

Langdene's \$9000 high Rock-Bank Merino's \$20,000 ram record

By BRAD WILSON

IN WHAT is becoming a common theme this ram sale season, Langdene Merino stud averaged \$2719, up \$412 on last year's result, for the Cox family, Dunedoo.

With a large gallery of people on hand, 52 Merino producers cleared all 108 rams (22 more than last year), selling to a high of \$9000.

The sale capped off a great year for the Cox family after they were awarded most successful Merino exhibitor title at the National Merino Sheep Show and Sale in Dubbo.

The catalyst was the numerous new faces combined with repeat clients from a vast array of grazing and climatic conditions, which saw rams sent as far north as Guyra, south to Cootamundra, west to Burren Junction and all regions in between.

The sale started on the right foot, with manager of "Hollow Mount", David Zouch, Bigga, accompanied by property owner, Ken Wolf, purchasing lot one for the \$9000 sale top price.

The N4636 son carried figures of 18.6-micron, 3.3-micron standard deviation, 17.7 per cent coefficient of variation and 99.8pc comfort factor.

Mr Zouch, who also bought last year's top-priced ram, took home three on the day.

"We were chasing rams that displayed well-nourished wool; our top-priced ram had this combined with long staple, clean face and a well-balanced structure," he said.

Steve and Geraldine Gough, Belmore Agricultural Company, Yeoval, who have purchased at Langdene for the past 12 years, took six rams, one less than last year, to average \$2900.



Gordon Cox, Langdene Merino stud, Dunedoo; Jason Pearce, Elders Mudgee; Ken Wolf, "Hollow Mount", Bigga, and "Hollow Mount" manager, David Zouch, with the \$9000 top-priced ram at last week's Langdene ram sale.

Mr Gough, who runs a mixed grazing operation including cattle and 2800 Merino ewes along with his commercial and stud SAMP operation, said Langdene rams had quality wool that bred on in their commercial flock.

"They are quality sheep here, anybody who couldn't be satisfied here would not be satisfied anywhere else," he said.

Bulk buyers included Paspaley Pearls Company, "Kurrajong Park", Coolah, and Alto Rural, Dunedoo, both repeat clients taking 19 and nine rams respectively, averaging \$1979 and \$3667.

Other multiple buyers included Earlston Pastoral Company, Gravesend, which averaged \$2514 for their draft of

seven, while Buckulla Pastoral Company, Burren Junction, secured eight to average \$1850.

Fresh faces to the sale included Guyra producers, the Fernhill Partnership, which paid to \$3200 for five rams and the Thompson family, Guyra, securing four new sires and averaging \$2350.

Stud co-principal, Garry Cox, said it was a pleasing result.

"We lifted our ram offering to cater for all our clients needs and with the season permitting, we will offer more rams again next year."

The sale was conducted by Elders, with Andy McGeoch standing over the draft.

A ROCK-BANK Merino ram sold for \$20,000 this week, the stud's second highest on-property sale result, at the annual sale at Victoria Valley, Vic.

The price paid for lot 4, a 15.7-micron ram, by the Venning family, Morgiana, Vic, was Rock-Bank's highest on-property price since 2002, when a ram was sold for \$40,000 to the Mt Sturgeon Merino stud.

Rock-Bank also sold a ram privately for \$50,000 in 1997.

Joint selling agents, Landmark, Arcadian Wool and Jackson of Geelong, sold all 50 rams offered for an average of \$2679, an increase of \$583 on last year's result.

Rams were sold to breeders in Victoria, NSW and South Australia.

Bradley Venning of D.L. and M.J. Venning Partners, Kilmarnock, Vic, said the \$20,000 ram would infuse

new genetics into the family's flock to produce rams.

The Vennings are long-time Rock-Bank clients and shear about 10,000 sheep, 20 kilometres west of Hamilton, in south-west Victoria.

Mr Venning said the ram had the right wool type and skin with scale.

It would help the flock maintain its clip diameter in the 16- to 18-micron range.

Losing bidder for the top-priced ram was the Leenavale Merino stud of Sorell, Tasmania.

Benayeo, Vic, breeders, Kym and Leonie Sambell, paid \$6500 for lot 46 and \$5250 was paid for rams by the Beverley Merino stud at Redesdale, Vic, and Ambleside from Berrybank, Vic.

NSW breeders Paul and Gwen Jarick, "Glenlea", Jindera via Albury, paid \$5000 for lot 47.

- TERRY SIM



LEFT: Stud workers, Tim Meulendyks and Sam Crawford, Victoria Valley, Vic, Rock-Bank principal, John Crawford, and buyers, Victoria, Bradley Venning and baby Samuel, Kilmarnock, Vic, with the \$20,000 ram.

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