

Anderson Rams

Poll Merino

No two years are the same in farming are they?

And if they were, we would manage them differently anyway, to see if we can do better the second time around!

This year for us started with a late break, below average rainfall and slow pasture growth. We run an entirely ewe flock because our wethers are sold at weaning, and with few dry ewes and a large percentage of our ewe lambs also getting pregnant this year we compromised our 'exit strategy' for a late break. Consequently we have been overstocked throughout lambing and yet the ewes and lambs look fantastic, and the ewes over 1.5 years of age have achieved 121% lambs marked to ewes mated.

Fertility is a big driver of profitability in a sheep enterprise, as is the robustness that helps turn a high scanning potential into a high number of lambs weaned through improved lamb survival.

Robustness and resilience encompasses many traits including worm resistance, genetic fat and muscle, fast early growth and low dags.

If robustness was a single trait it would be easy to select for! As it is, our mating decisions every year take many days encompassing many, many traits to deliver the best outcomes in our progeny for productivity, profitability, robustness and low maintenance. Our management system of running all sheep in the paddock all year round at high stocking rates puts these traits to the test, and entrenches them in our flock.

Ram Sale

Wednesday 19th October, 12.30pm

(note earlier start time this year)

On farm at Kojonup WA and on Auctions Plus

Our stud flock is growing and we are increasing the number of rams for sale as demand increases. A larger ET programme and a high lambing percentage allows us to offer more rams without compromising on the top Breeding Values, structure and quality that you have come to expect from Anderson Rams.

In fact, this year our sale team average DP+ has risen to 200 which is in the top 5% of Merinoselect.



2022 Ram Sale

Wednesday

19th October

12.30pm

(on display from 10am)

190 rams

Full ASBVs

Inspection Day

Wed 5th October

10am – 1pm

Sale catalogues can be found on www.andersonrams.com.au or on [Merinoselect](#).

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

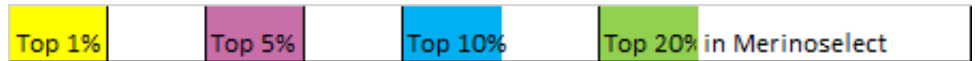
Transport for rams interstate is easy to arrange

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.

Sale Team Snapshot

ANDERSON RAMS	PWWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YWEC	YCFW	YFDCV	WR	LDAG	DP+	
Top values in Sale Team	12.8	16.6	4.5	2.7	-84	39.0	-3.7	0.46	-0.75	228	top 1%
SaleTeam Ave.	8.4	11.0	2.4	1.4	-54.5	20.5	-1.8	0.3	-0.32	200	
industry average	4.5	6.3	0.7	0.3	-20	18.6	-0.9	0.08	-0.12	163	



*To avoid confusion I have adopted the same highlight colours as found on the Merinoselect website, and then added yellow to further identify the top 1%.



Data Quality Score

Sheep Genetics have introduced a Data Quality Score (DQS) that describes the overall quality of a flock’s data. It is made up of measures of data quantity, quality and timeliness.

This includes the amount of data including the number of animals and traits recorded, the completeness and accuracy of records, quality of data, data structure and linkages.



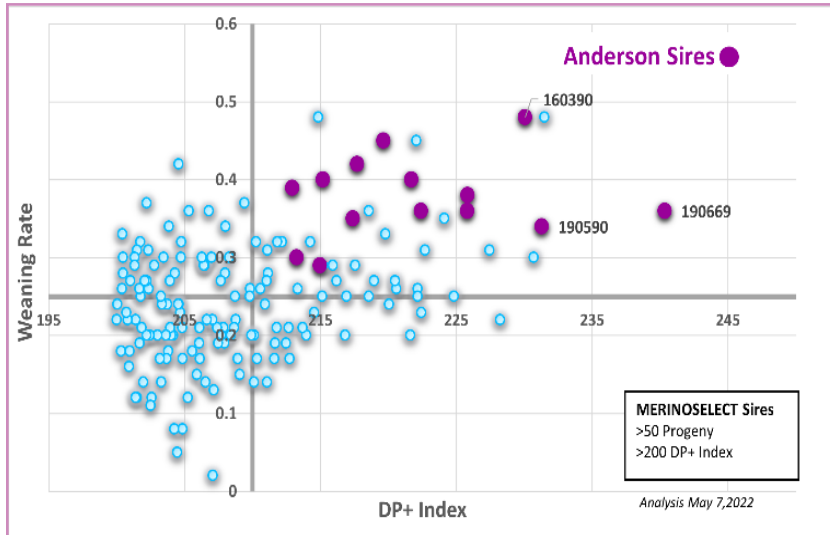
Anderson Rams has a Five star rating with a Data Quality Score of 89.4.

We record, format and upload about 242 000 bits of data on a drop of lambs over their lifetime which is a lot of data to manage correctly so we are very pleased (but not surprised) to achieve such a high DQS. It gives confidence in the accuracy of our Breeding Values.

New Reproduction Breeding Values

Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) ASBV has been replaced by Weaning Rate (WR).

WR is far more accurate as a predictor of the number of lambs weaned per ewe as it is comprised from a series of traits including Conception (CON), Litter Size (LS), and Ewe Rearing Ability (ERA), and takes into account more of the mating and lambing data submitted to Sheep Genetics.



The component traits of CON, LS and ERA allow producers to target the area where they can make the biggest genetic improvement in their reproduction. For this reason we have listed these traits separately in our sale catalogue.

When the new WR was launched we benchmarked our sires against the top 200 sires in the Merinoselect Dual Purpose Plus Index to see where we sat for Weaning Rate.

This graph shows Anderson sires well out in front for Reproduction as well as the production traits that make up the DP+ index.

This rewards our belief that mothering up at lambing time is still important, not just for collecting birth date, weight and birth type but also for recording lambing ease and Maternal Behaviour Score. Added to the data we record about mating, scanning, and weaning it delivers much more accurate ASBVs for reproduction.

MBS

Another new Breeding Value- Maternal Behaviour Score (MBS)- is worth mentioning.

It measures the temperament of the ewe and specifically how far away she moves from the birth site when disturbed at lambing. Sires with lower MBS scores will have daughters that are better mothers and stay close to their lambs during the first 24 hours of life.



We are one of the very few studs who have MBS scores listed on Merinoselect simply because we record this trait, and after selecting for calm temperament for over 20 years we believe it pays dividends for lamb survival (as well as making all sheep work more enjoyable!)

“With the data we have collected for 22 years now better utilized by SGA, we have seen an increase in our reproduction ASBVs.”

Semen Sires

Our older semen sires have well and truly proven themselves, with thousands of measured progeny in the Merinoselect database and in sire evaluations around Australia while the 2020 drop rams are just starting to make their mark.

And if you delve into the pedigree of rams offered for sale in a lot of the leading studs you will see the Anderson influence.



200504 and 190669

Anderson Mixed Age Semen Sires

ID	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YFD	YCFW	YDCV	YSS	YSL	YWEC	WR	EBWR	DP+	POLL	SIRES
140178	6.5	8.5	1.8	1.5	-0.4	27.2	-1.9	2.1	18.4	-86.4	0.1	-0.9	191	PP	120096
160390	6.9	9.1	2.3	1.2	-0.1	21.2	-1.3	2.8	18.0	-57.3	0.3	-0.9	205	PP	140474
160729	10.8	13.3	1.7	1.3	0.5	27.4	-2.9	8.5	19.3	-72.0	0.1	-1.2	191	PH	140178
180515	9.5	11.7	2.3	1.1	0.5	27.1	-2.2	5.9	20.6	-6.5	0.4	-0.2	226	PH	150048
190590	12.1	14.8	2.3	1.1	-0.6	26.9	-2.6	4.5	16.7	-71.2	0.2	-0.8	214	PP	160729
190669	10.5	13.7	1.6	1.6	-0.7	27.1	-1.9	7.3	15.4	-21.3	0.3	0.2	224	PP	160729
200204	10.3	13.8	3.3	2.2	0.4	22.1	-2.2	3.4	13.9	-67.5	0.4	-1.1	215	PP	180633
200504	7.9	10.1	2.3	1.4	-0.8	30.0	-1.8	3.3	20.4	-48.6	0.4	-1.0	232	PP	160390
200519	7.6	11.0	3.4	1.7	-1.2	19.6	-1.7	2.2	11.9	-45.3	0.2	-0.4	194	PP	180633
200076	8.2	12.3	2.7	1.4	-0.4	31.3	-1.6	1.8	11.7	-63.8	0.15	-0.28	203	PP	180633

There are some exciting up and coming rams likely to extend the range of top genetics we can offer through our semen sires. Both these young rams and our older semen sires will be on display at our Inspection Day and Ram Sale day.

Top 1% Top 5% Top 10% Top 20% of values in Merinoselect

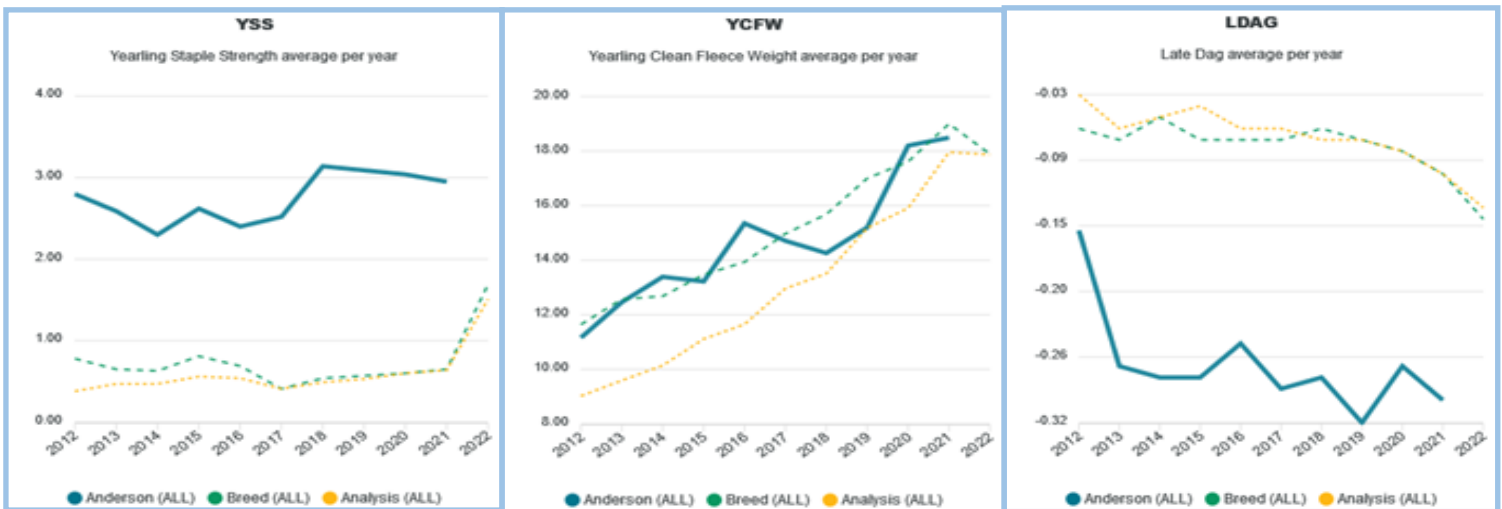
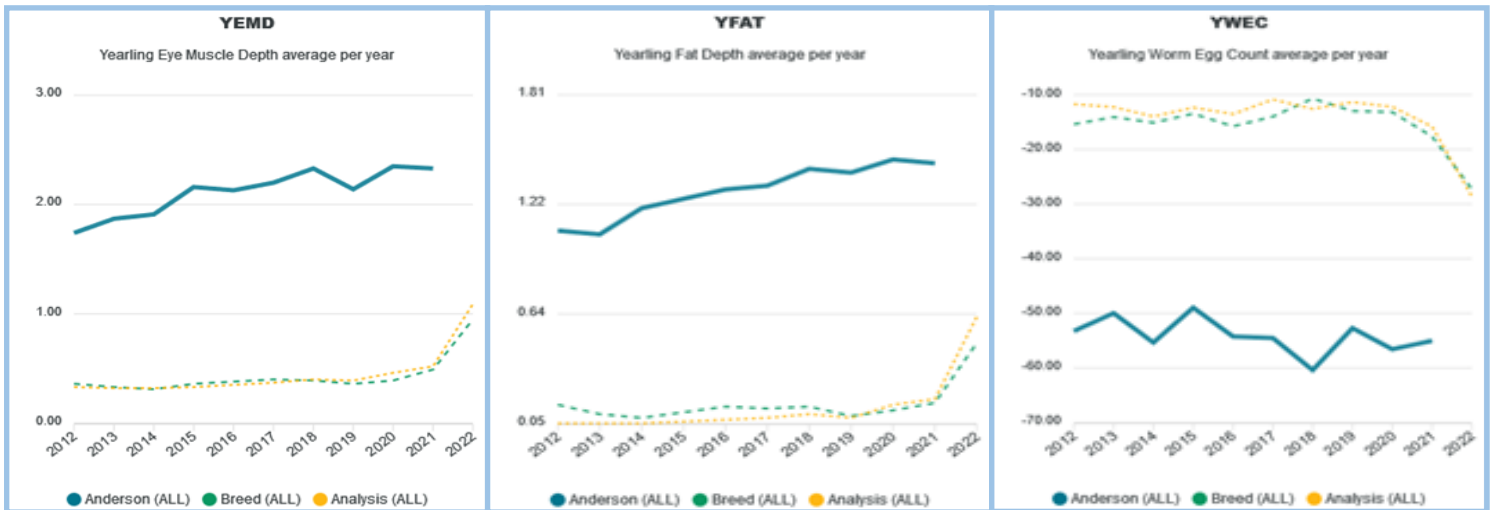
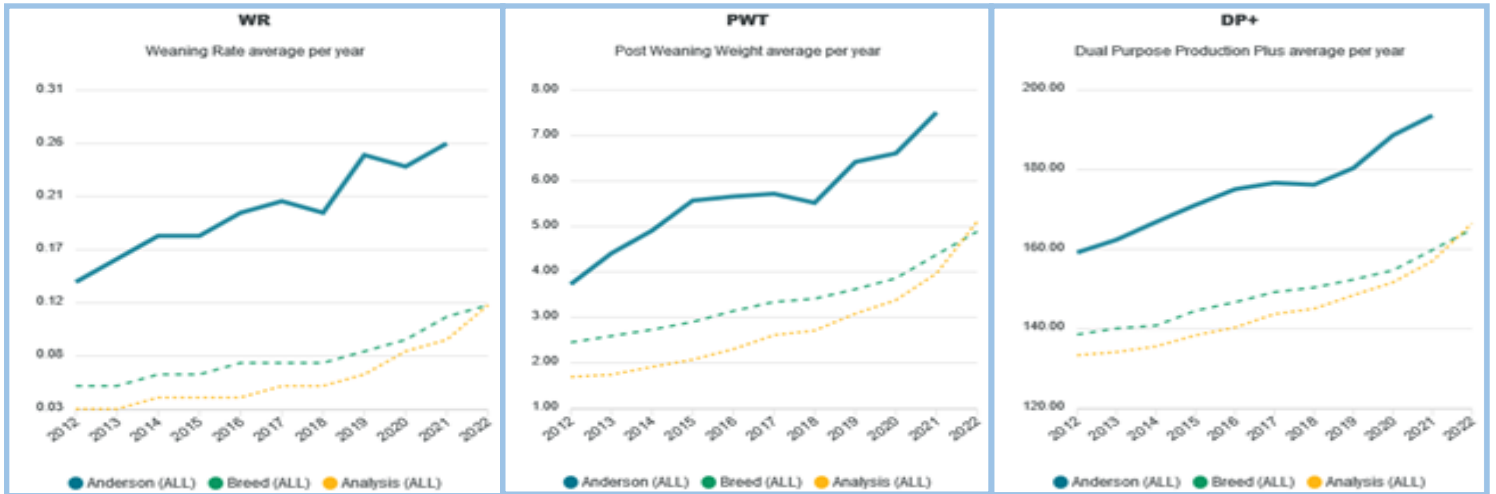
2021 drop potential semen sires

	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YFD	YCFW	YFDCV	YSS	YSL	YWEC	WR	EBWR	DP+	PH	Sire
21-0068	9.6	11.9	1.3	0.8	-0.3	33.8	-1.9	6.9	15.0	-74	0.17	.03	212	PP	160729
21-0698	12.5	15.1	3.4	1.8	-0.4	15.4	-2.3	5.2	11.1	-58	0.34	-1.16	218	PP	190590
21-0958	6.7	8.0	1.9	1.1	0.2	22.0	-2.1	3.4	16.6	-85	0.17	-0.72	180	PP	140178
21-1308	7.9	10.3	2.8	1.9	0.5	20.0	-3.3	7.0	15.1	-57	0.45	-0.73	225	PP	160390
21-0049	9.4	12.5	3.0	1.8	-0.4	25.5	-2.0	4.1	14.9	-54	0.27	-0.69	210	PP	180633
21-0868	10.0	13.6	1.9	1.7	-0.9	20.9	-2.4	6.8	9.0	-42	0.34	-0.57	227	PP	190669

Contact Lynley if you would like to discuss which of these rams will best suit your breeding objectives.

Genetic Trends

These genetic graphs document that Anderson Poll Merino really has been "Leading The Breeding" for many years.



Mated Ewe Lambs

We have made large gains with our mated ewe lambs in three years, achieving a 93% scanning percentage this year at just 6.5 months of age. The earlier mating age keeps their lambing in line with the rest of the flock which makes management easier and means the ewe lamb mums are ready for mating again the following year at hogget age.

We used to think fast early growth was just beneficial for turning off wether lambs early, but now we see enormous benefits in having ewe lambs ready to mate at a year earlier. For us this year that is one thousand extra lambs marked without increasing our ewe base. A rapid way to increase flock numbers.

Although it must be mentioned that getting ewe lambs pregnant is only half the story. You also need good birth weights, good milking ability and mothering ability, and good robustness to get these lambs to weaning and contributing productively to your flock.

All these traits are part of the Anderson genetic makeup after so many years of careful selecting for a wide range and balance of traits.



Ewe lambs lambing 2022

Footrot Resistance

We are one of the few merino bloodlines in Australia that have an ASBV for Footrot (FR) for some of our sires, gained from participation in the Central Progeny Test in New Zealand.

With all the wet weather causing foot problems in the East, and an increase in the prevalence of footrot on many farms in Victoria and NSW, there is heightened interest in the trait of Footrot resistance.

What does it mean in practice? This testimonial is from a producer who used semen from Anderson 160729 who has a top footrot resistance rating.

"I used 729 last year, and unfortunately had an outbreak of a nasty strain of footrot through those ewes and lambs. We scored them (for footrot) at marking and found that most of 729s progeny had either got over it completely or didn't have it while some other lambs had score 5 and 4 lesions in multiple feet. Now they are 7 months old the 729 progeny are growing well, while some of the others are quite stunted due to footrot."

Non-Mulesed

We are often asked what are the key traits needed to transition to a non-mulesed flock.

A wrinkle free breech is obvious, but it does not need to be so plain that it becomes detrimental to skin quality and wool cut. In dag areas it is the absence of dags that will make a huge difference because dags will pull the skin out of shape making crutching difficult, and create a haven for flies.

We do not believe a bare area in the breech contributes as much to reducing the fly risk as reducing breech wrinkle and removing dags.

The AWI Breeding for Breech Flystrike Resistance Program identified that the most important traits in determining the risk of flystrike are:

1. Dags
2. Breech Wrinkle



Over our many years of breeding for worm resistance, dag resistance, plain bodies, and culling affected animals means Anderson clients are well placed to cease mulesing if they wish.

Apart from the animal welfare and production benefits, being non-mulesed gives the opportunity to join quality assurance schemes like Re-sponsible Wool Standard.

Our RWS accreditation delivered us up to a \$2.50/kg premium on our wool sold at auction this year.

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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