

HISTORY OF THE FARRER WHITE SUFFOLK STUD



In 1984 Farrer obtained their first White Suffolk sheep from the University of N.S.W at Hay. In subsequent years Farrer become a foundation member shareholder in the performance breeding group Prime Lamb Genetics (PLG). This valuable relationship has enabled Farrer to obtain some of the best genetics the White Suffolk Breed has to offer. After PLG disbanded in 2005 Farrer joined the White Suffolk performance group called Superwhites® to become involved in testing the next generation of elite sires. Recently, this includes some of Farrer's own Farrer 160068, 160067, 150096, 150194, 140188, and 140137.

Farrer's breeding program is centered on a sound combination of genetic principles and practical experience with the aim of breeding modern, profit making sires for commercial lamb production. Emphasis is placed on; Low birth weights, high growth, moderate fat, high muscle content, excellent worm resistance, other carcase traits, structural soundness and fertility.

Objective measurement and performance recording have been the corner stone of the Farrer White Suffolk stud from the very start. Initially starting out with the NSW Department of Agriculture Meat Sheep Testing Service and graduating on to Lambplan® since its conception. Farrer places great deal of emphasis to ensure the accuracy and integrity of data supplied to Lambplan. This has enabled Farrer to achieve Gold Quality Lambplan Data since 1997. DNA 50K SNP testing for hard to measure carcase traits started in 2012.

Farrer's White Suffolk prefix sheep regularly appear amongst the Elite list of White Suffolk sheep in Australia based on Lamb Eating Quality index. Farrer's most influential and most widely used sires to date is Farrer 040074 and Farrer 100135. Farrer has also competed at the Annual New South Wales Sheep Show at Dubbo since 1996 with the Farrer 080034 being crowned Supreme White Suffolk exhibit in 2009. In 2016 Farrer 140107 Champion White Suffolk ewe.

Farrer conducted its inaugural On – Property Ram Sale in 1995. This sale was held at the shearing shed and opened by the sheep meat industry leader and old boy Roger Fletcher. In 1997 Farrer introduced the relatively new Helmsman buying system and continued on ever since because of its overwhelming success with purchasers. In 2014 and 2015 Farrer 130254 and 140188 both sold respectively to an on property sale record of \$17000. Since 2012 the sale has moved totally indoors to the Farrer Trade Training Centre. Farrer sale rams are keenly sought after and have been sold to most states in Australia. Thus facilitated our involvement in AuctionsPlus since 2016.



The Farrer White Suffolk stud continues as an “Educational stud” and plays an integral part in the delivery of Year 9 -10 Board Endorsed Animal Management unit called Wool Science. Students are actively involved in the direction and management of the stud. Their contributions include; sire selection, crutching, shearing the sheep including the sale rams, vaccinating, drenching, lamb supervision, DNA testing, and helping conduct the annual artificial insemination program, lambplan testing, pregnancy scanning and ram sale.