

Balmoral Sire Evaluation Trial

Invitation to enter sires

The Balmoral Breeders Committee, which runs the Balmoral Sire Evaluation trial, is calling for entrants in the 2020 sire evaluation trial to be run at 'Jigsaw Farms' Hensley Park & Melville Forest.

Jigsaw Farms, is a family farming operation of 3,378 hectares, is located at Hensley Park and Melville Forest, near Cavendish in Western Victoria. The farms receive an average annual rainfall of 675 mm, and are dominated by duplex soils. The mixed grazing operation consists of 25,000 fine wool Merino ewes which are joined to either Merino (60%) or terminal sires (40%) and they also run a 300- cow EU cross-breeding operation. The farms currently run over 50,000 Dry Sheep Equivalents (DSEs) in a high input production system (average Olsen P of 20) at a winter stocking rate of 21 DSE/ha.

The sheep stud and flock has been managed since 2010 to produce a sheep flock that has maintained its 18.2 micron average and its 5.2kg average fleece weight, while dramatically improving the flock's fertility levels. This is a result of a genetic focus on both muscle and fat, and the strict adherence to the Life Time Ewe Management learning's.

Jigsaw ceased mulesing in 2016 as a result of genetic selection. If needed, Jigsaw now use a breech cryogenic liquid treatment on about 15% of their lambs with very positive results, both from a lamb growth and wool premium perspective.

Jigsaw are looking forward to seeing how these sheep perform with a range of different sires and welcome the scrutiny and development opportunities that the trail will bring.

Balmoral Site Breeding Objective:

The goal is to select sheep that are productive and well grown, with sound conformation and carrying heavy fine wool fleeces of good character, colour and nourishment suitable for the western Victorian environment.

2020 trial information:

The site has the capacity to trial 21 Merino sires which will be joined by AI in March 2020 making it the biggest trial in the country. The trial will run for two years to cover two shearings. 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 **\$3,200** 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 2020 drop (hence the rise in the site fee).

Entrants will need to supply 52 doses of semen (at their expense).

If you would like to enter a sire, please complete the attached entry form by **1st February 2020** and send to Anthony Close by email anthony@kurrawirra.com.au.

NOTE: A position will only be kept available by a nomination, even if the entrant can't select which sire yet

All enquires to be directed to either Anthony Close on 0437 085 217 anthony@kurrawirra.com.au or Tom Silcock on 0419 882 239 tom@themoutaindam.com.au.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Close
Vice Chair Balmoral Breeders
& Entry Coordinator

Sire Entry Form



1. Site details for the sire being entered

Site & year being entered Site: Year:

Other sites & years the sire has been entered:

Has the sire been genotyped: Yes No Unsure

2. Sire details

Sire's stud/flock name:

Sire's identification:

Sire's stud/flock code: Sire's year of drop:

Breed of stud/flock (Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details):

Sire's 16 digit code [see sample code below right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Is the sire currently alive: Yes No

Is semen available for sale: Yes No

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|
| Example 16 digit code: | | | |
| 50 | 4697 | 2014 | 140012 |
| Breed | Flock | Year of drop | On-farm ID |

Sire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Grandsire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

3. Owner details - Owner and contact for enquiries about the sire, plus owner(s) permission

Owner:

Contact: First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: Yes No Initial:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: Yes No Initial:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* Yes No Initial:

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

4. Breeder details - only fill in section 4 if the breeders details are different to the owners details in section 3.

Breeder:

Contact: First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: Yes No Initial:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: Yes No Initial:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* Yes No Initial:

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

Note: Sires entered will be included in the AMSEA database and managed by AMSEA.

5. Signature of entrant

I believe all the above details to be true: Date:

6. Stud/flock details - if you are a first time entrant of sire evaluation please provide a short summary of your stud/flock's history and breeding objective.

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