

New England

Reports and Field Days

Standard sire evaluation site reports will be generated for the first two years of progeny assessment. The site report 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

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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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. GD3037



The New England Sire Evaluation site is one of five sites participating in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project (MLP). The site is located near Armidale in the New England Tablelands of New South Wales and is hosted and managed by CSIRO in conjunction with the New England Merino Sire Evaluation Association (NEMSEA).

The New England site 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 attracts further industry support through semen supplied from entered sires, site entry fees and an active site committee who supply labour and guidance to the project. The New England site hosts CSIRO are acknowledged for their generous in-kind contribution.

Location

The site operates at CSIRO’s “Chiswick” property located between Uralla and Armidale along the New England Highway. The property is an agricultural research station with a long history of pasture and grazing livestock research. It has predominantly improved pastures with a carrying capacity of 9.0 DSE/ha. The site generally receives over 800mm of summer dominant rainfall and is a non-mulesing site.

The annual management program will involve an April joining and July shearing.

Ewe Base

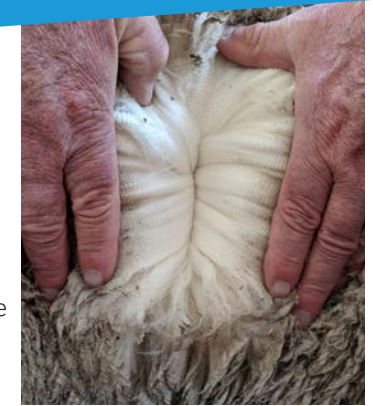
The ewe base is a typical commercial superfine/fine wool type based on local performance recorded studs (most recently Cressbrook and Alfoxton sires, previously T13 and Westvale). The Breech Strike Genetics flock makes up one-third of the ewe base, and is composed of genetics from many sources, although for the last five years prior to involvement in the MLP project, the flock has been essentially a superfine/fine wool flock (bulk 70’s quality count, adult ewe mean fibre diameter approx. 17µm). The Breech Strike Genetics flock is deeply pedigreed, comprehensively phenotyped and well linked genetically to industry via MERINOSELECT.

Breeding Objective

The Breeding Objective of the New England Merino Sire Evaluation site is to breed and select sheep that have productive fleeces for the superfine type (14 -17.5µm) and are structurally sound and capable of performing under the New England’s climatic, pastoral and environmental conditions. Sheep should be well grown, have sound conformation, and wool of excellent white colour, well defined character and be free of fleece rot.

Industry Sires

A total of 30 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
Connemara Poll, 140257	Alfoxton, 150430
Conrayn, MVB123	Avington Poll, 160047
Cressbrook, 140055	Bungulla, 160350
Egelabra, HEK 1.36	Clovernook Poll, 160095
Grindon, 150017	Cressbrook, 140055*
Karori, 140188	Eilan Donan, Harvey (5145)
Miramoonna, 140012	Europambela, 120101
Mirani, 120021	Hillcreston Park Poll, 110143
Moorundie Poll, NE73*	Hilltop, HT Poll 156
Nerstane, 150073	Karori, 150222
Petali Poll, 150697	Nerstane, 150073*
Trefusis, 150282*	Petali Poll, 160849
Trigger Vale Poll, 140477*	Tallowong (Poll), 150280*
West Plains Poll, 110004 (Mercenary) *L	Wurrook, 130149*
Yalgoo, 150313	Yalgoo, 160070

*Link Sires **L** Across Year Link

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