

Newsletter

August 2021



Welcome

The sheep industry is a great place to be at the moment. It continues to go from strength to strength. The rebuild of the industry after the drought is well underway. I always take note of the wool sold from year to year and this year's volume is considerably higher than the previous year which reflects the strength of the rebuild.

So why have ram sales been so strong?

I'll give you my take on the past twelve months and the next couple of years to try and explain the prices. During the drought most of us either sold all breeding ewes or retained a minimum of core breeders. This drought strategy also included not having to purchase rams. Most breeders had enough rams on hand to cover the reduced number of ewes held during the challenge of drought.

2020 it rained! And so, the flock rebuild commenced which included the purchase of rams. The combination of ram numbers being maintained by studs, the increase in ewe numbers and an ageing ram team created the supply shortage of rams for producers. Throw into that scenario the extremely attractive prices for first cross ewes and you have the perfect storm for high ram prices.

In 2021 the ram numbers offered will not vary greatly from last year, remember that the rams offered this year were in utero, or only just born when the sales prices were high. Some ram breeders have offered and sold ram lambs at 6 to 8 months old to tap into the high prices. Selling of young ram lambs is not a business practice that NA undertake, we believe in maintaining the integrity of the entire drop of rams for our ram buyers on sale day.

2022 will be a year where ram numbers will be higher. Seedstock producers have responded and increased ewe numbers and mated a greater number during 2021. New and emerging studs have come onto the scene and therefore the number of rams offered will see an easing in ram prices. Remember this is just my take on how I see the next few years rolling out. The old supply and demand situation in play, so aligning yourself with the seedstock breeder who meets your breeding objectives will be the biggest decision the ram buyer has to make in 2022.

Craig and I attended the \$uperBorder conference during June. Sheep Genetics were on hand to keep us up to date on the latest developments on the BLX Index. Sheep Genetics also introduced the group to a data quality index, which will be reported using a star rating system. This will encourage breeders to improve data quality to obtain the top rating. The Maternal \$ Index which you may see in some stud catalogues is being phased out. At NA we will continue to report only using the BLX Index as it is the most industry relevant.

Two important dates to remember are 27th August which is the Inspection Day for our Sale Rams. Commencing at 2pm until 5pm on the Friday. It will allow you to examine the sale team at your leisure. The rams will be penned in three large yards with tags clearly identifying sale lots.

The second date is Sale Day 9th September, inspection from 11am and sale at 1pm sharp. Again, the sale will be interfaced with AuctionsPlus as it was last year.

Remember if there is anything Craig and I can assist you with approaching ram selling season just contact us.

Cheers, Jenny & Craig

2021 New Armatree Sire List

The table lists the sires used for the 2021 joining at New Armatree. The team average sits well above the Border Leicester Breed average and still moving toward our breeding objectives. This is great for our stud and even better for flock ram buyers who also benefit from our solid genetic gains. We have only recently reset our Breeding Objectives for the next

three years. Updated NA breeding objectives can be viewed on our website, visit newarmatree.com.au

The ASBVS listed are from the 01/07/2021 Sheep Genetics Maternal Analysis.

ID	Name	BLX	BWT	PWT	AWT	MWWT	PEMD	PFAT	NLW
0247862018180116	NEW ARMATREE-180116	151.09	0.36	10.42	10.66	-0.44	1.88	0.05	24
0247862020200415	NEW ARMATREE-200415	146.37	0.29	10.07	10.94	0.88	1.2	0.29	20
0242392019190304	INVERBRACKIE-190304	145.88	0.32	11.93	14.52	1.13	0.82	0.16	21
0247862019190245	NEW ARMATREE-190245	145.19	0.23	8.98	10.4	-0.02	1.6	1.82	24
0247862020200505	NEW ARMATREE-200505	143.13	-0.1	7.78	10.07	1.02	2.58	0.28	16
0242392019194707	INVERBRACKIE-194707	138.52	0.33	8.92	10.68	0.6	2.09	2.42	15
0247862019190475	NEW ARMATREE-190475	137.64	-0.04	8.72	10.48	1.86	0.89	0.93	15
0247862019190012	NEW ARMATREE-190012	136.14	0.26	9.43	11.33	0.31	0.35	0.06	20
0247862018180184	NEW ARMATREE-180184	134.89	0.42	9.52	10.47	-0.47	1.11	-1.13	15
0247862020200145	NEW ARMATREE-200145	129.42	0.37	7.18	9.53	0.78	0.15	0.06	15
0247862019190111	NEW ARMATREE-190111	123.62	0.33	7.01	9.87	0.85	0.79	0.79	8
Averages		139.26	0.25	9.09	10.81	0.59	1.22	0.52	17.55
BL Averages		121.7	0.26	7.76	10.27	0.7	0.35	-0.08	9



NLW to be replaced

The reproductive trait Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW), is set to be phased out in the next 12 to 18 months. Over the past few years, New Armatree as well as some other Border Leicester and Maternal studs, has been working with Sheep Genetics to improve the measurement of reproductive traits.

As a result, reproduction is now broken down into its three component traits. They are conception (con), litter size (LS) and ewe rearing ability (ERA). ASBVs are available for these traits on all sale rams. Please ask us for more information if you are interested in these reproduction traits.

NLW will be replaced with an ASBV probably called Weaning Rate, and will be calculated using the three component traits listed above. This will result in a more accurate reflection of reproduction in all animals where these traits are measured.

SALE DAY REMINDER
Thursday 9 September 2021
Inspection from 11am
Sales commences 1pm sharp



NA 18-0116

116 has been around for what seems like ages however he is only a 2018 drop ram. NA used 116 as a ram lamb in 2019 and he has continued to be used in consecutive years. A large number of ewes within the current flock are daughters of this ram. In addition a couple of his sons have been retained within the flock.

Last year 18-0116 was used across 3 states within 7 flocks (plus the MLA Resource Flock). Ram lambs within some of these flocks have been retained and used, and will shortly have progeny on the ground.

The industry Buzz words of eating quality, limiting adult body weight and the Fertility Traits (conception, litter size and ewe rearing ability) resonates with this sire. 18-116 ticks a lot of these boxes.

18-0116 ASBVs as of 07/07/2021 Sheep Genetics Maternal Analysis

BLX	151.09	(top 5%)
Bwt	0.36	
Pwwt	10.42	(top 20%)
Awt	10.66	(NA breeding objective is to limit to 10)
Pemd	1.88	(top 5%)
Pfat	0.05	
NLW	24	(top 5%)
LMY	2.38	(top 10%)
ShearF5	0.27	(top 20%)
IMF	0.01	(top 20%)
Con	0.03	(top 30%)
LS	0.00	(top 25%)
ERA	0.04	(top 50%)

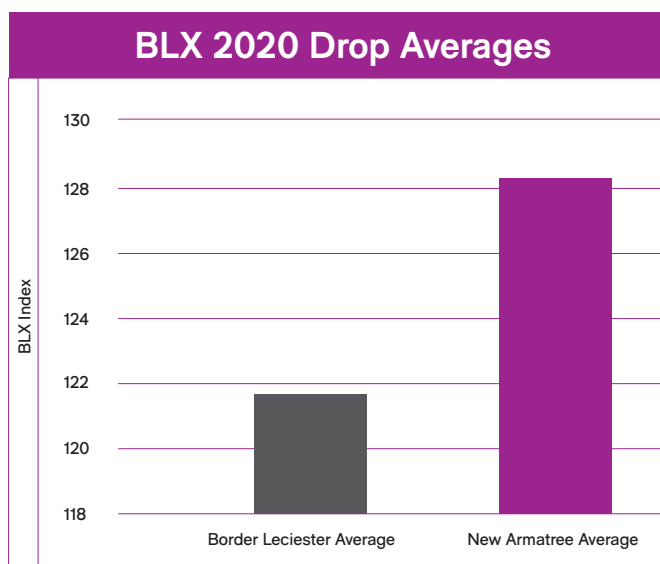
This year's catalogue of sale rams carries 18-0116's progeny, plus progeny of his sons – easy to identify as they carry the Black sire disc on the back of their ear tag.

**Check out the progeny
on Inspection Day
27th August from 2 to 5pm
Or on Sale Day 9th September.**



Inverbrackie 19-4707

This ram was purchased from Inverbrackie in 2020. A structurally correct ram carrying exceptional carcass traits, in excess of plus 2 for both muscle and fat. Looking forward to the progeny he will have on the ground shortly.



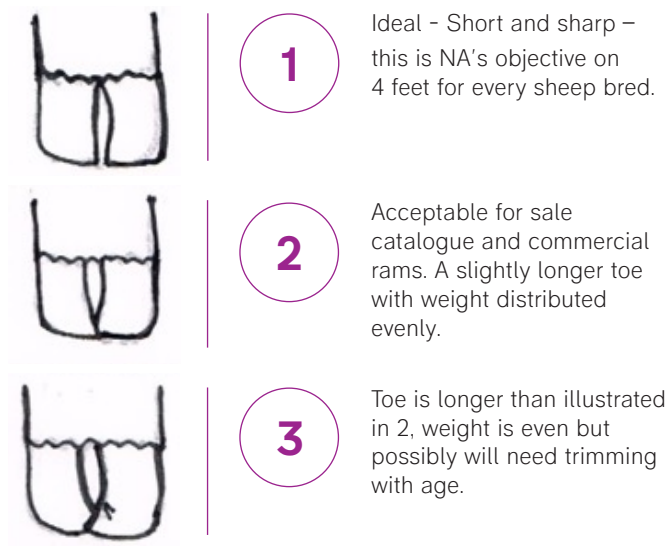
Foot Scoring

One conformation problem that costs the sheep industry is toe and feet problems. At New Armadree we have continued to refine our selection pressure around this industry problem and finally two years ago, we decided to commence scoring toes and feet. All the industry guides around these two particular problems were not easy to use, so we developed our own scoring and selection guide.

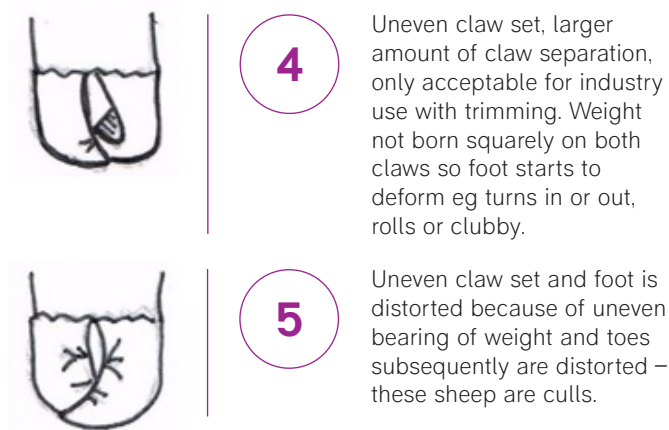
Last year and again in 2021 we present rams in the sale catalogue that score one or two on our guide. At no time do any of our rams have feet trimmed, this allows us to select on this trait and present for sale rams that score 1 or 2 on the scale pictured.

Rams do need attention throughout their working life (and this does include toes) to maintain and extend their working life. By putting pressure on and selecting for sound toe and feet conformation we are endeavouring to prolong the longevity of your ram team.

New Armatree Foot Scoring Guide



*NB in 1, 2 and 3, weight is born square over the claws, so structurally strong but with varying degrees of curl in the toe.



Additional information

Foot scoring at new Armatree occurs twice before being offered for sale.

Rams listed in the annual sale catalogue must be either a 1 or 2.

During a ram's life time, feet care and toe trimming may be required to maintain performance.

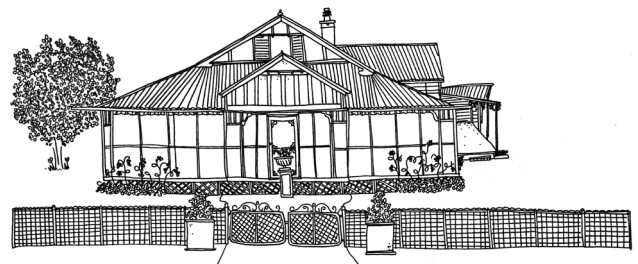


New Armatree

If you have attended our on-property ram sale you would have driven past the old house. Well the old house turns 100 this year. Built during the year of 1921 as a home for the newly wed couple Norman and Emily Jones. The timber used in the construction of the homestead was all milled off the property. Norm Jones loved timber and used it extensively throughout the construction and was never tempted to incorporate pressed tin into the home, as was fashionable at the time.

The old house has survived fire in 1951 and flood in 1955. The fire was close, that close that one of the original tank stands carried the scars from that fire.

So, if you are driving past on Sale Day wish the old girl a "Happy Birthday", there's not many of us make that grand age!



NEW ARMATREE
1921 - 2021

New Armatree Logo's

Same, Same but Different.

We have revamped our Logo's and added a new one. The colours and the brand stay the same plus we have added NA Linked.

New Armatree Linked – A new Logo for a new concept.

A network that links 1st cross ewe Breeders to 1st cross ewe buyers. If you are interested in this exclusive service offered by NA, please contact the team and we will place you on the NA Linked Data base.

Remember we will be sharing your contact details with potential 1st cross ewe buyers.

Sired by New Armatree - An oldie but a goodie that has been revamped in line with our colours.

A Logo for breeders to use when selling 1st cross lambs or ewes sired by NA rams.

Works well on Auctionsplus as a slide. Contact the NA team so we can forward either to you or your agent prior to selling. Also available as pen stickers to place on pen cards at store sales. Remember to have access to this Logo your ram team must comprise 85% New Armatree blood.



NA LINKED

NA Linked Logo



Sired By New Armatree Logo