

Anderson Rams

Poll Merino

2021 Newsletter

We ask a lot of our sheep! In contrast to the last three very dry years, this year has been exceptionally wet and cold with paddocks inundated, creeks flooded, culverts repeatedly washed out and laneways and paddocks not trafficable at all.

The sheep have gone from dust and dregs in dams to sloshing around in wet pastures for months and yet they still consistently grow sound white wool while raising plenty of lambs.

Robustness in sheep is hard to define, but in adverse seasons it is clearly obvious when they have it.

Ram Sale

Wednesday 20th October, 1pm
On farm at Kojonup and on Auctions Plus

This year we will be offering 175 rams (2020 drop), available for inspection from 10am.

Our stud flock is increasing with ET, AI, a high natural lambing percentage and lamb survival so we are easily able to increase the number of rams for sale at an even higher standard.

Inspection day Wednesday 6th October 10am-12pm. All sale rams will be available for viewing and a BBQ lunch provided.

Sale catalogues will be emailed and can also be downloaded from www.andersonrams.com.au or found on [MERINOSELECT](#).

There will be plenty of flock rams offered in a mini auction following the main sale, and available by private selection afterwards.

Transport for rams interstate is unaffected by border restrictions.

Photos and videos of all sale rams will be on Auctions Plus before the sale.

Property address for google maps is 839 Anderson Rd Boilup 6394.



2021 Ram Sale

Wednesday
20th October
1pm
(on display from 10am)

175 rams
Full ASBVs

Inspection Day

Wednesday
6th October
10am – 12pm

Soft white wool
Plain bodied
Worm resistant
Fast early growth
Meaty carcass

Top Sires

Anderson sires of the 2020 drop have been making a name for themselves around Australia and New Zealand.

Anderson 160729 with progeny in the MerinoLink 2019 Drop Boorawa Sire Evaluation in NSW is a trait leader for weight at all at all ages, post weaning CFW, fibre diameter CV, staple length, staple strength, breech wrinkle, body wrinkle, and is a clear leader for the number of progeny that were visually classed as Tops and low number of Culls.

Anderson 160729 has also excelled in the New Zealand Central Progeny Test where his progeny classed a whopping 55% into the top grade and only 3% culls, a result four times lower than the next best sire.

Anderson 170390 has hit the top of the Dual Purpose Plus Index list in MERINOSELECT with an index of 250.5.

He is not to be confused with **Anderson 160390** who ranks 5th on the DP+ Index and in the South Australian Sire Evaluation he proved to be a very productive ram leading in carcass traits but also cutting a lot of wool with an exceptional WEC of -82.

Anderson 180633 (4th on the DP+ index) is another sire who has bred outstandingly for us - and for the limited number of people who managed to obtain semen before he unfortunately died.

“Anderson Rams are robust, resilient, and the most worm resistant flock in Australia - and likely in the world.”



Non Mulesed = Not a Problem

Our shearing team this year each shored at least 300 head/day. They commented that they liked their plain bodies and didn't notice that they weren't mulesed! That may have been tongue in cheek, but it did not slow them down one bit.

Maintaining our selection pressure to reduce wrinkle, dags, flystrike, wool faults and worms has meant that ceasing mulesing has not made any difference to our flock, and other than Klik in the marking cradle, they have not required any jetting or extra crutching.

Part of our reason for ceasing mulesing four years ago was to demonstrate to our clients who wish to cease that it is possible with Anderson genetics. If anyone is contemplating ceasing mulesing and wants to chat about it, I'm happy to talk it over with you and share what we have learned along the way.

Fat and Fit Sheep

A two-year project led by Murdoch University's research officer Sarah Blumer along with Animal Science Associate Professor Andrew Thompson has shown that genetic fat provides energy reserves and is a key component of doing ability. These fat reserves:

- Improve reproduction outcomes. For every extra 1mm YFAT, the number of lambs born increases by an extra 5%
- Reduce feed costs. Higher fat animals have lower energy requirements
- Create an opportunity to increase stocking rate and/or reduce supplementary feeding
- Improve profitability
- Assist in maintaining animal welfare standards

The stud flock at Anderson Rams are paddock run at high stocking rates, the same as our commercial flock, and we have been selecting for doing ability for 60 years. As usual, most of the sale team this year will have YFAT ASBVs in the top 5%.

“Genetic fat, worm resistance and eye muscle depth are key components of robustness and resilience, and all these traits have been the focus of Anderson Rams for decades”

What is genotyping?

Genotyping is the process of finding differences in the genetic makeup of individual sheep in their DNA sequences.

DNA is mapped by finding the combination of single nucleotides that make up the DNA or the genome. The genome is the complete map of the individual's DNA.

These single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) show the differences between sheep across the genome. At each SNP there are two alleles, one from each parent that indicate differences between sheep.

A DNA sample is mapped for these SNPs which shows what a sheep's DNA looks like at each SNP location. The names of these SNPs relate roughly to the number of SNPs each chip has. For example, a 50K chip has roughly 50,000 SNP locations that will be identified. sheepgenetics.org.au

Genomic Tests

This year we will have genomic 50k tests on all auction rams.

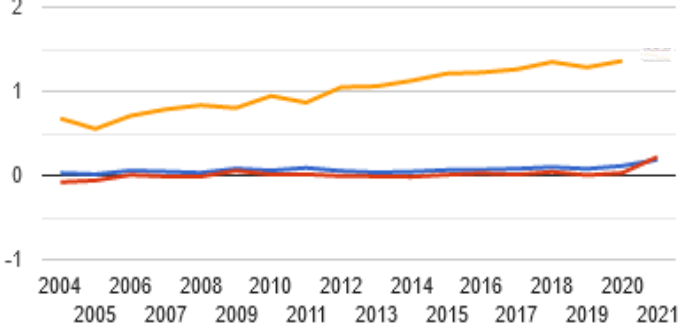
Because of the amount of data we collect on each animal, and the accuracy of mothering up lambs at birth, the genomic test doesn't add much to our ASBVs except poll/horn testing but it is becoming important to more and more of our clients so we are providing it.

Genomic tests are costly, but we are committed to progressively genotyping all our ewes over the next few years to provide a greater level of accuracy for the hard to measure traits like poll/horn and eating quality.

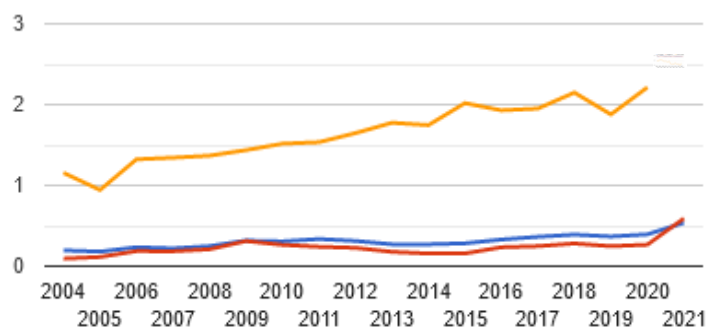
Anderson Rams MERINOSELECT Genetic Trends

The orange line is Anderson, blue line is MERINOSELECT average, red line is Fine/Medium Average

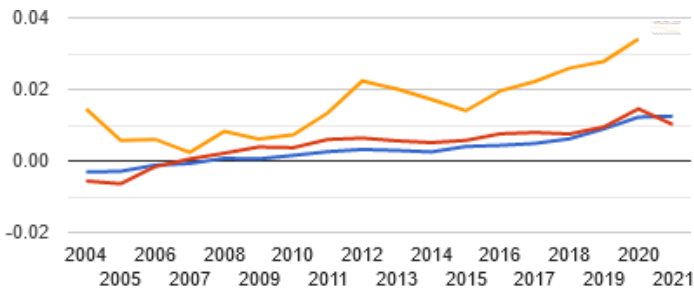
Yearling (Y) Fat (mm) ASBV



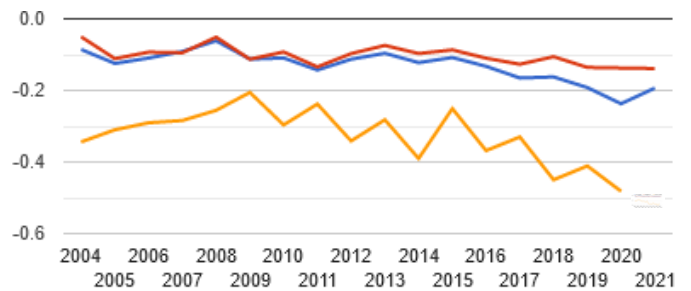
Y Eye Muscle Depth (mm) ASBV



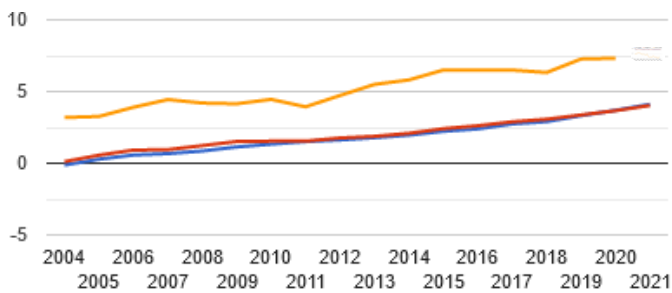
Number of Lambs Weaned ASBV



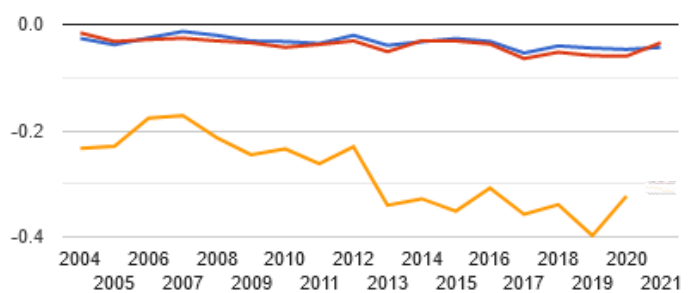
Early Breech Wrinkle ASBV



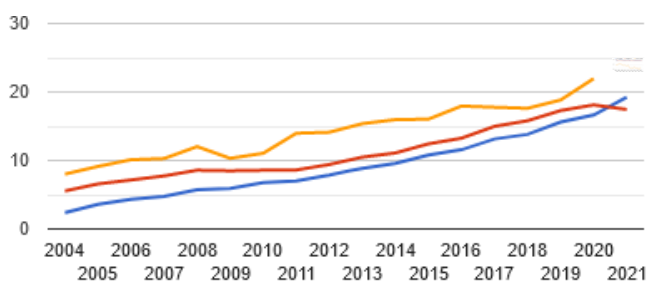
Post Weaning Weight (kg) ASBV



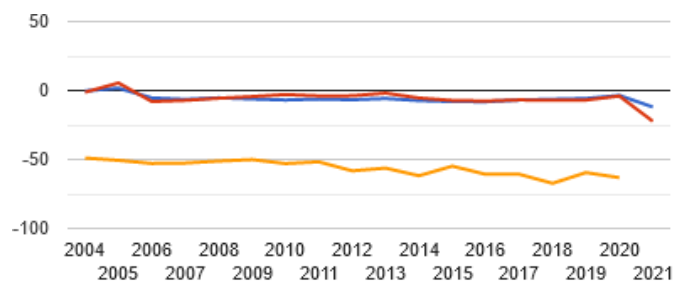
Dag (Late) ASBV



Y Clean Fleece Weight (%) ASBV



Y Worm Egg Count ASBV



MERINOSELECT Percentile Bands

	PWT	YWT	YWEC
Top value	16.2	19.6	-95
Top 1%	9.7	12.8	-71
Top 5%	8	10.8	-51
Top 10%	7.1	9.7	-42
Top 20%	5.9	8.2	-31
Top 30%	5.1	7.2	-23
Top 40%	4.4	6.4	-16
Top 50%	3.8	5.6	-9
Top 60%	3.1	4.8	-2
Top 70%	2.5	4	6
Top 80%	1.6	3	16
Top 90%	0.4	1.7	30
Bottom value	-8.2	-8.8	174

We have values in the top 1% of performance in MERINOSELECT for most traits.

For a couple of traits in the 2020 Drop Percentiles, we have the highest recorded value over all the studs that contribute to MERINOSELECT.



“Anderson Rams are Dual Purpose industry leaders”



Number of Lambs Weaned Increased by Mothering Up

MERINOSELECT has a new reproduction analysis that's allowing us to better use the reproduction records we have collected for decades.

It's a full-time job for three people for a month to tag lambs at birth to accurately record:

- Pedigree
- Birth weight
- Maternal behavior score (temperament)
- Birth type
- Lambing ease

With data now better utilised, we have seen an increase in our reproduction ASBVs.



Soft white wool
Plain bodied
Worm resistant
Fast early growth
Meaty carcass

Joining Ewe Lambs

The 2020 drop include the progeny of ewe lambs. This is our second year of mating ewe lambs at 6-7 months of age to accelerate genetic gain in our flock, and the early maturity of the Anderson genetics makes this possible.

It is exciting to see lambs born to ewe lambs who were also born to ewe lambs!

Get in touch

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss our breeding direction or your ram requirements. Or if you just want to talk all things sheep!

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