



LOWER SUPPLY – HIGHER DEMAND

*by Tom Penna, Elders Stud
Stock Manager, South
Australia.*

For my patch, being the Fleurieu Peninsula, located an hours drive due south of Adelaide, Corriedale ewes mated to Poll Dorset rams produce very good prime lambs.

Surplus ewes have been bought from long time Corriedale breeders Neil & Sue Willsmore, Willow Creek, for Doug Wenham, Yankalilla.

The Wenham family operate a sizeable earth moving business so Doug's sheep enterprise has to be easy care.

Doug has found that Corrie ewes are good doers that keep their condition well and are productive mothers. In the bigger sheep and lamb scheme I see Doug's concept of Australian breed ram over Corrie ewes still working well.

Ewe numbers in our state have diminished in recent years. Larger than normal sell-offs during the drought

in higher stocking and higher rainfall areas have reduced lamb producing numbers by 10-15%.

It will take a few years to restore the full flock again and many farmers will 'go for the doctor' with cropping programmes in the short term.

High superphosphate costs will also affect sheep and lamb production. For example on Kangaroo Island, with its extra freight costs, farmers are very concerned about the profit margins. Even though cropping has high input costs and can be risky in higher rainfall areas, many farmers will take the punt to try and cash in on better grain prices.

In short, I'm suggesting that sheep numbers will just maintain present levels and that those levels are far from over supply.

While the high Aussie dollar will inhibit export prices local demand could take up the slack and with the overall shorter supply of ewe numbers, lamb could easily become much dearer.

The mulesing issue is very much on sheep breeder's minds, especially in the pastoral areas.

Many producers are unsure as to what direction to take and with the wider choice of breeds on offer these days. Breed society and individual stud masters that can tell the best story could be in a position to influence commercial growers to change direction.

Availability of shearers and general farm labour are also concerns. Sheep are going to need to be easy care in the future and emphasis could go off from being heavy wool producers to being lamb and mutton producers. With the finer wool market easing the demand for Corriedale sheep should maintain. While we don't see a lot of them in our northern areas, the concept of an easy doing, plain bodied lamb mother will have appeal into the future.

In summary, I think that farmers who do sheep and lamb production will reap rewards as 'people have to eat' and what better meal is there than a home made lamb roast and vegetables feed.

**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**



*Brenton J. Lush
President*

As we get into the show season, there will soon be plenty of opportunity to gather together and discuss the important issues – what is the weather doing, can Geelong beat Hawthorn (with apologies to our NSW members) and where is the Australian sheep industry heading?

While in the past, good sheep country has gone under forests, especially in Western Victoria, now a lot of grazing country is being put into crop as those commodities are currently getting good returns, driven by the need for food as well as the biofuels industry. What will this mean for sheep producers? Hopefully better prices for lamb, but that remains to be seen.

Whatever the future holds, we have to be presenting the Corriedale as a part of the future of the Australian sheep industry. Will the industry need sheep that can be run efficiently to produce quality lamb, wool and skins? Will the industry need plain bodied, easy care sheep with a good weight of wool? Will the industry need sheep that are disease resistant and are able to withstand whatever climate change throws at them? How will the Corriedale answer these questions?

***Performance sires
group***

Following on from their success in establishing information and genetic linkages across the Tasman with the Across Tasman Analysis, Australia's Lambplan using Corriedale breeders have joined together to form the Corriedale Performance Sires Group.

Each year, the group select two rams to use in all the studs to help improve the overall quality of the sheep and the accuracy of the breeding values across the studs. These rams are selected on their lambplan figures as well as their trueness to Corriedale type. The first progeny of these performance sires would be on the ground now. All the best to the group as they begin to see the fruits of their labour.

The Corriedale breed was the first to develop the Across Tasman Analysis, linking data from Lambplan and its NZ equivalent, SIL.

This has resulted in an article in the Australian Farm Journal, which should be coming out soon. Other breeds are now looking at doing the same thing, and they will find out that the Corriedales were there first! Well done and thanks to Jim Gough and the group for your work.

www.corriedale.org.au

The website of the ACA has been modified recently, and although the front page looks more or less the same, inside there are specific areas for commercial information, breeder information and schools. We need to keep a steady flow of current information going into the website so that it can be a useful promotional tool for the Corriedale breed, with relevant information which is easily accessible to interested parties.

If you have something to go on the website, please contact our secretary or Leigh Ellis, website convenor at sweetfield@corriedale.org.au.

AAA CORRIEDALE

Hopefully by Federal Council, a submission will be drafted and presented to the meeting to propose to AWEX that a brand identifying Corriedale wool in the marketplace be developed. There used to be a brand AAACOR, which can't be used now as the 'R' at the end indicates 'running with an exotic breed'. But if we can get this done and accepted, then Corriedale

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wool can be differentiated in the wool pipeline and will hopefully make marketing easier.

Federal Council proposals

At Federal Council this year, several proposals will be put to the meeting to investigate options for promoting and marketing the Corriedale breed and its' products. Councillors will receive these proposals in advance of the meeting.

If anyone has any thoughts on aspects of promoting and marketing our Corries, please contact our Executive Officer,

Peter Weston by phone (03) 9817 6711 or email

secretary@corriedale.org.au or myself on phone (08) 8598 5281 or email bjlush@activ8.net.au

There will also be discussions at Federal Council about the breed's response to mulesing, so send your thoughts in.

Show Season

Over the coming weeks and months there will be a steady stream of shows across the country. Campbelltown in Tasmania has just gone, with Bendigo in July, Hamilton Sheepvention two weeks later and Adelaide and Perth in September, with many others besides (details can be found on the Corriedale website). Shows are a great chance to catch up and see what other breeders are

doing, so I hope to see you around.

All the best for the season ahead.

Regards
Brenton Lush

VALE – JOHN SAVAGE

Below is a list of the notes that were used by James Venters with the assistance of Peter Baker to deliver the Eulogy to John Savage on behalf of the Corriedale Association

John had two great passions, his family and his Corriedales, but he could be drawn on politics as well.

He was a true studmaster, and had a vision of the Corriedale sheep and bred to that goal in spite of the current fads that tend to influence the industry from time to time.

John had a family whom the Corriedale stud sheep breeders have been privileged to know because they, at various times, have all assisted in the showing of the sheep with John.

Due to the passing of John's first wife Jill, he later met and married Jan. Recently Brenda and I visited John in hospital and prayed with him and later he said that the Lord had blessed him with two wonderful caring people

and a wonderfully supportive family. He also said he had done all he had wanted to do in life and had achieved all he set out to do for which he was very thankful with the outcome.

I'm looking at the banner of ribbons in this church portraying the many prizes John and his family have won. If all the ribbons were here they would fill the church. It would be no good listing the prizes that he has won because he and his family have won just about every prize in the Corriedale world at one time or another and have often been the most successful exhibitor at the shows they have attended.

John has been a very highly respected judge not only in Australia but also on the international scene, having judged in New Zealand and southern American countries as well. He had been nominated this year to judge the youth competitions at Bendigo ASBA and Royal Geelong Show.

Over the years John has attended a number of Corriedale World Conferences.

The Australian Corriedale Association honoured John last year by presenting him with a Full Life Membership.

His knowledge, critic and experience will be a great loss to the Corriedale sheep breeding industry of Victoria and Australia.

NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT

From NSW State Committee President – Tony Manchester

In NSW we have had a better year, both with the weather and also around all the shows. I have let our Australian Corriedale President know the show results, which he has passed through the newsletters, so I won't repeat the results.

We had a very successful meeting at Dubbo this year. From next year on Dubbo will be the sheep show of NSW. Charlie Prell and I made a decision to show there eleven years ago because we could see the potential of a dual purpose breed. People generally have been looking at other breeds, but I see a great opportunity for our breed once again, as there is disappointment in most of the new breeds in Australia.

We have decided, in NSW, for a new competition at Sydney Royal Easter Show, where a student will be chosen to represent the NSW Corriedale Association in New Zealand at the Christchurch Royal Show in November 2008, and then a NZ student from Christchurch Royal Show will be selected to be associate judge for the feature breed at Sydney Royal Easter Show 2009. We are approaching the Sydney Royal sheep committee for financial help.

I met with Mark Grave, CEO of AWEX, at Wagga and chatted about a Corriedale brand. We need to set up a meeting at Bendigo, as he will be there to discuss the future of branding Corriedale wool. Also the NSW Corriedale Association would like to apply for a \$500 grant to be spent on advertising in 2008 and 2009.

The feature breed for the 2009 Sydney Easter Show is the Corriedale, so we would like to have the Prell family trophy for the show next year.

We have also asked the Federal Council to discuss the breed and the future of the breed. I spoke two years ago about the breed and its potential in the sheep industry.

Several NSW members have got some good stories. Bill Carroll "Redbank" sold lambs at Forbes yards in February and received \$92. These lambs were only five months, a very pleasing result at the time. Also Jeff Lane from "Galore" sold his lambs wool in June 2007 and received 690 cents clean, another great result from last year.

The highlight for this year for Roseville so far was to sell five ram lambs to the King of Thailand. When asked why his representatives travelled so far to purchase the rams, they replied they wanted the great taste of the Corriedale meat.

Canberra Royal Show

At Canberra there were 36 Corriedale entries.

Champion ram: Roseville

Reserve champion ram
Roseville

Champion ewe: Roseville

Reserve champion ewe
St. Gregory's College
Badgally

Champion Group: Roseville

School Section

Champion ewe (long wool)
St. Gregory's College
Badgally

Also in the school section St. Gregory's College got 1st and 2nd in the sheep handling where they also had four boys in the top 10. This was a great result for David Baker and the school

Bathurst Show

There were 34 entries.

Champion ram: Roseville

Reserve champion ram
Roseville

Champion ewe: Roseville

Reserve champion ewe
Roseville

Roselea : 8 ribbons
Lithgow High School : 2 ribbons

Also Roseville received reserve champion interbreed from 150 sheep.

Sydney Royal Show 2008

We had a great show, although it was disappointing that only 16 Corriedales turned up.

Champion ram
Roseville

Champion ewe
Roseville

Roseville received 8 firsts and 2 seconds.

Tom Gooden from St. Gregory's College Campbelltown, came 1st and champion in the fleece judging competition.

St. Gregory's College also bred and showed the steer that came 2nd, another great result for them.

Roseville also went in the objective measurement class and came 5th with a Corriedale ram, from all breeds.

St. Gregory's College received 5 seconds, the boys did us all proud in the judging coming in 2nd from all schools.

Jim Venters had the champion fleece coming 1st, congratulations to Jim.

Our judge was Charlie Prell, it was very good to catch up with Charlie again, he did a great job spending a lot of time with the boys, showing the correct method of judging, thanks once again Charlie.

Corriedales will be the feature breed at the Sydney Royal Show 2009. We are hoping to organise an international judge.

Campbell Town Show 2008

Corriedales at Campbell Town, Tas, were judged by Jan Hunt of South Australia, awards being well distributed between the three competitors. Glen Esk was most successful exhibitor, while Quamby Plains won champion ram and Streanshalh champion ewe. Glen Esk's winning ram hogget was supreme junior champion wool breed ram, a prestigious award which has been won several times in recent years by either Glen Esk or Gambier View.

Results:-

**Ram over 1 ½ years
(Unprotected)**
Glen Esk

Ram under 1 ½ years
Glen Esk (Junior Champion)

Pair of Rams under 1 ½ years
Glen Esk

Ram under 2 ½ and over 1 ½ years
Glen Esk (Reserve Champion)

Pair of Rams over 1 ½ years
Streanshalh

Rams over 2 ½ years
Quamby Plains (Champion)

**Ewe over 1 ½ years
(Unprotected)**
Streanshalh (Champion)

Ewe under 1 ½ years
Glen Esk (Junior Champion)

Pen of three Ewes under 1 ½ years
Streanshalh

Ewe under 2 ½ and over 1 ½ years
Glen Esk (Reserve Champion)

Ewe over 2 ½ years
Glen Esk

Group of five Corriedales
Streanshalh

Ram and ewe under 2 ½ years and over 1 ½ years
Glen Esk

Ram and Ewe under 1 ½ years
Glen Esk

Best Head on a Corriedale Ram
Streanshalh

Corriedale Ram with Best Sires Fleece
Streanshalh

Sire's Progeny Group
Glen Esk

**Fleeces
Corriedale ram**
Glen Esk (R.V. Bowden Trophy)

Corriedale ewe
Glen Esk

Group of three Corriedale fleeces
Streanshalh

Streanshalh Centenary

The centenary of Streanshalh Corriedale stud, Campbell Town, Tasmania, was celebrated by studmaster Andrew Nicolson and his wife Judith in their woolshed on May 8 with fellow breeders and friends, with a display of sheep and fleeces.

More than 40 people attended including five people from Victoria.

Darryl MacDonald, Fairburn, Porcupine Ridge, Victoria, whose stud centenary was in 2003 opened proceedings with a charming speech after which guests were able to inspect show rams, show ewes, the current battery of stud sires and a representative display of fleeces.

The show rams were judged by Terry Heggaton who gave a superb demonstration of sheep handling and commentary. It is worth recording that his three top selections are the rams chosen by Andrew Nicolson for showing at Bendigo.

Judging being completed, Geoff Mann proposed a toast to Streanshalh Corriedales as everyone was partaking afternoon tea and farewell drinks.

This completed a big month for Andrew Nicolson who won the 2008 Bruce Forster Trophy which is for lifetime achievement in the Tasmanian sheep and wool industry.



Andrew and Judith Nicolson at the Streanshalh Centenary celebrations.



Streanshalh Corriedale fleeces displayed at the stud's Centenary.



Andrew Nicolson with former breeder and lifelong friend Geoff Mann (left), and Jim Gough from Victoria, at the Streanshalh Centenary.

STEPH ROEFF

Congratulations to Steph Roeff for her winning entry in the School's Corriedale slogan competition.

Steph is from Chairo Christian College and the slogan that will appear on a banner soon is

'Love Corriedales Love Life!

It was at the Berwick show held earlier in the year that the idea came for a slogan competition to be held between Woodleigh School, Chairo Christian College and Elisabeth Murdoch College.

The \$100 prize was won by Steph.

PHIL BURBURY



Phil Burbury inspecting fleeces on show at the Streamshalh Open Day to celebrate the stud's centenary.

REMINDER

2008 Flock Returns were due on 1st July 2008.

Late fees applicable are:

\$10 + GST if received
1st July – 31st July.

\$20 + GST if received after
31st July.

Please ensure all ram registrations/transfers are lodged for the last 12 months.

Phil Burbury delivered a truck load of pure Corriedale lambs to the Devonport works in early May 2008. He was delighted when a skins specialist hopped in amongst them as he was unloading them, and commented on what desirable skins they were. These skins were ideal for the trade as they had been shorn on January 20th giving them $\frac{3}{4}$ to an inch of wool and they were finer than 28 microns.

He received \$9.80 for the skins, and as Phil said he had cut 2.25 kilo of lambs wool from them which was worth more than \$4.00 a kilo, - a major contribution to the total value of the lambs. The general run of lamb skins at that time were making around \$6 in Tasmania.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Corriedale Association Inc. *will be held on Friday, 18th July, 2008, in the old Secretary's office, Bendigo Showgrounds, Vic., commencing at 9.00 a.m.*

The Federal Council Meeting will follow the AGM.

***Maryland Sheep &
Wool Festival
and USA National
Corriedale Show and
Sale***

From Brenda Venters

On May 3rd and 4th Jim and I attended the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival where we shared a stall with the Rupperts' from 'Windborne' Corriedale stud. Geoff and Barb have beautifully prepared Corriedale fleeces for the handspinners while we sell natural Liberton woollen yarn and also fibre from our Alpacas.

It was again a most successful show for us and a short woollen scarf I had knitted for demonstrating purposes was sold for \$60.00. Our spools which have been difficult to sell in previous years sold this year to weavers and wool lace making customers.

Windborne Corriedale stud won the best fleeced Corriedale and we presented the grand champion Corriedale with the Australian Corriedale woollen scarf to Ruth Hartman who wishes to be remembered to those she met at the 2000 World Conference held in Ohio.

Ruth is now 82 years and still showing her sheep. I'll always remember Ruth because I had spoken to her at the sales in 2000 and she had a young buck for sale. As she was preparing it, there



Jim presenting Ruth Hartman with the Australian woollen scarf for the Supreme Corriedale Champion at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival 2008.USA.



Left to right, Hal Walker, Jake Reister, Jim Venters, Carol Walker and Phil Reister at the National Show and Sale, USA.

was a wonderful rapport between them. Sunday was at auction day and he was sold. Later that evening I asked her had he gone to a good home. Her reply was that when he was to be loaded into the truck the new owner couldn't take him because she had become so emotional at the departure handover. So the buck returned home!

The Maryland sheep committee asked us to pass on their thanks for the Australian gesture.

Ruth was delighted and it gave the show a special identity between our two countries.

While in Gettysburg PA the rain just fell heavily and the rivers and creeks overflowed.

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How we wished it would rain like this at home. We drove the eight hours to Gambier where we had stayed for the 2000 Conference. The guest house still has the rocking chairs outside on the verandah where many of us sat to have our photos taken before leaving for Australia. The town now has a sports centre with indoor swimming pool and indoor running track.

Hal and Carol Walker wished to be remembered to all who they have met. Both well. We travelled with them to Eaton, Ohio where the National Corriedale Show and Sale was to be held this year. Once we entered the Barn we were surrounded by familiar faces. Lacie Hoffman was there trimming and was up all night to have her sheep ready for the next day.

For those who went to the New Zealand Conference she and her brother joined Nick Cole to go bungee jumping. Phil and Jake Reister were there along with the Ricketts, Craigs and so many others. We were given a wonderful welcome. Jim presented the supreme champion with the Australian woollen scarf which was the grand champion ram owned by the Seals family from S Bars S California. The gesture of the Australian presentation of the woollen scarf was enthusiastically received.

The youth in the USA are encouraged to show their sheep as young as eight years

old. The older youth keep a watchful eye over the young ones and there is a fantastic rapport between them. Many of their parents are not sheep farmers. Many have other trades but the hobby is the Corriedale and a keen interest is taken with preparation and looking after small flocks. The youth are encouraged to have market sheep. The top priced market sheep wins a prize for their club. Points are given for all placings at all the shows held throughout the year.

The Corriedale industry in the States is very family orientated. One young man of thirteen years had taken extra jobs and was buying his own sheep at the sales. The top price ram was \$4200 with the average approx \$1000 and the top ewe \$1500 with the average price being \$800. All sheep were sold.

CORRIEDALES AT ST. GREGORY'S COLLEGE

*By David Baker
Agriculture/ Primary
Industries Teacher
"Badgally" Stud Manager*

St Gregory's College is a catholic boys day and boarding college owned and run by the Marist Brothers. It educates 1100 students, was established in 1926 and is situated in the south west area of Sydney, NSW. The college owns approximately 1100 acres of which the

agriculture department of the college manages approximately 30 acres. The college runs Shorthorn and Limousin cattle studs and a Corriedale sheep stud.

The Corriedale stud "Badgally" was formed in 1988 with breeding stock from the Prell family's "Gundowringa" stud at Crookwell. The Corriedale was originally chosen because of its dual purpose nature and offering the agricultural studies as well as the sheep and wool husbandry students both wool aspects and carcass attributes to study. The Corriedale also offers schools an easy care, fertile, maternal breed of sheep with an excellent temperament. The Marist Brothers also had an association with the Corriedale breed and ran a commercial Corriedale flock for many years prior to 1988.

The stud in the initial days relied a great deal on the help of the Prell family and Charlie Prell would often help in the selection of stock and the provision of rams. In 1997, 10 ewes were sourced from Allan Shannon, Cudal and the combination of those ewes with the Gundowringa bloodlines really clicked and an improvement in the stock was immediately noticed. The stud was reasonably competitive in the show ring in NSW and it was decided to enter sheep in the Melbourne Sheep and Wool Show in 1999.

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The sheep stood up well in their classes.

After 1999 with help from Peter and Maree Baker “Loddon Park” genetics were introduced with the result of greatly improving the sheep’s growth rate and overall bone and structural correctness. The college is still benefitting from the Loddon Park influence. Recently the college with the help of Sydney University Vets has embarked on oestrus synchronisation and artificial insemination (AI). The college has also had some incredible support from many Corriedale breeders supplying semen for this programme including “Coora”, “Haven Park” and “Loddon Park”. The college really appreciates the support of all these studs. The progression in sheep is a direct result of that support.

With the added exposure of St Gregory’s college students through showing Corriedales on the show circuit, has come a great deal of other successes. The college has produced State and National final winning junior judges in Merino fleeces as well as meat and dual purpose sheep. Students have also won and been highly placed in the Corriedale junior judging competition at the ASBA Show Bendigo. St Gregory’s college students are often placed well in junior paraders/handlers competitions at local and royal shows.

Recently through the generosity of many Corriedale breeders, two “Old Boys” of the college, Matthew Brown and Nick Hearne have started up their own Corriedale stud “Pine Gully”, Bigga NSW after winning the Corriedale Youth Achiever Award at the ASBA Show Bendigo. Their sheep are performing well in NSW shows.

A current year 12 student Jack Reynolds and year 9 student Toby Croker of the college with the help of Andrew Nicolson “Streanshalh” have started a stud and are have been showing sheep at Canberra and Dubbo shows. This interest was fostered through showing the college’s Corriedales. The enthusiasm these boys/men have in the Corriedale breed will contribute to the future of the breed.

Showing Corriedales has opened up many doors for the college ex-students with a lot of students now involved in agricultural industries ranging from stock and station agents to farm managers and extension officers as well as those who have gone onto tertiary studies in agriculture or associated areas.

The success of these current and ex-students is often as a direct result of their exposure to and love of agriculture through the show sheep and cattle program supported by the college.



St. Gregory students with their award winning sheep at the 2008 Canberra Royal Show.



Australian Sheep and Wool Show 2008

Bendigo Showgrounds, Victoria

FEATURE BREED IS THE CORRIEDALE

Corriedale Timetable:

<i>Friday, 18th July</i>	:	<i>Annual General Meeting at 9.00 a.m. – Old Secretary's office, Showgrounds.</i>
	:	<i>Federal Council Meeting at 9.30 a.m.</i>
	:	<i>Judging of Corriedale National Pairs at 2.00 p.m.</i>
	:	<i>Judging of Corriedale Schools Competition – Special Classes, at 2.00 p.m.</i>
	:	<i>Social night at the Bendigo Club from 7.00 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday, 19th July</i>	:	<i>Main Corriedale judging in the Exhibition Centre from 9.00 a.m.</i>
	:	<i>All Breeds Get-Together in the Exhibition Centre from 5.00 p.m. featuring judging of :</i> <i>- Supreme Australian Longwool Exhibit.</i> <i>- Supreme Australian Prime Lamb Breeds Exhibit.</i> <i>- Supreme Australian Longwool Group.</i> <i>- Supreme Australian Prime Lamb Group.</i>
<i>Sunday, 20th July</i>	:	<i>Corriedale Junior Judging Competition from 9.30 a.m.</i>

NOTE: Tickets for the All Breeds Get-Together from 5.00 p.m. on Saturday, 19th July, are \$15 each and can be obtained from:

**Andrew Ternouth,
ASBA Secretary,
P.O. Box 219,
BENDIGO, VIC 3552.**

Phone: (03) 5439 5094

***FIRST
IMPRESSIONS
LAST***

Five years ago, Maurie and Kathy Bennett were watching their wool income spiral downward and started looking at their options to improve their sheep enterprise. Although they had traditionally been wool growers, they saw the need to improve their meat production to boost their profitability but had noticed that the 'doing ability' of their sheep had declined as they had reduced the fibre diameter of their wool. So what were they to do?

Located near Warooka, on the southern end of SA's Yorke Peninsula, the Bennett's run their sheep and beef cattle, with a bit of cropping, in 500mm rainfall country ranging from light, sandy scrub country to heavier flats. It is not what you would call traditional Corriedale country. But with the decision made to increase meat production, they decided to give Corriedales a go.

The first Corriedale cross lambs that hit the ground left a good impression on Maurie, as they were stronger and had a better constitution than he was used to – they could handle the tough conditions. The lambs grew out well with good shape and plain body and he was pleasantly surprised by the wool production of these first cross sheep.

“As young sheep, there was little depreciation in wool value of these first cross ewes” says Maurie. “Micron, yield and weight were all similar to the main mob, although there was some loss of nourishment in the wool. The Corriedale ewes have definitely got a longer staple length.”

Maurie now has first, second and third cross Corriedale ewes, the wool of which, when combined, averages 23 micron, 69% yield and receives the same price as Merino wool of similar specification.

Being happy with the initial trial of Corriedales, Maurie took the plunge and bought some Corriedale ewes with a view to producing a line of pure Corriedales. Unfortunately, his first lambing of these ewes coincided with (another) tough season and he had to put them in a scrubby paddock that had already been cleaned out by his cattle. He then had to leave them to their own devices, looking after themselves over lambing.

When he got them out, he was very pleased with what he saw. Both ewes and lambs were doing well and they had handled the tough conditions much better than he had expected. “They seem to be able to forage better and eat more of the roughage” observed Maurie.

Another observation Maurie made was that his dogs had to work harder, especially when the Corriedale and

Corriedale cross ewes were looking after their lambs. “They are great mothers, they lamb easily and are very protective” says Maurie. There are more lambs produced as well, with Maurie estimating an increase in lambing percentage of at least 10% from his Corriedale cross ewes over his base flock.

The main thing that has impressed the Bennetts since they first tested Corriedales is their outstanding doing ability in hard seasons, keeping condition on both ewes and lambs. As well as this the lambs grow well, have good shape and a plain body and the ewes a quality, productive fleece, although Maurie would like to see the wool have better nourishment to suit his lighter country. Overall, Maurie is very happy with his decision to try Corriedales and sees them playing a significant part in his sheep operation in the years ahead.

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Opinions expressed in the Australian Corriedale newsletter are not necessarily those of the Association or its newsletter editor.