



## WELCOME TO THE 2022 PASTORA NEWSLETTER.

What a great year it has been for the fine end of the wool market. We have had several clients reporting wool prices in excess of \$3000 per bale. The effort over the years to get our micron to where it is now, certainly pays off when the market is high. We have seen similar prices over the last few years but never has there been such a premium for the fine wool. Sadly, for our stronger wool counterparts they have not enjoyed the high prices. The price really drops off above 18 micron. For most of the last twelve months 17 micron has been worth double 21 micron.

Pastora clients have sold wether lambs up to \$240 through the saleyard throughout April & May. With the market slipping away in June/July several clients have told me they intend to retain their wether lambs unless it rallies. Many studs claim to have dual-purpose merino sheep but if this was the case the option to retain wethers would be available to them. In reality, their fleece values are too low for this to be a viable or profitable option. This year highlights the fact that they are purely meat sheep, with a small amount of wool value.

### Pastora client's

16.5 micron, 4kgs clean. Value \$27.50/kg from weaners equals \$110.

### Meat sheep claiming to be dual purpose

21 micron, 4kgs clean. Value \$13.50 clean from weaners equals \$55.

Prices based from the MPG 1st August

## RAM AUCTION

Last year for the first time we held an on-property ram sale. We were humbled with the support shown by our clients and new buyers, achieving 100% clearance with a sale average of \$2596. This year on Wednesday the 7th of September the best 100 rams will be available, going under the hammer at the Pastora woolshed commencing at 1pm, inspection from 9.30. Rams will be presented with their raw data and ASBV's on the day. Videos of all the rams and sale catalogues will be on our website two weeks prior to the auction. ([pollmerinos.com.au](http://pollmerinos.com.au)). Also available 700 grade rams for private selection in the days preceding the auction.

A 5% rebate is available to outside agents introducing new business

## MILLION DOLOUR WOOL CHEQUE

We have come very close several times since 2016 to achieving this goal. Our shearers enjoy sledging us assuming we achieve this every year! It's a common topic of conversation in the shed with them trying to get a raise out of me. In reality this is the first time we have surpassed the million-dollar goal, from our wool cheque. Our stock numbers include, 4900 breeding ewes; 5100 weaners; 250, 2-year-old wethers and; 80 sires. This year we pressed 384 bales of wool our largest ever.

# AUCTION

## 100 Rams

Wednesday 7th September

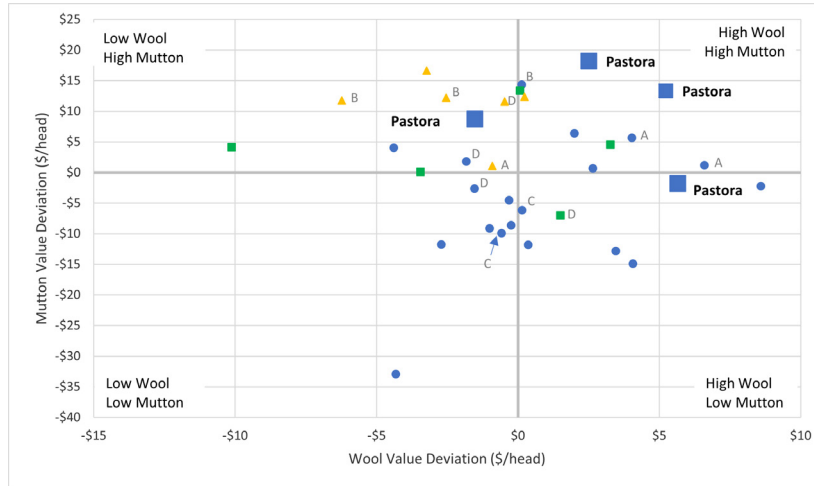
Commencing 1pm at

Pastora Woolshed

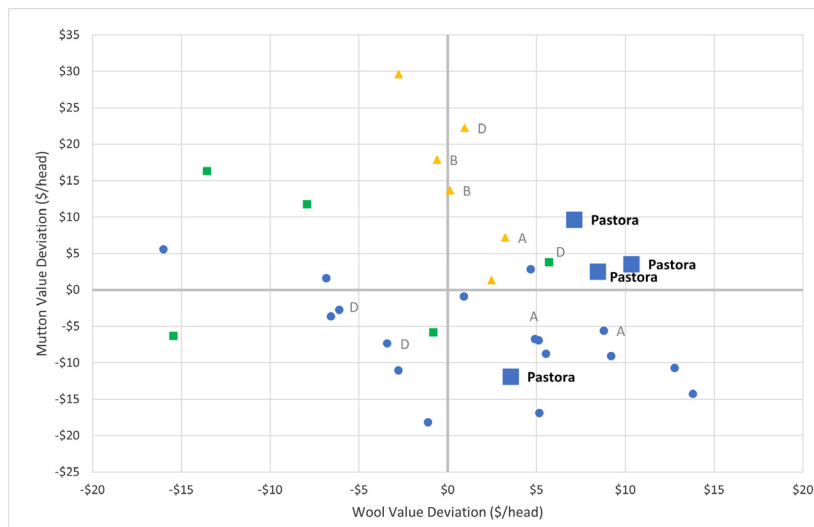


# WETHER TRIALS

Once again Pastora clients have excelled in the 2022 wether trials. The graphs below highlight Pastora's performance in these trials. Individually and as grouped compared to other bloodlines, that consisted of two or more teams. (Note: bloodline A to E represent five separate studs and their results) Pastora is the highest ranked bloodline showing the depth of the bloodline. The combination of heavy cutting fine wool on competitive frames, puts us on top as the graphs indicate.



2022-Wool value relative to mutton value (Condoblin)



2022 wool value relative to mutton value (Wagga Wagga)

# CLIENT NEWS

The Hosie family from Osborne, had the highest individual wool price that I have heard of. Their 16.2 weaner wool topped at 3233c/kg clean. Their adult ewes averaged 7.4kg and cut \$102.60 each sold in May.

The Molloy family from The Rock averaged \$105/head in February from their breeding ewes and wethers with 11 months growth. Average micron of 17.2 GFW of 6.9. The Molloys also weaned 122% from these ewes whilst growing this clip of wool. Their lambs in March cut \$51/head at 7 months of age, (16.5 micron with 3.4kg GFW). A fantastic result for a hard-working family who have over the last 10 years focused on their flock's profitability. To put this sale onto perspective, and highlight the importance of micron, Molloys stain and shanks sold on the 27th of April averaged 1800c/kg clean or 970 greasy and measured 16.2 micron. On the same day the 19-micron price guide stood at 1684, meaning Molloys worst line of wool was worth over a dollar/kg clean than the average price paid for the 19-micron lines sold on the same day.

## GENETIC DECISION MAKING AND MY THOUGHTS

In 2008 when my father passed, we generated 50% of our gross income from ram sales. In 2021, twenty per cent of our gross income was generated from ram sales. Our ram sales have hovered around 500 rams per year for that period, so ram sale revenue has stayed about the same. Out of expansion solely from farm revenue, improvements in efficiency, genetic refinements and commodity price increases, we have managed to triple our net income which in turn has lowered the percentage of net income generated from ram sales. The genetic decisions we make in this business are based on 80% of our income stream. It would be foolish to base business decisions on the 20% we generate from ram income. As such our genetic decisions match our clients farm income. I watch the fads that come and go and changes occurring in our industry and wonder if it is really about overall farm profitability or studs pushing to sell more rams as they have a large influence on industry direction. I am 100% responsible for our profitability and our client's genetic gain, something I don't take lightly. I focus on efficiency to improve both client profit and my financial direction.

Compare Pastora to a corporate stud, that have obligations to their shareholders who have minimal understanding about the complexities of profitable sheep and animal husbandry but still driving the long term decisions made at these studs. Their employed stud sales manager sells rams, with no personal investment and probably receiving a bonus commission. How can they be in tune to what generates income in your commercial business? Should you really be buying rams from a business like that? If this strikes a chord with you come and have a look at our ram sale on September the 7th with no obligation to buy.



Story of the year: constantly bogged

## MULESING

Often, I am asked about my stance on mulesing. I will probably receive some flak from this statement, but I believe that you should purchase rams from a stud with the same goals in mind. At this stage we are still mulesing with pain relief, whilst working towards a sheep with a plainer back end. It really concerns me that un-mulesed sheep are placing more pressure on the fly protection products that are currently in use.

In the Central West area of NSW there is the highest density of un-mulesed sheep in Australia, but worryingly the area also has the highest reported cases of resistance to a widely used fly protection product. Given this new information on resistance, which is what I thought would happen years ago when this debate started, will it be better for the industry if the other tools we have in the cupboard are destroyed because of not mulesing? I believe the debate was originally instigated by stud owners with short term views, employed to generate publicity, stir up a storm and get free air time trying to expand ram sales. Will it be viable long term when the fly protection products break down?

At Pastora our sheep are very resistant to body strike and we have worked hard on wool colour and shoulder structure. We will continue to work on plaining up the breach, but we will be taking it slowly. Animal welfare is at the top of the list of importance, after all they are why we are viable as a business so we owe it to them to look after them. The wether trial data clearly indicates that moving too quickly towards this goal comes with a very high fleece weight penalty. There is a reason most non-mulesed studs don't enter wether trials, as they know they would place at the bottom. I am open to any new technology that could help us stop mulesing. I personally believe it is ridiculous to stop mulesing at this stage due to the long-term resistance issues it places on the industry. I am also of the opinion that there is no advantage to having uneducated ethics and being broke due the lower income un-mulesed sheep generate.

Lastly, individual price premiums largely reported for un-mulesed wool in the media and by studs requires averaging over a twelve-month period to show the true premium. When this is done, it shows that the loss of wool production far outweighs the very small averaged premiums that are achieved.

## PASTORA FARM IMPROVEMENTS

Pastora is a long block, approximately 25km end to end and not very wide. Intersected by one main road and several smaller ones, hence, we need to utilize several sets of yards for animal welfare issues and labour efficiencies. We began upgrading these yards 4 years ago with the replacement of our worse set of yards on the furthest property, with a set of permanent yards. The yards work well, but with 6 sets of yards we were looking for a quicker construction, for time management. In 2021 we purchased one set of StockPro, based in Condobolin, 2400 head yards to see how they would work. We are very happy with the stock flow and ease of construction and have purchased a further 3 sets of yards this year. Over the next 2- 3 years we plan to upgrade the Pastora yards, as they are past their use by date and require a more workable and efficient set up. Now the worse set of yards on the property.



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Peter Westblade scholarship is in its 10th year now, slowly expanding as time goes on this is only possible by the great fund raising and generous donations.

This year there were three joint winners Mitch Rubie, Forbes, Baylee Stapleton, Jerilderie and Willian Lyon from Boomey (near Orange).

The scholarship committee also now hold a training weekend at Wyvern Station near Carrathool each year helping to educate about 30 young enthusiastic people interested in a ag career.

Its inspirational to go along and see how keen these young people are to learn from some of the old hands of the industry. There is a slow but consistent changing of the guard on the committee with past scholarship entrants taking over. Which is great to see helping to keep it young and fresh.

Information about the scholarship can be found on the website. [pwscholarship.com.au](http://pwscholarship.com.au)



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