenda for a few years now. At Chrome we are continuing to select for the shorter legs and thicker easy doing animals. This selection criteria generally goes hand in hand with moderate adult weight combining in an efficient breeding ewe.



*Stud Maternal Ewe Lambs preg scanned at 157%*



After record ram sales last season we will again offer more rams at both our October Sale and January 2018 than we have previously. After a mild winter this year the rams have done well and are exceptionally even. The main drop Maternal rams have been run as one mob since weaning, giving them all an equal opportunity to sink or swim. The swimmers will be the line ups in our Auction groups.

At Chrome we offer what we consider to be our best rams at our on property auctions, our main sale in mid October and our summer sale in January.

There is no doubt the Southies are going well and sale results over the last few seasons have indicated the same. We will have more depth and quality in the line up this season, hopefully eliminating the need to offer ram lambs in our January 2018 sale. The Poll Dorsets are gaining more muscle every year. This year we have the first progeny of our \$16,000 Lambpro ram 281/14 on offer, which are exceptional for muscle across the loin.

Ram sale catalogue will be available on our website from mid September in both PDF and excel formats so you can sort by specific data if you wish as well as on the Ram Select app.

**Note: Due to the large numbers of rams on offer the rams are penned outside –Please dress warm if weather is cold/wet**



Lambpro 14\_281



## CHROME HEADING TO HENTY

Chrome will be at the Henty Field Days from the 19th – 21st September. This will be a great opportunity for our NSW/North Vic clients to come and inspect some of the lead rams for our October Ram sale. See you at site 1049A

## CHROME GENETICS EWE SALE



In mid December Chrome has its annual ewe breeder sale on Auctions Plus involving Chrome and our clients' commercial ewes. Marketed under the Chrome Genetics brand our clients consistently receive premiums above current market values and are linked into our event advertising.

It's still early days yet but this year's offering is potentially shaping up to be the biggest offering of Chrome Genetics ewes to date. If you have some surplus ewes of any description, ranging from ewe lambs right up to cast for age ewes with sound mouths please consider this sale before offloading them somewhere else! You can be involved in this sale using your agent of choice, the sheep just need to be assessed by an accredited Auctions plus assessor. If you are interested please give Matt a call.



# CLIENT CORNER

## *Your success is our goal!*

FORMER first cross ewe producer Stuart Shand has had an interesting journey looking for a sheep with fertility and structure with the hardiness to handle wet conditions at Langkoop in western Victoria.

But he reckons he has found his ideal sheep in the structurally sound and highly fertile, dark-nosed and black-hooved Chromedales from Matt and Tanya Tonissen, south of Hamilton.

He has settled on the Chromedales as their sheep of choice for their current flock-building phase.

Six years ago he stopped first cross ewe production and up until four years ago he was using Coopworth-White Suffolk cross composite rams, but couldn't get the fertility and structure he wanted.

"I went across to a closed flock with the Coopworth-White Suffolk composites and then decided I needed to chase better structure."

When buying rams at the annual Chrome ram sales near Hamilton, Stuart said he basically selects for black noses and black feet, and the highest fertility he can get. He also looks for rams with breeding values for worm resistance, early growth and genetic fat for lamb survival.

"The beauty of them is that you buy 5-10 rams and the rams in the back of the ute all look the same, so you get an even line of maternals."

"These sheep seem to have better structure and they are much sounder in the feet and we have fewer issues with worms and foot problems."

According to WillyWeather, the average rainfall at Edenhope has been 466mm since 2010, but Stuart said he is farming wet country where the sheep need to have structurally sound legs and hooves.

"We have harsh wet winters."

Stuart and his wife Edwina Shand, and Stuart's mother Janet, are running a self-replacing flock of about 5500 composite ewes on 1350 hectares at Langkoop, 16 kilometres west of Edenhope. About 2200 of his maternal ewes are joined to Chromedale rams and the remainder are joined to terminal rams. Rams are joined in early February for an early July lambing.

Stuart said his move to Chromedales had given him an even line of sheep, which produce even drops of lambs.



Stuart Shand

"The Chromedales give us even, fast growth rates with structurally sound sheep.

"If we don't mark 150 percent lambs out of the Chromedales we are pretty disappointed and we get exceptionally low rates of dry ewes – the rams are just sound."

The Shands are usually able to turn off from pasture direct to abattoirs under contract before Christmas at about 22-23 kg dressed weight to exporters or supermarkets.

"We've been spoiled the last few years with late seasons and we pushed the boundaries of our growing season with our late joining.

"But if we get an early finish to the season we sell a higher proportion of restocker or light trade lambs."

Growth weight were also good from the Coopworth-White Suffolk cross ram progeny, but he is also now getting great fertility from the Chromedale blood ewes, he said.



## CONTACT



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Coopworth • Chromedale® • Perendale • ICON Poll Dorset • ICON Southie®

"The last few years I have managed to hit export weight with most of my lambs.

"The last of our lambs are usually gone by the first week of December."

Stuart said he believed the Chromedales with their medium to large frames would give him more potential to lift his stocking rate in the future.

"The sheep we were running before the Chromedales were very large.

"I think we will be able to run 20pc

more ewes on the same country as we build our numbers and move to a pure Chromedale flock."

Stuart said from his first cross days he has always scanned to identify his multiple lamb-producing ewes and managed them differentially. Any twinning ewe is now joined to a Chromedale ewe to build fertility into the maternal flock.

"That means the Chromedale rams are being joined to the most productive sheep and we are keeping the female progeny."



Stuart Shand's lambs at marking

## OPEN DAY / RAM INSPECTION

Monday 9th October 11am – 4pm

## RAM SALE

Thursday 12th October

Inspection 9.30am Sale commences 11.30am

EVERY 6<sup>TH</sup>  
RAM  
FREE

*Not always do we have the time to send out a newsletter with the time delays and pop up events etc, so if you are interested in keeping a finger on the pulse of what we are up to please forward your email address or follow us on Facebook & Twitter.*



## CHROME DIARY

Open Day

9th Annual Ram Sale

Henty Field Days

Chrome Genetics Breeder Sale

Summer Ram Sale

Monday 9th Oct 2017

Thursday 12th Oct 2017

19th-21st Sept 2017

December (date tbc)

Friday 19th Jan 2018

[www.chromesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.chromesheepstuds.com.au)