



Alma Merino Stud

Merinos for wool, sheep and meat \$ales

NEWSLETTER

For Alma clients and Western woolgrowers

Alma – July 2002

The end of July 2002 and still no rains in sight. All of western NSW is experiencing very dry to drought conditions, but *it will rain* (hopefully soon).

Even in a drought ALMA bloodlines are productive and allow drought management while generating a cash flow.

- Alma blood ewes, young and old, remain in strong demand from the restockers
- Lambing percentages and survival rates are well above district averages
- The mutton market can't get enough of the large framed Alma merino
- Wool clips bringing \$1000 plus, bale average

Alma merinos grow a medium, soft-handling fleece on a large framed, highly fertile sheep that will reproduce and thrive. **2002 is certainly the season to test the Alma merinos.**

ALMA blood surplus sheep sales. The ALMA merino is recognised as the ideal 1st cross lamb mother and in 2001 the demand for both young and old ewes was at an unprecedented level. Many buyers were booking up their 2002 requirements as they took delivery of their 2001 ewes.

The 55th Hay annual June sheep sale saw a very large contingent of buyers compete for a limited number of ewes yarded.

The Rogers family, Yarto Booligal, had the sale of the day. Their ALMA blood, Yarto bred 2001-drop ewes, shorn the week prior to the sale, made \$55-00. A repeat buyer from Finley was the purchaser.

This is an excellent example of how the Alma merino has generated a good cash flow in a drought while allowing a paddock to be opened up for other breeding ewes to survive in.

ALMA stud ewes lambed up to 100% good lambs this winter, with no significant rain over the autumn/winter period, and no supplementary feeding. Clients are reporting reasonable to good lambing percentages, depending on the severity of their drought, but all clients have said that their lambings are far above the district average.

Drought management is the priority this year. Selling older ewes off shears into the mutton market, currently at \$2/kg, gives instant cash flow and relieves the stocking pressure on the property. ALMA merinos with their large frame, even in dry conditions, still weigh in well enough to return over \$40, often straight off the board.

The ALMA wool clip. Indicators from the last July wool sale show a strengthening market. With the reduced production due to drought, along with continued demand, all looks well for the opening sales this spring. However volatility in prices will still be with us.

Alma merinos grow a high quality medium wool but with emphasis on the comfort factor that naturally gives a better micron. ***Not chasing the micron but sticking to a merino that will generate income from wool, sheep and meat \$ales*** I believe will be the most profitable for our clients in the long term.

It will rain. History proves that it does rain, and those who are prepared will reap the benefits.

New clients – new clients last year introduced Alma rams to their flocks to try out our genetics. I will be interested in any feedback this year, certainly a year for a fair dinkum trial.

Alma Diary

Stud ewes marked 100% lambs recently – the majority were joined to maiden rams, all large framed , under 21 micron and above 98.5% comfort factor.

2001-drop ewes – Ian Lilburne has classed the Alma young ewes, and we have OFDA tested the stud ewes 14/6/02. They have excellent size and growth, just living on saltbush, with test results averaging 20.50 micron, 98.6% CF.

2002 sale rams – shorn 22nd April and will be classed by Ian at the end of August. They have grown out well in the dry conditions and are only recently getting some supplementary feed.

ALMA Information Day – Wednesday 11th September 2002

We intend to yard the majority of our stud ewes, sale rams, sires, and display our wool results for all to see. Lunch will be Alma saltbush mutton (hot and cold), crusty bread and Station Shiraz.

If it hasn't rained by 11 September, we may not yard any sheep but just have one long lunch !!

Please note this in your diary. I would like all to see the direction in which Alma is heading/maintaining. Also you may win a WOOLABY in the " Guess the Micron" competition.

Contact us

Stud Principal:

Graham Morphett ☎ (02) 6993 8157
'Yamba' fax (02) 6993 8155
Booligal 2711 email yamba@bigpond.com

Stud Manager:

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

✂Please cut here and return

ALMA 2002 RAM ORDER

The 2002 sale rams have grown out well this year.

All rams will be micron tested, classed and ready for sale at the end of September.

We will have our normal ram day in the last week of September (Thursday 27th)

Please contact me if you need to discuss your ram requirements.

Graham Morphett

Number Rams Required

Grades (exclusive of GST)

\$300
\$400
\$500

Name _____

Address _____

Return to:
Alma Stud
c/. Yamba Station
Booligal
NSW 2711

Phone (02) 6993 8157
Fax (02) 6993 8155
email alma@almastud.com.au