



**NEW ARM TREE**  
BORDER LEICESTERS

# Newsletter

August 2023

## Welcome to our August newsletter

We believe this year will provide an excellent opportunity for ram buyers to source some outstanding genetics at a reasonable price. Given the current lamb and mutton prices, wool prices and generally ordinary seasonal outlook, we think prices will be back on those achieved in recent years. The sale this year could be a great opportunity for buyers.

NA on property sale is fast approaching with two important dates. Our Inspection Day on the 1st September and Sale Day on the 14th September. More detail in this edition.

Topics covered in this newsletter include Biosecurity measures that NA undertake and a word from Dr Jillian Kelly who works closely with NA in this area.

Responsible Wool Standards (RWS). Did you know that we are accredited for RWS? What does this accreditation mean to you if you also have RWS accreditation?

Scott Thrift has changed jobs - how and what it will mean to our sale will be revealed. Ram Selection and why it is IMPORTANT!! Is there value to using the NA Logo to sell your product? We will take a deep dive and have a look at some exceptional sales over the past 12 months.

*Craig & Jenny*



**PRIVATE PROPERTY**  
NO UNAUTHORISED ENTRY.  
PLEASE RESPECT  
**FARM BIOSECURITY**  
Do not enter this property without prior approval  
Please contact before entering.  
VEHICLES, PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT CAN CARRY  
WEED SEEDS, PESTS AND DISEASES.

**GAIN THE GENETIC ADVANTAGE**





# Responsible Wool Standards - RWS



## *What is this program called Responsible Wool Standards (RWS) and what does it mean to you?*

Most of you may be familiar with, or are already accredited under RWS. For those of you that aren't, here is a short overview. RWS is a certification program. The producers holding this certification must meet rigorous animal welfare, land management and social standards. RWS is a voluntary program and in some instances can lead to wool price premiums.

Animal Welfare forms a large component of the certification and is not suited to all production systems. For instance, all lambs at marking must have pain relief and if castrated, only rings can be used. This applies to both merino and X-Bred lambs. If buying in breeders, they have to be non-mulsed and the property must have ceased mulsing to be eligible for certification.

In 2022 NA undertook the accreditation program and now have the certification, so if your business is under the RWS certification any rams purchased from NA will comply with your RWS.



## BIOSECURITY



*At NA we take Biosecurity very seriously and endeavour to take all precautions to prevent a biosecurity incursion.*

Footrot, Lice, Ovine Brucellosis and OJD are the top ranked biosecurity risks to our business, not ignoring the threat of the exotic diseases FMD or Lumpy Skin. OJD is an interesting one and a challenge to our business. A challenge in that we regularly test for this wasting disease but haven't moved to the Market Assurance Program (MAP) nor Vaccination with Gudair.

The reasoning behind this decision is that we buy in our commercial merino ewes that drive the FX Ewe breeding part of our business. We would not be able to purchase in these ewes if we were in a Market Assurance Program (MAP), we could try to purchase ewes from a

property with a Market Assurance Program, however they are extremely difficult to source on a regular basis. The merino ewes coming into the business are purchased from two sources only and we have a relationship with these breeders. Biosecurity is also important to their businesses.

We do not trade any stock as the risk is too high. I have asked Dr Jillian Kelly to write an article on this topic and is included in this newsletter. On Sale Day this year we will be requesting that on entering the sheepyards that you use the foot scraper and disinfectant pad. This is a simple step to ensure that your biosecurity standards are maintained along with ours.

## Protect your flock from OJD

*The goal posts sure have shifted when it comes to Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD) management in NSW over the past forty years.*

First detected in the 1980s, it became a heavily regulated notifiable disease in the 1990s, moved to a slightly deregulated industry driven risk-based trading scheme in the early 2000s and now, while still notifiable, is not regulated and there are few ways left to assess risk. OJD was also then considered as part of the Johnes Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) system, so if you do get clinical cases of OJD in your sheep, it will drop your Johnes Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) to 0 and so can affect cattle trading if you have a mixed enterprise. It's a murky, murky world!

### *So, what is OJD?*

OJD is a chronic wasting disease of sheep caused by a bacterial infection. The bacteria are shed in faeces and are spread when a susceptible sheep eats or drinks contaminated material. It causes inflammation and thickening of the intestines which affects the ability to absorb nutrients, leading to diarrhoea and loss of body condition. The classic sign of OJD in a mob is a distinct 'tail', sheep ranging in condition from good to very poor; then the 'tail' start dying (through slow starvation).

OJD has a long incubation period which means sheep are usually at least two to three years old before they show any signs of disease. This means that if animals that are shedding OJD are introduced to a 'clean' farm, overt clinical disease might not be seen for several years, making it hard to trace and eradicate. Inadvertent spread could well occur during this period via sale of stock that look healthy but are incubating and shedding OJD in their faeces. It's also worth noting that vaccinated sheep can still shed OJD in their faeces, albeit at low levels, even after many years of vaccination on the farm.

It is these sorts of disease factors and post-drought restocking patterns that have led to OJD being diagnosed out of its traditional high prevalence area. It was diagnosed on the Northern Tablelands of NSW and is thought to be present across the entire state, according to a Local Land Services press release issued in late February 2023. Previously OJD was thought of as a 'southern' disease – not anymore.

Bringing purchased or agisted stock onto a property is the most common source, or from neighbour's stock coming in. There have also been cases linked to the contamination of waterways and floodplains, covering a number of properties.

### *So, what can you do to protect your flock?*

Prior to buying, it can be tricky to risk assess sheep but you know that if the farm has done a Pooled Faecal Culture for OJD, and has been found negative, as New Armatree Border Leicesters has done, you're buying extremely low risk sheep.

Another thing to look for are sheep that are part of the Market Assurance Program (MAP) for OJD, these will be incredibly low risk sheep. Other than that, get a Sheep Health Declaration, ask questions of the vendor about sheep introductions to the farm and hope for the best.

Because it is now so hard to risk assess sheep and keep OJD out via safe purchases, farms that trade regularly, have neighbours who trade regularly, or mixed enterprises who cannot risk having their J-BAS score affected by clinical cases of OJD may wish to vaccinate. One dose of Gudair<sup>®</sup> vaccine prior to 16 weeks of age gives the animal protection for life. Vaccination will stop clinical cases (it won't entirely stop shedding) and can be a good marketing tool for store sheep into southern markets. It's also important that you pay attention to good disease resistance in your flock, by good management, nutrition and worm-control. Finally, if you've got skinny, scouring sheep, make sure that cases are investigated by your veterinarian.



## A Change In Agent

### *Australian Wool Network (AWN) along with Halcroft and Bennet will be conducting our sale this year.*

This change came about with Scott Thrift transferring to AWN and the fact that New Armatree has a long-established association with AWN that dates back 25 years. AWN has been selling the annual woolclip for that period of time and we thought that this was a natural progression to involve AWN with our on-property ram sale.

#### Introducing **SCOTT THRIFT** AWN Rural Studstock Sheep & Wool Specialist.



Scott commenced his working life with a passion for the sheep and wool industry, at a very young age. Scott's family was very involved in sheep, which led to him taking a career in Woolclassing for 23 yrs of his early life. Classing clips from Ultra/Superfine and shedded flocks and in Western NSW & Qld medium wool clips. Classing sheep and helping with breeding objectives for clients.

In 2005 Scott joined Elders as a Sheep & Wool specialist in the Traprock region of SE Qld looking after clients. Sourcing wool growers, selling sheep and wool was the core business as well as looking after a sheep & wool client base in the Goondiwindi, St George, Cunnamulla, and Quilpie areas.

Now Scott is based & lives in Central NSW, the hub of the Stud Sheep industry and services and offers advice to Stud and Commercial sheep producers helping them source genetics from throughout the country. Breeding objectives and Data have changed the stud and commercial industry quite a lot over the last 20 years in Merino, British & Terminal Meat breeds.

Scott has also been heavily involved in exporting of breeding genetics to countries like China, Inner Mongolia, Indonesia & Kazakhstan. His main focus is on many of the loyal clients looking after them and seeing their business grow & be successful. Scott has these businesses scattered widely across many parts of Australia and Overseas.

In January 2023 Scott moved to AWN Rural as their Studstock – Sheep & Wool Specialist and will be running Stud Sales including the New Armatree on Property Ram Sale on Thursday 14th September in conjunction with Halcroft & Bennett of Coonamble. AWN has a long personal & business relationship with Craig, Jenny & the Bradley Family.

## Ram Selection

### *What's Important and What's not*

It seems there could be more Border Leicester rams for sale this spring than ever. This can make the task of ram selection more lengthy and more complicated for buyers to work through these larger offerings.

Often, buyers are presented with appealing photos of upstanding rams, often with winning show ribbons and headlines of "stylish upstanding rams with consistency and capacity". Likewise comments such as "outstanding carcass, muscling and superior genetics", add to the confusion. More and more often these animals have a long list of raw ultrasound scan data to accompany this commentary.

The unequivocal reality is that it is highly unlikely raw data on its own and this type of emotive commentary

will be of any real use to you in actually selecting rams most suited to your program and environment.

At best, they are unreliable and at worst, can be misleading. They generally only compare or rank animals within a single flock.

Use of OBJECTIVE INFORMATION - ASBVs (across breed measurement and comparison), is a more reliable predictor and indicator of the performance potential of the draft of rams and what they offer to your breeding and their progeny. It will enable you to better select rams that are most likely to breed progeny to improve your PROFIT.

This is what is important in Ram Selection.



## Introducing 220016



*This young sire has bubbled to the top and continues to attract our attention as the rams move in and out of the yards.*

In 2022 we decided to undertake an ET program. After searching for potential sires and not being able to find a sire that suited us to progress on our Breeding Objectives, we took a long hard look at our stud ewes. Hey why not? They are 50% of the genetics and do 100% of the rearing and perhaps we need to do this more often!

We selected our top ewes and used them with our two top rams which were unrelated. We flushed them and did an Embryo Transfer program into suitable recipient ewes. We were pleased with all the lambs born and the final

result was a majority of ewe lambs to ram lambs. This gender balance was excellent as it gives us a depth of genetics in the young ewe base plus a solid group of ram lambs to select from. Ram 220016 was the selection from the ET program.

We had planned to use 220016 this year for joining but because of the number of mature rams we had and the genetic traits they offered, we sent 220016 to the collection centre instead. We have semen available from 220016 and if anyone is interested, please let us know as we will only offer a limited amount for sale and we will retain the balance.

220016 offers a unique balance of traits and what we practically like about this ram lamb is the fact that his Post Weaning Weight (growth) is in the top 20% for the breed, while his Adult Weight is below breed average – this makes him a bit of a curve bender. Generally, Post Weaning Weight and Adult Weight are strongly correlated. What does this translate to? It means 220016 has very good early growth, then stops growing and has a moderate Adult Weight. This is one of our Breeding Objectives at NA – good early growth with moderate adult size.



220016 also ticks the boxes for carcass and reproductive traits as well eating quality Traits.

GO TO my mla

**NEW ARMATREE-220016**

GENOMICS

Sire: **024239-2019-194707**  
Dam: **024786-2019-190231**

TRAIT	ASBV	ACC.	PCTL.
BLX	152.55	46	TOP 5%
BWT	0.36	65	
PWT	11.01	69	TOP 20%
AWT	10.17	58	
MWWT	0.52	54	
PEMD	1.87	67	TOP 5%
PFAT	2.09	69	
YGFW	—		
WR	0.16	40	TOP 5%
ERA	0.05	27	TOP 5%
LS	0.00	43	
CON	0.06	36	TOP 5%
IMF	0.12	44	TOP 10%

[rch.sheepgenetics.org.au](http://rch.sheepgenetics.org.au)

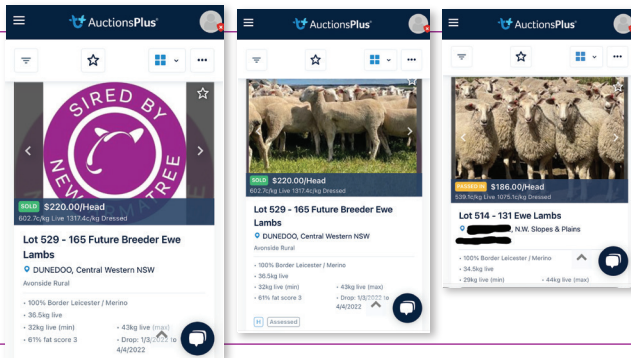


## Selling under the NA Sired by LOGO

*Throughout the year there has been a number of sales of first X ewes which have achieved results above the cohort offered on the same day.*

Producers offering lots under the Sired by NA Logo which have been captured below, should be congratulated on the presentation of these lambs.

The NA Sired by Logo assists in identifying the line of rams used to breed these sheep, this logo is becoming recognised more broadly within industry.

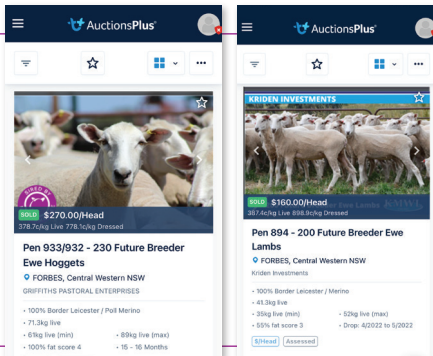
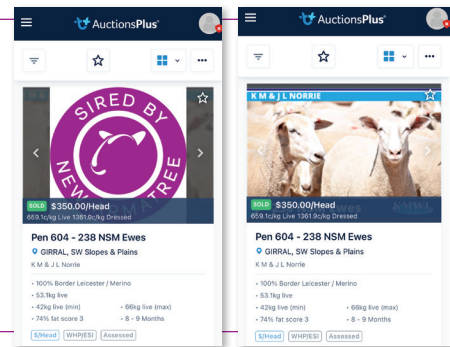


Avonside Rural sold young ewe lambs back in August 2022 they made \$220 on the day and similar ewes pictured were passed in for \$186.

2Kg different in body and both relatively small lots

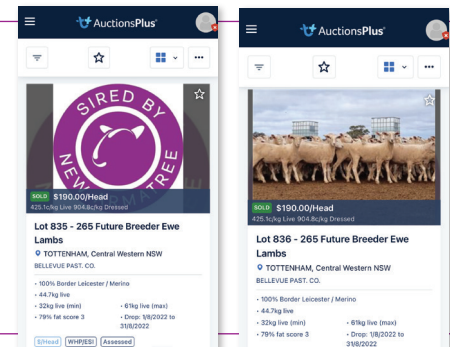
Forbes First X ewe sale in January produced excellent results for younger ewes with Genetic merit.

The ewes sold by Kevin and Jayne Norrie, were April/May 2022 drop and sired by both New Armatree and Inverbrackie rams and they topped the pen sale at \$350 surpassing older and heavier ewes on the day.



Other results on the day included Griffiths and Kriden Investments. Both of these lots were very different sheep in regard to age and weight however compared to similar types they sold well on the day.

Recently, in early July 2023, Bellevue Pastoral Company had an outstanding sale, with two lots of young ewe lambs making \$90 above similar lines and were the pin up poster sheep used on the Sheep Central social media pages weekly reports.

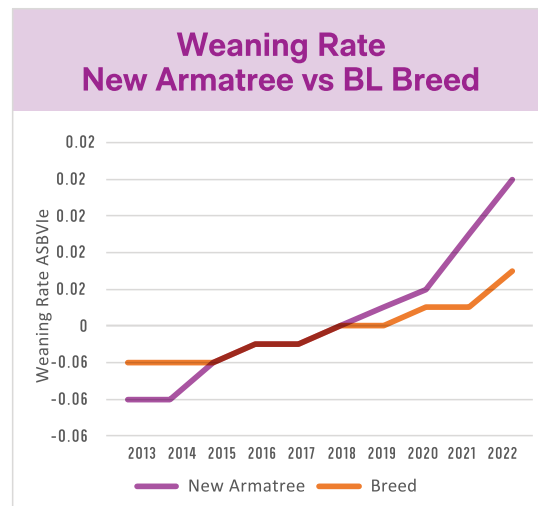
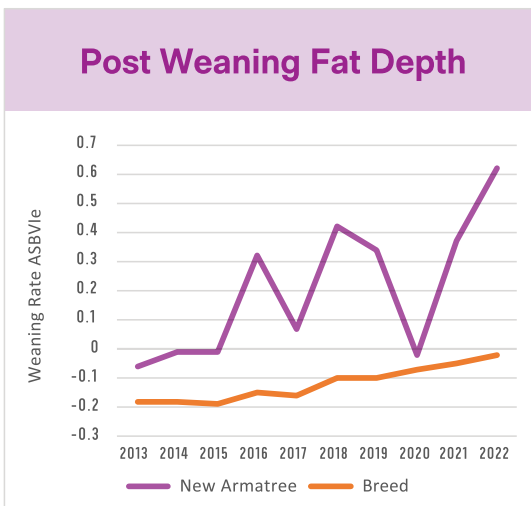
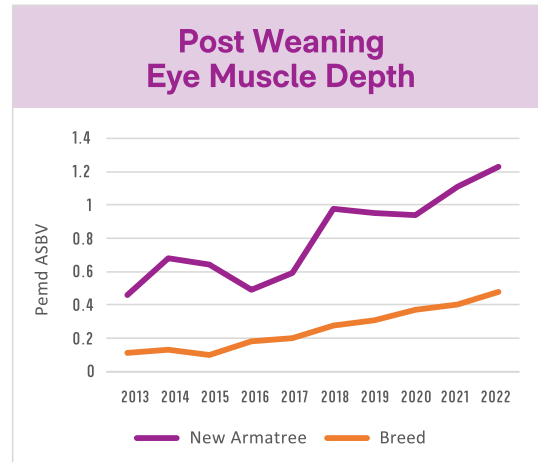
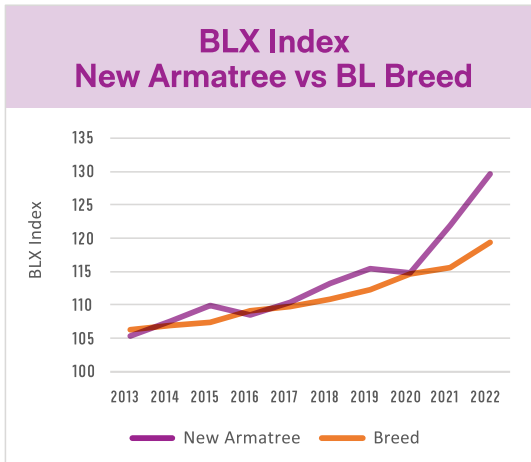




# Genetic Trends

Here a few graphs showing our Genetic Trends over the past ten years for some major profit driving production traits.

Note the genetic gain made on some of the major production traits in the last 3 years. According to Matesel (Sheep Genetics software used to determine the best mating outcomes for our flock and objectives), our trends for the 2023 drop of lambs are predicted to continue at a similar rate.



GAIN THE GENETIC ADVANTAGE



For more information:  
Craig 0428 256 593 or  
Jenny 0428 422 234  
[www.newarmatree.com.au](http://www.newarmatree.com.au)

## Sale Ram Inspection Day

On Property at New Armatree, 1.5 west of Armatree.

100 rams penned for inspection. Sale Catalogue average for BLX Index will be in the top 20% for the breed. This offering of rams will be the largest selection of high indexing rams in NSW

**Inspection Day:** Friday September 1st 2023

**Inspection Time:** 2pm till 5pm

**Sale Day:** 14th September



**ACCREDITED  
Brucellosis Free**



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[www.newarmatree.com.au](http://www.newarmatree.com.au)

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