



North East Victoria Sire Evaluation – Invitation to enter sires

The University of Melbourne DOOKIE Site – Trial Number 22

The North East Sire Evaluation committee are calling for entrants in the next North East Victoria Sire Evaluation to be run again at the University of Melbourne Dookie campus in 2019.

The bloodline of the ewes on this property is Toland Merino, with an average micron of 18, produced on a plain body carrying a long staple. This flock is UNMULESED so please bear that mind when nominating a sire.

The site has the capacity to test 10-12 Merino sires to be joined by AI in the first week of March 2019. The trial will run for two years (to cover two shearings) with the following key measurements taken:

Tagging: breech traits plus pigmentation scores.

Weaning: body weight.

Post weaning (9 months of age with 9 months wool growth): body weight, measured fleece traits (greasy fleece weight, clean fleece weight, yield, fibre diameter, coefficient of variation of fibre diameter, fibre diameter curvature, staple length and staple strength).

Yearling: body weight.

Hogget: body weight, eye muscle depth and fat, as well as Worm Egg Count (if conditions permit).

Adult (18 months of age with 9 months wool growth): body weight, measured fleece traits (greasy fleece weight, clean fleece weight, yield, fibre diameter, coefficient of variation of fibre diameter, fibre diameter curvature, staple length and staple strength) and visually assessed traits (classer's grade, wool quality, conformation and off shears breech traits).

Data for all sires will be submitted to MERINOSELECT as it is collected, and sires will be eligible for publication in Merino Superior Sires after the Adult assessment.

The cost to enter a sire will be \$2,700 plus GST which covers the cost to AI, all measurements, trial management, data analysis and reporting. We will also be DNA sampling ALL progeny and SIREs used for the 2019 drop (hence the rise in the site fee). You will need to supply 60 doses of semen (at your expense).

If you would like to enter a sire, please complete the attached entry form by 1st February 2019 and send to Anna Toland by email (anna@tolandmerino.com.au). Once your entry has been confirmed by the committee you will need to collect and despatch semen by the end of February to Livestock Breeding Services, Jerilderie, NSW.

All enquires to be directed to either, Anna Toland; 0438 981 605 & email anna@tolandmerino.com.au or Murray McKenzie on (03) 57666278, 0428481961 & email kilpark@people.net.au.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Toland

“Secretary”

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