



POLL BOONOKE PRIME FAMILY

As announced in our 2021 Newsletter, the first drop of the Poll Boonoke Prime Family hit the ground last year. So, the **first offering of Poll Boonoke Prime Family Rams will be at the 2022 AFA Ram Auction** on 14 September and in subsequent private selections from the flock grades.

The breeding objective of the Poll Boonoke Prime Family shifts the focus to developing exceptional meat/carcass traits on easy care, extremely plain bodies for Merino breeders who want to move beyond balancing up the dual-purpose qualities of their sheep to magnify their carcass attributes.

These August drop rams are 3 months younger than the rest of our ram drop and will also be the first **non mulesed** sheep sold from the AFA Studs. Progeny of the first Prime Family joining will be available for inspection at

our Open Day on 1 September. Right across our stud flocks our breeding decisions have steadily been targeting the plaining up of our sheep to align with industry requirements and the increasing influence of social expectation. We are attempting to do this while retaining the outstanding characteristic for which Merino sheep have been bred for generations, namely their wool cut and quality.

Encouraged by the results of the breech wrinkle and breech cover scoring that we have been undertaking, the AFA Stud Management believe that we have now achieved a level across our Poll Stud Flock that enables us to stop mulesing without exposing our sheep to unmanageable consequences. So, our 2022 drop Poll Boonoke sheep will be non mulesed, which will permit us to refine our husbandry program to ensure best practice and profitable management of the flock, in preparation to cease mulesing across all Company flocks, including the Wanganella Stud Flock.

70TH HAY MERINO SHEEP SHOW



PB211143
Best NSW Entry,
Riverina Wool Australia
Champion Hogget Merino Ram
Held by Tom Lilburne

Always a highly anticipated event, as the first opportunity to see a broad selection of the industry's best hogget rams, the AFA Studs ventured up to what was the 70th Hay Merino Sheep Show on Saturday 18 June 2022.

For some time now a drawcard for Stud Breeders to the Hay Merino Sheep Show has been the Riverina Wool Australia Champion Hogget Merino Ram competition with its generous prize money, and this year it attracted 36 entries. Whilst AFA were not successful in taking out the big prize, one of our Poll Boonoke rams made it through to the final 7 and was subsequently sashed as the Best NSW Entry.

Poll Boonoke 211143 is an ET bred, PP tested ram sired by M190008 out of donor ewe PB191317 by WIL170018. His May side sample tested at FD 20.1, SD 2.6, CV 12.9 and CF 99.8. In the week leading up to the Show he weighed 116.0 kg and scanned 39.0 mm EMD and 6.0 mm Fat.

Following the spectacle of the Riverina Wool Australia Champion Hogget Merino Ram class, the Open Stud classes were conducted and PB211143 won his Medium Wool March Shorn Lamb's Teeth class, while PB200780 beat out Wanganella 200231 to win the Medium Wool March Shorn 4 tooth class. PB211143 subsequently went on to be judged the Show's Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Ram.

The other ribbon of note for the day was the 2nd placing of the Poll Boonoke entry in the Dual Purpose Class - Pen of Three Ram Weaners, with the Wanganella entry just outside the ribbons in 4th place.

Congratulations to the Hay Community, and in particular the many people who over the years have dedicated time and effort to the Hay Merino Sheep Show Committee, on facilitating 70 shows. It takes a big effort to produce what is a great day for Merino enthusiasts.



PB211143
Champion Medium Wool
March Shorn Ram
Hay Merino Sheep
Show 2022
Forbes Murdoch,
Chris Bowman
George Sinclair &
Justin Campbell



**PB210912, PB211143
& PB211876**
2nd Place
Dual Purpose Event -
Pen of Three Ram
Weaners
Peter Nadin,
George Sinclair &
Oliver Cameron

10 DROPS IN - REFLECTING ON ASBVs AT AFA By Angus Munro, AFA Stud Breeding Manager

We recently submitted the first of the data collected for our 2022 drop lambs - namely Breech Wrinkle and Breech Cover scores recorded at tagging. Our 2022 lambs are the 10th AFA Stud drop for which data will be submitted to Sheep Genetics, with an emphasis on the Poll Boonoke sheep. All of it being utilised to create ASBVs that predict genetic merit and to estimate what genes an animal will on average give to their offspring.

Undoubtedly our involvement with Sheep Genetics demands a significant investment of time, effort and money. We are committed to our data collection program because ASBVs are a practice that some Merino Breeders choose to utilise in their stock selections. We steadfastly believe that visual inspection is the most important selection tool, but, also recognise that having additional information available to assist with flock improvement is beneficial, particularly if it is data that measures attributes not necessarily readily evident by physical assessment, such as reproductive traits.

For our Stud Management Team, the discipline of data collection and the internal assessment of the information generated has provided a compelling basis for sire comparison according to their progeny's performance across the different traits measured. This has been very useful in making stud sire selections and for the selection of ewes to be joined to specific sires to achieve our own breeding targets.

Every year as ASBVs and their assembly, and our own data collection capabilities, have become more sophisticated we have included additional measurements, always with a focus on flock profitability. Now we are looking to increase the information we collect that correctly interprets reproductive traits, with weaning rates being of particular consequence.

We are also looking forward to seeing the new Merino Indexes that Sheep Genetics are planning to introduce next year. Indications are that there will be six indexes that more specifically target a variety of breeding objectives, and that will utilise up to date economic information, to replace indexes currently in use. More targeted information used in balance will better assist Breeders in their decision making and improve outcomes in achieving breeding goals.

The AFA Stud Team are always available to assist you in defining and working towards your flock's breeding targets.



Stud Sire PB200780, photographed with the Blade Shearing Team in March 2022, is in the ASBVs top 5% for YCFW & ACFW.

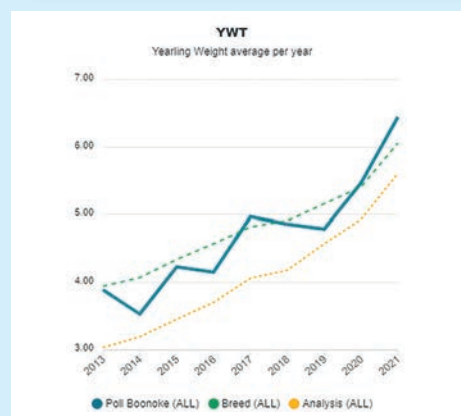
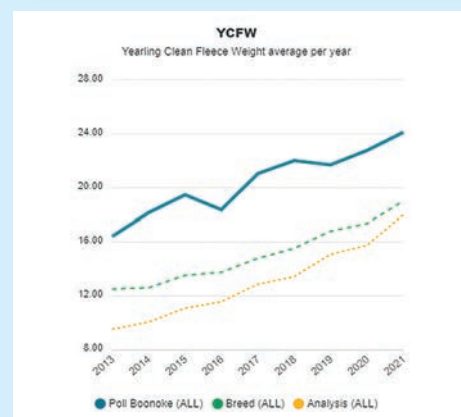
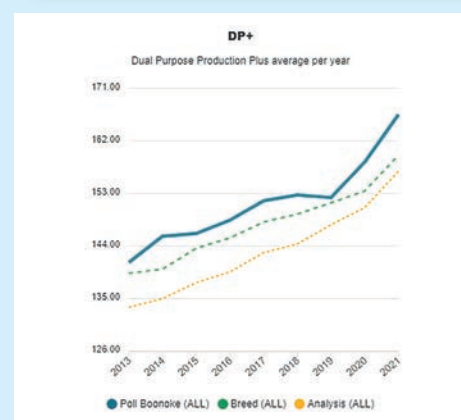
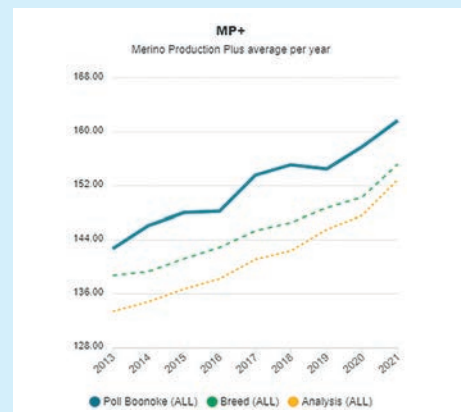
**STUD OPEN DAY
AUCTION RAM
INSPECTIONS
1st September
Boonoke Woolshed**

Recent Sheep Genetics Trend Graphs indicate that Poll Boonoke is ahead of the breed average for the 2021 drop values and that for the 2013 - 2021 drop values there has been:

- a 13% increase in the MP+ index
- an 18% increase in the DP+ index
- a 47% increase in the YCFW; and
- a 65% increase in YWT.

POLL BOONOKE GENETIC TREND GRAPHS

(extracted from Sheep Genetics, analysis date 21/6/2022)



2021 RAM AUCTION

2021 disintegrated into a year much like 2020 as far as industry events went, with shows and field days cancelling one after another in the wake of the re-emergence of COVID restrictions, and it left us wondering how it might impact our ram sale.

As it turned out, we all just got used to doing things with a degree of COVID difficulty and kept on going. So, our auction ram videos became pre sale homework, our Stud Open Day a chance to make a crowd free wish list and AuctionsPlus a comfortable purchasing alternative for many.

As a result, 208 AFA rams averaged \$4,513 for a top of \$17,000; a \$1,020 increase on the 2020 sale average and a lift of \$4,000 on the 2020 top sale price; with stud and commercial Merino breeders from four states buying up. Our top sale prices and averages were up across the board on the break down of the 2020 AFA sale result, the Poll Boonoke paddock rams being a stand out with their average sale price \$1,350 up on the 2020 average and clearly entrenching the current industry preference for polled Merino sheep. Thank you to everybody who purchased rams in 2021, either at auction or from the flock grades, we appreciate being a preferred genetics supplier for your business and flock.

COVID shut downs appear to be off the table now, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again in 2022 at the various industry events in the lead up to spring selling season, but auction ram videos, auction ram inspections at our Stud Open Day and AuctionsPlus have moved from being COVID practice to standard practice and will remain available for your selection convenience in 2022.

RAM AUCTION 2021 RESULTS SUMMARY

208 AFA Rams of 210 offered sold:

To a top of \$17,000 and an average of \$4,513.22

- 16 shedded rams averaged \$8,937.50
- 192 paddock rams averaged \$4,144.53

58 Wanganella Rams of 60 offered sold:

To a top of \$15,000 and an average of \$3,706.90

- 5 shedded rams averaged \$7,500.00
- 53 paddock rams averaged \$3,349.06

150 Poll Boonoke Rams of 150 offered sold:

To a top of \$17,000 and an average of \$4,825.00

- 11 shedded rams averaged \$9,590.91
- 139 paddock rams averaged \$4,447.84



Poll Boonoke 200366 x PB160612

FD 18.6, SD 3.0, CV 16.1, CF 99.8

Top Priced AFA Auction Ram \$17,000

Purchased by Lansdowne Poll Stud, Qld

Photographed with Justin Campbell (AFA GM) and Chris Bowman (Lansdowne Poll Stud Classer).



Wanganella 200264 x W170470

FD 19.9, SD 3.5, CV 17.6, CF 99.2

Top Priced Wanganella Ram \$15,000

Purchased by Willandra Stud, NSW

Photographed with Lachie Barrett (AFA Overseer), Ross Wells (Willandra Stud Principal), Chris Bowman (Willandra Stud Classer) and Caroline Heath (Willandra Stud Principal).



Poll Boonoke 200370 x PB160612

FD 18.3, SD 2.8, CV 15.3, CF 99.7

Sold for \$15,000

Purchased by Woodpark No 2 Poll Stud, NSW

Photographed with Angus Munro (AFA Stud Breeding Manager) and Owen Huggins (Woodpark No 2 Poll Stud Principal).



Poll Boonoke 200363 x PB160612

FD 19.1, SD 2.9, CV 15.2, CF 99.7

Sold for \$12,500

Purchased by Almondvale Poll Stud, NSW

Photographed with Peter Nadin (AFA Stud Groom) and Peter & Paul Routley (Almondvale Poll Stud Principals).



Poll Boonoke 200482 x PB160612

FD 19.8, SD 3.0, CV 15.2, CF 99.9

Sold for \$11,000

Purchased by Ballatherie Poll Stud, NSW

Photographed with George Sinclair (AFA Stud Stationhand), Mark Peters (Ballatherie Poll Stud Principal) and Matt Lacey, BN Proud & Co.

VALE COLIN BELL (1941 – 2022)

Colin Bell, founder of the Australian Food & Agriculture Company, passed away on 14 March 2022 following a long and debilitating illness.

Colin was the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chairman of the ASX listed Bell Financial Group, a business that he founded on his own 50 years ago and which is now a multi division financial services business with 12 offices across Australia, 4 international offices and 760 employees.

At the same time, and essentially as a part time interest, Colin ventured into agriculture. Initially his rural pursuits revolved around a cattle agistment/share grazing model across the eastern states of Australia, before moving into winter crop share farming in 1985.

Having endured challenges, personal tragedy and the usual quantity of highs and lows you find in agriculture, Colin was finally to become a landholder in 1993, with the support of his partners Lewis Bell, Andrew Bell & Alastair Provan, when he purchased 'Burrabogie' on the Murrumbidgee River at Hay in the NSW Riverina. This acquisition was expanded by the purchase of the neighbouring 'Mulberrygong' from the News Corporation Superannuation Fund.

Significantly, this deal was to open the door to an agricultural acquisition that would cement Colin's place in the Australian pastoral narrative, when he and his partners purchased F S Falkiner & Sons from News Limited, inclusive of nearly 300,000 acres of country at Deniliquin and its famous Merino Studs. The acquisition came with a personal undertaking to retain the FSF properties as one entity and to continue the stud breeding operation.

Colin did not stop at the 'Boonoke' group of properties though; expanding his Hay district holding to include Wahwoon in 2000, Kolora in 2001 and North Cobran in 2012, and broadening his horizons in 2011 to include Clyde Agriculture's 'Wingadee' and the 'Netherway' group of farming properties in the NSW Coonamble district. Colin continued to invest in Netherway's neighbouring properties as they became available, his most recent acquisition being the 2017 purchase of 'Westmeath'.

At the time of Colin's passing, he and his partners had amassed a total rural landholding in excess of 550,000 acres. Colin lead his Rural Team through the shattering millennial drought; urged and supported the revitalisation of the Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Studs; sought property enhancements that contributed to efficiencies of operation; invested in on property diversification such as the development of the Conargo Feedlot and the shift from rice to cotton production in the Riverina; and curated a management team committed to his aspirations for excellence in the day to day control, planning and expansion of his rural business.

By any standard, it is an extraordinary legacy that Colin Bell has left behind him, and while he may no longer be here to direct and challenge, his Partners and his Management Team remain devoted to upholding the operating principles and ambitions he had for his rural business.



Colin Bell (centre) with Justin Campbell & Angus Munro

STUD TEAM ADDITIONS

We welcomed a familiar face, and a name synonymous with Merino breeding, back to manage the AFA Studs in January 2022. **TOM LILBURNE** has previously spent three years as part of the Stud Team and was Stud Overseer when he finished up at AFA at the end of 2019 to go travelling.



Tom Lilburne

Unfortunately for Tom, COVID meant he spent more time contracting than he did travelling the world, but it was all an educational experience nonetheless, and no doubt better for his finances!!! Tom's association with the Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Merino Studs continues the link with the Lilburne name, with both Tom's Father, Ian, and Grandfather, Tom, working with the FSF Stud Sheep (as they were at the time) during their Merino breeding careers.

The AFA Studs also welcome **RICKY POWER** to the Management Team in 2022, Ricky having accepted a Stud Representative role with the business. Many would be familiar with Ricky; either through his work with Nutrien as an Agent and Auctioneer, his sheep classing or as an accredited eye muscle scanner. Ricky will be in attendance at stud classing days and will contribute to the ongoing refinement of our breeding objectives and strategies. Ricky has a broad stud and commercial background and we look forward to him bringing a fresh perspective to the Team.



Ricky Power

Having spent two years working in the Stud Team, **PETER NADIN** has moved into the role of Stud Overseer this year and continues to set the example for hard work and stock sense. **GEORGE SINCLAIR**, in his second year at the Stud, has moved into the role of Stud Groom and is hoping that he will have more luck than the previous two Stud Grooms in being able to take his shedded rams on the road. Our newest staff member is **OLIVER CAMERON**, Oli continues a tradition of young Queenslanders working at the Studs and has not disappointed in living up to that old Jackaroo's creed of 'work hard, play hard'.

FAREWELLING A WOOL MAN

We lost another good wool man in January 2022 with the passing of Frank Navin who for many years was a Representative for the AFA Studs based in Ungarie, NSW. Frank's devout appreciation for wool meant he was particularly enthusiastic about the Wanganella sheep and worked closely with an elite group of wool growers in the Ungarie district classing their sheep and their woolclips. A straight talker, devoted to his clients and passionate about wool, Frank always had news to tell and loved working his way through our auction ram offering and reporting back on what he thought of the line up. Always a character, we enjoyed having both Frank and Faye as part of our Stud Family and remember Frank with respect and friendship.



AFA RAM AUCTION

50 WANGANELLA & 190 POLL BOONOK

Wednesday 14 September 2022

Inspection from 9.00 am Auction at 1.00 pm

Auction interfaced on AuctionsPlus



PRIVATE SELECTIONS OF GRADE RAMS

Appointments available from

Thursday 15 September 2022

2022 grade prices are

\$1,900 + GST, \$1,100 + GST & \$900 + GST



SEMEN SIRES

Semen is available from a selection of leading AFA Stud Sires.

Semen orders can be placed on-line at austfood.com.au or contact one of the AFA Stud Team to have an AFA semen order form forwarded to you.

Domestic Semen Price: \$60 + GST per dose

The purchaser will also be invoiced for semen despatch and freight costs.

International semen price available on application.

ASBVs:

Auction rams will be displayed with ASBVs sourced from the MerinoSelect 21 August 2022 database analysis.

Auction Catalogue:

An easy to print catalogue format will be available online from 1 September. A printed catalogue booklet will be available on auction day. Contact Robyn at the Boonoke Office on 1800 675 729 or email rsmith@austfood.com.au if you would like a copy of the catalogue forwarded to you.

Auction Agents:

Nutrien and Elders, Deniliquin will be the Agents in conjunction for the auction. Nutrien will settle the 2022 auction. Rams are auctioned at prices exclusive of GST, with GST added to the invoice.

Outside Agents:

A 3% rebate is offered to Outside Agents who advise the details of potential purchasers prior to 9 am on auction day to the Boonoke Office or the Auction Agents, and settle an auction ram purchase on behalf of that client within 7 days. A 1% rebate is offered to Outside Agents who settle an auction ram purchase invoice on behalf of a client within 7 days.

AuctionsPlus:

The 2022 Ram Auction will again be interfaced on AuctionsPlus. Potential Buyers wanting to use AuctionsPlus must ensure that they have registered and completed the AuctionsPlus Buyer Induction Course. auctionsplus.com.au

Auction Ram Videos:

A video for each auction ram will be prepared and made available via YouTube; with links accessible on the AFA website, the AuctionsPlus website and our Sales Calendar listing on the The Land website. If you contact the Boonoke Office links to the videos can be forwarded directly to you.

Topping Up:

For Auction Buyers unable to secure their total ram requirement during the auction, a limited number of \$1,900 + GST rams will be available for selection at the Ramshed after the auction to finalise orders, as will a selection of \$1,100 + GST flock grade rams at the Boonoke Woolshed. See one of the AFA Stud Team at the conclusion of the auction if you need to make a selection.

Pre Auction Inspection:

If you are unable to attend the Stud Open Day on 1 September, please contact one of the AFA Stud Team to arrange a pre auction inspection of the rams.

Selection Appointments:

Appointments to select Flock Grade Rams can be arranged by submitting a ram order form (an online option is available at austfood.com.au) or by contacting Angus Munro or the Boonoke Office with your ram requirements; we will then confirm a selection appointment date and time with you.

Ram Deliveries:

We highly recommend that you take your rams home after the auction or a private selection, but for those clients who require it we will arrange district deliveries of rams and they will be delivered off shears.

Health Status:

The Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Merino Studs are Ovine Brucellosis Accredited Free Flocks and have an OJD MN3 Flock Status in the National Johnne's Disease Market Assurance Program. The Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Studs are Owner Declared Footrot Free.

Semen Marketing Rights:

Australian Food & Agriculture Company Limited retains 50% semen marketing rights from all Wanganella & Poll Boonoke rams sold either by auction or private treaty, unless otherwise varied by negotiation prior to sale.

AFA STUD CONTACT DETAILS

Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Merino Studs

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YouTube: Wanganella Poll Boonoke

The Sanderson Family's Westbourne flock sheep entries were stand outs at this year's Tambo Show taking out the top award for the Most Productive Team in the Wether Section; in addition to having the highest value fleeces in the milk and open wether classes. The Sandersons also had the Champion Long Wool Ewe, after winning both the no more than 4 teeth and the more than 4 teeth long wool ewe classes. Westbourne subsequently was judged to have the Champion Single Flock Merino Ewe, the Champion Local Pen of Ewes and was placed first and second for Queensland Bred Merino Ewes. Congratulations to the Sanderson Family at Tambo and their sheep classer Chris Bowman, who selects their Wanganella rams.

Well done to the Paynter Family of 'Wando', Winton on being the Most Successful Merino Exhibitor at the 2022 Winton Show, with their ribbons including the Grand Champion Pen of Three Flock Ewes and

SEE THE AFA STUDS IN 2022 AT:

15 - 17 July

Australian Sheep & Wool Show
Prince of Wales Showground,
Bendigo
Show & Display Teams

22 July

Marra Field Day
Marra Hall

6 August

Nyngan Ag Expo
Nyngan Showground

12 August

Elders Riverina Sheep Expo
Edward River Oval, Deniliquin

23 & 24 August

National Merino Sheep Show
Showground, Dubbo

30 August

South West Slopes Stud
Merino Breeders Field Day
Showground, Harden

1 September

Riverina Stud Open Days
Auction Ram Preview
Boonoke Woolshed Yards

7 - 9 September

Royal Adelaide Show
Showground, Adelaide

14 September

Wanganella & Poll Boonoke
Ram Auction
'Boonoke', Conargo

FOR THE RECORD...

PB160612 has supplanted PB150026 as the Poll Boonoke Stud's most influential sire, as determined by semen doses sold. Even the recent sale of the final remaining 100 doses of PB150026 semen still left him 40 doses short of PB160612's current semen sale tally of 3,260 doses. PB160612, unlike PB150026, remains in the Poll Boonoke Stud Sire mob and still looks terrific. He was blade shorn in March and is enjoying another season in the Ramshed. His May 2022 side sample tested at FD 20.5, SD 3.1, CV 15.1 and CF 99.8. His current ASBVs indicate that he continues to rank in the top 20% for CFW and YEMD. Interestingly Ricky Power can identify the progeny of PB160612 when eye muscle scanning due to their distinctive muscle shape. PB160612's sons made up 30% of the Poll Boonoke rams selected to go into the Ramshed in March, so he continues to be an impact sire for the Stud and he will have sons in our auction this year. Having been collected in March, we have ample semen on hand as we know he has been a sire who has been a good 'nick' in other flocks and there have been plenty of repeat orders for his semen.

Reporting from Queensland while on a classing trip, Lansdowne Poll Stud Classer Chris Bowman advised that our top priced 2021 auction ram, PB200366, was joined to Lansdowne Poll Special Stud ewes and, as this photo indicates, is doing very well post joining. Photographed with PB200366 at Lansdowne is Chris Turnbull (Lansdowne Poll Stud Manager), Hume Turnbull (Lansdowne CFO), Duncan Ferguson (Elders, Longreach) and Chris Bowman (Lansdowne Poll Stud Classer). Two additional sires purchased at the AFA 2021 Auction, PB201728 and PB200771, were joined to Lansdowne Poll Stud ewes in a Special Syndicate.



PB160612 July 2020



the Grand Champion Flock Ewe for their Wanganella blood entries. The Paynters also placed 2nd with their entry in the Pair of Fine Fleeces.

Long time Poll Boonoke clients, the Godfrey Family of Vellum Downs, Hughenden, also enjoyed success at the Winton Show, their entry winning the Open Single Medium Fleece.

We welcomed Tim Lee, from the ABC's Landline, back to Boonoke in March when he heard that his visit to the district was going to coincide with the Stud Team's blade shearing of the shedded rams. They probably edited out just how much heavy breathing goes along with the Men blading off the rams, but it was a nice moment in the limelight for the Team!

You can view Tim's story at:
https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=676592133624398&_rdr