

Alma Merino Stud

Merinos for wool, sheep and meat Sales

NEWSLETTER

For Alma clients and Western woolgrowers
April 2004

Alma ewes are preparing to lamb as April arrives. The sheep are in great condition, growing heaps of wool, and all look well forward in lamb. Again we find ourselves only one good fall of rain away from a season.

Ian Lilburne our stud classer has just completed 2 days classing all the Alma stud ewes prior to lambing. We were making sure that all ewes lambing will reflect the **Alma genetics** they are bred for: *Big fertile Merinos, with plenty of soft wool, able to survive and thrive in all Western NSW seasons.*

All stud ewes 3 years and older joined annually at Alma have reared a lamb. Fertility is the primary driver of productivity in all animals, and also the quickest way to recover from droughts.



Pooncarie Field Day November 2003

2004 Alma Sale Rams

This year's sale rams, June/July 2003 drop have really grown out over the summer. They haven't had any supplementary feed and are grazing on the last perennial saltbush still alive on Alma at present. We will be shearing them on Monday 3 May and extend an open invitation to all interested woolgrowers to attend and see the rams in the wool and then bare shorn. I have invited guest speakers to update us on the present's fickle wool market and the booming lamb and mutton markets. Lunch will be provided, see following page for full details. **We hope to see as many as possible at Alma .We all need to be fully updated on all the markets our versatile Merino provides us annually.**

Alma blood clip wins Elders 2003 Clip of the Year: Congratulations to Mark and Sally Morphett, their *Coulpataro* clip won the prestigious *Elders clip of the year*, presented at last year's Riverina Merino Stud Field day held at Hay. The clip displayed excellent stylish soft handling wools grown over very dry to drought conditions when shearing commenced in August 2002.



2003 Lambs

Sheep meat becoming increasingly important: *'Although wool prices have traditionally been the driver of Australia's sheep industry, sheep meat is becoming increasing more important'*, reported ABARE at this year's outlook conference. The sheep meat sector is expected to have the greatest impact on the shape of Australia's flock over the next few years. "It is particularly important that farm businesses re-organise their operations to take full advantage of potential productivity gains" it was reported.

For more photos and information, see our website

www.almastud.com.au

Alma blood productivity 2003: Last year was certainly a year of great Highs (sheep & wool prices), and Lows (mainly rainfall). Forgetting the lows, some highs at Alma in 2003 were:

\$ 120 – Alma Ewes, May / June 2002 drop, bare shorn, sold in the paddock to Echuca specialist 1st cross lamb producers

\$92 – Alma blood ewes 5 years, August shorn, sold at Hay November sale to Yarrawonga clients

\$63 – Alma flock wether lambs, sold at Deniliquin January '04 sale to Cobram Meats

Something to think about: Alma blood sheep are constantly in demand and breeders have received a premium even when the sheep, due to seasonal conditions, haven't been in forward condition. It is the **Alma genetics** the buyers are after. They know from experience that the productive genetics will flow into their lambs, *genetics that breed good mothers, more early-maturing lambs, and plenty of soft handling wool in the bales.* **Alma genetics** are designed to breed Merinos for **wool, sheep** and **meat \$ales**.

MAKING MONEY FROM MERINOS

Alma Merinos Ram Shearing Day

Alma Woolshed

Monday May 3, 2004

9.30 am – 3 pm

Join us to discuss how to **Make Money from Merinos** and to view the 2004 Alma sale ram shearing. See the rams in the wool and then bare shorn, with nothing to hide.

I have invited guest speakers to talk on the profitability of Merinos, especially with the current fickle wool market and the booming lamb and mutton markets.

We all need to be constantly updated on the markets our versatile Merino provides us with annually.

On Display:

- **2004 Alma Sale rams – to be shorn**
- **Alma stud sires**
- **2003 drop stud ewes**
- **Special stud ewes and lambs**



2004 Alma Sale Rams - January '04

Agenda:

- 9:30 Morning tea
- 10:00 Shearing 2004 Alma sale rams

Guest speakers:

- 11:30 “ *Wool market – Spring 2004 outlook* ”
Simon Hogan – Elders VP wool. Simon has just returned from china.
- 12:00 “ *Merinos as part of the prime lamb supply chain* ”
Garry McAlister – MLA project manager, Supply Chain & Livestock Production Innovation

- 1:00 Lunch
Alma BBQ merino Kebabs, salad, Station Shiraz.



Open invitation to all interested in Merino breeding

- Graham Morphett

Please RSVP 30 April (for catering purposes)

alma@almastud.com.au or

Contact us

Stud Principal:

Graham Morphett
'Yamba'
Booligal 2711

☎ (02) 6993 8157
fax (02) 6993 8155
email yamba@bigpond.com

Stud Manager:

Peter Thomson
'Alma'
Booligal 2711

☎ (02) 6993 8152
fax (02) 6993 8271