



Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. We have been eagerly awaiting the release of the Sheep Genetics updates for 2022.

These include the introduction of a new Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) that will replace the previous Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) in catalogues this year. This new ASBV is called Weaning Rate (WR). You will find an article in this newsletter that includes more detail on WR. At New Armatree are excited for its release as we have spent the last 4 years using the component reproduction traits in our selection decisions. One of the biggest drivers of any livestock business is the number of individuals sold. The new weaning rate trait will identify animals whose daughters will deliver this. This new trait was of great interest and discussion at the recent \$uperBorder Conference Craig and Jenny attended in Naracoorte, SA. The annual conference is always an insightful time and reinforced our selection for a balanced sheep with good reproduction, eating quality, carcase composition and moderate adult weight. In line with the changes implemented this year to ASBVs it is important for both you and us to re-benchmark ourselves using the latest percentile band tables. You may notice that these are different to last years averages across the breed as a result of the implementation of the weaning rate ASBV and other database enhancements. We have also taken time to update our breeding objectives and review the direction of our breeding flock.

You can find more on this and some specific graphs on our objectives included in this newsletter. It is important to

ensure that you are aligning your ram purchases with a stud that is making good progress across important production traits, both current and future.

Preparation for the 2022 Ram Sale (8th September 2022) is well underway. Be sure to pop the date in your diary along with the inspection afternoon on the 26th August. All rams have been shorn on the 5th June and we are looking to offer between 110-120 rams at the on-property sale in 2022. We will again be interfacing our sale with AuctionsPlus with videos, visual scores and ASBVs available for your buying confidence. Whilst you might be preparing for the 2022 sale season, we are already planning for 2023 with an exciting drop of lambs currently in-utero due in late July. Check out the ram team averages for these lambs included in the newsletter.

All the best,
Team New Armatree

SALE DAY REMINDER
Thursday 8th September 2022
Inspection from 11am
Sales commences 1pm sharp

Check out the progeny
on Inspection Day
26th August from 2 to 5pm
Or on Sale Day 8th September.

2022 New Armatree Sire List

Sire ID	BLX	BWT	PWT	AWT	MWWT	PEMD	PFAT	WR	ERA	LS	CON	SHEARF5	IMF
New Arm 210077	● 159.6	0.46	● 13.1	12.2	0.8	● 1.8	● 0.7	● 0.19	● 0.05	● 0.03	● 0.06	0.22	● 0
New Arm 210189	● 150.9	0.48	● 10.8	10.6	0.6	● 1.4	● 1.7	● 0.19	● 0.05	● 0.04	● 0.06	● -1.16	-0.08
New Arm 210339	● 139.4	0.24	9.7	11.2	1.1	● 1.1	● 1.1	● 0.13	● 0.03	● 0.01	● 0.03	● -0.51	● 0.03
New Arm 200505	● 136.9	0.25	8.6	9.5	0.6	● 2.4	-0.2	● 0.11	● 0.04	-0.06	● 0.04	0.19	-0.39
New Arm 210558	● 137.3	0.45	9.2	10.8	● 1.9	0.5	● 0.8	● 0.12	● 0.03	● 0.02	● 0.03	2	-0.13
New Arm 200414	● 137.4	0.18	8.6	8.3	0.2	● 1.6	● 0.6	● 0.1	0.03	● 0.01	● 0.03	● -0.51	● 0.03
New Arm 200415	● 140.7	0.26	● 11.3	11.6	0.1	● 1.6	● 1	● 0.11	0.02	● 0.03	● 0.03	● -0.88	● 0.04
New Arm 180116	● 132.7	0.27	9.2	10.1	-1.6	● 2.2	-0.3	● 0.11	0.02	● 0.02	● 0.04	● -1.4	● 0.12
New Arm 190245	125.7	0.17	6.7	9.8	-1.1	● 1.3	● 0.4	● 0.15	● 0.03	● 0.05	● 0.04	● -2.03	● 0.31
New Arm 200236	121.8	0.28	9	10.1	-0.16	0.8	0.1	● 0.04	0.01	-0.06	● 0.04	2.54	-0.37
Inverbrackie 190304	● 155.8	0.28	● 12	12.7	● 1.5	● 1.2	● 2.7	● 0.21	● 0.07	0	● 0.06	0.3	0.23
Inverbrackie 194707	● 143.5	0.36	8.1	9	0.5	● 2	● 2.7	● 0.16	● 0.05	-0.04	● 0.07	● -2.6	● 0.18
Gleneith 200528	● 137.5	0.02	9.3	10.6	● 1.4	● 1.4	● 0.4	0.09	● 0.05	-0.05	● 0.03	0.83	● -0.43
Sire Team Average	● 139.94	0.28	9.66	10.50	0.45	● 1.48	● 0.90	● 0.13	● 0.04	0.00	● 0.04	● -0.23	● -0.04
Breed Average	117.63	0.27	8.29	10.68	0.82	0.42	-0.16	0.01	0.02	-0.05	0.01	1.16	-0.19

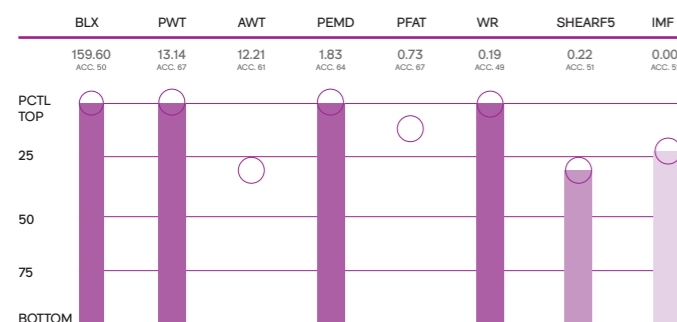
● Top 5% of breed ● Top 10% of breed ● Top 20% of breed

Ram 210077

This young sire has been retained within the stud and we are looking forward to seeing his progeny on the ground, commencing late July.

All young ram lambs recorded on LambPlan are listed on the data base and 210077, as of the end of June 2022, sits 4th on this national list.

The graph demonstrates the balance of this ram across a number of Traits.



Picture was taken after 5 weeks joining with 48 adult ewes

Breeding Objective

Index Target

BLX - To continue to improve the BLX index at a faster rate than industry.

Breeding Objective for weight traits

PWT - Continue to increase PWT in balance with carcass composition and mature size.

MWWT - Increase maternal weaning weight to 0.8 by 2026

AWT - To maintain adult weights at the current level whilst improving other traits. The aim is to not exceed an ASBV of 10kg.

Breeding Objective for Carcase Traits

PFAT - To maintain fat at current levels

PEMD - To slightly increase eye muscle depth whilst balancing gain in other trait areas

Breeding Objective for Reproduction traits

ERA - To increase to 0.035 whilst making improvements in other reproduction component traits

LS - To increase litter size to near a breeding value of 0 whilst making improvements in other component traits as well

CON - To maintain conception at its current level whilst pushing the other component traits of reproduction (LS and ERA).

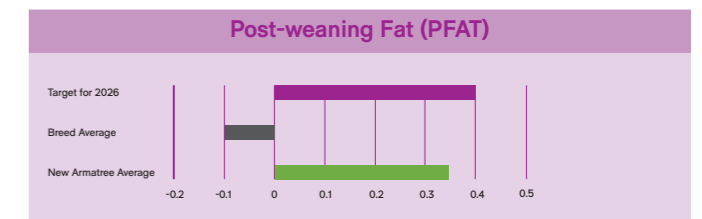
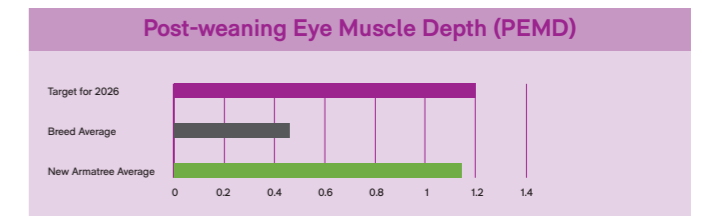
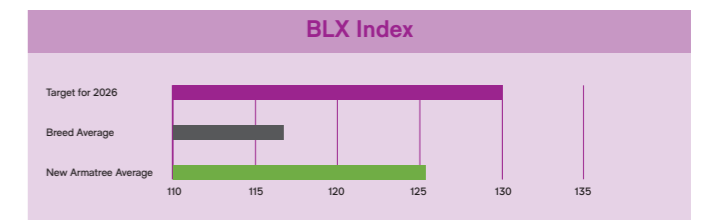
YCON - Yearling conception is important to our clients that are joining ewe lambs. Our objective is to improve this above breed average to 0.21. There are few Border Leicester breeders measuring and driving this trait

WR - By moving the component traits of LS and ERA ahead our target is to improve weaning rate to 0.11 by 2026.

Breeding Objective for Eating Quality Traits

IMF - To remain above breed average and continue to make improvements in IMF

SF5 - To make a small reduction in Shear Force (less is best for this trait)



The Index

The only Index to be published by Sheep Genetics for use in the Border Leicester x Merino enterprise, is the BLX Index. At New Armatree we have been using the BLX Index for 6 years. The old Maternal \$ Index, which you may have seen in other catalogues, is now redundant and has been withdrawn by Sheep Genetics.

There have been some changes within the BLX Index with the introduction of the new Weaning Rate trait (WR), and the removal of Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW).

These changes have seen a change in Index values and a redistribution of animals within the Sheep Genetics database and some rams have moved lower while others have moved higher. Please use the QR Code in this newsletter to download the new Percentile Report for Border Leicesters, or use the Percentile Report printed in our catalogue to benchmark the rams offered at our sale.

The BLX Index is the only Index to use when comparing rams within the flock and across the breed. Please refer to the new WR Trait article mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Introducing Weaning Rate

Sheep Genetics has released a new trait that measures reproductive performance called Weaning Rate. The unit this trait is measured in is the number of additional lambs weaned per ewe joined.

Weaning Rate combines the ewe performance in Conception, Litter Size and Ewe Rearing Ability. Weaning Rate has been subbed into the BLX index in place of Number of Lambs Weaned. Because of this, and many other enhancements Sheep Genetics has made to the analysis in April 2022, there may be some changes to breeding values. It is important to re-benchmark sires using the updated percentile bands.

For more information, please scan the QR codes to find the percentile bands and the analysis enhancement booklet, where you'll find info on Weaning Rate from page 4.



More information
on WR



Current
Percentile bands

The Commercial Reality

One of the most important aspects of our business is the same as you. We are also breeders of first cross lambs and use our New Armatree rams over merino ewes. This commercial business is divided into 2 sections; the wether portion which are all sold over the hook and first cross ewes who are sold to a repeat buyer. The feedback on the performance of these wethers and ewes helps drives our breeding objective, with a focus on commercial profit drivers. The photo below is a line up of the last of the 2021 drop wether proportion who were contracted through Thomas Food International (TFI) Tamworth.



To find out more about NA
Linked scan the QR code to
get in touch with us today

