



LINDON SAMP NEWSLETTER

LINDON SAMP

Ag Quip Special
August 2006

The development of Lindon SAMP. Why we moved from fine wool into the SAMP (South African Meat Merino)

Lindon SAMP is located 26km west of Uralla, on light granite soils. Our primary focus for the past 26 years has been medium to fine wool, introducing larger frame and heavier cutting genetics since 1998.

We AI'd 1000 to 1500 ewes a year, using top shelf genetics. Four years ago, a friend insisted we try 100 doses of his SAMP ram, which we did. The progeny from this AI program gave a good comparison of the F1 SAMP compared with the pure merinos with so call meat characteristics. All AI progeny were run under the same conditions. At lamb marking **the FI's were outstanding.** Easy lambing, high growth rates and a fantastic constitution convinced us to purchase some SAMP rams for ourselves. We purchased 3 SAMP rams from the Dubbo National Sale in 2004 which we joined to our cull ewes. The remainder were still joined to western larger frame type fine wool rams (as we still had faith in the wool market). Yet again the F1 SAMP lambs (out of our lesser ewes) out performed the straight bred meat merino (out of our best classed breeders). To our pleasant surprise the cull rate of the F1 ewe lambs was less than the straight bred merinos classed on frame and wool.

The decision was very easy for us to sell all of our merino rams, and join all commercial ewes on Lindon to SAMP rams in early 2006. The commercial enterprise on Lindon led us to the development of the Lindon SAMP stud. At the Dubbo SAMP Sale in 2004 we were restricted as to where we could buy MN3 SAMP Rams and felt that there was an opening for a Stud in the New England of NSW to supply commercially affordable top quality rams with a MN3 disease free status. After researching the genetics available we were led to Cullam SAMP, the largest SAMP stud in Australia based at Jerramungup in Western Australia. Cullam SAMP was one of the first studs established ten years ago importing the SAMP genetics from South Africa. We believe that the Cullam genetics would best suit our environment with their whiter softer wools and high indexing animals.

In 2005 Lindon SAMP was established, after importing pure SAMP embryos from Cullam in WA. 300 embryos were implanted in 2005, with our first pure Lindon SAMP genetics hitting the ground on 15th October 2005.

We have implanted another 500 embryos in

three programs in March, April and May of 2006. The first program has just started to lamb down on 6th August 2006. We have had another successful embryo program with a 73% take rate, which is very pleasing considering industry standards range from 50-60%.



Lindon SAMP 7 month old rams.



"Dobikin" Bellata, FI SAMP lambs, averaging \$108.58, yielding 47% full carcass weight at 10 months.

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Key SAMP profit drivers

- 100% Merino Wool
- Increase fertility
- High feed efficiency
- Hardiness
- Constitution
- Outstanding temperament

Supersheep



Naturally bare breached ewe which was flushed for our embryo program

You may have read in recent articles from the World Merino Conference that **“The largest gene mapping program is about to yield exciting new tools to fast track efforts to breed superior sheep”**

Professor Phillip Hynd.

These tools will come in the form of gene markers to help sheep breeders select for actual genes responsible for superior performance in a range of desired traits including fibre diameter, muscling, parasite resistance, eye muscle etc. **“There are some already here and there’s a whole pile in the wind” Prof Hynd Said.**

At Lindon SAMM we have a DNA profile on every

stud animal and will continue to DNA test all progeny born. This not only provides us with accurate parent verification but also opens the doors to the new gene markers when they become available.

We are very much looking forward to the release of **“Calligype” gene (Greek for “nice buttocks”)**. Sheep with this gene show extreme muscling in the buttocks along with other carcass characteristic genes.

When the gene markers become available they will enhance the profitability of the sheep meat industry.

Prof Hynd also stated “gene markers would also improve the accuracy of

estimated breeding values (EBVs) and would pave the way for the treatment of pregnant ewes to improve the wool and meat production of their lambs”

The bare breach gene is another important gene that is currently being tested. Until its release we are actively selecting for a natural bare breach in our flock.

Objective measurements are a key priority at Lindon SAMM. Technological advancements are occurring all the time and we are embracing them, however equally as important to us is the use of subjective visual assessment.

“The Breed has been used in the development of four South African Landrace breeds namely the Dohne Merino, Afrino, Dormer & Vador”

The development of the SAMM

Originally known as the German Mutton Merino, the first ten ewes and a ram were imported to South Africa from Germany in 1932 by the Department of Agriculture for a breeding program. Through selection for a better wool quality and conformation, the uniqueness of the South African breed was recognised in 1971 when

the breed name was changed to the SA Mutton Merino (SAMM).

The SA Mutton Merino is a dual purpose mutton-wool sheep (80:20 Mutton to Wool), originally bred for its high adaptability to all farming regions in South Africa. The breed was developed to produce a heavy slaughter lamb at an early age as well as good

quality wool.

The breed has been used, as a sire line, in the development of four South African Landrace breeds, namely the Dohne Merino, the Afrino, Dormer and the Vador.

SAMM’s are celebrating their 10 year anniversary in Australia this year.



Typical SAMM Ram, Photo sourced from South African Web page.

Typical SAMM production figures

*Lambing of 150% and higher. *Non seasonal breeders lambing every 8 months. *Ability of rearing multiple births. *Gross feed conversion ratio 3.91:1 (in finishing lambs) *Excellent temperament and ideal for feedlots. *Ewes yield up to 4.8 litres of milk per day. *Lamb

weight gains more than 350g / day in extensive conditions, producing lean, heavy, prime grade carcasses. *Average wool micron 21-23 free of kemp and colored fibres. Average ewe produces 3.4 to 4.5kg wool. *Average ram produces 4.5 to 6kg wool. *Exceptional in dry condi-

tions needing minimum supplementary feeding even in drought. *Known for its will to live and strong constitution. *Polled sheep although the ram may occasionally have a scur. *No mulesing required.



SAMM SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY LINDON SAMM @ URALLA.

In February 2006, Lindon SAMM hosted a Symposium on behalf of the Eastern States SAMM Society. The day was held to introduce the breed to the New England and North West. The day was a great success with numbers in attendance in excess of 180. There were four studs displaying, along with locally bred F1 and F2 lambs.

The day began with a round robin moving between three speakers 1. Stewart Meatheringham from Cydectin 2. Sam Gill discussing **MLA's ASBVs**. 3. Derick Tink demonstrating **Practical System's** Farmhand program.

Six carcasses were displayed in a cool room for viewing. Three being F1 SAMMs and three pure Merinos, all of which were the same age and had been running together in the same conditions. They were then butchered and displayed on trays for cut, color, texture and size comparison. The F1 proved to have superior characteristics in all cate-

gories compared with the merino. The Kingstown P&C cooked the lamb steaks donated by Lindon Grazing Co served on yummy Turkish bread & gourmet condiments. The P&C were thrilled with the fundraiser and were grateful for our donation of the six sheep. Along with a **local café "Filling Groovy"** donating the Turkish Bread. Unfortunately an error on our behalf was to serve both Merino and F1 lamb. You could really tell who was eating which lamb. One was noticeably tender.

The afternoon speakers included Peter Corish - National Farmers Federation President and Lamb-Feedlotter, John Jackson - Country Fresh Australia and Bill Cordingley - **Rabobank's Senior Analyst**. We were thrilled to have such high profile industry speakers at the Symposium. A big thank you to the sponsors Landmark, Elders, Compass Feeds, Genetic Technologies, Rabobank, Practical Systems and Fort Dodge.



Guests attending the Symposium in February 2006 at **"Lindon" Uralla**.

SAMMs Getting results

The SAMM is offering flexibility to diversify into prime lambs while still remaining a 100% merino flock. Fertility is enhanced with a 10-15% increase in each cross, along with hardiness and high feed **conversion ratio's, which all** equate to more profitability for the commercial producer.

With SAMMs rapidly growing in Eastern Australia,

producers are seeing the results and being rewarded highly for them. The Vickery family from **"Dobikin" Bellata recently** (August) sold first cross lambs to Country Fresh Tamworth at 10 months of age, which averaged \$108.58 head, dressing extremely well at 47% full weight. The average live weight being 62.5kg and 29.58kg dressed. These

results have been achieved with the same genetics that Lindon SAMM is based on. We have been overwhelmed with enquiries since Lindon SAMM was established and have had 100% clearance of our 2005 drop rams. We will have on offer in excess of 120 rams from our 2006 drop from mid to late 2007.

With all modern technologies being utilized at Lindon, we are still maintaining an affordable product for our clients, while providing peace of mind with 100% SAMM genetics. We are the most commercially affordable SAMM seed stock supplier in Australia. Lindon SAMM has rams, semen, ewes and embryos available year round by appointment.



LINDON SAMM

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Our genetics are in the
top 10% of the breed



Lindon S amm



Sheep Industry slow to follow **Cattle’s lead**

Look at the cattle industry. They are putting certain **sire lines in feedlot’s** because they are known to perform well with the tool of EBVs guiding them.

At Lindon S amm we believe that Meat and Live-stock Australia’s ASBVs will help shape the way for the lamb industry like the cattle industry.

All animals born at Lindon S amm are registered with **Lambplan’s ASBVs** so we

can utilize the figures for our own management. They also allow our clients to maximize on productivity by selecting certain traits that are important in their operation, i.e. muscle, fertility, growth, birth weight, domestic or export markets.

Lindon S amm animals can be viewed on the SGA web page providing information such as pedigrees and ASBVs, which include

Lindon 050067 Ranked #12 in Australia



Johnnie and Lindon 050067 as a lamb at 7 months of age in May 2006 at Wool Expo in Armidale

SAMM ASBVs (3/ 8/2006)

	Maternal Weaning Wt	Post Weaning Scrotal Circ	Yearling Scrotal Circ	Birth Wt	Weaning Wt	Post Weaning Wt	Yearling Wt	Adult Wt
EBV	+0.2	+1.9	+2.3	+0.5	+4.8	+7.3	+9.6	+9.1
Acc	51%	55%	54%	50%	73%	74%	70%	60%

SAMM Avg. ASBVs for 2005 Born Lambs([Click for Percentiles](#))

EBV	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.5
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SELECTION INDEX VALUES

Market Target	Index Value	Breed Average
Maternal \$Index	+122	+104
SAMM \$Index	+136	+106

maternal weaning weight, scrotal circumference, birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight and adult weight, along with the maternal \$Index and SAMM \$Index. This data can be obtained by visiting www.sheepgenetics.org.au

We have been thrilled with the results with our flock being ranked in the top 10% of the breed for SAMM \$ in-



Sunnyside 4039, Purchased by Lindon S amm jointly with Cullam S amm for \$10,000. His sire has a fecundity of 233pc, while his dam has a fecundity of 150pc.