



NEW ARMATREE
— BORDER LEICESTERS —

The Genetic Advantage



NEWSLETTER August 2020

Welcome to the August 2020 newsletter.

You may note that this is being sent out ahead of the catalogue. Normally they are sent together but all is well and the catalogue will follow in late August.

The reason for the early newsletter is that our Open Day is scheduled for 28th August and we wanted to get the invite out to as many of you as possible.

The Open Day is a new addition to our calendar and we are excited to bring this day to you with relevant information to understanding genetic traits and the world of pain relief options for sheep, plus to view some sale rams that will be penned for the afternoon. See back page for more details.

The newsletter covers off on the new Sheep Genetics website which was launched on 5th August, so check it out and familiarise yourself with the site.

The newsletter also keeps you up to date on what we are up to at New Armatree covering off on scanning and what it means to you into the future, preparing your ram team for this coming season, and New Armatree's involvement in the GIP program.

We hope you are all enjoying this fantastic season and looking forward to catching up either on the Open Day or Sale Day.

Cheers, Jenny



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**12th ON PROPERTY
RAM SALE**
Thursday 10th September
Offering 100 \$SuperBorder Rams

Sale commencing @1pm
Inspection from 11am

Catalogue @
www.newarmatree.com.au

Contact Craig or Jenny



0428 256 593
0428 422 234



\$SuperBorder\$

This year we conducted an AI program and the lambs are now on the ground. It was part of the SuperBorders group Genetic Improvement Program. This program uses semen from 4 rams with high genetic merit from within the group. Each participating member is allocated semen from 2 of the four rams.

This year, New Armatree had a ram selected to be used in the program. This ram New Armatree 18-0116 was used in six SuperBorder studs in the program as well as two other studs in Victoria and South Australia. This will give us very good linkage across the breed which means the accuracy of our ASBVs will increase.

NA 18-0116 also has a number of sons in the catalogue for this year's sale.

We expect progeny from the AI this year to be available at the sale in 2021.



Be prepared for this ram-buying season

Purchasing the right rams is something that you probably get to do no more than 30 times in your farming career. Therefore, making sure that you select the right rams is essential. This is a guide to help you purchase the right rams this season.

1. Do a stock take of your current ram team

Knowing the rams that you have in the paddock now and your ram requirements for the season is important. Run your existing rams into the yard. Key things to note are:

- Write down the tag numbers and ear tag colour of your rams. For rams previously purchased from New Armatree this is the tag with the coloured disc on the back.
- The soundness of the rams – be sure to check teeth, toes and testes. Are they in working order or are they past their used-by date?



2. Work out your existing ram team average for ASBVs and BLX Index

Sounds hard? Don't worry we have you covered here! All you need is to supply the team at New Armatree with the tag number and colour of the rams that have on hand. We can give you the current ASBVs of these rams.

BONUS TIP: if you know the average ASBVs of your ram team you can use this in the marketing of your progeny sired by those rams!

3. Review your breeding objective

Work out what traits are important to you and the direction you wish to head for each trait. This will help you buy rams with ASBVs that match your needs.

Need more information on setting a breeding objective?

Check out resources available on genetics.mla.com.au.

There is a great video that is less than 5 minutes on setting breeding objectives.

4. Piecing it all together

Now you should have:

- A list of rams on hand and how many you need this year
- Their average ASBVs
- The direction you want to go for each trait

This might look something like:

ASBV	BWT birth weight	PWT post weaning weight	PEMD post eye muscle depth	PFAT post weaning fat	PEMD post eye muscle depth	BLX Index
Avg of rams on hand	0.5	6.0	0.1	0.4	5%	119
Breeding Objective	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Maintain	Increase	Increase

5. Buying rams is now easy!

With a table like the above you are able to breeze through the catalogue and short list rams that will take your ram team forward.

Remember each individual purchase doesn't have to be better for all traits. If the average of the team you purchase is better than what you have at home they will take your flock forward. Visual assessment on sale day is also important to make sure the rams meet your structural and type requirements.

The team at New Armatree are able to help with any of the steps outlined from doing a stock take of rams, working out your ram team average and reviewing your breeding objective. Please get in contact if you need any assistance.

Ram supply - 2020 and Beyond!

We are in the process of increasing our ewe numbers. What does this mean for you? It means we have your ram supply covered - no need to go anywhere else. Even with the tough 2019 season that lasted into the start of 2020 we have been able to put together our largest ever offering of rams.

The rams for the 2021 sale are being born now and we are expecting to be able to offer even more rams next year and into the future.

The mothers of the 2021 sale rams have scanned in lamb at 186% foetus to ewes joined. Combine that with the exciting sire team used and we can't wait for next year's offering of rams.

Finding our rams has never been easier

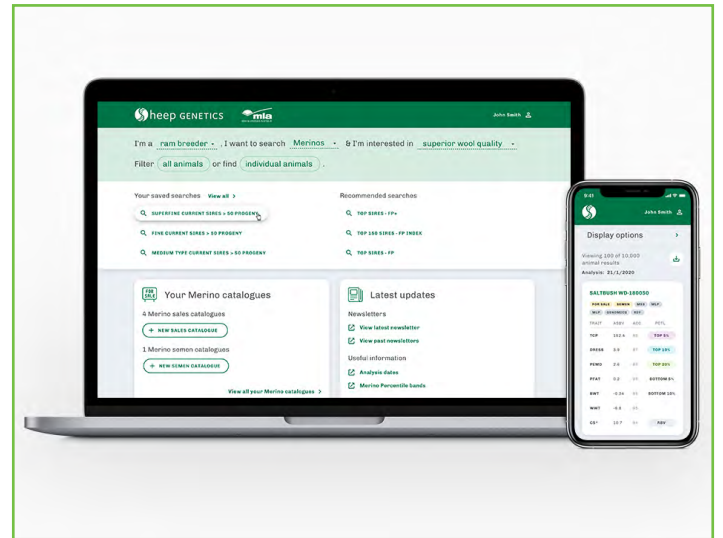
Sheep Genetics, who reports ASBVs, launched their new-look website on 5th August. The new site is a huge improvement and it is easy to navigate around to find New Armatree animals.

Our sale catalogue will be available on the new website. You can also view our semen catalogue.

All New Armatree animals are publicly available. This is something that we opt-in to provide all our data to ensure the utmost transparency with our clients.

The new website also has a lot of great resources on ASBVs. One of the best features is being able to view data on percentile graphs – it makes it very easy to browse through the catalogue to find the rams that met your objective!

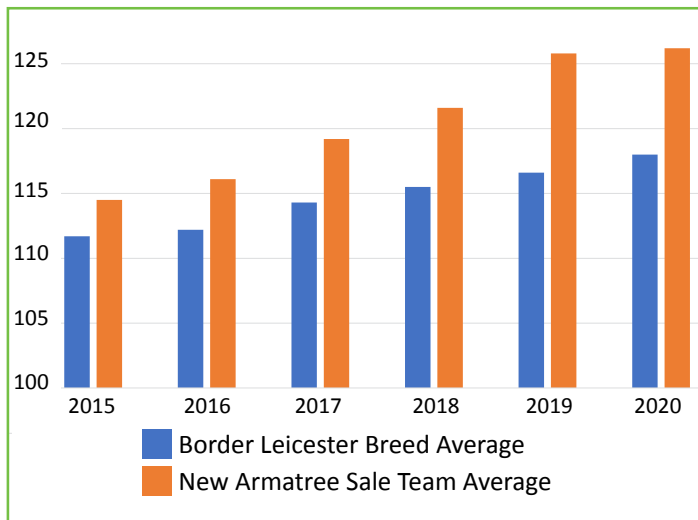
Simply go to sheepgenetics.org.au.



BLX Index Trend

We are really pleased to see our trends continuing to increase year on year.

The step up this year is not as dramatic as last year because we are offering over 40% more rams in our sale, but we are still seeing impressive gains.



New Armatree Branding Banner

Remember when selling progeny exclusively sired by New Armatree rams, use this branding banner.

It can be used as a sticker on pens at saleyards or as a slide on Auctionsplus. Contact us if you require the stickers or the slide and we can provide them for you.



What a difference 12 months makes!

Nothing highlights differences more than a picture, or in this case two. I put these together which show the two extremes of 2019 and 2020.



Both photos were taken at lambing, and both in the same paddock. We all know which season we would prefer to be in every year.



New Armatree Border Leicester Stud

OPEN DAY

Friday 28th August

Program for the afternoon

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1.00 - 2.30 | A selection of 2020 sale rams on display
2020 stud sire team penned for inspection |
| 2.30 - 3.00 | Afternoon tea |
| 3.00 - 3.30 | Guest speaker: Mark Mortimer, Centre Plus Merinos
<i>Session: 'Taking the rule of thumb for genetics and giving it the finger'</i> |
| 3.30 - 3.45 | Craig Bradley
<i>What's on the New Armatree Border Leicester radar?</i> |
| 3.45 - 4.30 | Guest speaker: Andrew Robertson (Robbo), Western Rivers Vet Group
<i>Session: 'All things pain relief for sheep'</i>
PLUS - care and maintenance of your ram team |

RSVP appreciated for catering purposes by 26th August

Text or phone 0428 422 234

We are now registered as a COVID safe business

