

REDBANK FX RAMS

CARCASE+WOOL
+REPRODUCTION

July 2024

Sale O, Sale O!

BREAKING NEWS: Redbank FX have fine cross composite rams currently available for private sale. We have put very heavy selection pressure on our 2023 drop of rams and with the assistance of the team at NextGen Agri, we have put together a small selection of sale rams for the upcoming joining season.

These young rams from the 2023 drop have been micron tested and have had a solid data set submitted to Sheep Genetics to generate accurate ASBVs. All these young rams have been genomics tested and vaccinated with Gudair.



Ram lamb 231146 - great FX wool, 22.5 micron

If you want to turn your wool costs into a wool profit but using finer micron composite sires call us and we can talk about our your objectives and how we can help.

We have videos of the sale rams available, so check out the Redbank FX YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).

There are also detailed ASBVs on these rams. If you want the complete ASBV data set please email us and we'll send it out to you in spreadsheet format.

A good example of the type of ram from the 2023 drop we are working towards is 230315. Check out some of his ASBV data below.

Tested Fibre Diameter (pin bone)	23.4 micron
Post Weaning Weight (PWT)	+ 10.9
Post Weaning EMD (PEMD)	+ 2.89
Post Weaning Fat (PFAT)	+ 0.36
Weaning Rate (WR)	+ 0.20

Fodder crops - hay, silage, grazing

We've taken to opportunity to lease my brothers farm and increased our fodder cropping program for this year. We have experimented with an oat/vetch mix that we will use for either weaned lamb grazing or hay, depending on how the season plays out. We are pretty excited about how it is looking so far, as it's the first time trying vetch in our region.

We've also put in a lupin crop that we will graze off with lambs to stack on some weight in summer, and if enough lupins are left we will put the young ewes on it during joining.



Lamb marking complete

Lamb marking is complete for this year's drop. The lambs looked great, and Jack had a few complaints that the early drop singles were a bit large. Looking at the photo on the right, he probably had a point. Well done to the team (Jack, Anna, Caroline and Sarah) for helping out with mothering up and marking this year.

LambEx - see you there?

LambEx

I will be at LambEx in Adelaide next week. If you are heading to Lambex please let me know and I'd love to catch up over a coffee or a beer. I will be there for the duration of the event. Drop me a text or give me a call on 0408 009 345.



Murdoch Uni farm placement program

We recently hosted a Murdoch University vet student, Carina, as part of the farm placement program that all vet and ag students at the university have to complete. We really enjoyed being able to give back to the university system by making our farm available to take students and host them on the farm. As an ag science graduate myself, I enjoyed showing Carina the operation, and having her involved in the day to day operations.

We also mothered up the stud lambs and ewes which was an enjoyable exercise over some very nice sunny winter days.



Going FX pays dividends

Economic modelling suggests that moving to a fine-cross maternal ram can move wool from a cost to a profit in composite sheep operations. The table below outlines the scenario from moving to FX rams and improving wool quality, with the subsequent increase in wool price.

For the 2,000 ewe operation the \$15 per head turn around in wool value is worth \$30,000. What could you do with that? Maybe an overseas family holiday, or a new kitchen or bathroom might be on the cards? Or perhaps its ticking off another item on your bucket list?

	Fibre Diameter (micron)	Fleece Weight (kg)	Greasy wool price (c/kg)	Wool value after shearing costs
Typical Composite Flock	32	3.0	200	- \$5.00 / head
First Cross with Redbank FX Rams	26	3.5	370	+ \$1.95 / head
Second Cross with Redbank FX Rams	24	4.0	525	+ \$10.00 / head

Based on using a Redbank FX ram team with average fibre diameter of 22 micron, shearing costs of \$11 per head & wool price based on market average from April 2023 to May 2024 using 70% yield.

ANIMAL ID	↓ IMF ⓘ	YFD ⓘ
REDBANK-231158 GENOMICS	0.25 ACC. 28 TOP 5%	-2.69 ACC. 76 TOP 10%
REDBANK-230263 GENOMICS	0.16 ACC. 35 TOP 5%	-3.48 ACC. 77 TOP 5%
REDBANK-231090 GENOMICS	0.15 ACC. 29 TOP 5%	-2.40 ACC. 76 TOP 10%
REDBANK-230652 GENOMICS	0.06 ACC. 37 TOP 10%	-1.03 ACC. 77 TOP 20%
REDBANK-231173 GENOMICS	0.04 ACC. 29 TOP 10%	-2.85 ACC. 76 TOP 10%

Eating quality ... Are you ready?

A key pillar to the Redbank FX breeding program is the eating quality attributes. Whilst eating quality is not rewarded by most lamb processors currently, nearly all of them are investigating or trial chain-speed intramuscular fat (IMF) and lean meat yield (LMY) systems. These tools include the MEQ probe, microwave technology and the DEXA scanner. Whilst only one processor, Gundagai Meat Processing (GMP), is paying a premium for eating quality, we believe it wont be too long before other processors follow their lead and identify ways to segment their product offering.

Moving IMF and LMY will take time for sheep producers. That's why we are talking to our clients and prospective clients about trying to include eating quality in their maternal ram selection criteria.

For the 2023 drop rams the majority of them in the top 30% of the maternal's database for IMF, and 20% of our rams are in the top 10% for IMF. We have one rams with IMF of +0.25, which is close to the top 1% of animals in the maternal's database. Sorry, but he is not for sale, he is staying with us!

*Thanks for reading and feel free to give me a call any time.
Regards, Dale Harris*