

Padua Coopworth built on sound foundations

Eighty Coopworth rams will come under the hammer on Monday November 6 at the inaugural Padua Coopworth stud sale to be held at the Hamilton ram pavilion, Hamilton Showgrounds with viewing at 11am and sale at 1pm.

Padua Coopworth stud began in 2004 with genetics sourced from the Dunkeld Coopworth stud, and was expanded considerably in 2005 with the purchase of 254 pregnant stud ewes from the renowned Cleverlie Coopworth Stud.

"We are a relatively new stud that is built on solid foundations from Dick Wigan at Dunkeld and the Cleverlie stud, both of which have had more than 20 years experience. The resulting offspring combine to make up the 80 rams on offer at the sale," stud principal Brendan Gordon said.

It was initially a big decision for the Gordon family of Dunkeld to branch out into breeding Coopworth sheep, as they had been fine wool Merino producers for almost three generations.

"We were at a stage where we needed to diversify and the Coopworths were the natural choice for a self replacing lamb enterprise. It has grown from there," said Mr Gordon.

The Gordon family was particularly impressed with the ability of the breed to have high fertility rates, low mortality and quick growing lambs, which in return in increased profits for the producer.

"We have ewes that are giving birth to up to four lambs and rearing them successfully even in the tough conditions that this season has brought," said Mr Gordon.

The Coopworth Society and Lambplan ASBV system have ensured that meticulous data be kept on every lamb in the stud, to enable buyers to know exactly what they will be getting in terms of potential productivity in a number of fields.

The ability of a Coopworth lamb to grow quickly and be turned off as a weaner or kept on and grown out to heavier weights is a great attribute to any producer.

ASBV's allows the producer to target specific traits to enable their commercial enterprise to improve, whether this is number of lambs weaned or eye muscle depth.

"Our focus is improving the genetic base not only for our commercial enterprise but those of our clients as well. We need to work closely with these people to ensure we all prosper in the future," said Mr Gordon.

"Buying quality rams is an important aspect of farming, but many people don't recognise the importance of the Dam. They carry 50 per cent of the genetic merit of the lambs," said Mr Gordon.

"I want good framed fertile ewes that produce quantities of milk to kick start the lambs, one that don't give up on the first sign of trouble. Other producers may aim at other trait so we need to understand how their different enterprises operate and produce seed stock that meets their specifications," said Mr Gordon.

The Padua Coopworth stud sale at the Ram Pavilion at the Hamilton Showgrounds on November 6 will cater for all clients needs and ensure that the quality genetics will hold them in good stead for the future.

Padua Coopworths would like to thank Kerr & Co for their support and if you have any queries, don't hesitate to call Craig Pertzelt at Kerr & Co 0408 723 952 or Brendan 0429 388 371.

