

Macquarie



Reports and Field Days

Standard sire evaluation site reports will be generated for the first two years of progeny assessment which will be complemented by a standard MLP report that contains raw data, adjusted sire means, flock breeding values and indexes. Regular field days will be held at the site.

To obtain copies of the reports generated from the site and to seek field day dates visit www.wool.com/MLP or visit the **MSEA facebook page (@macquariesireevaluation)**.

MLP Quick facts

- The AWI-funded MLP project is a \$7m (plus \$5m from partners), 10-year partnership between AWI, AMSEA, nominating stud Merino breeders and site hosts.
- The project aims to compare early life selection of ewes with Merino lifetime production across all genotypes and environments.
- It will also explore the genetic, biological and economic lifetime relationships between reproduction, wool, carcase traits and disease resistance in order to enhance breeding strategies and deliver better outcomes to industry.
- All ewes are retained, and each year will be extensively measured, classed, and joined with annual reproduction performance captured.

Site contacts

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Department of
Primary Industries

The Merino Lifetime Productivity Project is being undertaken in partnership between the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association Incorporated (AMSEA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). AMSEA and AWI would like to acknowledge those entities who also contribute funding, namely Woolgrowers through sire evaluation entry fees, site committee in-kind contributions, and sponsors of AMSEA. A special acknowledgement is also made to the Australian Government who supports research, development and marketing of Australian wool. GD2968

The Macquarie Sire Evaluation site is one of five sites participating in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project (MLP). The site is located at Trangie in the wheat/sheep zone of Central New South Wales and is hosted and managed by NSW DPI in conjunction with the Macquarie Sire Evaluation Association (MSEA).

The Macquarie site initially operates like a standard sire evaluation – following the rigorous independent measurement and visual assessment protocols prescribed by the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA). At the conclusion of the standard sire evaluation phase (once progeny are 18 months of age), Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) will support the ongoing annual measurement and visual classing of ewe progeny through 4-5 joinings and annual shearings.

The MLP project is supported by industry through semen supplied from entered sires, site entry fees and an active site committee who supply labour and guidance to the project. The Macquarie site hosts NSW DPI are acknowledged for their generous in-kind contribution.

Location

The site operates at Trangie Agricultural Research Centre (TARC) which is located 7 kilometres north west of Trangie in central western NSW. The pasture is dominated by native perennial grasses and herbage, with introduced annual species and lucerne. The main soil types are red brown earths and grey cracking clays. The site has a non-seasonal rainfall pattern receiving around 500mm annually.

The annual management program will involve a December joining and October shearing.

Ewe Base

The base ewes for the site were sourced from commercial clients of two bloodlines, Towalba and Centre Plus, which represent contrasting skin type and levels of wrinkle. The Towalba ewes average between 20.5 and 21.5um whilst the Centre Plus ewe’s average between 18 to 18.5um. Ewes from these two bloodlines were equally allocated to each sire.

Breeding Objective

Macquarie Site Breeding Objective in summary:

To breed a highly commercially viable flock of sheep suitable for the climate and pasture conditions of the western slopes and plains of NSW. Sheep should not require high management inputs but be highly productive (fleece weight) relative to a medium wool type and have good carcase and fertility characteristics that make ewes suitable as 1st cross or prime lamb dams.

In addition to soundness the production emphasis is equally on increasing fleece weight, carcase and fertility while maintaining fibre diameter.

Industry Sires

A total of 31 industry sires have been used at the site and represent a range in breeding philosophies, skin types, performance, age, horn status and industry usage. Sires were selected through an open nomination process and were complemented by the inclusion of sires for research and industry interest purposes.



2017 DROP	2018 DROP
Centre Plus Poll, 707115 *	Anderson Rams, 150266
Collinsville Poll, 130545 (Apollo)	Centre Plus Poll, 707115 *
Darriwell, 130941 (Buddha)*	Charinga (Doc), 130240
GRASS Merino, 122190 (P47) L	Glen Donald, 120014 *
Gullen Gamble Poll, 120018	GRASS Merino (R15), 141924
Hazeldean, 13.4936	Gullen Gamble Poll, 14189
Kerin Poll, 151911	Haddon Rig, 2.715 *
Moojepin, 120652 *	Hazeldean, 11.3542 (Hugh) *
Mumblebone, 151367	Kerin Poll, 160137
Roseville Park, 132933	Langdene, 160950
Trigger Vale Poll, 140477 *	Lewisdale Poll (Monty), 150010
Wanganella, 130816	Orrie Cowie (Trojan), 140050
West Plains Poll, 110004 (Mercenary) *	Roseville Park (Poll), 150039
Wilgunya, 121224	Stockman Poll (Pioneer), 130707
Willandra Poll, 140030 (Des)	Wanganella, 150610
	Willandra Poll, 160001

*Link Sires

A full list of MLP project sires can be found by visiting the project website at www.wool.com/MLP.