

NORTH EAST VICTORIAN MERINO SIRE EVALUATION

DOOKIE COLLEGE

2000 DROP HOGGET RESULTS (1st Shearing – 2001)



Natural Resources
and Environment

AGRICULTURE

RESOURCES

CONSERVATION

LAND MANAGEMENT

CONTENTS

CONDUCT OF SIRE EVALUATION SCHEMES	3
Management Committee	3
Entrants 2000 Mating	3
MANAGEMENT REPORT	3
Main Events Calendar	3
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS - OBJECTIVELY MEASURED TRAITS	3
Raw Averages	5
Estimated Progeny Values	5
Fleece Weight and Body Weight	5
Wool Measurements	6
Accuracy	6
Table 1. 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Raw Averages	6
Table 2. 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Raw Averages, Wool Quality	7
Table 3: 2001 Drop North East Sire Evaluation – Estimated Progeny Values	7
Figure 1: North East Victoria Sire Evaluation – 2000 drop, 2001 assessment	8
Figure 2: North East Victoria Sire Evaluation – 2000 drop, 2001 assessment	11
SELECTION INDICES	9
Ranking Sires	9
Micron Premium	9
Table 4: 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Index Values	9
VISUAL ASSESSMENT	10
Classing Results	10
Table 5: 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation – Progeny Grade	10
1 st Assessment (2001) – 10 months of age, & 10 months wool growth	10
Table 6: 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Combined classing traits	11
1 st Assessment (2001) – 10 months of age, & 10 months wool growth	11

Conduct Of Sire Evaluation Schemes

This evaluation is an accredited sire evaluation program run under the auspices of the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association. The established guidelines have been followed to enable a accurate and fair comparison of the merino rams entered allowing the results to be published in the Merino Superior Sires report. The North East Victorian Sire Evaluation committee would like to thank all of the sponsors who have assisted with this trial.

Management Committee

The Management Committee consists of the owners of the rams entered and is chaired by Lyndon Kubeil (Natural Resources & Environment).

Entrants 2000 Mating

Ram	Graph Code	Full Sire Code	Owner	Phone
Geelong Park 30201**	GP 30201	5046961993030201	Andrew Vizard	03 9731 2225
Jema 250	Jema 250	5048511996000250	Ian Gill	03 5762 4949
East Mt Ada Poll 7413	E.MtAda 7413	6011851997007413	Sam Burston	03 5764 1324
Rocky Point O817	RP O817	50465919960BLK96	Rex Allen	03 5725 1586
Kilfeera Park 6.275	KP6.275	5034251996006275	Murray McKenzie	03 5766 6278
Toland G118	T G118	504485199800G118	Phil Toland	03 5798 1605
Toland P30**	TP 30	6010821989000P30	Phil Toland	03 5798 1605
Wanalta 8.6	Wa 8.6	504882199800086	Helen & Colin Barlow	03 5856 7236
Wirrate W41	Wi W41	504741199700W041	Ken Heal	03 5794 2475
Broxbourne Park R3	BP R3	5040311997RED003	Robin Steers	03 5796 2259

** Indicates this ram is a Link Sire

Management Report

Two Link Sires were mated to allow a direct comparison with all of the other sires used in the national fine wool sire evaluation scheme. A Link sire is a sire which has been mated in another accredited sire evaluation and has at least 25 evaluated progeny. The 2000 joining used Geelong Park 30201 and Toland P30 as link sires.

Main Events Calendar

2000	15th February	Class & Tag Ewes
	8th March	Insemination
	3rd May	Pregnancy Scan
	4th August	Ewes drafted into lambing paddocks
	8th August	Lambing Starts
	13th August	Lambing Finished
	2nd September	Lambs Tagged and run together
	28th September	Lambs Marked/Mulesed and skin assessed
2001	15th June	1st Classing (Ron Creek)
	22nd June	1st Assessment Shearing (11 months wool)
2002	17 th April	2nd Classing (Ron Creek)
	2 nd May	2nd Assessment Shearing (11 months wool)

Presentation Of Results - Objectively Measured Traits

The results for the objectively measured traits are presented as Raw Averages and as EPVs.

Raw Averages

The raw averages reflect the **actual performance** of the progeny from each sire. They do not take into account the effects of birth type (ie whether twin or single) or sex (wether ewe or wether) into account. They assume that each sire was mated to a ewe group of similar genetic merit.

The raw averages do not necessarily reflect the actual value of how these rams would perform in another environment, over another ewe base. Half the genes of the progeny in this trial come from the dams. The actual values will reflect the genetics of the ewe base.

Estimated Progeny Values

To overcome this, we have also calculated estimated progeny values (or EPVs). The EPV takes into account whether an animal was born as a twin or a single, and whether or not it was born a male or a female. The EPVs also take into account the number of progeny per sire group. The EPVs can help to give you more of an estimate of how these animals would perform on your farm, over your ewes. However, because the EPVs published here are only compared to each other, it will only tell you how you would expect these animals to perform relative to each other. For example a sire with an EPV for fibre diameter of 1.0 would be expected to have progeny which were one micron stronger than a ram with an EPV of 0.0 (the average). The actual fibre diameter of the progeny will depend upon the ewe base, and how they were managed. However, regardless of this, we would expect the ram with the lower EPV to have progeny which was about 1µm finer.

Estimated progeny values (EPV) have been calculated for the major measured traits such as fibre diameter, fleece weight, body weight and fibre diameter coefficient of variation. EPVs are presented as deviations (differences) from the average of the sires in the evaluation.

For those familiar with Estimated Breeding Values (EBV), an EPV is equivalent to ½ an EBV.

Fleece Weight and Body Weight

Individual greasy fleece weights (unskirted fleece, less belly wool) were collected for all progeny at shearing. Fleece weights are expressed as both greasy fleece weight (GFW) and clean fleece weight (CFW). Body weights (BW) were measured directly off the board with all sheep empty and fleece free.

The fleece weight and body weight EPVs are expressed as a percentage deviation from the average. For example:

	CFW EPV (%)	BW EPV (%)
Ram 1	5.2	-3.6
Ram 2	0.0	4.3

Progeny from Ram 1 would be expected to produce 5.2% more CFW than progeny from Ram 2 and have a body weight 7.9% lower than progeny from Ram 2 when joined to ewes with the same CFW and body weight.

Wool Measurements

Mid side samples were taken prior to shearing and measured by Riverina Fleece Testing Services. The samples were measured for fibre diameter (FD), yield (Yld), fibre diameter coefficient of variation (CV), percentage of fibres greater than 30 μ and curvature (CURV.).

Fibre diameter EPVs are expressed in micron as deviations from the average, whereas CV is expressed as a percentage deviation. For example:

	FD EPV (μ m)	CV EPV (%)
Ram 1	1.0	2.8
Ram 2	-1.0	0.0

Progeny from Ram 1 would be expected to be 2 micron stronger and have a fibre diameter coefficient of variation 2.8% higher than Ram 2.

Fibre Curvature (Curv.) is the average curvature of fibre snippets measured by the OFDA. The value is expressed in degrees per millimetre fibre length. Fibre Curvature is closely correlated to crimp frequency (the number of crimps per centimetre). Therefore the lower the crimp frequency, the lower the fibre curvature.

Accuracy

The accuracy of the estimated progeny values is determined by the number of progeny analysed. The accuracy is rated as either high, medium or low. Estimated progeny values for animals with low progeny numbers are adjusted towards the average of the group.

High accuracy - Greater than 55 progeny

Medium accuracy - 20 to 55 progeny

Low accuracy - Less than 20 progeny (if there is only one assessment), less than 15 progeny (if there are two assessments). Results from these sires are not reported.

Table 1. 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Raw Averages
1st assessment (2001) - 10 months of age and 10 months wool.

Stud name	No of Progeny	GFW (kg)	CFW (kg)	BLS (kg)	YLD (%)	BWT (kg)
Geelong Park 30201	40	2.69	1.82	0.2	67.7	25.6
Jema 250	40	2.32	1.57	0.2	67.7	25.9
East Mt Ada Poll 7413	39	2.45	1.65	0.2	67.1	25.7
Rocky Point O817	39	2.31	1.56	0.2	67.3	23.8
Kilfeera Park 6.275	26	2.35	1.70	0.2	72.0	23.8
Toland P30	46	2.25	1.60	0.2	71.2	22.7
Toland G118	39	2.37	1.56	0.2	67.3	25.2
Wanalta 8.6	45	2.45	1.55	0.2	65.9	25.4
Wirrate W41	43	2.51	1.64	0.2	67.1	23.6
Broxbourne Park 4031	37	2.38	1.60	0.2	67.2	23.7

Averages	394	2.41	1.62	0.2	67.9	24.6
-----------------	-----	------	------	-----	------	------

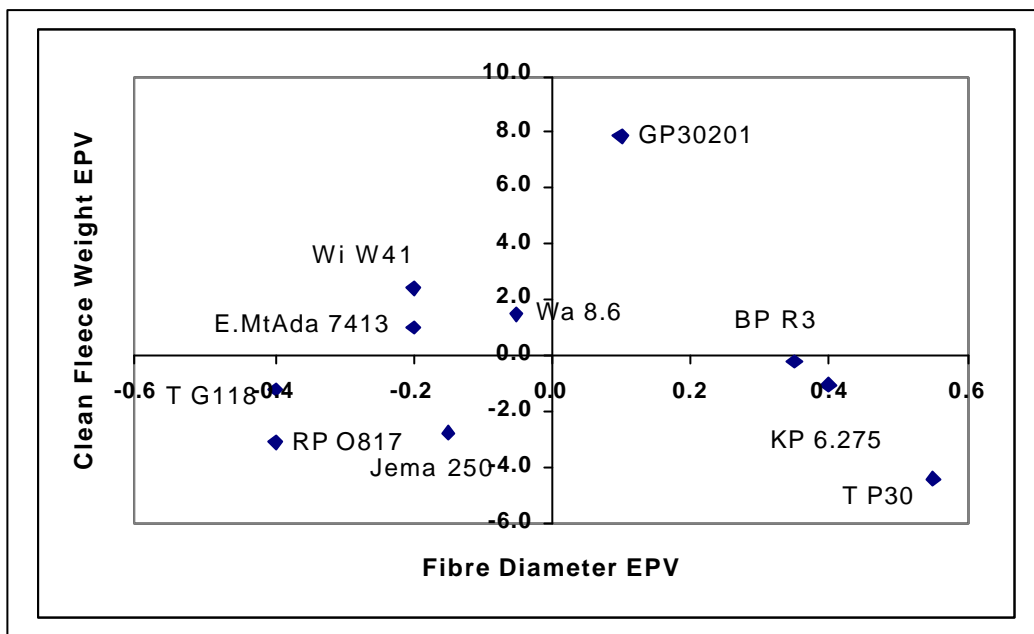
**Table 2. 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Raw Averages, Wool Quality
1st assessment (2001) - 10 months of age and 10 months wool.**

Stud name	FD (mm)	CVFD (%)	CF (%)	Curvature	Curvature SD
Geelong Park 30201	16.8	23.0	99.6	84.7	55.7
Jema 250	16.5	22.4	99.8	89.3	59.0
East Mt Ada Poll 7413	16.4	20.7	99.8	83.0	54.6
Rocky Point O817	16.2	21.9	99.8	86.4	57.1
Kilfeera Park 6.275	17.1	21.1	99.6	85.2	55.4
Toland P30	17.1	21.4	99.7	80.0	53.7
Toland G118	16.2	22.4	99.8	87.4	57.5
Wanalta 8.6	16.6	23.2	99.7	82.8	53.9
Wirrate W41	16.4	23.3	99.7	77.4	50.4
Broxbourne Park 4031	17.0	22.6	99.6	82.0	53.5
Average	16.6	22.3	99.7	83.6	55.0

**Table 3: 2001 Drop North East Sire Evaluation – Estimated Progeny Values
1st Assessment (2001) – 10 months of age, & 10 months wool growth**

Ram ID	No. Progeny	FD (mm)	FDCV (%)	GFW (%)	CFW (%)	BW (%)
Geelong Park 30201	40	0.1	0.6	9.3	7.9	2.8
Jema 250	40	-0.2	0.2	-3.5	-2.8	3.8
East Mt Ada 7413	39	-0.2	-1.2	1.5	1.0	3.7
Rocky Point o817	39	-0.4	-0.3	-3.4	-3.1	-1.8
Kilfeera Park 6.275	26	0.4	-0.8	-1.3	-1.1	-1.6
Toland G118	39	-0.4	0.2	-1.4	-1.2	2.1
Toland P30	46	0.6	-0.7	-5.3	-4.4	-5.1
Wanalta 8.6	45	-0.1	0.8	1.6	1.5	2.3
Wirrate W41	43	-0.2	0.9	3.0	2.4	-3.7
Broxbourne Park Red003	37	0.4	0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-2.3
Average	394	16.6mm	22.3%	2.41kg	1.62kg	24.6kg

**Figure 1: North East Victoria Sire Evaluation – 2000 drop, 2001 assessment
Clean Fleece Weight Vs Fibre Diameter**



Selection Indices

Ranking Sires

Index values are essentially the relative economic value of each ram, based on different wool market scenarios. To calculate an index value for each ram, the EPV for each trait is multiplied by its relative economic value. The sum of each of these economic values is added to produce the index value. The average value of all indexes is 100, therefore an index of 100 for a ram, indicates his progeny have a combined value of around the average, for that market scenario.

Micron Premium

Using micron premium (MP) provides an opportunity to examine the relative values of the different rams under alternative wool market conditions and scenarios. It also relates to different breeding objectives. The micron premiums used in table 3 (below) represent standard micron premiums Rampower index values. Indexes with a low micron premium (eg 3%) favour animals with high fleece weights and are of value to those breeders who wish to maintain their fibre diameter and place maximum emphasis on increasing the fleece weight of their flock. Indexes with a high micron premium (eg, 12%) are the opposite and are useful for breeders who wish to place maximum emphasis on decreasing their flock fibre diameter, without losing fleece weight. A middle view is to use an index which simultaneously increases fleece weight and decreases fibre diameter (eg, 6%).

Table 4: 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Index Values
1st assessment (2001) 10 months wool growth, 10 months of age

SIRE	Breeding Goal	Maintain FD Max Increase in FW	Medium Decrease in FD Medium Increase in FW	Max Decrease in FD Maintain FW
	Micron Premium	3%	6%	12%
Geelong Park 30201		128.8	122.3	109.6
Jema 250		93.0	95.4	98.2
East Mt Ada Poll 7413		106.7	110.3	113.0
Rocky Point O817		90.2	96.5	103.5
Kilfeera Park 6.275		94.0	91.8	93.7
Toland G118		99.0	103.3	105.7
Toland P30		79.2	77.4	83.3
Wanalta 8.6		106.8	105.1	100.7
Wirrate W41		106.8	106.3	102.8
Broxbourne Park 4031		95.8	91.8	89.8

Visual Assessment

Classing Results

In 2001, new guidelines for the visual assessment of sheep in Merino Sire Evaluation Trials came into action. Mr Ron Creek classed all the sheep, and each one was scored for a number of different characters, using a standardised trait list and format.

In general, a score of 1 indicated a 'good' assessment for that character, while a score of 5 indicated the animal was extremely poor for that character. The table below describes the scoring system used by the classer to grade each sheep.

	1	5
Face Cover	Open	Woolly
Feet / Legs	Good	Poor
Development	Plain	Wrinkly
Head / Jaw	Bad	Very Bad
Back / Shoulder	Bad	Very Bad
Colour	Very white	Very Yellow
Character	Good	Flat
Dust Penetration	Low	High
Fleece Rot	0 = None	High
Skin Pigmentation	0 = None	High

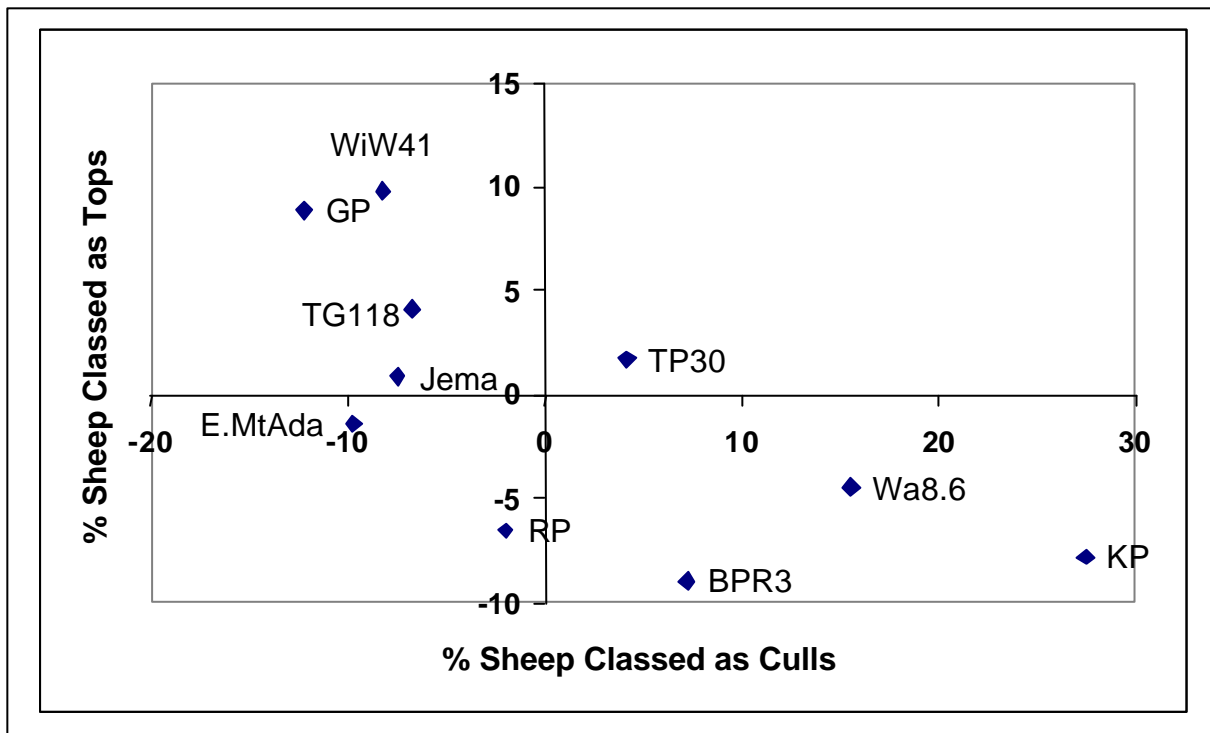
**Table 5: 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation – Progeny Grade
1st Assessment (2001) – 10 months of age, & 10 months wool growth**

	Number of Progeny	% Classed as Tops	% Classed as Flocks	% Classed as Culls
Geelong Park 30201	39	21	69	10
Jema 250	40	13	73	15
East Mt Ada Poll 7413	39	10	77	13
Rocky Point O817	39	5	74	21
Kilfeera Park 6.275	26	4	46	50
Toland G118	38	16	68	16
Toland P30	45	13	60	27
Wanalta 8.6	42	7	55	38
Wirrate W41	42	21	64	14
Broxbourne Park R3	37	3	68	30
Averages	387	12	66	22

**Table 6: 2000 Drop North East Victorian Sire Evaluation - Combined classing traits
1st Assessment (2001) – 10 months of age, & 10 months wool growth**

	Face Cover	Feet / Legs	Develop- ment	Back / Shoulder	Colour	Character	Dust Penetration	Fleece Rot
Geelong Park 30201	2.7	1.1	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	1.5	0.2
Jema 250	2.9	1.2	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.6	1.6	0.1
East Mt Ada Poll 7413	2.8	1.2	2.9	1.4	2.1	2.5	1.6	0.3
Rocky Point O817	2.8	1.4	3.1	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.5	0.2
Kilfeera Park 6.275	2.9	1.9	3.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.6	0.4
Toland G118	2.6	1.4	2.9	1.0	1.6	2.1	1.4	0.0
Toland P30	2.7	1.7	2.8	2.3	1.7	2.0	1.6	0.1
Wanalta 8.6	2.6	1.4	3.0	1.6	2.5	2.4	2.0	0.3
Wirrate W41	2.9	1.4	3.0	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.3	0.1
Broxbourne Park R3	3.2	1.5	3.1	1.7	2.2	2.3	1.7	0.5
Averages	2.8	1.4	3.0	1.7	1.9	2.2	1.6	0.2

Figure 2: North East Victoria Sire Evaluation – 2000 drop, 2001 assessment



Visual Tops Vs Culls

