



'ECOWOOL' OPTION FOR CORRIEDALE WOOLS

Over recent months, most wool types have been enjoying prices well above the 10 year average. This is particularly the case for 20 to 25 micron wool as the drought affects supply at present and into the foreseeable future. However for 28 micron wool, the Corriedales main fibre product, the story is not so favourable, with prices well below average in present sales.

According to Landmark's National Operations Wool Manager, Mr Trevor James, wool of this category is being strongly influenced by the current high Australian dollar, the Chinese domestic clip as well as the New Zealand and South American crossbred clips who are all undercutting the market.

As a rule of thumb, wools in the 25 to 30 micron range are used for upholstery and furnishing fabric manufacture, 31 to 34 micron in the hand knitting sector



and broader wool for carpet manufacture. One of the positive developments for Corriedale type wool in recent times is the use of wool for upholstery and interior fabrics, and within this market there are opportunities for speciality products.

Landmark has an exclusive contract to supply greasy wool from which textiles are manufactured for the Australian and International market. The contract is with a local company called Sustainable Living Fabrics® (SLF).

SLF has designed a range of fabrics which meet the highest ECO standards for textiles- EU Ecolabel. Ecolabel standards and auditing are maintained by the Global Ecolabeling Network (GEN). The GEN member in Australia is Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA). The fabrics designed by SLF carry the GECA label and is marketed as Leanwool® an environmentally preferable fibre. The wool that meets the requirements for this process is known as "Ecowool". This is greasy wool that is tested for chemical residue by the

CSIRO and meets the requirements for EU standards.

To be eligible for the Leanwool® label, wool must be grown on a predominantly meat producing enterprise which should use cell grazing. This means that the CO₂ equivalent emissions are allocated at 70% meat and 30% wool.

Ecowool should not be confused with organically grown wool. Organic certification refers to the property where the wool is grown, whereas Ecowool means the actual wool has been tested for chemical residue. Organically grown wool can be included, but is also subjected to the chemical residue test.

The exclusive supply arrangement that Landmark has with SLF is to supply a container a month (approx 108 bales) with the frequency being driven by pipeline demands.

Landmark will pay growers whose wool meets the specified criteria and achieves CSIRO accreditation for chemical residue a 10% premium to the prevailing market.

Traditionally prepared clips and Fibre Direct preparation are acceptable.

<u>Specification</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Range</u>
Micron	29.0	27.0-30.5
VM	0.8	1.5 max any lot (1% max Shive)
	0.6 or less for Fibre Direct lots.	
Length	90mm	80-130mm
<u>Strength</u>	<u>25 nkt</u>	<u>17 nkt Min.</u>

Good Colour, Stain Free, No Cotts or Dermatitis, Commercially free of medullated or Black fibres.

AWEX approved packs and normal bale weight tolerances.

For further information on residual guidelines and Ecowool procedures contact Mr David Brook of Landmark

(mobile 0417 425 968) or your Landmark Wool Area Manager.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year so far

It has been a busy year for Corriedale breeders. Whether it has involved going to the World Conference or preparing sheep for show and sale, running a business or just trying to work out what the climate is doing, there has been plenty to keep our minds occupied.



*Brenton J. Lush
President*

While the World Conference in New Zealand has already been covered in full, I would like to say what a positive and interesting time it was to meet Corriedale enthusiasts from around the world in such a lovely setting. The opportunity to build relationships and networks was taken up by many people, although I left the conference thinking that it could be a more constructive event if there was more communication internationally in the years between them. At Federal Council in July we decided to approach other countries to see if such communication could be established.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the work of Andrew Nicolson in not only leading the Australian delegation, but coordinating and working on the presentation made. Andrew has done a lot for the breed, not only during his term as president, but in the years before and he continues to be a fount of advice and a willing worker. I hope that I

can replicate the positive attitude and diligence that Andrew has shown during his term as president of the ACA as I take over the role.

In recent months, we have been saddened by the passing of two of the Corriedale community's most recognisable names. Mrs Jess Prell, of Gundowringa, NSW, and Mr Bob Pettitt MBE, Blinkbrae South, Victoria both had a big influence on the breed and its people. While more will be said elsewhere, we have greatly appreciated the roles they played in the Corriedale breed and our thoughts are with their families.

Since Federal Council the Website committee has been appointed. It was felt that two of the main potential target users of the site would be schools and commercial producers, so following that thought, Joanne Wheeler, Woodleigh School, Baxter, Vic and Legh Jenkin, Nayook South, SA, have accepted positions on the committee and will be offering feedback and advice from their perspectives on the effectiveness of the website. Leigh Ellis, Sweetfield, Vic, is the convenor of the committee. Thank you to these people for their assistance.

Promotions

A quick flick through recent Corriedale flock books reveals a disturbing trend, one which I am sure you are aware of. Ten years ago there were 112 studs selling over 1200 flock rams; in 2007 there are 73 studs

selling less than 500 flock rams. There is any number of reasons that could account for this decline in interest or 'popularity' in Corriedale sheep: decline in sheep numbers generally, drought conditions, farmers changing enterprises or production systems, large areas of 'Corriedale country' going under forestry. Most of these reasons are outside of our influence, but we can influence what people know about Corriedales and their use in sheep production systems, and our breed promotion needs to focus on this.

Say that I am running a shed company and you need a new shed, what do I need to do to get your business? Firstly, I need to remind you or inform you that I am a shed builder. Secondly, you need to know that I can build the type of shed you want and finally you need to be confident that the quality and value I offer you matches your expectations.

To meet the first stage, I would have to advertise, not only paying the media, but putting signs up on sheds I have built or on my vehicle or anywhere it could attract the attention of potential customers. For the second stage, I would have details in my adverts, but I would also talk to clients about how I may help them. Then finally, I would provide specifications of my work and its capabilities, together with endorsements from happy clients to help you make your decision.

Corriedale breed promotion, in my view, needs to include these three stages or parts. We need to keep the Corriedale name in front of people, we need to present to clients what Corriedales do and we need to demonstrate that Corriedales represent quality and value (that is, productivity and profitability).

To help us do this, we will be investigating and asking people to act on the following suggestions, either before or at the next Federal meeting:

Shearer's singlets featuring the name Corriedale and a very brief slogan, such as 'Shear Performance' on the back and the stud name on the front. These would be given to breeder's shearers or clients shearers and the Corriedale name would appear through the districts shearing sheds. Printed singlets cost around \$18 each with a minimum of 10 per stud print.

Equipping breeders to attend field days. Several suggestions have been made that we need to be where commercial producers go, and be seen by them and talk with them. Developing a package that draws attention and is informative, while also being portable and cost effective, would be helpful in allowing members to attend field days in their region. It could also be used at other events such as shows and sales.

Editorial and advertising in the media. This is the traditional means of promotion and while it can be useful it can also be expensive and short lived.

As with all promotions, the use of the media would be more effective if used in conjunction with other avenues.

We also need to identify who our 'customers' are and how we can address their requirements. We have customers for our genetics, and also for our products – lamb, wool, skins etc. We need to ask if our promotion and marketing resources can be used to develop opportunities for Corriedale products, which would be beneficial to our commercial producers.

What of the Future

What does the future hold for Corriedales in Australia? If we do nothing, or even a little, we will eventually slide into irrelevance, and given the Statement of Purposes of the Australian Corriedale Association Inc., doing nothing is not an option available to us. We can promote and hope that we get some traction in the marketplace that is the Australian sheep industry. Or we can develop strategies that help us sell "Corriedale". In my view, one of the keys to the re-establishment of the Corriedale will be the development of supply chain relationships through to end users of the various products, something alluded to in the Howcroft Report, which the ACA commissioned over ten years ago.

What Now?

In the near future, there are a few tasks I would like to see done:

1. Assess the effectiveness of the website in meeting the needs of its target users.
2. Give stud breeders the option of purchasing shearer's singlets as a means of promoting Corriedales and their stud.
3. Assess who our customers are and how to effectively communicate with them.
4. Have discussions between Federal Council, State committees and Stud breeders as to who handles which aspects of promotions and market development.

For any promotion or marketing strategy to work we need to make plans, and I would appreciate your thoughts on the matter. If you agree or disagree, or have your own ideas, please let me know and please don't be silent.

I can be contacted via email (bjlush@activ8.net.au) or phone (08) 8598 5281

In closing, I would like to wish you and your families a blessed and safe Christmas, and a New Year full of opportunity.

Regards
Brenton Lush

NEW CORRIEDALE PERFORMANCE SIRES PROGRAM

With over eighty years of detailed research, plus the development of computers, geneticists have been able to develop analytical systems that describe the genetic worth of sheep, for traits such as growth rate, wool cut and fertility (lambing percentage). This program is so robust that it can be adapted to accommodate any biological organism that has sexual reproduction. Adaptations have been written for cattle, pigs, poultry, trees, and more recently for crocodiles. Initially in Australia and New Zealand the program described the traits as Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) which in Australia are now referred to as Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs).

We all know it is the genes that determine, in any environment, how the trait will be expressed in the progeny. Because EBVs are a measure of the genetic worth of an animal, we can compare these animals with others that were born in different environments and over time. That is, we can compare animals between mobs, flocks, countries, and years of birth if there are sufficient linkages. Australian Corriedale breeders have used sires with good records from New Zealand, and New Zealand breeders using well-recorded sires from Australia have

created these good linkages. With the results of the Across Tasman Analysis (ATA), we can see where the desirable genes are.

The next chapter in this program is to spread these desirable genes as widely and as cheaply across the breed as quickly as possible, to improve the breed and progress flocks to their desired objectives. This will be done via a Performance Sires Program. This should strengthen the linkages therefore making the ASBVs more accurate, and leading to faster improvement.

Breeders with LAMBPLAN Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) on their rams are invited to nominate 2 sires from their flock, and the other LAMBPLAN users, wishing to be involved, will vote on which ones they wish to use. From this vote 2 or 3 rams will be named as the sires to be used in the program, and all those voting will be invited to use them by A.I. in their flocks, at the rate of at least 25 ewes per sire. This should lead to at least 10 young ewes per sire being assessed in each flock.

By working as a group and involving as many bloodlines as possible to keep inbreeding to a minimum, we will make as much gain as possible at a minimum cost.

(from Richard Apps – Sheep Genetics)

STREANSHALH CORRIEDALES MAJOR REDUCTION SALE EARLY FEBRUARY 2008

150 FIVE AND SIX YEAR OLD STUD EWES
MAY SHORN

All sound proven breeders.

This flock carries 3 OJD assurance based credit points.

J.A. Nicolson
Streanshalh
Campbell Town
Tasmania 7210

Roberts Ltd.
Jock Gibson – 0418 133 595
Arcadia Wool
Fraser McKenzie – 0428 522 606

STREANSHALH

Due to the extremely high number of excellent quality young ewes in the two and four tooth age groups, the majority of five and six year old stud ewes that would normally be retained for another two years are now surplus to requirements.

Accordingly they will be offered for sale shortly after weaning, early in February.

Streanshalh ewes are renowned as excellent mothers and are extremely prolific, with better than 120% of lambs being weaned in a normal year.

Fleece quality is indicated by the fact that fleeces chosen from the general flock at shearing have won the champion Corriedale fleece of Australia at Bendigo three times in the past five years.

OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS

The Australian Corriedale Association recommended analysis programme is Lambplan.

For Lambplan accredited scanners look under general information on the Sheep Genetics web site or contact them direct.

LAMBPLAN

Sheep Genetics
P.O. Box U254
University of New England
ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Phone: (02) 6773 2948
Fax: (02) 6773 2707
Email: info@sheepgenetics.org.au
Web: www.sheepgenetics.org.au

Other Scanners are :

STOCKSCAN

Secretary – Helen Armstrong
24 Simmons Street
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Phone/Fax: (02) 6931 7941 and
mobile 0424 – 950 792
Email: ag.rural@bigpond.net.au

VALE - JESS PRELL



Late Jess Prell

Corriedale breeders in Australia and throughout the world were saddened at the death of Jess Prell on August 9.

Wife of Jeff of Gundowringa and mother of Sandy, Robbie, Charlie, Libby and Anthea, Jess endeared herself to all who knew her for her delightful personality, gentle humour and tact.

Jess Marshall spent her early years in Sydney where her parents ran a cut flower nursery. The love and knowledge of flowers she thus acquired proved a great asset to her in later life. She also showed outstanding ability at sport while a student at Frensham, representing the school at tennis, cricket and hockey.

After leaving school she played hockey for New South Wales and also for Australia against England in England in 1953. Her skill and knowledge of cricket formed one of her bonds with

Jeff who is renowned for his prowess and enthusiasm for cricket.

After their marriage, Jess and Jeff lived at Savannah, then Ahgunyah, both Prell properties, before finally moving to the main Gundowringa homestead. Here, Jess's skill and talent for gardening proved a great benefit as she succeeded Jeff's aunt Dorothy "Prellie" under whose care the Gundowringa garden had become famed far and wide. One of Jess's many achievements was that she was the wife, mother and daughter-in-law of three Presidents of the Australian Corriedale Association – Jeff, Charlie and Harold respectively. She shared this distinction with Jess Archer of Quamby Plains; but was also grand daughter-in-law of another Federal President, the original Charles of Gundowringa.

With the advent of guided tours and host farms, Jeff with his skill as a fly fisherman and Jess with her talents as a hostess and garden expert, became known to a wide spectrum of Australian and overseas visitors.

Jeff and Jess travelled over most of Australia and much of the world to Corriedale shows and conferences. However, the overseas journey which probably gave them most pleasure was a visit to New Zealand given to them by their children as a golden wedding present.

VALE – ROBERT W. PETTITT

Australian Corriedale Association Patron R. W. (Bob) Pettitt MBE has died aged 94 years (October 2007). He was a well respected leader among Corriedale stud breeders in Australia as well as overseas. His role as supporter of the Geelong show, President of the Australian Sheep Breeders Association, Shire Councillor and other organisations complemented his interest in his stud sheep (Flock No. 199).

Bob excelled in administration and with his wife Doris (dec.) became a popular ambassador for Corriedales Australia wide, in New Zealand and also South America.

Having inherited part of the family farm on the outskirts of Geelong at Bellpost Hill after World War II it was decided to sell this land and move the stud sheep to a farm near Torquay, Victoria, which Bob established and called Blinkbrae South. This proved to be a wise decision.

Members of the many organisations of which Bob was closely involved and interested in will miss Bob Pettitt and join in expressing sympathy to his family.

*Corriedale web site
www.corriedale.org.au*

SHOW RESULTS 2007

ASBA Bendigo

**Grand champion ram and
supreme champion
Corriedale**
Sweetfield

Senior champion ram
Sweetfield

**Reserve senior champion
ram**
Gambier View

Junior champion ram
Stanbury at WCH

**Reserve junior champion
ram**
Stanbury at WCH

Grand champion ewe
Gambier View

Senior champion ewe
Gambier View

**Reserve senior champion
ewe**
Gambier View

Junior champion ewe
Liberton

**Reserve junior champion
ewe**
Liberton

Champion shorn sheep
Wye

**Arcadian National Pair of
rams**
Gambier View



*Leigh Ellis (left)
with his senior
champion ram, and
later grand
champion ram and
supreme champion
Corriedale, with
Michael Deppeler,
Croydon, Condah,
Vic.*

*(Photo – courtesy
Ian Turner)*

Ballarat and District Sheep Show

Champion ram
Sweetfield

Champion ewe
Gambier View

Royal Geelong Show

**Champion lamb of show
(Interbreed)**
Sweetfield

**Supreme champion and
champion ram**
Sweetfield

Reserve champion ram
Liberton

Champion ewe
Liberton

Reserve champion ewe
Woodleigh School

Warrnambool Show

Champion ram
Gambier View

Reserve champion ram
Sweetfield

Champion ewe
Sweetfield

Reserve champion ewe
Gambier View

Hamilton Sheepvention

**Supreme champion
longwool sheep (Interbreed)**
Sweetfield

Grand champion ram
Sweetfield

Senior champion ram
Sweetfield

Junior champion ram
Wye

Grand champion ewe
Gambier View

Senior champion ewe
Gambier View

**Reserve senior champion
ewe**
Loddon Park

Junior champion ewe
Wye

**Reserve junior champion
ewe**
Haven Park



*Jan and Tony Hunt,
Wye, Mt. Gambier,
SA, with their
junior champion
ram, 2007
Hamilton
Sheepvention.*

*(Photo – courtesy
Ian Turner)*



*Jan Hunt (left), ram judge Richard Archer, and Bronwyn Ellis, at the 2007 Hamilton
Sheepvention.
(Photo- courtesy Ian Turner)*

Adelaide Royal Show

Judge - Mr. P. Secker.

Champion and reserve rams

A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Champion and reserve ewes

A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Interbreed longwool and reserve champion ram

A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Most successful exhibitor

A.R. & J.L. Hunt

MOUNT GAMBIER

Judge – Mrs. S. Foster.

Champion ram

G.G. & D.L. Jenke

Reserve champion ram

A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Champion and reserve ewe

G.G. & D.L. Jenke

Most successful exhibitor

A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Longford Show

A good representation of Corriedales from Streanshalh and Great Western studs were exhibited at Longford, Tas., where Georgina Pengilley of Glen Esk made a most impressive debut, judging Polwarths and interbreed as well as Corriedales. Awards were evenly distributed in the ram section in both woolly and shorn classes, Streanshalh being the only exhibitor of ewes.

The fleece section was also well supported, Quamby Plains winning the ram championship with a very heavy fleece and Fairfield exhibiting some excellent ewe fleeces.

Perth Royal Show

Denmark Agricultural College, Inlet Views stud, Denmark, WA, was the only Corriedale exhibitor at the 2007 Perth Royal.

However they paraded in strong team of 20 entries before the judge, Robert Uppill, Salter Point, WA, and naturally took a clean sweep of all the awards.

It was the first time in about 70 years that the Pederick family, Corralyn, Wagin, had not been involved with the Corriedales at the show.



WA College of Agriculture Denmark's Inlet Views stud took a clean sweep in this year's Corriedale judging. Representing the college were students Karly Burridge (left), Chris Miles, Nina Burridge, Tom Lubcke, Bayden Reid, Brad McLean and Mitch Chambers, with judge Robert Uppill.

(Photo- courtesy Farm Weekly)

RAM SALES

Demand was satisfactory; but competition was lacking at the Tasmanian on-property ram sale on 19th November. The day began at Fairfield where Don Dennis was presenting his last sale team before handing over to the next generation. The selected rams were very well grown and noteworthy for their long bodies and bright wool. Ten of these sold averaging \$425 and two stud rams, penned separately were each sold for \$800.

In the afternoon at Quamby Plains, there was an excellent offering from Quamby Plains, Streanshalh and Great Western studs. Most competition came from Victorian buyers and from Kuranda in the Tasmanian Midlands. Eighteen rams sold averaging \$425.

The "Blue Ribbon" multi vendor Corriedale ram sale at Gambier View, Derrinallum, Vic., on 7th November achieved a similar result with 25 rams from Sweetfield,

Stanbury WCH, Gambier View and Compton House averaging \$404.

Two Gambier View stud rams were sold for \$2,000 to Peter Baker and \$1,000 to Ballarkap Trust.

Nine stud ewes from Gambier View and Compton House were bought by Don and Jane and Orchard, Marbellup Brook, Redmond, WA averaging \$340.

NEW MONIKER FOR NATIONAL BANK LANE

The Hamilton region traditionally rides on the sheep's back – although that claim might have dimmed over the past decade with the rise of other agricultural industries and mineral sands.

Now, while the various sheep breeds have got their name on Hamilton streets, the adaptable Corriedale seems to have missed out on its claim to fame. That could soon be rectified, as the laneway from Gray St. past the National Bank to the public amenities building, will likely get the moniker, 'Corriedale lane'.

Southern Grampians Shire Council agreed to the proposal from the Australian Corriedale Association to honour the sheep in this way.

Council will advertise the proposed street name and any suggestions were to be considered at its September ordinary meeting.

A report to the shire by acting physical services manager, John Main, said the National Australia Bank had agreed to the name.

Mr. Main suggested the name only apply to the thoroughfare between Gray St. and the amenities building, because beyond that the lane was "less defined" and comprised a

right of way over a private car park area.

Two Hamilton region residents, Jim Gough of Branhholme of Coora Corriedale stud and Eric Causer, suggested the lane naming to the Australian Corriedale Association that was then sent to Southern Grampians.

They said that in August, 1985 the Hamilton City Council approved Merino Lane, Polwarth Lane, Cheviot Lane, Dorset Lane, Leicester Lane, Lincoln Lane and Suffolk Lane. Unfortunately the Australasian breed 'Corriedale' was omitted. The Australian Corriedale Association (Victorian Branch) requests that this omission be rectified, their letter said.

The Hamilton district had been home to some of the most influential Corriedale names in Australia, such as R. and W.M. Moodie, P.G. Larmour, J.R. Ebsworthy, R.P. Rizzo, H.D. Moodie, G.B. Schultz, J.R. Cross, G. Rentsch, E.C. Smith, E.B. Causer, P.J. Munro and W.H. Philip and J.A. Hanson.

There have also been many well known commercial flocks of Corriedales in the district over the years.

*By Brian O'Brien
Hamilton Spectator*

IS IT A CRAW- BRED?

By Old 56's count

This little poem was written in part before the tragedy of Stanbury. The writer was asked to put together a presentation depicting the Australian wool industry for the Queen's visit of 1989 at Geelong.

Darcy Wettenhall loaned a Stanbury ram which was presented by Guy Wettenhall.

Out of the blue, the Queen asked Guy "Is it a "Craws-Bred"? (sic). "No", replied Guy, "It's a Corriedale!"

PART 1

"Is it a 'Craws-Bred'?"
Ma'am, you ask
of young Guy, who looks
quite perplexed.
We're at the Wool Museum
And he's brought in
Stanbury's best.

To show for you our finest,
The best of the Aussie
breeds.
Merino, Polwarth and Corrie,
Poll Dorset and the rest.

"Is it a Craws Bred?",
Ma'am please consider
your own ancestral lineage –
How many "Craws's" in
your breeding,
You're up there with the
best!

PART 2

So, come with me, Ma'am,
on a journey,
It won't take very long.
We'll all go down to Port
Fairy,
And visit Corbett in 'eighty
two.

He's joining Lincoln ewes
To rams from Currie's place,
The lambs will look pretty
funny,
Sort of Pommies crossed
with rough Aussie blokes.

So, there you have your
"Craws Bred",
Which lasts to this very day,
Sort of an "In-bred, Cross-
bred",
But pure in its own Aussie
way.

But, let me introduce you
To some of the folks along
the way.
Who have been part of this
great Aussie dream,
To develop its character,
make what it is today.

Dear Ma'am, there are so
many,
And I can name so few.
Please ask them to forgive
me,
My memory is short, 'tis
true.

There's Guthrie and there's
Ellis.

There's Nicolson and there'
Sloane.
There's Mackinnon and
Macfarlane,
There's Archer, Turnbull and
Prell.

But there's also Wettenhall
and Moodie,

There's Venters, Watt and
Schultz.

The list goes on forever,
The true ones building the
breed.

PART 3

Come with me now to the
present,
To meet the modern day
crew.
There's four generations of
the Bakers,
And Savage from Gambier
View.

And then there's dear old
Ollie,
Seventy years in the game,
Carrying on the family
tradition,
Like a torch with its lasting
flame.

Oh Ma'am if you would but
come with me,
To my bed of of Corriedale
dreams,
We both would need much
Viagra,
For our "Craws Bred" to pro-
create!

But, when oh when, will
these Aussies
Give our sheep a good
Aussie name.
Like "Bonza", "Beaudy" or
"G'day Mate",
Not some bloody Kiwi
appellate.

*(John Savage who has his own
particular dry sense of humour,
sent this little item to the
Secretary in February 2003).*

NSW Corriedales Thrive

South West (NSW) sheepbreeder Tony Manchester, with wife Judy and son John, have been running Corriedale sheep for over 50 years on their property Roseville, near Kingsvale. Historically, the average rainfall in their district is 650mm but in recent years historical averages haven't meant much. Even though the last 4 years have been drought years, Tony's enthusiasm for the Corriedale has grown as he has seen them perform through the hard times.

In 2006, his Corriedale ewes lambed at 120% and produced 5.6kg of 24-25 micron wool. Even though it was sold on a depressed market, making 540 – 560 c/kg, his wool return was still over \$20 per head (net of shearing costs), so wool is still a valuable contributor to the family income.

Their lamb production also yielded valuable income, with the 2006 drop lambs sold at 7-10 months of age (22-24kg) for an average of \$80/head, including a skin value of \$10. These lambs were shorn before sale, with another \$3.80 per head (net of shearing costs) being added to the income equation. Wether lambs

were finished on lucerne pasture with access to pellets with weight gains of 360g/day. Tony ran a trial to test the performance of pure Corriedale lambs under ideal conditions.

In recent years, the Manchester's have had to reduce their stocking rate because of the dry. The above figures resulted from a rate of 12 DSE/ha, down from a usual 16-18 DSE/ha. The overall income from a hectare under Corriedales is over \$800 (up to \$1400) in hard times, so you can see why Tony is enthusiastic. There are still costs for ewe management and pasture development (including fertilizer) to come out of this, but the Manchester's sheep income more than covers them, and they don't have the expense of buying in replacement ewes.

Based on his experiences, Tony makes the observation "The two biggest factors are lambing percentage and the price we receive for lamb, so it becomes very important to have a high fertility flock which we can control and improve, but it is harder for the farmer to control price."

Corriedales are run across the south of Australia, from WA to central NSW and down to Tasmania, in rainfall areas ranging from 400mm to 1000mm. They are well appreciated for their easy

care nature, temperament and mothering ability, with lambing percentages usually between 90% and 140%, depending on management, genetics and month of lambing.

Wool production is usually 5 to 6 kg of 25 -30 micron wool (from adult ewes), with hoggets finer. This wool is suitable for the interior textile and knitwear markets. With income from multiple sources, as either a purebred or a part of a crossbred enterprise, the Corriedale is an excellent option for breeding ewes and lambs for the future of the industry in Australia.



Tony Manchester

