

# MerinoLink

## 2022 Sire Evaluation

### Entry Invitation

MerinoLink is calling for sire entrants in the 2022 sire evaluation trial to be run at a new host property located on the Central Tablelands of New South Wales, working in conjunction with Bathurst Merino Association.

The Ross family operate at Evans Plains, 15 minutes south-west of Bathurst NSW. 'Willow Glen' is 870 ha of yellow box gum woodlands with granite clay loam soils. The pastures consist of phalaris, rye grass, sub clover and native annual and perennial grasses. Average rainfall is 620-650 ml.

The Ross's join 2000-2500 ewes annually to merino and terminal sires, producing approx 3000 lambs. The merino breeding program has utilised Roseville Park sires for the past 5 years. Lambing occurs in April and September over 5 weeks with the target of 130% at marking. A 6-7 month shearing schedule sees the site cutting 60-70 mm staple length at 17-18 micron. The flock is un-mulesed and operates under the Authentico scheme.

#### Site Breeding Objective:

*To breed sheep that produce a fine, bright, white, quality fleece and of sound conformation (including feet) suitable for the Tablelands environment; maintaining a micron of 17-18, increasing staple length for a short shearing interim. A selection pressure for low breech wrinkle, plainer bodied types (non-mulesed) is applied, with a focus on increased size/fertility to enable a younger maiden joining and wether sales.*

#### 2022 trial information:

The site has the capacity to trial 15 Merino sires which will be joined by AI to 50 foundation ewes in April 2022. The trial plan is to complete a Yearling and Adult classing and assessment 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. Ewe progeny will also be assessed in their first reproduction cycle for Conception and Litter Size.

The cost to enter a sire is **\$4,000** (plus GST). This covers all costs associated with the trial including AI, all measurements and professional trial management. ALL progeny and sires in the 2021 trial will be DNA sampled.

#### **Entrants will need to supply 56 doses of semen, delivered to Livestock Breeding Services, Jerilderie by 31st March.**

*Semen and delivery of semen is the responsibility of the entrant and at the entrants' expense.*

Five of these doses will be used in a Sydney University project which is looking to be able to accurately predict a male's fertility via in vitro semen testing, plus propose minimum industry standards for in vitro testing to reduce AI semen-induced reproductive losses – important results for breeders!

**If you would like to enter a sire, please complete the attached entry form by February 28 2022** and send by email to the MerinoLink team at [admin@merinolink.com.au](mailto:admin@merinolink.com.au). A position will only be kept available with a completed nomination/entry form. Entry form receipt will be notified and successful entrants advised mid-March. Note - the site is non-mulesed so sire nomination should reflect this status.

#### Further enquires can be directed to:

Rich Keniry on 0427 878 541, Emma Grabham on 0409 288 554 or emailed to [admin@merinolink.com.au](mailto:admin@merinolink.com.au).

Yours sincerely,  
Rich Keniry  
MerinoLink Chair



2022 MERINO SIRE EVALUATION  
**ENTRIES OPEN NOW**  
Info & entry form  
[merinolink.com.au](http://merinolink.com.au)  
APRIL AI  
WOOL FOCUS  
+REPRO  
YEARLING & ADULT  
ASSESSMENTS  
AMSEA APPROVED  
NEW HOST  
NON-MULESED  
CENTRAL  
TABLELANDS  
BATHURST, NSW  
Merino  
LINK

# 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.

.....  
 .....  
 .....