



February Newsletter 2025

Welcome

To a quick update on what we have been up to since the September 2024 Ram Sale. We were pleased with the results from the sale, we didn't have a total clearance of the rams and this does not concern us greatly. To put it into perspective we would rather have good rams passed in than have a total clearance with buyers going home with a ram type that they were not intending to purchase.

We are finalising the ram team for joining and pleased with how the team has come together, a mix of proven sires, our oldest ram is a 4-year-old and added to the mix are two 2024 young rams.

Dates are locked in for the 2024 drop lambs which form the 2025 Sale Team.

- Muscle and Fat Scanning 22nd April
- First Ram selection 6th June
- Ram Shearing 8th June
- Cataloguing Day 28th July
- Inspection Day – on Property 29th August
- Sale Day 11th September

Looking forward to 2025
Cheers,

Craig, Jenny & Jack

NA 2025 STUD RAM TEAM AVERAGE



	BLX	Bwt	Pwt	Awt	Pemd	Pfat	Mwwt	WR	IMF	SFS
NA Team Average	163.15	0.35	12.31	12.57	1.99	1.92	1.54	0.23	0.19	-0.61
Breed Average	127.71	0.3	9.27	11.58	0.39	-0.12	1.07	0.08	-0.17	1.18

Top 5%

Top 10%

Top 20%

GAIN THE GENETIC ADVANTAGE

Story Of Two Seasons

2024 was very much a Goldilocks type of year in terms of the season for NA. Whenever we thought some rain would be good, we received rain, we were never too wet or too dry but just right.



VS



Myth Busting

Border Crossbred lambs - "Take a long time to finish"

A catchphrase used to describe why Border Leicester rams are sometimes not a sire of choice.

FACTS

- 2024 drop BLX lambs June 17th -July 22nd
- 2/3 of 2024 drop lambs finished by January 20th 2025
- 5.5 to 6.5 months old at turnoff
- Average carcase weight 28.8 Kg
- Average daily weight gain 290 gms/Hd/day on pasture plus feeders
- Average skin value \$2

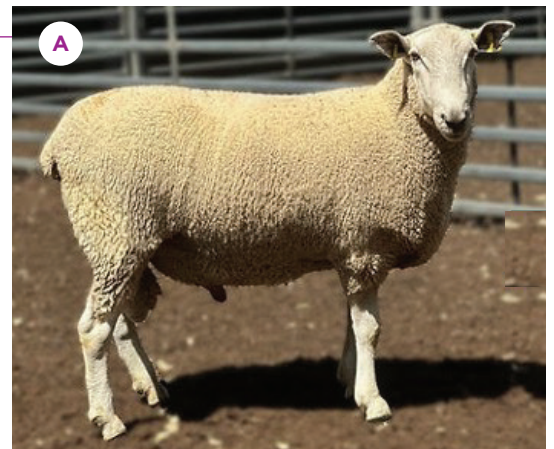
- Control the controllables
- As much variation within a breed as across breeds
- Use proven genetics, selected to drive production

Select Sires that carry good carcase traits in addition to the Maternal traits to product the animals that perform.

Pictured right >>

A) NA Sire - Top 5% Growth, Top 10% Emd, Top 5% Fat, Top 10% Weaning Rate

B) Commercial merino ewe at weaning, progeny showing the shape and cover we aim to breed.



Forbes First Cross Ewe Sale 9th Jan 2025

The Forbes Sale held annually in January is the largest sale of this type in NSW.

This year the sale offered 24,000 sheep, the majority offered comprising first cross ewe lambs, the remainder on offer comprising joined first X ewes and merino ewes as part of the store sale. All reports indicated prices improved \$20 to \$40 on last year which perhaps reflects an increase in industry confidence with meat values strong in the early weeks of January.

A number of pens that were bred from NA Rams were presented on the day, interesting that the ewes with more detail on the breeding side tended to deliver better prices. These pens of first cross ewes were very well presented on the day, congratulations to those producers concerned. A great article backed with information and detail on these sheep presented, made them attractive to buyers.

The Norrie family offered 200 SIL ewes August/ September 2023 drop for \$340, out of Pooginook ewes by New Armatree and Inverbrackie rams. Norrie's also offered 998 April/ May 2024 drop ewe lambs to average \$298/Hd.

Kevin Miller, KMWL, Forbes quoted "Some of the repeat sellers with good names in this space captured the most competition as they had good repeat buyers". The top pen of ewes 206 in total averaging 60 KG, sold to a repeat buyer back for the third year to secure the ewes for \$318/Hd.



Steve Tolmie, Holman Tolmie Stock and Station Agents, Cootamundra, and buyer Murray Roberts, Hillside, Cootamundra, who bought 202, mulesed, April/May 2024-drop, December-shorn ewe lambs for \$312 a head at Forbes.

Note that these ewes pictured below were assessed at 100% 4 scores (pic 1) compared to a similar pen, one month older with 71% 3 score (pic 2). These older ewes sold to \$290/Hd. Why highlight the fact that they were at a different fat score? The fat scores highlight that the younger ewes had reached mature weight whilst the older ewes were still growing. Earlier maturity assists in a number of ways – earlier turnoff in a shorter timeframe, being one

Another pen of young ewes May/June drop sired by NA rams offered by McMahon's from Tullamore making \$230/Hd, these ewes were offered alongside a pen of ewes run under exactly the same conditions from different sires on the same property to return \$222/Hd.

A screenshot of the AuctionsPlus app interface. At the top, it says "AuctionsPlus" with a star icon and a notification bell. Below that, it says "52 of 73 lots". The main image shows a group of white sheep. Below the image, it says "SOLD \$318.00/Head" and "530.0c/kg Live 1148.0c/kg Dressed". The title is "Pen 636 - 206 Future Breeder Ewe Lambs". The location is "FORBES, Central Western NSW" and the seller is "KM & J.L. NORRIE". The description includes "100% Border Leicester / Merino", "60kg live", "54kg live (min)", "70kg live (max)", "100% fat score 4", and "Drop: 4/2024 to 5/2024". There are buttons for "S/Head", "WHP/ESI", and "Assessed". At the bottom, it says "KEVIN MILLER WHITTY LENNON CO".

A screenshot of the AuctionsPlus app interface. At the top, it says "AuctionsPlus" with a star icon and a notification bell. Below that, it says "52 of 73 lots". The main image shows a group of brown sheep. Below the image, it says "SOLD \$290.00/Head" and "453.1c/kg Live 944.6c/kg Dressed". The title is "Pen 644 - 220 NSM Ewe Lambs". The location is "FORBES, Central Western NSW" and the seller is "KEVIN MILLER WHITTY LENNON CO". The description includes "100% Border Leicester / Merino", "64kg live", "59kg live (min)", "72kg live (max)", "71% fat score 3", "Drop: 1/3/2024 to 28/4/2024". There are buttons for "S/Head" and "Assessed".

A screenshot of the AuctionsPlus app interface. At the top, it says "AuctionsPlus" with a star icon and a notification bell. Below that, it says "52 of 73 lots". The main image shows a group of white sheep. Below the image, it says "SOLD \$340.00/Head" and "472.9c/kg Live 1125.8c/kg Dressed". The title is "Pen 952 - 200 SIL Ewe Hoggets". The location is "FORBES, Central Western NSW" and the seller is "KM & J.L. NORRIE". The description includes "100% Border Leicester / Merino", "71.9kg live", "59kg live (min)", "85kg live (max)", "60% fat score 5", and "16 - 17 Months". There are buttons for "S/Head", "WHP/ESI", and "Assessed". At the bottom, it says "KEVIN MILLER WHITTY LENNON CO".

Out And About

We have spent some time in 2024 travelling to see NA rams out in other people's paddocks.

It is always interesting to see the rams we breed in different climatic conditions, soil types, pastures, high and low rainfall areas. It is also great to connect with buyers to see how the rams are performing, we always appreciate the feedback we receive whether it is in areas that are positive or the areas we need to work on to improve.

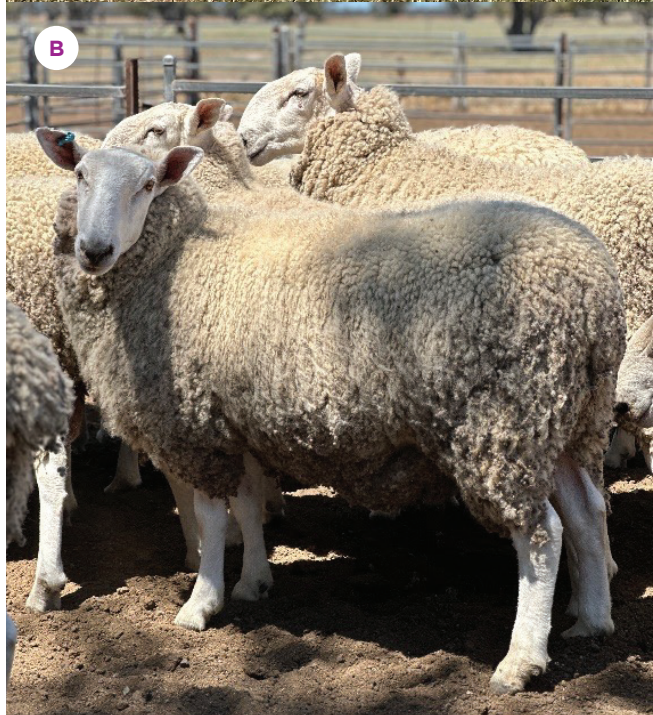
We always appreciate the time given to us on these visits but also the teams of rams we see that have been put together for each individual breeding program by ram buyers.

A) Taking for example this flock ram team **PIC A** from the Dunedoo area which has a strong emphasis on carcass traits. The ram team clearly demonstrate the breeder's selection with deep carcase and shape within the team, this has also been expressed with the progeny that we saw on the day.

B) On another property this time in the north of the state just outside Walgett where sires have been purchased and integrated into a breeding flock to once again improve carcass attributes. **PIC B** is of a flock ram bred to add carcass and maternal traits to the lambs turned off annually over merino ewes.

C) While we were on farm, we saw what turned out to be some magnificent crops, **PIC C**. Walgett in 2024 had what was reported to be the best crop harvest on record and it was fantastic to see this potential a few weeks prior to harvest.

D) From the cold wet winters of the Central Tablelands **PIC D (left)** to the Western plains **PIC D (right)** it was time well spent to see the rams and how they are working under different environmental conditions.





Breeding Objectives Updated

We always attempt to have an annual update on our website. Updates on current sires used, photos and this year we will be updating our breeding objectives. The Breeding Objectives require updating generally on a 2 to 3 year basis as the timeframe set is time bound with the majority of the BO being achieved, plus the introduction of new index's in 2024, it was time to revisit the breeding objectives.

Why have breeding objectives?

Breeding Objectives keep us focused on what is important to our business model plus the ram buyers production system and this includes the key profit drivers for first cross ewe clients.

**At New Armatree we have a
SMART Breeding Objective**

**Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Time Bound**

This allows us to focus our selection decisions to be breeding the sheep that you need tomorrow, today. At New Armatree we are continually reviewing and revising our breeding objective as we meet our targets to ensure that we are striving for continual genetic gain.

Our breeding objective is expressed in ASBV (Australian Sheep Breeding Value) units to ensure what we are actually improving the genetics of our flock.

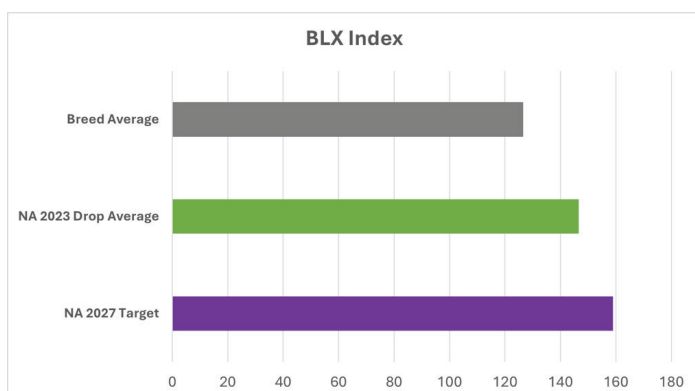
A snapshot of some of the updated BO include the following, the remainder can be viewed on our website. The colours shown on the graphs represent the following

Grey = Breed Average (As of the 15/12/2024)

Green = our current drop Average

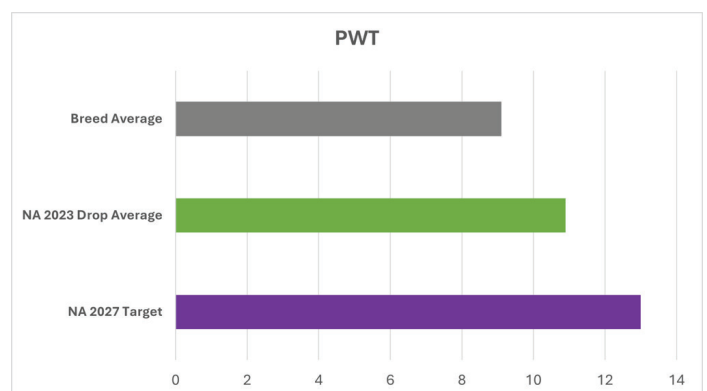
Purple = our Target

Border Leicester Crossing Index

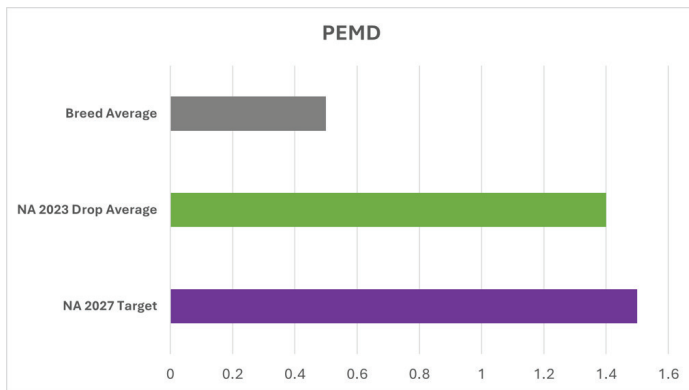


Post Weaning Weight (PWT)- Growth

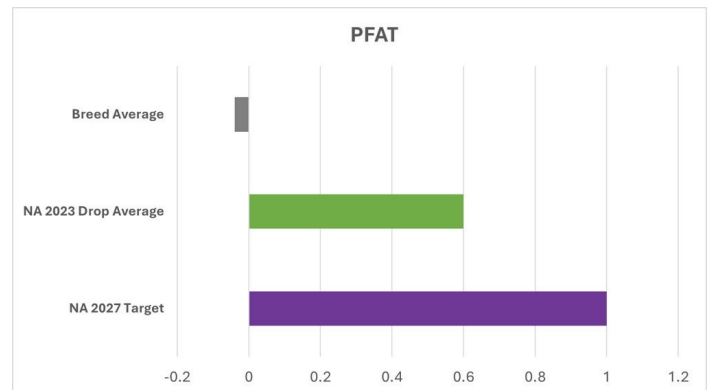
Keep improving Growth whilst maintaining Adult Weight



Eye Muscle Depth (PEMD)

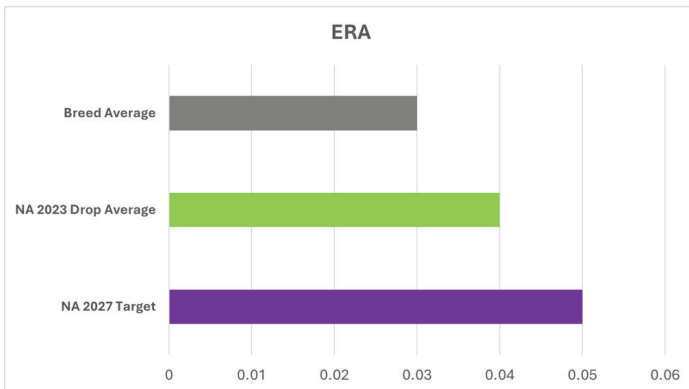


FAT



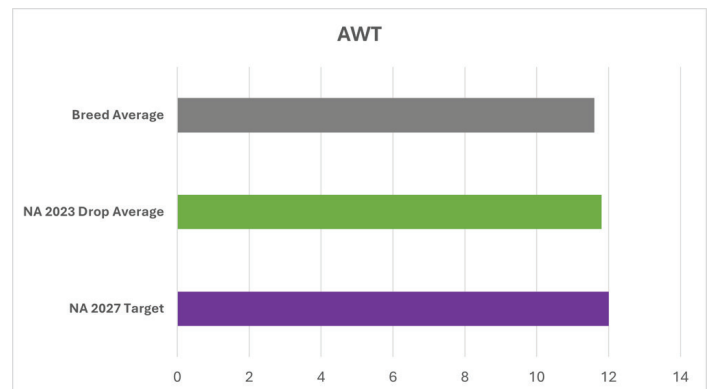
Ewe Rearing Ability (ERA)

To increase to 0.05 whilst making improvements in other reproduction components



Adult Weight (AWT)

NA aim to slow and limit any increase in adult weight whilst improving other traits.



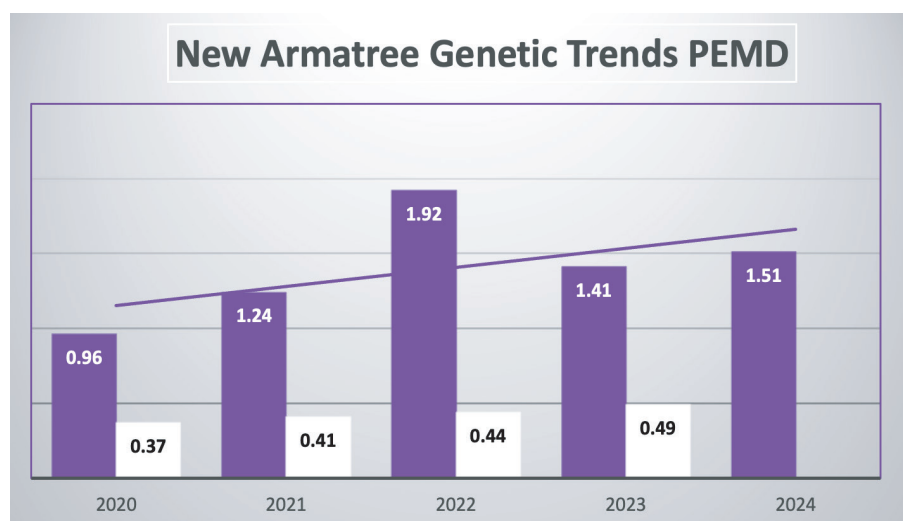
NA Genetic trend for PEMD

PEMD for NA is purple column

Breed Average, white column,

2024 is not entered as data is incomplete for the breed drop

NA has PEMD approximately 3x greater than Breed Average year on year





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