

# Alma Merino Stud

*Merinos for wool, sheep and meat sales*

## NEWSLETTER

For Alma clients and Western  
woolgrowers  
2003



*Classing 2003 - Alma 2002-drop young ewes*

Alma has fared no better or worse than every woolgrower in western NSW over the past 12 months. We were getting by well until the saltbush dropped its leaves in December 2002.

Peter Thomson has done a great job keeping feed and water up to the sheep, rotating mobs as small storms freshened up some paddocks. Keeping sheep alive was the priority, the sheep had to do the rest. It has been an extremely trying year, but with some rain in March and June this year we now look to the future and reflect on how **Alma genetics** performed in harsh drought conditions.



*July 03 – triplets*

*Sheep are healthy despite struggling saltbush*

**Sale rams:** I was pleasantly surprised on seeing the 2003 sale rams recently. At shearing in early May they were healthy but behind in growth due to the drought. With some fresher herbage and saltbush but no grass they have taken off and are growing like I expect from **Alma rams**.

They will be ready to join by our ram day Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Young ewes:** Not as well grown as usual when classed this year by Ian Lilburne. His comment was that they are “alive and healthy, worth good money, have soft wool and are growing out well now”. From lambs to hoggets, the '02-drop ewes have never tasted green grass.

**Stud ewes & lambs:** Joining was delayed until early December. The stud ewes were scanned in March with the great majority in lamb. The lambs were marked in mid-July, with 115% - a great result from a marginal season overall.



*Collinsville sires, purchased October 02*

**Alma sires:** Purchased at the Collinsville ram sale October 2002, equal top price \$7250, lot 11: a **huge ram with above average rump** (see photo, on right), test results FD 19.9, Comfort factor 99.7, along with lot 30: \$3250, a long, wide ram, crimped wool and upstanding stance.

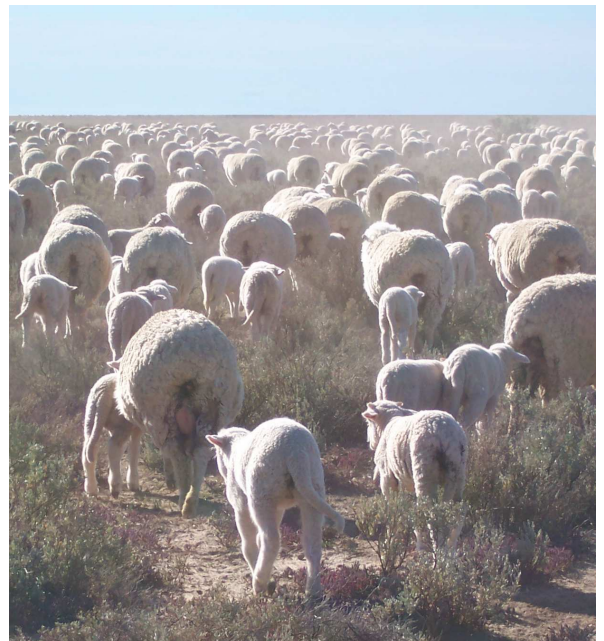
Both these rams, with the 6 other Collinsville rams purchased recently, have grown into real sires – the type of Merinos that the west needs: big, correct, fertile, soft wools, and able to walk and thrive. **All Alma sires have to be large-framed, with comfort factor in excess of 98.5, and (in a normal year) be grown out on saltbush without supplementary feed.**

## Alma Diary

We will have on display **ALMA Merinos** at the following events – come and talk to us about breeding Merinos in western NSW, to generate income from **wool, sheep** and **meat \$ales**.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> September    Kerribee Field Day,    Euston
- 1<sup>st</sup> October        Kilfera,                            Ivanhoe
- 8<sup>th</sup> November     Poongarie Field Day

**ALMA Ram Day**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
 Alma Woolshed



*Stud ewes & lambs, mustering for marking  
July 2003 – 115%*

## ALMA 2003 ram order

This year’s sale rams have come through the drought exceptionally well. They are well grown and looking fit to join. They were given supplementary feed over summer but have survived since March on Old Man Saltbush with no extra feed. They were shorn 6<sup>th</sup> May and will be classed by Ian Lilburne shortly, ready for sale at our ram day, 25<sup>th</sup> September.



*Alma sale rams July 2003*

**2003 ram grades** – remain the same at  
 \$500, \$400, \$300 (exclusive of GST)  
 Please contact us at **ALMA** to book your ram order.

**New Clients** – I have been contacted by a number of western woolgrowers enquiring about sale rams this year. Please give us a call. Peter and myself are available at any time to discuss your requirements or show you around Alma and the **Alma Merinos** grazing on the saltbush plains.

*Graham Morphett*

## Contact us

### Stud Principal:

Graham Morphett ☎ (02) 6993 8157  
 ‘Yamba’ fax (02) 6993 8155  
 Booligal 2711 email [yamba@bigpond.com](mailto:yamba@bigpond.com)

### Stud Manager:

Peter Thomson ☎ (02) 6993 8152  
 ‘Alma’ fax (02) 6993 8271  
 Booligal 2711

**For more photos and information, see our updated website**

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