

Prime SAMM Maternal Traits Standout

WA Prime SAMM members

ARRA-DALE Perenjori
08 9971 5026
ARMCO Gingin
0417 957 583
BILLABONG York
08 9641 2215
BRYN-AWELON
Kellerberrin
08 9045 9025
BULBARLI Toodyay
0429 687 440
CAPOLINGA Kondinin
08 9889 1110
COONIGAN Wickiepin
08 9888 1140
CRYSTAL RIDGE
Kojonup
08 9833 1237
CULLAM Jerramungup
08 9835 1021
ENOKURRA HILLS
Mingenew
08 9972 6033
GRACEFIELD Katanning
08 9821 2181
GULNARE
Dumbleyung
08 9863 4116
HAMPSURE Esperance
0427 715 751
HONI MONI Cunderdin
08 9626 2092
MULLOORINA
Wongan Hills
08 9672 1007
MURRAY Beverley
08 9646 1336
QUINTARRA Esperance
0427 711 376
ROCKDALE Dumbleyung
08 9863 4182
ROMILLY HILLS Beverley
08 9647 1055
ROYSTON Jerramungup
08 9835 4036
SANDOWN Badgingarra
08 9315 4114
SHIRLEE DOWNS
Quairading
08 9645 0212
SPRINGDALE York
08 9641 1438
SUNNYSIDE Nyabing
08 9823 5022
THORNTON PARK
Brookton
08 9642 4038
TIARRI Lake Grace
08 9871 9040
URALLA Pingaring
08 9866 8053
WENDALLA Mogumber
08 9651 9072

IMPROVED maternal traits, better doing ability and easy care, were what Bremer Bay producer Anthony Thomas was chasing when he switched to purchasing Prime SAMM rams in 2003.

Prior to this he had been running a pure Merino flock but with disappointing lambings and a struggling wool industry he decided to make the switch to a breed which provided more market opportunities. He has never looked back.

Currently Anthony and his partner, Leonie McMahon, are running 900 Prime SAMM cross ewes, which range from F1 to F3 types on their 1400 hectares.

They are also running a handful of Merinos which are mated to Prime SAMMs but these are being phased out in preference to Prime SAMM types as they head towards a pure flock.

In addition they are mating some of their Prime SAMM ewes to Poll Dorsets to take advantage of the Prime SAMM breed's good maternal traits.

Anthony said since making the change to Prime SAMMs he has seen significant improvements in his sheep operations in a number of areas.

"They do a lot better with less feed and our lambing percentages have improved out of sight," Anthony said.

"We now are getting lambing percentages in the 80 per cent range, which is up around 15pc on what our Merinos were doing.

"This year our percentage got knocked around a bit as we had some cold, wet, rainy events during lambing."

"This year I scanned the ewes for the first time and we scanned well over 90pc in lamb which is great."

In terms of the maternal traits the breed offers, Anthony believes the Prime SAMM is well out in front.

"The mothers are stronger and the lambs are stronger," Anthony said.

"The new born Prime SAMM lambs certainly have more get up and go in them."

Lambs are generally dropped on the property in late April/early May but this year Anthony and Leonie also dropped a mob in March to give them more marketing opportunities.

The good lamb results are also achieved using less rams at mating.

"Generally we put the rams in a one per cent plus one, which is a lot lower rate than what we used to run the Merino rams at."

In regards to mating ewes it has been the norm to mate them as hoggets on the property, but Anthony said they will think about mating this year's March drop lambs at seven months because they should have enough weight in them.

But it is not the only maternal traits which have excited Anthony and Leonie since they introduced the breed.

"It certainly offers you more marketing options when it comes to your lambs," Anthony said.

"Their quick growth rates means you have the ability to turn the lambs off as suckers, or you can carry them through as they don't run to fat," Anthony said.

"In the past we have sold lambs at 18-20 weeks and they have averaged 18-20kg dressed and comments back from the processors have been promising.

"This year we dropped a mob of lambs in March and I think we will be able to get a draft of wether lambs off as suckers in 2-3 weeks time.

In terms of holding them over, their value is just as good Anthony believes.

"In May this year we sold the tail draft of old season lambs and they averaged \$93 in the yards," Anthony said.

On the wool front Anthony said their Merino clip used to average 22 microns and this was similar to what they are recording now with their Prime SAMM cross flock.

"We haven't really noticed any difference in wool quality," Anthony said.

"Also in terms of flystrike we are having less problems which is important given we are in a high rainfall area near the coast."

Contact your nearest
Prime SAMM breeder
to find out more
about the breed.

