



DUAL PURPOSE DOUBLE

- A record points score •
- A third consecutive title for Poll Boonoke •
- A championship double header for AFA •

That was how the hotly contended 62 entry Australian Merino All Purpose class played out at the 2023 Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo.



Wanganella 220310 x W200231 & Poll Boonoke 221447 x M200032

Reserve Champion & Champion March Shorn Australian Merino All Purpose Rams, Australian Sheep & Wool Show 2023
Photographed with Angus Munro, Richard Branson, Oliver Cameron, Tom Lilburne, Justin Campbell, Charles Shingles & Harry Ryan

This industry oriented class, spotlighting the dual purpose qualities of the Merino, is open to March shorn Merino and Poll Merino rams displaying not more than 2 permanent teeth and is judged by both a meat sheep judge and a wool judge. The scanned meat traits and fleece test results for each ram are utilised by the judges.

It was a terrific thrill for the AFA Stud Team when their Poll Boonoke ram 221447 (Burtie) and Wanganella ram 220310 (Hoover) were announced as the Champion and Reserve Champion Australian Merino All Purpose Rams for 2023. The focus of the All Purpose Class aligns with the AFA breeding directives and the opportunity to benchmark our results against our peers and market competitors is beneficial and instructive. It is also highly motivating; the lineup of rams was an impressive illustration of what the Merino industry has achieved in delivering true dual purpose sheep and the challenge that exists to remain at the forefront of Merino breeding.

The Poll Boonoke Stud's achievement of three successive Australian Merino All Purpose Champion Rams; Burtie's ribbon following on from PB211143 in 2022 and PB180874 in 2019 (no ribbons in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID;) and doing it with a record point score for the competition to date was very rewarding for the stud management team, confirming their direction and decisions.

Just as satisfying for the Team was our Wanganella entrant being awarded the Reserve Champion ribbon. Horned and polled rams were assessed together as one group, so Hoover's success demonstrates that Merinos are competitive in an industry that has slanted itself to the Poll Merino and that, in particular, the breeding directives of the Wanganella Stud to combine wool characteristics and production with carcase traits are hitting the mark.

BENDIGO 2023 RESULTS CONTINUED: Prior to their success in the All Purpose class, PB221447 & W220310 had proved their merit in the standard classes of the 2023 show at Bendigo.

PB221447 was ultimately judged to be the Champion March Shorn Medium Wool Poll Ram of the Show. A 2 tooth entrant, ET bred PB221447 by M200032 out of PB160501, went to Bendigo with a 2 July weight of 114.5 kg and fleece test results FD 16.4, SD 2.6, CV 16.1 and CF 99.8. He had scanned at EMD 44.0 mm and Fat 7.5 mm.

W220310 was the Reserve Champion March Shorn Medium Wool Merino Ram. Also a 2 tooth class entry, W220310 was an AI lamb sired by W200231 and is a grandson of W170470. He weighed 118.0 kg on 2 July and scanned at EMD 40.5 mm and Fat 6.5 mm. His fleece tested FD 17.8, SD 2.9, CV 16.1 and CF 100.0.

MARRA FIELD DAY 2023: The Marra Field Day is an exceptional event and a credit to the organisers and community. PB221447 made the most of his trip to the Marra in July 2023, being named the AWN Champion Hogget Ram, leaving his full brother PB221445 to bring home the Reserve Champion ribbon.

NATIONAL MERINO SHEEP SHOW, DUBBO 2023: PB221447 had to suffice with being part of the Elders Pen of Three March Shorn Rams at Dubbo, which left PB221383 to fly the Poll Boonoke flag. PB221383 was sashed the Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Poll Ram and subsequently went on to be the Grand Champion March Shorn Ram. W220310 picked up the Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Merino Ram ribbon.

ADELAIDE ROYAL 2023: The final outing for the year was a successful one for the AFA shedded rams. W220310 was awarded the Reserve Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Merino Ram ribbon. Retained stud sire PB211136 was judged to be the Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ram leaving PB221447 to wear the Reserve Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ram ribbon. PB211136 went on to be the Grand Champion March Shorn Ram of the Show and PB221447 added to his collection by winning the show's Fibre Meat Plus Class, another dual purpose title.

HAY SHEEP SHOW 2024: The new drop of shedded AFA rams stepped out for the 2024 Hay Sheep Show, and gave a pretty good account of themselves. A Poll Boonoke trio won the Ian Lilburne Classing Trophy for the Dual Purpose Pen of Three Ram Weaners. PB231331 placed 2nd in the Riverina Wool Australia Hogget Merino Ram Competition, which gave him the Best in State for NSW ribbon. There were 41 entries in this class; a first look at the new drop of rams to be marketed this year, and as ever quite a spectacle for those in attendance. When the Judges made their first cut to 18 rams, AFA had 3 of its 4 entries in contention, 2 Poll Boonoke rams and a Wanganella. In the Open Stud March Shorn classes, PB231331 came away with the Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Ram title, while PB230185 was the Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Ram. These two rams went up against each other for the Elders Champion March Shorn Ram, PB231331 getting the Judges' nod. The dedicated Hay Sheep Show Committee, who do such a splendid job showcasing the Merino industry every year, surprised Justin Campbell with their announcement that he was the Hay Merino Sheep Show Ambassador for 2024.



AWN Champion & Reserve Champion Hogget Rams, PB221447 & PB221445, 2023 Marra Field Day



Winner of the Fibre Meat Plus Class, PB221447, 2023 Adelaide Royal Show



Grand Champion March Shorn Ram & Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Poll Ram, PB221383, 2023 National Merino Sheep Show, Dubbo



Elders Pen of Three March Shorn Rams, Poll Boonoke, 2023 National Merino Sheep Show, Dubbo



Reserve Champion & Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Rams, PB221447 & PB211136
Grand Champion March Shorn Ram, PB211136, 2023 Adelaide Royal Show



Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Merino Ram, W220310, 2023 National Merino Sheep Show, Dubbo



Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Ram & Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Ram, PB230185 & PB231331, 2024 Hay Sheep Show

THE PRODUCTIVE • BALANCED • MEASURED PROGRAM

By Angus Munro, AFA Stud Breeding Manager

There are highs, there are lows; it takes hard work, it requires extensive deliberation and planning; it is challenging, rewarding and exciting. That is stud Merino breeding and ram marketing.

You juggle your attention on any one day between the current drop to be classed, grown out and sold, the lambs due or just on the ground and the conception of the next generation. At AFA we are fortunate to have an exceptional Merino inheritance in the Wanganella & Poll Boonoke sheep. We have forged ahead with the solid support of Owners committed to the progression of their stud and commercial flocks. I work with a talented and knowledgeable management team, who are both demanding of and dedicated to Merino excellence. We enjoy being a part of a remarkable industry with customers, and competitors, who motivate and keep us focused.

To benchmark our progress and verify our decisions we participate in shows and field days, gather selected practical measurements that are submitted to Sheep Genetics for ASBVs, record classing data for in-house

analysis, collect DNA information, enter rams into Evaluation Trials, engage with our clients and industry advisors for feedback and guidance and have the advantage of a significant genetic evaluation with 45,000 Company commercial ewes joined to Wanganella & Poll Boonoke sires.

The rams that we will offer this September are the result of an intensive management and husbandry program that we continually evaluate and refine to ensure that we are hitting our targets and meeting our breeding objectives for Productive • Balanced • Measured Merinos.



Angus Munro, Chris Bowman & Forbes Murdoch at the Classing Box

MERINOS – INHERENTLY SUSTAINABLE

Thomas Shaw, Wool Expert and A Sheep Classer who rose to prominence in the 1850s, wrote in his 'A Practical Treatise in Sheep Farming.'

"Climate is an all powerful agent, not to be resisted; it might be opposed, but never beaten, it forms the soil and herbage - stamps everything brought within its range with its own peculiar character; and in nothing is this more the case than in sheep."

FOR THE RECORD

The MacDonald Family were stand outs again in 2024 for their fleece exhibits at the Blackall Show. Exhibiting the Champion Flock Fleece of the Show, the Best Group of Fleeces of Clean Commercial Value, the Champion Single Hogget Fleece, the Champion Single Fine Fleece and the Champion Single Strong Fleece in a keen Merino breeding district is quite an accomplishment. The MacDonalds backed up at the 2024 Longreach Show to be awarded the Champion Pair of Fleeces and 1st Place in the Open Strong Fleece Class. Congratulations and thank you for flying the Wanganella and Poll Boonoke flag.

Well done to Tom & Angus Brabbin and their Poll Boonoke blood ewes who placed 2nd in the inaugural Cootamundra Show Society Maiden Ewe Competition held in March.

Congratulations to the Sanderson Family on their 2nd place in the 4 tooth Flock Ewe Class at the 2024 Blackall Show.

We are very proud of Oliver Cameron, our 20 year old Stud Overseer, who placed 3rd in the RAS AgShows NSW Merino Sheep Young Judges Competition State Final held at the Sydney Royal Show, March 2024.

In a result that shocked his father, Angus

Knox, in his first year jackarooing with the Stud Team, and on his first trip to Queensland to assist with the display team, won the Agforce Merino Sheep Young Judges competition at the Blackall Show in May 2024.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ken McRae of Lockhart, NSW. The McRae Family have had a long association with the Wanganella Stud, Ken following in his father Frank's steps selecting rams at Wanganella. Another passionate Sheepman gone too soon and with a long association with Wanganella, and more recently Poll Boonoke, is James Dudley of Conargo, NSW. We extend our sincere condolences to Ken and James' Families & Friends.



Ian & Alastair MacDonald, Bloomfield Pastoral Co, Blackall, Qld with their Champion Flock Fleece of the Blackall Show 2024

December

ET & AI Program
Paddock Joining Stud Ewes

January

Side Sample Top Rams for Classing

February

Classing Rams (9 months) into Shedded, Auction & Sale management mobs
Classing Ewes (9 months) into Potential Donor, Stud & Sale management mobs
Post Weaning Body Weights recorded

March

Blade Shearing Selected Shedded Rams
Yearling Greasy Fleece Weights recorded

April

Ram Shearing
Yearling Greasy Fleece Weights recorded

May

Poll Score Poll Boonoke Rams
Yearling Breech Wrinkle & Body Score (Prime Family)
Toe paring & horn tipping

June

Tag & DNA sample ET & AI lambs
Marking Breech Wrinkle & Cover Scores recorded
Lamb Marking - Stud Master's first classing
Ram Yearling Body Weights recorded
Ram Yearling EMD & Fat Scans recorded for Shedded & Auction Rams & Potential Donor Ewes

July

Side Sample Auction & Sale Rams
Yearling Fleece Measurements recorded
Classing Rams (14 months) into Auction & Sale Mobs. Stud Sires selected.
Attend Shows & Field Days

August

Attend Shows & Field Days
Catalogue Auction Rams
Video Auction Rams
Toe paring

September

Attend Shows & Field Days
Grade Sale Rams
AFA Ram Auction
Private Ram Selections
Ewe classing for joining

October

Shear and deliver Rams
Stud General Shearing
Hogget Ewe Fleece Weights recorded
Private Ram Selections

November

Ram Classing (6 months)
Ewe Classing (6 months)



Oli Cameron, 3rd - RAS AgShows NSW Merino Sheep Young Judges Competition State Final

BUYING WANGANELLA & POLL BOONOK RAMS IN 2024



AFA RAM AUCTION WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2024 45 WANGANELLA & 175 POLL BOONOK

At 'Boonoke', Conargo • Inspection from 9.00 am
Auction at 1.00 pm



PRIVATE SELECTIONS OF GRADE RAMS APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE FROM THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

2024 GRADE PRICES ARE:
\$1900 + GST, \$1200 + GST & \$900 + GST



ORDERING SEMEN

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 discuss sire options and have an AFA semen order form forwarded to you. Domestic semen price is \$60 + GST per dose and the minimum order is 50 doses. The purchaser will also be invoiced for semen despatch and freight costs. International semen price available on application.

Auction Catalogue

An easy to print catalogue will be available on line from 2 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 2024 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 2024 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. www.auctionsplus.com.au

Poll Boonoke Prime Family

Non mulesed and with a shift in breeding focus to their carcase attributes, the third offering of Poll Boonoke Prime Rams will be available at the Auction and in the flock grades.

Pre Auction Inspection

The Auction Team will be available for inspection in the race at the Boonoke Woolshed on Friday 30 August 2024. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the AFA Stud Team to arrange a pre auction inspection.

Topping Up

For Auction Buyers unable to secure their total ram requirement during the auction, a limited number of \$2,200 + GST rams will be available for selection at the Ramshed after the auction to finalise orders. See one of the AFA Stud Team at the conclusion of the auction if you need to make a selection.

ASBVs

Auction rams will be displayed with ASBVs sourced from the MerinoSelect 7 August 2024 database analysis.

Auction Ram Videos

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

Flock Grade Ram Selections

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 the Stud Team or the Boonoke Office with your ram requirements. We will then confirm a selection appointment date and time with you at the Boonoke Woolshed Yards.

Ram Deliveries

We highly recommend that you take your rams home with you after the auction or a private selection, but for those 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 Johne'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.

2023 RAM AUCTION

Last year's spring selling season was tainted by early predictions of a big dry spell, which had severely depressed livestock prices and the general rural outlook. After a run of years with increasing auction prices, 2023 produced a Ram Buyers' market with average sale prices down and we were relieved that we could run the auction through to the final ram with a 100% clearance when so many didn't. Wrapping up the day we were delighted to welcome 5 new clients and achieve a solid sale result.

220 AFA Rams Offered and Sold To a top of \$35,000 and an average of \$3,043

14 Shedded Rams averaged \$12,371

206 Paddock Rams averaged \$2,409

45 Wanganella Rams Offered and Sold To a top of \$10,000 and an average of \$2,820

4 Shedded Rams averaged \$5,050

41 Paddock Rams averaged \$2,602

175 Poll Boonoke Rams Offered and Sold To a top of \$35,000 and an average of \$3,101

10 Shedded Rams averaged \$15,300

165 Paddock Rams averaged \$2,361



Lot 1 - Poll Boonoke 221447 x M200032 FD 16.4, SD 2.6, CV 16.1, CF 99.8, EMD 44.0, Fat 7.0, PH Sold for \$35,000 to Moorundie Poll Stud, Keith, SA and Haddon Rig Poll Stud, Marthaguy, NSW
Photographed with Stuart Murdoch (Haddon Rig Classer), Oliver Cameron (AFA Stud Overseer), Bernadette & Geoff Davidson (Moorundie Stud Principals), Alastair Provan (AFA Chairman) & Andy Maclean (Haddon Rig Stud Manager)



Lot 3 - Poll Boonoke 220173 x PB160612 FD 18.2, SD 3.0, CV 16.4, CF 99.6, EMD 40.5, Fat 7.0, PP Sold for \$26,000 to Dunbogan Poll Stud, Dubbo, NSW and Cassilis Park Poll Stud, Cassilis, NSW
Photographed with Angus Munro (Cassilis Park Stud Classer) and Stuart Murdoch (Dunbogan Stud Classer)



Lot 11 - Wanganella 220285 x W200231 FD 18.8, SD 3.4, CV 18.3, CF 99.6, EMD 42.5, Fat 7.0 Sold for \$10,000 to Longdale Park Stud, Nine Mile, Vic
Photographed with Harry Ryan (AFA Stud Jackaroo), Rodney, Forbes, Duncan & Nicola Kirk (Longdale Park Stud Principals)



Lot 2 - Poll Boonoke 220819 x PB200780 FD 18.0, SD 2.8, CV 15.3, CF 99.9, EMD 44.0, Fat 6.5, PP Sold for \$22,000 to Wyara Poll Stud, Clare, SA
Photographed with Charlie Shingles (AFA Stud Jackaroo), Gerald, Jodie & Kasey Mullighan (Wyara Poll Stud Principals) and Chris Bowman (Wyara Stud Classer)



Lot 5 - Poll Boonoke 220169 x PB160612 FD 19.5, SD 3.2, CV 16.5, CF 99.7, EMD 47.5, Fat 8.0, PP Sold for \$12,000 to JH & RG Banks, Blackall, Qld
Photographed with Angus Munro (AFA Breeding Manager) & Forbes Murdoch (AFA Stud Master)



Lot 8 - Poll Boonoke 221451 x M200032 FD 18.4, SD 3.2, CV 17.2, CF 99.7, EMD 40.5, Fat 6.5, PP Sold for \$6,000 to Almondvale Poll Stud, Urana, NSW
Photographed with Paul, Peter & Lachlan Routley, Almondvale Stud Principals



Lot 66 - Wanganella 222723 x W Syn FD 21.0, SD 2.8, CV 13.5, CF 99.7, EMD 40.5, Fat 5.5 Sold for \$6,000 to Lansdowne Stud, Tambo, Qld
Photographed with Chris Bowman (Lansdowne Stud Classer), Christopher Turnbull (Lansdowne Stud Principal) & Forbes Murdoch (AFA Stud Master)

SEE THE AFA STUDS IN 2024

As always, we would welcome you visiting us on property to review our rams, see our breeding flocks in their natural environment and weigh up the results of our stud breeding program to assess whether our genetics are compatible with your breeding objectives. Just contact one of the Stud Team to arrange an appointment. Alternatively, you'll see us out and about:

19 - 21 July

Australian Sheep & Wool Show
Prince of Wales Showground,
Bendigo

3 August

Nyngan Ag Expo
Nyngan Showground

27 - 28 August

National Merino Sheep Show
Dubbo Showground

30 August

Auction Ram Preview
Boonoke Woolshed Yards
'Boonoke', Conargo

3 September

South West Slopes Stud Merino
Breeders Field Day
Harden Showground

4 - 6 September

Royal Adelaide Show
Adelaide Showground

18 September

Wanganella & Poll Boonoke
Ram Auction
Ramshed Munro Plot
'Boonoke', Conargo

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the many people who volunteer their time and efforts to co-ordinate and conduct the many Shows and Field Days that we attend each year. These events are a great opportunity to meet up with other Merino Breeders, we learn a lot and always come away reinvigorated by the time spent with the communities that support these activities.

WoolPoll 2024

Inevitably, the outcome of WoolPoll 2024 will influence the future of the Australian Wool Industry.

By 1 November, we will be asked to indicate the level of investment that we as an industry are prepared to commit to Research & Development and Marketing; both being crucial elements in the industry's performance and prospects, and therefore strongly influencing the prosperity of Wool Growers.

The wool industry has strong competition in its market place; it also has significant advantages over its competitors, terrific product development and a fabulous story to sell. As an industry we have operational challenges that need to be addressed, advances to discover and develop and wool industry advocacy to be undertaken. There are industry wide issues and opportunities that we must unite as Wool Growers to support and develop through a commercial measure of funding. We should also expect to remain informed about and appropriately rewarded for our investment.

It is important that all Wool Growers have a say in the WoolPoll decision; and that we reflect carefully on what is a sustainable level of funding for the Australian Wool Industry's Research & Development and Marketing requirements. For more information contact AWI on 02 8295 3100, at feedback@wool.com or go to <https://www.wool.com/woolpoll/>

SELECTING 'POLEYS' AT BOONOKE FOR 90 YEARS

'Poleys' in Merino breeding have been around for a long time, the first known attempt at an Australian polled stud flock dating back to 1825. More dedicated efforts to establish Poll Merino stud flocks began in the late 1800s, but it was Otway Falkiner's breeding trial and subsequent creation of the Poll Boonoke stud flock that was to ultimately popularize the Poll Merino breed.

In 1934, 8 of the 13 polled 'sports' identified in the 1933 drop of nearly 9,000 rams were selected and joined in 1935 to 450 selected Boonoke ewes, lambing down in April/May 1936. Thus, the Poll Boonoke Stud was founded and 60% of the first lambing were polls. Otway's original intention was to experiment to see if it was possible to breed good Merinos without horns. Having done so, and recognizing some distinct advantages to the breed, Otway then set about repressing horns and impressing quality in his new flock.

The first Poll Boonoke rams were sold in 1937, but there was no great attempt to market the Poleys, more just a distribution into select areas where they could be tested. Buyers were enthusiastic though and demand quickly exceeded supply as Otway continued to cull heavily to achieve the standard he insisted upon. Records indicate that from 1940 until 1950 there were 3,285 Poll Boonoke rams sold for an average of £11.

Otway Falkiner forecast in the early 1930's that "... Poll Merino rams had a big future." It may be his greatest understatement!



AFA STUD CONTACT DETAILS

**Wanganella
& Poll Boonoke
Merino Studs**

Justin Campbell

General Manager
0427 262 956
jcampbell@austfood.com.au

Tom Lilburne

Stud Manager
0488 601 603
tlilburne@austfood.com.au

Angus Munro

Breeding Manager
0437 929 195
amunro@austfood.com.au

Forbes Murdoch

Stud Master
0429 358 590
forbesm2014@gmail.com

Chris Bowman

Stud Consultant & AFA Commercial Classifier
0429 935 101
chris.bowman@westnet.com.au

Scott Counsell

Queensland Stud Representative
0427 512 384
lyndon1894@bigpond.com

Rick Power

Stud Representative
0437 131 925
poweragencies1@gmail.com

Boonoke Office

"Boonoke"
Conargo Road Deniliquin NSW 2710
Freecall: 1800 675 729
Email: admin@austfood.com.au

Stud Principal

Australian Food & Agriculture Company

austfood.com.au | [instagram: wanganella.pollboonoke](https://www.instagram.com/wanganella.pollboonoke) | [YouTube: Wanganella Poll Boonoke](https://www.youtube.com/WanganellaPollBoonoke)