



AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

ABN: 41 338 467 905

Victorian Wool Centre, 691 Geelong Road, Brooklyn Vic 3025

Telephone: 03 9318 0399

e-mail: aswga@woolindustries.org

Facsimile: 03 9318 0877

ASWGA New England Region Report

July 2008

This year has seen changes of droughts to flooding rains then back to dry conditions again. We are slightly more fortunate than southern parts of the country & our sheep still have plenty to eat.

Wool sales were improved markedly on the previous year with most returns were up by over 25%. This was due to better tensile strengths & good demand for lower lines and skirtings. Buoyant prices for ultrafine wools meant that many people had sales over 10,000 c/kg.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 91,000 c/kg for Kliendienst family 12.0 micron
- 64 000 c/kg to Munsie & Fittler families.
- 44 000 c/kg for Tim Robertson & Bill McClenaghan
- 31 200 c/kg to Martel family

SHEEP

Ram sales saw vast improvements. Many ram sale averages were up by 25-50% and clearances much better than the previous year.

Our Christmas event saw about 40 people gather at Daryl & Robyn Carters to sample some Whyworry wines. Members have also dined together prior to general meetings. These events are nice to do, to eat well and talk about things outside our industry.

NEW ENGLAND MERINO FIELD DAYS took place in January. ASWGA studs together with others put on a fabulous display. Good seasonal conditions & strong wool market ensured the biggest crowd for many years. Buses were provided to take growers to the properties around the district. Some studs displayed at the Walcha showground and these were viewed on return to Walcha. Elders sponsored a fleece competition which had approximately 180 fleeces from all parts of NSW. The event was opened by Mark Morrison who gave an insight into different selling methods.

I would like to congratulate Maurice & Alison van Eyke and family whose Shalimar merino stud won many broad ribbons with their sheep at this years Sydney Royal Easter show.

ZEGNA COMPETITION RESULTS:

The New England region was thrilled with its success in this years Zegna competition. New England supplied four of the first six place getters in the unprotected section.

- Mark & Lesleann Waters was placed 1st.
- Tony and Janet Gall were placed 3rd.
- David and Angie Waters were placed 5th.
- Phil and Jenny Carlon were placed 6th.

In the protected section the Tully family were placed 2nd.

This year the winners of the Zegna comp. From Argentina, New Zealand & South Africa displayed their winning fleeces

The gathering at the Hilton Motel in Sydney saw many New Englanders present, it was nice to see some familiar faces and renew acquaintances.

At Wool Expo in May ASWGA organized a seminar and forum.

Speakers included:

- Kevin Dunn - The role of ASWGA
- Paul Swan - The Challenges & Opportunities for Australian Merino Wool
- Bruce Farquharson - The Impact of Parasites on Production and Strategies for their Control.
- Brendan van Rensburg - Sampling and Measurement Precision Focusing on Fibre Diameter and ATLAS.

The Panel consisted of;

- Jock Laurie- NSW farmers
- James Rowe- sheep CRC
- Andrew Hodgson- AWI
- Kevin Dunn
- Meredith Shiel, Inventor of Tri-Solfen
- Craig Brennan representing Newcastle Wool Brokers

Approx 80 people attended and listened intently. The forum went for ¾ hour with many questions about mulesing. Other areas of interest were Marketing, Future of Newcastle wool selling center, Role of NSW Farmers, the performance of AWI & the frustrations to the industry of many wool interest groups having different views. Many thanks to Geoff Wood who performed admirably as MC

A five course Dinner followed, prepared by a leading Queensland chef the main course being lot fed New England Merino Lamb.

The NEW ENGLAND WOOL ultimate clip competition was held in June. A large number of growers from this region dined with Andrew Blanch and his team.

Several of our members collected prizes:-

- Terry & Jan Carlon 2nd
- Geoff & Jan Wood 3rd
- Clive & Natasha Pearson 4th
- Tony & Janet Gall 4th

ASWGA members in this region have had their selling options altered for the coming season. The loss of the Newcastle August sale to Sydney may transfer wool into the September sale. This may push some of the regular September wool to October and so on. It is also a situation we should do something about. It is interesting that Newcastle requires 16,000 bales per sale. Sydney sales since the Christmas break show 9 weeks offerings over 16,000 bales and 14 weeks of under 16,000.

Another hurdle emerging lately for growers are the costs of Fuel and fertilizer. We are

dependent on these products and these will be very difficult to manage. All other costs will increase with the rise of fuel and transport so we can expect a tough year financially.

Finally as I have served three years, I feel it right that I stand aside and let someone with fresh ideas take on the Presidents role. Before vacating I wish to thank Tony & Janet Gall who gave advice when I needed it. Thanks to those who attended dinners & meetings and added to the debates and to all others who remain members of ASWGA.

At our AGM a new executive was voted in.

- The new President of the New England branch is Daryl Carter
- Vice Presidents - Adam Edwards & Mark Waters
- Secretary/Treasurer - Janet Gall

The committee appreciates your ongoing support for the ASWGA. This is evidenced by you continuing to pay membership and in attending meetings. However this is not enough to keep the NE region functioning. What we need are people willing to take on a role within the committee. This need not take a huge amount of time or experience, only a willingness to be involved. I know you have probably heard all this before but we are vulnerable to losing momentum or perhaps folding altogether if we cannot find volunteers to fill essential committee positions. If any of you here can see any personal benefit to having a voice representing NE then perhaps you can see your way to donating a little of your time.