

Glen Devon's consistent quality

The Hart family's Glen Devon Poll Dorset stud sale at Two Wells in SA should not to be missed if you're in the market for outstanding meat sheep genetics. They have 100 top quality rams on offer on Monday 21st September at 1pm SA time with inspection from 11am.

Glen Devon Poll Dorset stud's breeding objectives are to produce rams that will enable their commercial clients to breed lambs for most market weights. Because seasons and markets often fluctuate, producers need to adjust their management and target markets accordingly, so it is important to have flexibility. Lamb producers lose the ability to adapt their management and marketing if rams only allow efficient production for one market weight range.

Client success is the best endorsement of the credibility of the quality of the Glen Devon rams, including many in the Victorian Mallee who have attended this sale in past years.

Long term Ouyen client Neil Hamilton does a magnificent job with his lamb production and regularly features in the top sales at the Ouyen Livestock Exchange Markets. For example, in the May 7th sale this year he topped it with 56 superb heavyweight lambs at \$193/head, making the market pages of this paper on May 14th. This was 'catch-up news' as he also topped the sale the week before!

Another client is Les Stone from Torrita who has been buying rams from Glen Devon for about 20 years and says they are consistently good. Les and his son are primarily croppers but still run 800 Merino breeding ewes (bought in Lines blood). They complement their cropping program and with more legumes grown these days the lambs really perform on those stubbles and give extra income. They lamb in mid-April to mid-May, targeting the local sucker market in the 22-25kg carcass weight range and carry through 100-200 onto the stubbles to heavier weights. On January 29th sale, the first of the 2015 selling season at Ouyen, Les (*pictured*) sold 64 lambs at \$179.60/head. There are many other clients regularly quoted on the market reports.

"I've never had a disappointment in all that time. They are reliably good, stay with the mob and do the job," Les said.

There are 10 sires represented in the 2015 sale rams, but four of these have been the most influential. Glen Devon 120215 is an exceptionally thickset and highly commercial ram. He was only used by chance when his sire (GD100016) was injured, but he has proven to be a very successful addition to the sire group. For early turnoff of lambs, his progeny are ideal.

Valma 110420, Leenala 100161 and Ulandi Park 100082 are the other three rams that have had a big influence on this drop of rams. These four rams have wonderfully balanced elite performance figures, including an average C+ index of 192.8 and are ideal for maximising profitability in clients' commercial prime lamb enterprises. Performance figures are not the only criteria by which the Harts measure their Glen Devon rams, as structure and soundness, especially feet and mobility are very important to them. This ensures buyers can be confident any rams they purchase will work in a range of environs.

The Hart family reports that their muscling figures are improving all the time but in line with their total sheep focus. They believe it is a good time to be involved in the sheep industry as lamb prices reflect the quality being produced by the prime lamb industry. Their offering this year is again of a standard and quality that makes the Harts proud to offer them and recommend your inspection at the least.



A smiling Les with the 64 lambs he sold on January 29th at Ouyen for \$179.60/head. (photo courtesy of Mallee Newspapers).