

# 2012 Newsletter

*trust*  
**TRIGGER  
VALE**  
*genetics*

**Welcome** to the 2012 Trigger Vale newsletter and we hope that where ever you farm your season is going well.

Even though in recent times we have seen sheep meats, wool and restocking store values come off the record highs of 2011 I am as excited to be involved in the Australian sheep industry as I have ever been. Prices received for our sheep products while still at traditional high levels only make up one component of enterprise profitability and as sheep producers we have more tools and resources available than ever before to improve productivity, decrease operating costs and greatly improve the overall profitability of our flocks.

The role of our yearly newsletter is to keep current and potential new clients up to date with the new initiatives, developments and progress Trigger Vale continues to incorporate into our breeding programs.

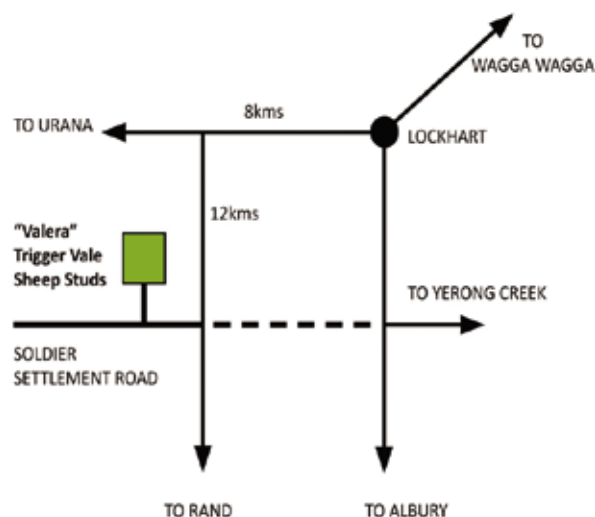
Over the past month Mandi and I have spent many days at industry events including the Lambex conference, Bendigo Sheep Show and Hamilton Sheepvention. These events are major sheep functions with quiet literally 1000's of sheep producers attending. These events provide a great opportunity to interact with both leading researchers and fellow producers. The most constant theme of all these events was focused around the huge opportunities and productivity gains achievable by improving lamb survival rates. This will also have huge public relations and social implications as the animal welfare groups focus in on this subject. At Trigger Vale we are incredibly proud of the fact that we have identified this issue many years ago and genetically we are positioned ourselves at the forefront of industry to address this issue.

On Fri 7th September in our recently built sale complex, Trigger Vale's 35th on property ram sale will take place. Due to unprecedented demand for the Trigger Vale Poll rams over the past 2 years we have decided to increase the specially selected draft by 20 to 110 lots. These will be followed by 6 outstanding White Suffolk Stud rams followed by 60 high indexed specially selected White Suffolk flock rams.

For sale catalogues and further information for these events or to see why Trigger Vales unique Maternal focused Polls or industry leading Terminal White Suffolk's are having such an impact in commercial flocks visit <http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au>



MAP TO TRIGGER VALE STUDS



**35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SALE - FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

[www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)

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## In My Opinion

There has been a lot of press, discussion and comment recently about the AWI Board's decision to stop their funding of the Information Nucleus Flock which is part of the Sheep CRC's genomics program.

Basically the Nucleus Flock is vital not only for the development of the science involving DNA markers and genomics but also as industry reference point going forward to ensure "future research" and on farm adoption can be validated.

In my opinion, the key words here are "future" and "research". The AWI claimed as part of their reasoning for dropping the funding that it couldn't see value in a path to commercialization. This to me is very frustrating, and has a real lack of vision. By definition "research" is something where at the start of the program you often won't be sure of the possible outcomes or benefits. Imagine if Apple, Microsoft, NASA or medical companies and universities had this approach. At the moment, AWI has a mandate from it's stakeholders to spend levy payers money with a 50% marketing / 50% R&D split. In the Australian sheep industry only MLA and AWI really have the resources to fund this genomic research. The really frustrating thing is that because Genomics research is part of the Sheep CRC program, AWI and us as levy payers get double the bang for our buck as the federal government matches industry dollar for dollar.

Having done the Institute of Company Directors course a few years ago, I am particularly concerned with what seems to be the process behind AWI's decision.

Firstly, the decision was a split vote with the Chairman casting his vote to arrive at the final decision. Good governance, when a board is split, would be to defer the decision and seek more information both for and against from the people involved in putting the proposal forward. The Board could then arrive at a position where a clear majority is either for or against the proposal. For the chairman to exercise his right of a casting vote in this situation when he has quite clearly a bias with comments recently in the press about how "science has nothing to offer

the breeding of better Merinos" leaves both the process and the governance of the board under a cloud.

AWI has also recently come out and claimed that it couldn't back the project because only 15% of levy payers use ASBV's and would benefit from genomics research. Despite these figures being unsubstantiated and if you were to consider the number of merino rams being sold with ASBV's the % would be a lot higher, the comment suggests that the board somehow knows the final outcome and total benefit of the research. The potential of genomic research is so much more than just enhanced accuracies of ASBV's. Nobody has a handle on what % of the industry will benefit in time because we don't know what the outcomes will be. An example is that we already have delivery of parentage and polled/horned status tools being commercialized. These will benefit the whole industry not just the breeders.

The board obviously can't be all things to all people any more than I should expect 100% of my wool levy being spent in areas that suit me. For example, I feel strongly that my tax dollars are wasted in the marketing side of AWI's operation. The amount of grower's tax levy funds that has been spent on the generic marketing of wool and the "woolmark" over the decades would be 100's of times more than the whole genomics program. I wonder if the board puts the same parameters about the spend on marketing programs that they have on the information nucleus. I would love to see the benefit/ costs, path to commercialization or actual value to commercial growers around this massive spend of our funds with an explanation of how it can be justified.

Even so I am aware that many growers think the marketing will help them by increasing demand so I have to accept that the Board allocates funds this way. It is very frustrating that the decision to support genomic research which already in these early stages of development benefits, even by the AWI's own admission, a minimum of 15% of levy payers is declined. As an industry it is very important that we continue to put pressure on the board to reconsider its position.

## Genomics Involvement

Right from the get go Trigger Vale has been involved in supplying both Poll & White Suffolk genetics to the sheep CRC nucleus flock and genomic pilot projects. By being involved in such an exciting new research project not only are we contributing to the likelihood of a beneficial outcome we are also at the coal face receiving up-to-date information and tools. This means as accuracy and benefits of the science improves Trigger Vale is well positioned to understand and uptake the new tools to enhance our rate and in turn of our clients rate of genetic gain. For example, in the next 12 months Trigger Vale will hopefully be DNA testing over 100 2012 drop ram lambs. Approximately, 40 will be top pedigree bred stud rams to get much higher accuracy on the genetic merit of these top individuals. As a rough indication the DNA results will give us accuracy similar to the levels that could only be achieved by

actually performance recording 40 progeny of these animals. This level of information wouldn't normally be achieved until they reach 3 years of age. The other 60 will be from our syndicate breed rams. This will greatly increase the amount of information we will be able to supply to clients on the genetic merit of the syndicate breed rams. I am convinced that as Genomics develops the flow on effects to Trigger Vale clients of our involvement and adoption will be very significant.





## Trigger Vales' role in Sharing

At Trigger Vale we are committed to providing a lot more to clients than just selling rams. Apart from our yearly newsletter, phone conversations, classing and industry events where we catchup with clients we are continuing to hold bi-annually workshop/information days where clients have access to industry leading research ensuring that they have the most up to date knowledge and tools available. This enables them to match our productive high performance genetics with the very best management and husbandry techniques.

Just recently we hosted over 50 participants at a Bred Well / Fed Well workshop on our property, 'Valera' at Lockhart. The amount of practical information gained by the attendees on setting commercial breeding objectives, using ASBV's as a selection tool, managing and feeding to improve lamb and weaner survival was amazing.

To constantly increase my knowledge so I can pass it on in a beneficial way to clients I am regularly attending industry updates, such as LambEx in Bendigo in July. This was an amazing two day event with over 700 delegates attending. The first morning kicked off at 6.30am with a Genomic Update breakfast. The enthusiasm in the room given the early start was incredible and it showed how eager a portion of the sheep producers are to get their hands on this new breeding tool to enhance their flocks rate of genetic gain. If there was one theme that rang through the whole conference, it was the industry re-awakening of the importance of fat in our breeding systems. Next was a very sober session which focused on the constant scrutiny from animal welfare groups and the associated perception of our city cousins. Two guest speakers from the US left the crowd stunned with their presentation of what is happening in America with regards to animal rights and welfare issues. The conclusion was that the unfortunate situation of dead young lambs is going to have serious social repercussions and is an area that our industry needs to address. While Trigger Vale has been focused



August 2012 - Bred Well Fed Well Workshop.



in improving this area genetically to improve clients profits, we are also well placed to put a very sound case forward that we are targeting these animal welfare issues as well. I am currently participating in the Life Time Ewe Management course (LTEM). This has a great hands-on approach which involves learning to condition score ewes and access feed volume and value in pastures. This gives you the ability to work out if your pasture is providing enough feed at a satisfactory quality to allow the ewe to fulfill her requirements and that of her lambs. I would strongly recommend that anyone serious about improving the productivity of their flock should consider doing this course.



July 2012 – Lambex (over 700 delegates).

Visit our updated website at  
[www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)  
for more information including  
our 2012 Ram Catalogue available  
online one week prior to the sale.  
While you are there, don't forget  
to take a look at our new  
Trigger Vale promotional video.



## Trigger Vale Poll News

### Maternal Traits in Merinos

During my Nuffield scholarship studies in 2007 my study topic was redefined into what would make our traditional Merino ewes a better maternal mother to ensure significantly less lamb loss between birth and weaning. I am really excited by the fact that fast forward to 2012 and without a doubt the focus in the sheep industry is in this area of improving lamb survival rates by management and improving the maternal ability of the mother.

What great news for Trigger Vale clients as industry research clearly highlights that a better maternal ewe needs to be polled and wrinkle free with high growth rates and more muscle and fat. These are the traits that since my Nuffield experience, Trigger vale has been putting the most selection pressure on with our 2011 drop rams well above industry average in all of these areas. This is highlighted by the fact that none of the pedigreed rams in the 2012 sale team is below industry average in the traits of growth, muscle and fat.

The future gains Trigger vale can make in this area is unbelievably exciting with homebred 2012 keeper sires like the two pictures on the opposite page, ensure our industry leading position in these traits will continue. The incredible interest and orders for semen in these rams at Bendigo and Hamilton Sheepvention highlights how unique and valuable these animals are to the Australian sheep industry.

### AMSEA Temora Trial

It is all very well to claim, as many studs do, the wonderful attributes of your genetics but at Trigger Vale we are committed to validating our claims. This is mainly achieved by our use of Merinoselect and using ASBV's and benchmarking our genetic trends with the industry average. Further to this we believe it's important to put our genetics into outside independent trials to confirm that they are performing to our expectations. A few years ago we entered a ram into the AMSEA trial at Dookie and when Craig Wilson decided to run an AMSEA (Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association) based trial in Temora we saw a great opportunity to enter a ram again. See table below for results to date.

**BLSE – BWT (58.5kg); FAT (6mm); EMD (33mm) – 5/6/12**

Ram	Row Labels	Ram ID	Weaning Weight 15/11/11	PW Weight 05/06/12	PW EMD 05/06/12	PW FAT 05/06/12	PW WEC 27/05/12
1	Triggervale	090418	105%	106%	2.0	0.9	-172
2	GRASS Merinos	081949	104%	107%	1.4	0.2	70
3	Billandri	070262	109%	108%	-0.2	0.2	30
4	Valdemar	070151	99%	97%	-0.2	-0.3	-84
5	Bogo	702673	105%	97%	-0.9	-0.3	205
6	Coromandel Poll	070002	95%	100%	0.2	-0.5	-12
7	Yalgoo	090179	98%	94%	-0.1	0.2	-64
8	Greendale	080475	92%	97%	-0.4	-0.1	-76
9	Tallawong Poll Merinos	090292	88%	86%	-2.0	-0.3	-69
10	Centre Plus	707221	102%	105%	0.3	0.3	155
<b>Averages</b>			<b>24.7</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	
			<b>kg</b>	<b>kg</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>epg</b>

While not surprised by the results to date in the table above as our ram was clearly superior for muscle and fat and very strong for growth it is reassuring to see how strong we are in all the areas we have been placing a lot of breeding focus. It was also interesting to note in the trial, was the PWWE (worm egg count) results Trigger Vale sired progeny having by far the lowest worm egg burden.

**Note: Sons of this sire 090418 are available in this years draft of auction and private treaty sale rams.**

# Trigger Vale Poll News

## Shearing Every 6 months Trial

There is a lot of talk in industry about the benefit/costs of shearing more than once a year with many producers shearing every 8 to 9 months or even 6 months.

Given Trigger Vale Polls have a staple length which is well above industry average, ourselves and our clients are often faced with a situation that at 12 months growth our wool is being discounted for being too long. This was highlighted last year, when our best line of AAAA wool was hardest to sell due to the fact that it tested 132mm staple length. While any discounting for staple length is made up for by the obvious increase in fleece weight of such long wool, this scenario provided the spark for us to investigate the pros & cons of shearing more than once a year.

With everybody's life being so busy and labour such a constraint in most farm business the first conclusion we made was that any change to our shearing schedule had to be labour and cost efficient. This ruled out the option of shearing every 8 to 9 months as it became too random, and sooner or later we would have been shearing during lambing, sowing or harvest. By shearing every 6 months it would fit into our current calendar and actually

do away with the job of crutching. While shearing is slower and dearer than crutching we felt the overall benefits would greatly outweigh the cost so we have started a trial on 500 ewes. The main criteria for this to become a regular part of our program is that your 6 month staple length must be a minimum of 60mm ideally 65mm. In our trial the wool tested 65mm at 64 newtons. The other benefits which we hope to achieve is 8-10% more wool cut annually due to the stimulation of the wool follicles after shearing and the fact that sheep do so much better off shears. We hope to do away with tender wool as staple strength particularly over the lambing 6 month period will be better.

Improved lambing percentages!! This is the big silent potential benefit which will be difficult to measure. The fact that we have such a maternal focus at Trigger Vale, with improved lamb survival a major goal, we think that this management tool will really help. By lambing with 2 months instead of 8 months wool I observed in our trial mob a better condition score of the ewes and really clean open udders to help that lamb find that first most important drink.

Its early days in our trial and the big thing will be whether we achieve the 65mm twice a year but we are excited by the benefits this change of management could bring to ourselves and clients so we will keep you informed on the progress of this trial.



	PWT	YWT	PFAT	PEMD	YGFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	YSC	NLW	EBWR	EBCOV
TRIGGER VALE-110744	9.4 73%	11.1 68%	1.4 64%	2.5 69%	-2.1 67%	1.0 77%	12.7 68%	4.7 48%	1.7 64%	2% 30%	-0.7 69%	0.0 54%
Averages	<u>1.2</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>-1.0</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>-0.1</u>	<u>0.0</u>

	PWT	YWT	PFAT	PEMD	YGFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	YSC	NLW	EBWR	EBCOV
TRIGGER VALE-110839	4.8 72%	6.7 67%	0.9 62%	1.6 68%	9.3 67%	-0.2 79%	13.0 69%	0.1 51%	2.2 64%	7% 30%	0.0 67%	-0.1 55%
Averages	<u>1.2</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>-1.0</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>-0.1</u>	<u>0.0</u>



## White Suffolk News

The White Suffolks continue to be a very significant part of our operation and genetic package that we offer clients. While we have many clients that have the ease of getting both rams from the one farm and its associated benefits we are increasingly getting clients seeking just W/S stud or commercial rams for their breeding programs.

Since establishing the White Suffolks, our breeding objective has always been to breed big drafts of high index commercially focused flock rams. Our success at achieving this is highlighted by the constant feedback from clients with regards to their lamb prices topping local markets like Griffiths and Wagga or receiving outstanding results over the hooks. A flow on effect of our success is other White Suffolk studs who target the same objectives are looking to Trigger Vale for their genetic improvement with 10 stud rams sold in 2011 through our auction sale and private treaty. Our involvement with the Superwhites young sire evaluation program continues to provide a great avenue to benchmark our flock and ensure we continue to inject the best young commercial genetics into our program. We are very proud of the fact we have had a ram selected in both the 2011 and 2012 Superwhites teams.

### Split Joining's

In 2011 we decided to split our stud white Suffolk ewe base into two joining's due to the feedback from clients regarding requiring rams for both a spring and autumn lambing. While having two lambings a year has made more work for our already very busy program it ensures we will be able to supply good, ready to work young rams all year round for clients regardless of their individual programs.



*Stud ewe showing great White Suffolk maternal characteristics.*

### Maternal Role

In recent years the white Suffolk breed has been increasingly viewed to play a maternal role in the Australian Sheep Industry. This has taken the form of being part of a composite ewe, replacing the Border Leister to breed 1st X ewes. In some cases as a self-replacing pure breed commercial flock, with high fertility, great mothering ability, clean points and a smooth small shouldered easy birthing lamb type. White Suffolks certainly have the attributes to play an increasing role as a maternal. Trigger Vale White Suffolk clients should keep this in mind as lamb prices come off the boil, as the female portion of their drop could have higher value as a breeder.

**Two of our stud sires available for sale this year. See website for more rams.**



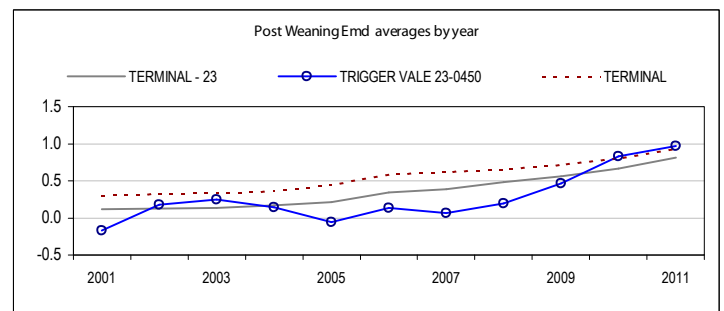
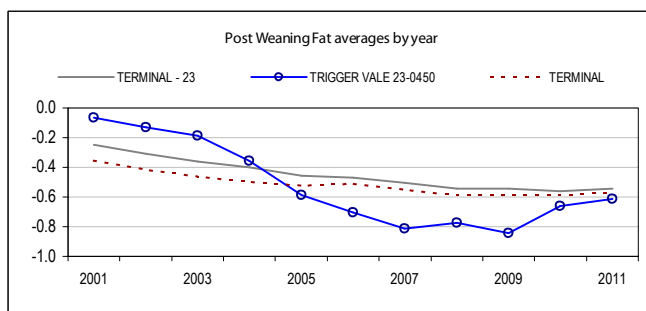
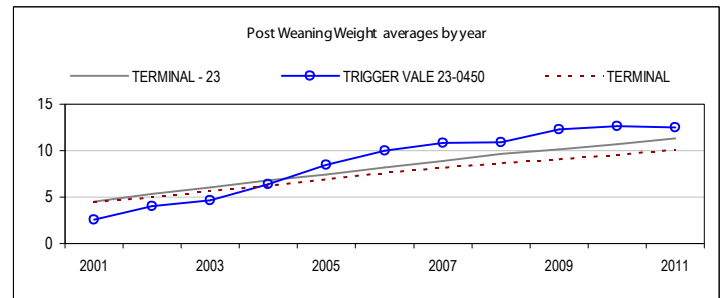
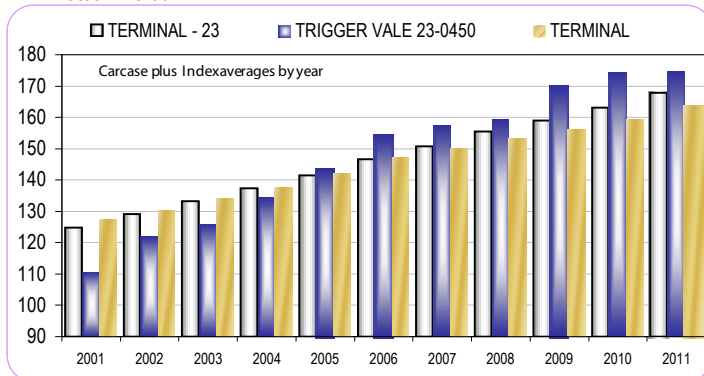
Animal ID	BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD	NLW	C+	Lamb 2020
TRIGGER VALE-110079	0.49 50%	9.4 64%	15.2 65%	-0.8 65%	1.1 67%	1% 31%	191 62%	112 46%



Animal ID	BWT	WWT	PWT	PFAT	PEMD	NLW	C+	Lamb 2020
TRIGGER VALE-110021	0.27 58%	9.0 67%	14.5 67%	-0.8 68%	1.7 70%	5% 28%	194 65%	113 48%

# White Suffolk 2012 Genetic Trend

Dated : 15-Jun-12



## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Joe says to Paddy: "Close your curtains the next time you're having sex with your wife.

The whole street was watching and laughing at you yesterday."

Paddy says: "Well the joke's on them cos I wasn't even at home yesterday."

Mick walks into Paddy's barn and catches him dancing naked and playing with himself in front of a tractor.

Mick says, "Jesus Paddy, what ya doing?" Paddy says, "Well me and Mary haven't been getting on in the bedroom lately and the therapist recommended I do something sexy to attracter

Paddy's in the bathroom and Murphy shouts to him. "Did you find the shampoo?"

Paddy says, "Yes but it's for dry hair and I've just friggin wet mine."

### Women & Financial Planning

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business, when he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit \$200 million."

Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men





Est. 1952

# Trigger Vale

## Polls & White Suffolks

### 35<sup>th</sup> Annual On-Property Auction

At "Valera" Lockhart on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

Inspections 10.00am onwards, Poll Sale commencing at 1.30pm



**110 Poll Rams**

**6 Stud White Suffolk Rams**

**60 Specially Selected White Suffolk**



**Rabobank**



**Vendors:** Andrew & Mandi Bouffler 0427 207656

**Stud Classer:** Michael Elmes 0429 847 552

**Selling Agents:** Elders Ltd Wagga (02) 6923-4666

In conjunction with H. Francis & Co Wagga (02) 6921-6366

**3% rebate to outside agents introducing clients on day of Sale**

*Luncheon Available*

**Catalogue on-line one week before the Sale**



[www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)

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