FARRER WHITE SUFFOLKS

PERFORMANCE

Farrer is a strong advocate of performance recording. At birth, animals are electronically tagged and recorded for birth weight, birth type, sex, sire, dam, lambing ease, distance from her lamb and comments on the ewes mothering ability.

Animals are not removed from the flock until all animals are weighed and scanned by an accredited lambplan operator at the post weaning age of 5 to 6 months. This enables the most accurate assessment of each animals genetic potential and allows us to select further breeding and sale stock with confidence.

Farrer uses LAMBPLAN to provide accurate information on the genetic merit of individuals in our flock. In LAMBPLAN, performance and pedigree information is combined to give Australian Sheep Breeding Values ASBV's. ASBV's are calculated from systematic combinations of performance information on individuals plus their relatives. They are expressed as the difference between an individual's genetic merit and the genetic base to which the animal is compared.

The LAMBPLAN ASBV's obtained form the basis for which animals are retained in the flock or offered for sale. The most important of these include;

Birth weight (BWT)

Estimates the genetic difference between animals in lamb birth weight. (kgs).

Weaning Weight (WWT)

Estimates the genetic difference between animals in liveweight at 100 days of age.

Post Weaning Weight: (PWWT):- Estimates the genetic difference between animals in liveweight at 225 days of age.

Post Weaning Fat: (PFAT):- Estimates the genetic difference in GR fat depth at 45 Kilograms liveweight.

Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth (PEMD):

Estimates the genetic difference in eye muscle depth at the c site in a 45 kilograms liveweight animals.

Post Weaning Worm Egg Count (PFEC):

Estimates the genetic difference between animals in worm burden at 225 days of age.

In addition Farrer uses the **Lamb 2020 index** to give a balanced single overall measure of an animal's merit.

<u>Research Breeding Values for Lean Meat Yield and Meat Eating Quality</u>

Research Breeding Values are obtained by a DNA test using a small blood sample.

Lean Meat Yield (LMY %)

This trait is a measure of the commercial yield of lean meat as a percentage of hot carcase weight. Lean meat yield is estimated from a combination of weight, muscle and fat dimensions and has been validated by either CT scanning or through direct commercial bone-outs.

Select those animals with the most ***positive*** LMY

Intramuscular Fat (IMF %)

This trait is a measure of the chemical fat percentage in the loin muscle of a lamb, and is often referred to as marbling. IMF has been shown to have a significant impact on flavour, juiciness, tenderness and overall likeability of lamb.

Select those animals with the most ***positive*** IMF

Shear Force (SHEARF5 Kg)

This trait is a measure of the force or energy required to cut through the loin muscle of a lamb after 5 days of ageing, and is recorded in kilograms of force. The trait has moderate / high heritability, and a moderate correlation with tenderness in lamb. Thus, the most negative SHEARF5 figure indicates more tender lamb loin muscle.

Select those animals with the most ***negative*** SHEARF5

Farrer has GOLD data quality, which is recognized by Lambplan as being the highest standard possible. This ensures that our ASBV's and subsequent index’s are of the highest accuracy possible.

GOLD QUALITY LAMBPLAN DATA

Highest Standard of Data Quality (Since 1997)