



ABN 21 254 813 645
Royal Adelaide Showground
Goodwood Road, Wayville
PO Box 108
Goodwood SA 5034

P 08 8212 4157
F 08 8231 7095
E info@merinosa.com.au
W www.merinosa.com.au

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019

DIARY DATES

May 13th 2019

Mid-side sampling, visual classing and carcass scanning 2018-drop progeny

May 16th & 17th 2019

Lamb marking 2019-drop progeny

June 4th 2019

Field Day 2018-drop progeny

June 5th-7th 2019 (TBC)

Shearing and post shearing visual classing 2018-drop progeny

FIELD DAY 2019

Following on from last year's successful event, the 2019 Field Day will be held on Tuesday 4th June 2019 at Keyneton Station, 11:00am to 3:00pm. The 2018-drop progeny of 16 leading Stud Merino sires will be on display in sire groups, together with results from measured and visual assessments. In addition, there will be scheduled presentations and the opportunity to view Trade Displays.

Please register your interest with Site Coordinator Anna Cameron, acameron@yalumba.com, or mobile 0403 747 332.

KEYNETON STATION SITE UPDATE

As with many regions across the state and country, conditions at Keyneton Station have been tough, with two failed Springs.

2017-drop Progeny

Following the Field Day in June 2018, the 2017 drop had further mid-side sampling assessments conducted prior to shearing and post-shearing visual classing on 24th September 2018. Thank you to those whom volunteered their time to assist Keyneton Station on these data recording days. This completes the 2017-drop trial, with the final report available on the Merino Superior Sires website. www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au

2018-drop progeny

After being shorn in September 2018, the 2018-drop progeny grazed in the hills at Keyneton Station throughout Spring. They were supplementary fed over summer, and on 17th April 2019, weighed an average of 42kg (weight range 28-63kg). Their current supplementary feeding regime equates to a weight gain of 130g/day.

Worm Egg Counts for the 2018-drop have not been obtained due to samples being below the threshold required by AMSEA for conducting individual worm egg counts.



2018-drop progeny, Keyneton Station (photo courtesy of Joe Keynes)

The 2018-drop's major data recording day is scheduled for Monday 13th May, where the following assessments will be measured, and traits recorded:

Mid-side Sampling:

Yield, Fibre Diameter, Fibre Diameter Coefficient of Variation, Fibre Diameter Standard Deviation, Curvature, Comfort, Staple Strength and Staple Length

Visual Classing:

Fleece Rot, Wool Colour, Wool Character, Dust Penetration or Staple Weathering, Staple Structure, Random Spot, Face Cover, Jaw, Legs/Feet, Dag and/or Urine, Classer's Visual Grade

Carcase Scanning:

Body Weight, Fat, Eye Muscle Depth

Immediately following the Field Day, the 2018-drop progeny will have further traits recorded at shearing time:

Shearing:

Greasy Fleece Weight, Random Spot

Post-Shearing Visual Classing:

Body Weight, Shoulder/Back, Body Wrinkle, Random Spot

Given the dry conditions, the future of the 2018-drop cohort will be assessed at shearing in June 2019. Should climatic conditions continue to be poor, the 2018-drop Sire Evaluation Trial may conclude.

McPIGGERY SITE UPDATE

2019-drop Progeny

In McPiggery's first year as host of the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial, AI for the 2019-drop progeny occurred on 21st and 22nd November 2018. Pregnancy scanning resulted in 306 twins and 362 singles, a total of 974 lambs from 668 ewes. This represents 69.6% conception rate from AI. Conditions have and continue to be dry at Lameroo, with ewes being supplementary fed barley (trail feeding) up until lambing. Just prior to lambing, the ewes were separated in to scanning groups – the twins separated in to three mobs, and the singles in to two mobs. During this time they were fed vetch hay to minimise disturbance. Lambing occurred 15th & 16th April 2019. Within 14 days of the lambing period finishing, the ewes in their scanning groups, were boxed up again from which time they continued to be trail fed barley. The ewes are being maintained in CS3 and the lambs are looking fresh. Lamb marking is scheduled to occur on 16th and 17th May 2019, with the following traits being recorded:

Sex, Birth Type, Paddock Identification, Injury/Disease/Other abnormalities, DNA ID, Fibre Pigmentation, Non-fibre Pigmentation, Recessive Black, Random Spot, Breech Cover – Lambs, Breech Wrinkle – Lambs.



McPiggery: AI day, 21st November 2018 (Photo courtesy of Bill Walker)



Lambing at McPiggery, 23rd April 2019 (Photo courtesy of Duane Simon)



Lambing at McPiggery, 23rd April 2019 (Photo courtesy of Duane Simon)



The twin mob, McPiggery, 7th May 2019 (Photo courtesy of Duane Simon)

We are urgently looking for volunteers to assist at Keyneton Station for their major data recording day, as well as across the two lamb marking days at McPiggery. Can you please contact Anna Cameron, acameron@yalumba.com or mobile 0403 747 332, if you are available.

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION SITE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Roger Fiebig
2017/2018 Site Owner	Keynes Family
2019 Site Owner	McPiggery / Duane Simon
Data Manager	Michelle Cousins
Classer	Bill Walker
Industry Service Provider	Michelle Cousins

Breeder Representative	Hansi Graetz
Breeder Representative	Matt Ridgway
Finance & Administration	Jennifer Light
Site Coordinator	Anna Cameron
AMSEA Site Representative	Stephen Lee

SPONSORS, CONTRIBUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

As a non-profit site, our sponsors provide a very important contribution, and we would like to acknowledge their generous support of the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Site in 2017, 2018 & 2019. We would also like to thank those individuals, and/or businesses whom have volunteered their time in helping the sites run as smoothly as possible throughout the year, whether that be in the form of providing labour, or helping with specific tasks as required by the AMSEA protocols. Two business's that must be acknowledged are Keyneton Station and McPiggery, who importantly offered to be host sites for the SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial, as well as volunteering their own time in planning and labour.



Greg Heeney 0475 948 880



Emma Shattock 0427 388 365



Mary Chirgwin 0418 898 505



Margie Trowbridge 08 8756 6065



Jennifer Light 08 8212 4157



Paul Cousins 0427 922 108
Michelle Cousins 0407 607 899

CLASSINGS P/L - MURRAY BRIDGE
- MERINO BREEDING ADVISORY -
- WOOL TESTING LABORATORY -

Bill & Rose Walker 0428 973 804



Keynes Family 0428 648 235

