

Spirited bidding at Yanta sale raises ram price bar

By JANELLE COZZI

EARLY spring rain did nothing to dampen buyer spirits at Yanta's 28th on-property ram sale on Tuesday last week, with total clearance of the White Suffolk catalogue and record average for its Poll Merino offering.

The first day of spring brought soaking rain, which was an encouraging sign for producers who were impressed with the young line-up of July/August/September-drops, with the 31 registered bidders pushing Yanta stud stock well beyond 2014 prices.

All 66 of the White Suffolk meat stock sold to a top of \$3200 for an auction average of \$1173, up \$323 from last year.

Given the popularity of the White Suffolk offering, 12 more rams were presented in a last-minute mini-auction.

All 12 sold to \$800 thrice, for a \$691 average.

Stud principal Don Baillie was delighted with the result, strong

Sale summary

Poll Merinos		2015	2014
■ Offered		36	48
■ Sold		33	26
■ Top		\$3100	\$2000
■ Av		\$1257	\$773
White Suffolks		2015	2014
■ Offered		66	60
■ Sold		66	54
■ Top		\$3200	\$2600
■ Av		\$1173	\$850

demand claiming its entire White Suffolk sire holding.

"I sold a further 15 privately after the auction and I still couldn't satisfy demand, with a complete sell-out of all White Suffolk rams on the farm," he said.

A Bundara Downs 109192-sired ram attracted the most attention.

Taken at lot 28 for \$3200, the triplet ranked in the top 10 per cent for the breed across postweaning eye muscle depth and Carcase Plus indicators.

"He had a post-weaning EMD of

3.2 and a carcase plus of 209," Mr Baillie said.

Top-price buyer Taris Richardson, Seamour Poll Merinos, Tumby Bay, has been sourcing Yanta genetics for more than 20 years.

"He'll cover my poll ewes, and the trait that stood out for me was his low birthweight at 0.2 and his reasonably high post weaning weight of 13.6, which means a big lamb when it comes to sale time," he said.

Grantley Telfer, Karulga, Ungarra, secured the second top-price White Suffolk, paying \$2300 for the Bundara Downs progeny with similarly impressive figures – 4PEMD and 215CPL.

Yanta's wool flock proved just as enticing, with 33 of the 36 Poll Merinos sold to a top of \$3100, for a new stud record average of \$1257.

The sire's median price surpassed the Tumby Bay-based stud's 2014 average for woollies by a staggering \$484.

"The polls presented were of a



POLL MERINO WIN: Top-price Poll Merino buyer Julian Webb, JC&TL Webb, Tumby Bay (centre) with Yanta stud principal Don Baillie, Tumby Bay, and Elders Cummins livestock manager Paul Kilby, with tag 576, which Mr Webb bought for \$3100.



WHITE SUFFOLK TOP: Taris Richardson, RN&RA Richardson, Seamour Poll Merino, Tumby Bay, with Elders Cummins livestock manager Paul Kilby and Yanta stud principal Don Baillie, Tumby Bay, holding the \$3200 top-price White Suffolk.

high wool quality, displaying nourishment and character, particularly tag 576 (top price ram), which had a lovely big, plain body covered in plenty of white wool," Mr Baillie said.

The second-last lot to be auctioned, the ram had a MerinoSelect Dual Purpose Plus index of 145, and a yearling weight of 9.9kg, to complement his impressive fibre figures – 17.3M, 17.3CV and 100CF.

A son of Turretfield 121460, the ram was secured by Stokes producer Julian Webb, who only source-

es Yanta Merino seedstock. "Turretfield is a new bloodline for the Baillies, so for me the purchase is about implementing new genetics," the client of 14 years said.

Mr Webb bought two rams, securing a Leahcim-sired poll for \$2900 – the auction's second top price.

Yadlamalka Station, Port Augusta, was volume buyer with 16 rams – 13 White Suffolks to \$1000 and three Poll Merinos to \$900.

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Pepper Well average heats up

By CARLA WIESE-SMITH

CLEARANCE and average were up in a successful sale for Pepper Well Poll Merinos at Keyneton on Tuesday last week.

With 28 rams sold from 36 offered – eight more than last year – and an average of \$1000, up \$110, stud principal Hansi Graetz had every reason to smile at the conclusion of the day's proceedings, which he summed up in one word: "good".

The top price ram at \$2000 was a 98-kilogram, June 2014-drop, 18.8 micron sire secured by David Holt, Eden Valley.

With a 2.8 standard deviation, 14.9 coefficient of variation and 99.7 per cent comfort factor, Mr Holt said the ram appealed for its "clean, free and open" fleece.

"He's also got good crimp and good conformation, and will also give us a bit more meat," he said.

The ram will be used across young, mixed-blood Merino ewes in the Holts' 650-ewe flock.

Sale summary

	2015	2014
■ Offered	36	36
■ Sold	28	20
■ Top	\$2000	\$2100
■ Av	\$1000	\$890

Mr Holt said they had used Pepper Well bloodlines regularly "many years ago" and were coming back for more.

"Hansi has a good line-up here, the bloodlines are good and he is very passionate about what he does," he said.

A number of buyers secured three rams each, including RG&TA Hentschke, Roseworthy, DW Kubenk & Sons, Murray Bridge, Bundilla Pastoral, RG Seidel, Sedan, DM&SM Schirmer, Cambrai, Broughton Vale Pastoral and AJ&AG Schiller, Strathalbyn.

The Hentschkes paid to \$1900 and averaged \$1800 for their three while Bundilla Pastoral averaged \$967 and RG Seidel averaged \$933.

Mr Graetz was pleased to



FINE FLEECE: Pepper Well stud principal Hansi Graetz, Keyneton, David Holt and Sue Holt, Eden Valley, and Landmark auctioneer Murray Bullen.

see clearance was up, with this year's sale "much better" than last year.

"There will be some very happy people who have bought quality rams for less than \$1000," he said.

Landmark auctioneer Murray Bullen said the sale draft was the "best line of rams" he had seen.

Landmark Mount Pleasant officiated.

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