

The last 3 years have seen us endure some topsy-turvy times as we dealt with the implications of Covid and the Russian war on the Ukraine impacting world prices for agricultural products. It would be fair to say the winter market for lamb this year didn't command the premiums they normally would, however it's good to see prices get back to somewhere near \$8 / kg recently. It's great to see a return to somewhat normal seasons across Australia – although some would potentially argue it's a bit wet in places. Southwest Victoria sits in a great position coming into early spring.

We have had another busy year here at Chrome. After another big embryo program and all our natural mating programs in February, we had cracking scanning results right across the board this year. The weather through our main lambing in July resulted in some amazing survival rates right across some 3,400 MA stud ewes lambing this winter.

MARKING/JOINING RESULTS 2022

Mob	Scan Rate	Marking %	Survival %
2yo Maternal Studs	180%	151%	84%
MA Maternal Studs 3-6yo	189%	167%	89%
MA Commercial Ewes (Inc 20% 2yo)	171%	156%	91%

Ram Sales this Season

We will be again having two sales this season where the best rams available are sold at Auction. Our main sale is on the 6th of October and the summer sale on the 16th of January 2023. All breeds of rams will be offered across both sales.

Quality will be consistent across both sales as we reserve rams especially for January. Rams will all be approximately 1.5 yo old at sale time excepting the ICON Southies in the January sale which will be majority June born ram lambs, however will be plenty big enough to work.

New Breed Lines

Chrome 'ELF ies' (Acronym for Early Lambing Flocks)

Since we started breeding maternal sheep at Chrome some 20 odd years ago, there has been a strong focus on producing an even flock of sheep with emphasis on black noses and black feet, which ideally prefer to lamb no earlier than 1st of June. This program has worked well as the majority of our clients are happy with their time of lambing. Those lambing earlier than June have generally come from a ewe base that has some pink nose genetics in them, mostly Merino crosses, White Suffolk etc. Whilst 2 to 3 crosses of our traditional Chromedales has worked fine to date we have a few clients wanting to continue lambing in May due to cropping programs, environment, etc., so we introduced some "early lambing" genetics a number of years ago to cater for the needs of these producers.

These rams are Chromedale type sheep except that they will produce;

- ewes to lamb slightly earlier
- less pigment around eyes and on noses
- tighter skins
- better carcass as they have more terminal genetics present

For our mainstream Chromedale clients that have been using Chromedale rams for many years and are happy lambing June/ July onwards don't change a thing.

ICON 25's

What started as an experiment 3 years ago has turned into a line of rams that look like Poll Dorsets but with the carcass attributes and slightly tighter wool of an ICON Southie. Cutting a long story short an ICON Southie ram let us down twice in a joining season and the backup ram was a Poll Dorset over the ICON Southie and Poll Dorset ewes. When we marked the resulting lambs they were "too good" to put rings on and we finished up selling all the rams as they pretty much sold themselves. It took us 12 months to get the breeding program going again and now we are able to offer our first draft of 20 rams at our October sale this year.

SHEEP GENETICS UPDATES

Updates to the Maternal and Terminal Indexes

Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) has been replaced by an improved ASBV called Weaning Rate (WR). This new ASBV has been included in the indexes for Maternal breeds.

Sheep Genetics has released a new trait that measures reproductive performance called Weaning Rate (WR). WR combines the traits of Conception (CON), Litter Size (LS) and Ewe Rearing Ability (ERA) into a single ASBV for selection. WR has been introduced to replace Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) and has been included in the Maternal Carcase Production Plus (MCP+) Index.

The TCP Terminal Index has been updated to include Lambing Ease

Sheep Genetics has updated the TCP Terminal index to include the Lambing Ease (LE_DIR) ASBV. Lambing ease was included in the index as a way to address industry concerns around lambing difficulties and dystocia while having minimal impact on the rate of progress for growth and other important production traits.

LE_DIR is a trait that defines the genes a ram's progeny will have for easy birthing. A higher LE_DIR value is more desirable.

The overall objective of the index remains the same, with only the addition of LE_DIR. The objective of the TCP index is TCP balances increased lean meat yield with modest improvements in eating quality.

As a result of the introduction and inclusion of WR and LE_DIR in their relevant indexes, there have been changes in the percentiles. Other enhancements to the Sheep Genetics evaluations, have also resulted in changes to ASBVs, Indexes, and the percentiles. *Therefore, this ram sale season it is important to use the percentile band table to re-benchmark to inform your ram purchasing decisions.*

On-Property at Chrome & Online with Auctions Plus

We will be having an on-property auction on Thursday 6th October simultaneously live stream audio & video on AuctionsPlus. Along with the catalogue, which you will be able to access on our website mid-September, there will be photos/videos of each ram individually catalogued for the sale available on Auctions Plus.

If you are considering bidding online, please register with Auctions Plus prior to the day if possible, bidding details can be found in our catalogue. Agent rebates will remain the same at 3% for those agents' introducing clients prior to the sale. Settlement of accounts will be still done through selling agents Kerr and Co Hamilton.

Inspection Day – Monday 3rd Oct

Our inspection day will be held on Monday 3rd October for people wanting to view the sale rams prior to the sale. All sale rams will be lotted and penned as per ram sale day.

Chrome Genetics Ewe Sale

The annual Chrome Genetic Ewe sale is scheduled for the second week of December on Auctions Plus. Entries are open to all Chrome clients who have surplus commercial ewes. 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. We recommend the use of our Chrome Genetics logo as your first photo as we get enquiries for Chrome blood ewes, and the logo directs these buyers to your product.

For clients selling online outside of this sale we encourage you to let us know as we can promote your offering through our social medias.

Vasectomized Rams

There is no doubt a commercial benefit in ewe lambs and 2yo maidens and it certainly

tightens up the lambing period in older ewes as well. A 90% conception from a 3-week joining is very achievable. There will be a limited number of vasectomized rams available, so if you are interested please book your required numbers with Matt asap.

SIRES WITH PROGENY IN SALE



ELFie Sire 19.4566



Chromedale sires from left: 19.2491, 19.4230, 19.6311



ICON Southie 20.308



Chromedale 194174

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE



Warrawindi 210099

Purchased at the 2022 Royal Adelaide Show Elite Ram Sale for \$19,000

BWT 0.5 WWT 12.1 PWT 17.6 PFat -0.7 PEMD 3.6 LE_DIR 0.7 TCP 159.8

(Pink: Top 5% Blue: Top 10%)

CONTACT



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

OPEN DAY

Monday 3rd October 11am – 4pm

SPRING RAM SALE

Thursday 6th October

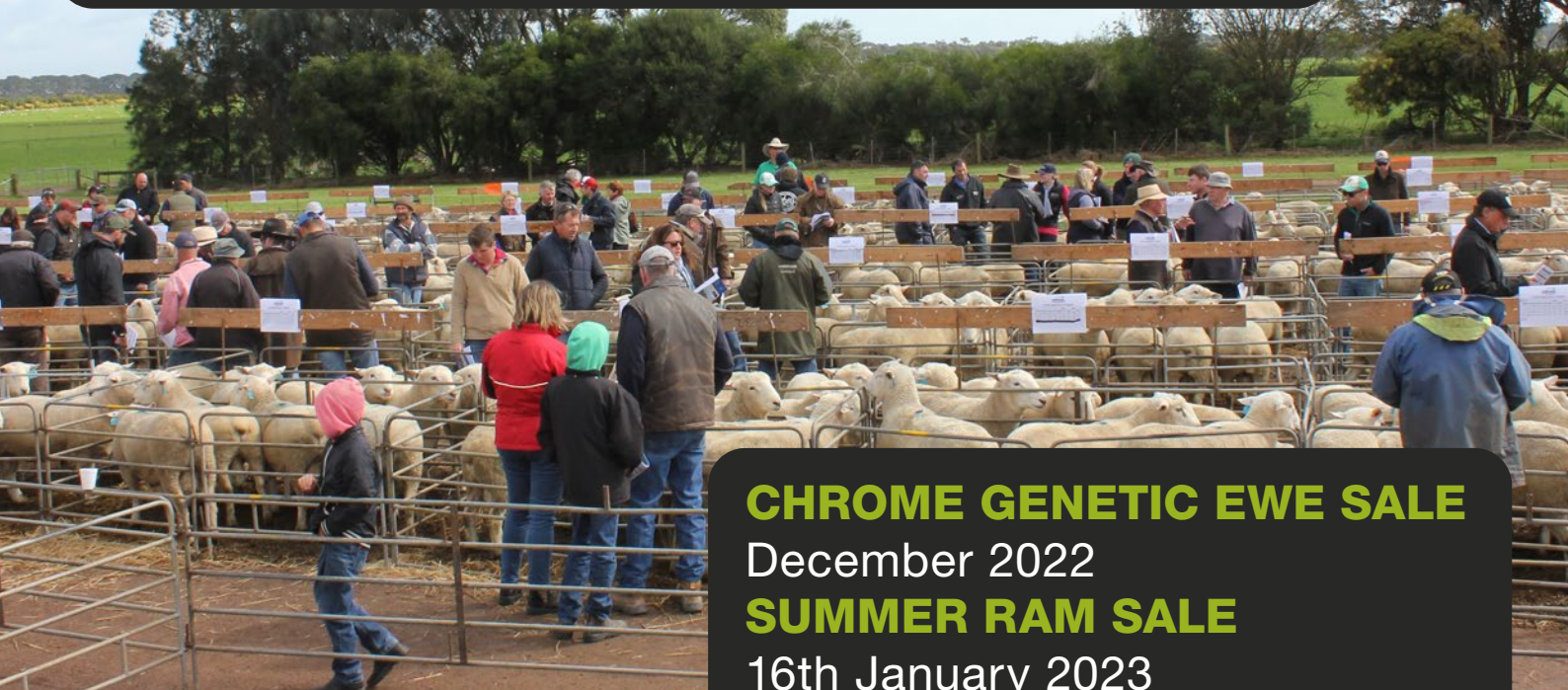
Inspection 9.30am Sale commences 11.30am



Ram sale catalogue will be available on our website in PDF and Excel formats. If you would like a catalogue posted, please email us.



EVERY 6TH
RAM
FREE



CHROME GENETIC EWE SALE

December 2022

SUMMER RAM SALE

16th January 2023



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www.chromesheepstuds.com.au