

GLEN DEVON

Poll Dorset Prime Lamb Sires

*Each new generation
is always exciting*



Welcome

Welcome to our 2013 newsletter.

What a pleasure it is to be able to produce this after such a widespread general rain across all of SA and Victoria in particular. It is a long time since we have had such a general rain event. It was certainly needed after the early spring cut-out in most areas last year.

We are very pleased with the quality and development of the rams coming up for sale this year; we commend them to you. More details on their background are included. We have also included a brief Glen Devon property history,

as well as addressing the topic of birthweights. This has been raised as an issue of confusion by some clients.

"If it isn't broke, don't fix it," is a common saying that we adhere to in our breeding. We are certainly always working on fine tuning and improvement, but believe the proven Glen Devon product does not need radical change. The number of repeat clients at last year's wonderful on-property sale is testimony of that.

Rob, Helen, Lachlan & Mileah Hart

Key Glen Devon Dates 2013

Saturday September 7th - from 9am

Poll Dorset Judging - Adelaide Royal Show

Sunday September 8th - 2:30pm

Elite RAS ram sale - offering 2 Glen Devon stud rams

Monday September 23rd

Glen Devon annual on-property ram sale - 1pm

Inspection from 11am Auction at 1pm

Offering 100 rams including 10 specially selected stud rams

Enquiries welcome:

Robert & Helen Hart (08) 8520 2054 Mobile: 0417 881 899

Lachlan & Mileah Hart (08) 8520 3209 Mobile: 0417 832 964

Glen Devon Background (A long and glorious history)

For some of you this will just be a reminder, but many of our present day clients may not know the history of Glen Devon. The property has been under Hart family ownership for over 100 years, with Rob and Helen being the third generation and Lachlan and Mileah the fourth to farm at Glen Devon. Lachlan's and Mileah's daughters Eliza and Isobel are the fifth generation of Harts to tread these reddish brown soils, 8km north west of Two Wells on the Adelaide Plains.

Rob's father, the late LR (Les) Hart first ventured into Dorset breeding in 1925 when he founded a Dorset Horn stud. He also commenced the Glen Devon Poll Dorset stud in 1959, so 2013 sees Glen Devon's 88th year of involvement with Dorsets and 54th year of Poll Dorset breeding.

In conjunction with the Poll Dorsets, Glen Devon is a broadacre farm growing cereals for grain and hay, plus legumes and canola in the cropping rotations. Minimum tillage technology has been adopted. The pastures are medic based, with some dryland lucerne also grown.

As the flock's fertility and reproductive efficiency improved over the years to over 140%, less breeding ewes were needed to adequately supply ram demand, thus the cropping area has been expanded accordingly.

The immediate area once had a huge sheep production and thousands of prime lambs would hit the markets each spring from the Adelaide Plains, Lower North and Yorke Peninsula. Big multi-vendor ram sales were held at Pooraka and Paskeville to satisfy commercial lamb producer demand,

Land use in all these areas has radically changed, with cropping dominating, plus market gardening now very close to Glen Devon. As the areas of demand have changed, so has Glen Devon and we now service a loyal client base in all areas of SA and the Victorian Mallee.

Merino wethers were once traded, but with stud animal health biosecurity measures now needed and implemented, especially for OJD, this trading was ceased and the Poll Dorset stud sits at 400 breeding ewes including some hoggets.

The Glen Devon stud has been showing with success at the Adelaide Royal for a very long time and we continue to do so as a means of displaying our stock and more importantly to get a measure on our flock improvement. At last year's Adelaide Royal we again had success, including the champion Poll Dorset ewe award.

The three photos below show: (Left) Winning ram lamb class at Adelaide - also placed third in same class. (Middle) Rob being congratulated on winning champion ewe. (Right) Lachlan holding the ewe, sired by GD 090119.



Birthweights Important or overplay?

Before we expand on this subject let us say that, yes, birthweights are important. However it is more important to keep this subject in perspective and in balance, the latter being an underused word.

- High birthweights **can** cause lambing problems, which is vastly different from **will** cause them.
- Low birthweights will give you lambing ease, but can also increase lamb survival problems, which is exactly opposite from the expectations of many.

There is an adage that says, "There is more genetic variance within a breed than between breeds."

While this may sound confusing to some, the reality is lambing ease and survival is not a defined advantage/disadvantage exclusively assigned to any one breed.

The body shape of animals and pre-lambing management are far more important issues in relation to lambing survival rates than size.

Of course there are upper limits, just as there are lower limits where problems will increase. A robust lamb(s) with good weight and born without difficulty will 'bound' away and reach marketable weights earlier. Small lambs may

be born easier, but are far less robust and able to withstand any poor weather elements, or inadvertent ewe disturbance.

Work done by Nick Linden and his team of researchers at Hamilton verifies the ideal lamb weights to be from 4 to 5kg. Weights both above and below that, result in increased deaths within the first 24 hours.

At Glen Devon we pay huge importance to ewe management and body shape to avoid broad shouldered and short necked sheep, but very little genetic importance on low birthweights in isolation.

Consequently we are achieving rapid growth rates over 140% of lambs weaned, very few lambs born dead and virtually no assistance to lambing other than a very rare breech birth. If someone overplays the importance of this issue, we suggest you either query their motive and/or need.

Sires of Sale Rams

We gave a heads up in last year's newsletter on the sire group of the 2012 drop and how excited we were with their lambs. That has followed through to reality and while our renowned type has basically remained the same, their Lambplan figures are better. This doesn't mean the results will be leaps ahead of the previous year's rams, but rather their performance figures are more verifiable, giving you more confidence they will excel in your paddock.

Derrynock 100143 has bred very well. His birthweight figure is higher, but he is a perfect example of what we are referring to in the birthweight article. His body shape is ideal and his lambs are strong and active at birth.



Two Hillcroft Farms (WA) sires used by AI, 100587 and 100672 have Carcase Plus figures over 200, giving the boost to figures of their progeny. Wyndamah 050691 is a proven long term high performance sire at Glen Devon and this is virtually his last major drop, although we still have semen for possible future use. Three Leenala rams, 090181, 100161 and 100126 were used for this drop, with 100126 excelling in the 2011 show rings around the country.

Finally, three of our homebred rams, GD 100016, 100028 and 100062 were used as ram lambs. Two of these (16 & 28) are sons of Pollambi 080608, introduced for his exceptional muscling with an ASBV of +2.49. These two sons have muscle figures of 1.3 and 3.1 respectively. GD 62 is a son of Wyndamah 691, an exceptionally consistent line.

New sires for 2013 drop

While the current sale rams (2012 drop) are the important ones at the moment, it is important to keep striving for improvement and we believe we have done that with our 2013 drop of lambs. Two new outside sires used will continue to boost our verifiable figures. Valma 110420 ET is the right type with exceptional figures culminating in a Carcase Plus index of 203. Ulandi Park 110054 was last year's Adelaide reserve champion senior ram and his C+ index is 207. They both have outstanding muscle EBVs of +2.0 and +3.3 and on top of the Pollambi infusion, should give us a real boost in this area. There is a correlation between increased muscling and lower growth rates and smaller body size. We believe our infusions have been careful, considered and patient so that we retain the renowned Glen Devon growth and type.

GD 120010 (pictured) is our top ram lamb visually and a son of Wyndamah 691.



He has been used for the 2-013 drop. GD 120215 is a son of GD 100016 and has exceptionally good balanced figures; Pwwt 14.3, Pfat -0.93, Pemd 1.29 and C+ of 192.64. This is the result we hoped for from the Pollambi infusion after a couple of generations of blending.

GD 120033, GD 120040 and GD 120042 were also ram lambs used, all sons of the two Hillcroft Farms rams used and like the Pollambi infusion we think the second generation (ie our 2013 drops from these ram lambs) will be exceptionally good.

2012 Sale Report

Our tenth annual sale produced one of our most pleasing results, especially considering how proud we were of the quality and evenness of the rams. The following is a précis of the report that appeared in the papers.

Total Clearance at Glen Devon

One of the best and most even quality line-ups of Poll Dorset rams that you'd ever hope to see was presented by the Hart family, Glen Devon stud, Two Wells last week. Their pre-sale nerves were soon settled as the buying gallery of registered buyers eagerly bid for the quality on offer, resulting in a total clearance of the 101 rams offered at auction.

The 101 rams averaged \$1050, just \$81 below last year, primarily on the back of lesser stud demand.

No doubt the success clients have had with these balanced, growthy and well-muscled rams keeps the regular faces coming back, but it is also comforting for them to

know that Glen Devon continues to compete successfully with the very best studs nationally at major shows.

Mark Hill, Gilbertside, Tarlee paid the modest \$2500 top price for the very impressive GD110331Tw, a first prize winner at the recent Adelaide Royal.



Lachlan Hart, Glen Devon, holds the \$2500 top priced ram at our 2012 sale and is with buyers Mark Hill (centre), Gilbertside, Tarlee and Mark's workman Jamie Williams.

Daniel Phillips, Looklong Park stud, Ouyen, Vic and buying through Landmark Ouyen jumped in early and grabbed the first stud ram GD110190 for \$2000, while Don Millard, Sheoak Lodge stud, Mt Hope also paid \$2000 for GD110186Twin, after purchasing last year's \$4200 sale topper. These three rams were the only ones to go to studs, with the balance of the selected stud rams being eagerly grabbed by flock ram buyers.

The bidding duels throughout the draft were mainly between Adelaide Plains and Victorian Mallee producers, the latter group regularly making the trip down to Glen Devon.

The big exception was Steve DiGiorgio, Lucindale, another regular purchaser and buying through Landmark Naracoorte's David Heinrich. He was the biggest individual buyer on the day, purchasing 17 rams, paying from \$800 to \$1400.



Steve DiGiorgio, Lucindale (2nd right) is with Landmark auctioneer Malcolm Scroop, Glen Devon's Lachlan and Rob Hart and Steve's Landmark agent David Heinrich. They are admiring the 17 outstanding rams Steve bought.

Rowan McKenzie and Rory Singleton, BRC agents from Ouyen paid from \$600 to \$1300 in purchasing 22 rams through the ring for nine different Mallee clients, the most prominent of these being Greg Crane, Murrayville with eight rams.

Elders Ouyen agency was also strong in buying support and through Dean Coxon purchased 11 rams from \$600 to \$1500. James Wakefield, Walpeup was the most prominent Elders Ouyen client, purchasing five of the best from \$1200 to \$1400.

Buyers from the Adelaide Plains didn't miss out though, with Michael Tiller, through Landmark Balaklava purchasing six to \$1200 and JH & WA Franks through Landmark Mallala also purchasing six to \$1200.

Tim Barrett, through Elders Roseworthy and Leon Mudge, through Landmark Balaklava with five rams each, were also key contributors to the overall sale success.



Glen Devon's Rob Hart (3rd left back) and Lachlan Hart (2nd right front) are with the Victorian Mallee contingent that travelled down to the Glen Devon sale, collectively purchasing over 50 rams. They are (back) Neil Hamilton, Chris Brown, Rowan McKenzie & Rory Singleton (BRC Ouyen), and James Shaddock; (front) Daniel Phillips, Dean Coxan (Elders Ouyen), & Evan Fernandez (Landmark Ouyen).



Michael Tiller, Balaklava is with Glen Devon's Lachlan Hart in front of the six excellent Poll Dorset rams Michael bought at the Glen Devon sale, paying from \$600 to \$1200.

2013 Annual On-Property Sale Monday September 23rd.

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