



***FROM THE
PRESIDENT***



*Brenton J. Lush
President*

As I look back over the last few months of Corriedale matters, it is good to be able to report that some much talked about matters have reached their conclusion, while others are still very much on the 'to do' list and new ones keep popping up all the time, sometimes in ways that are completely beyond left field.

As winter deepens and we prepare to scrape the ice off our windscreens in Bendigo,

we will soon be gathering at our annual meeting to discuss these things in more detail. Here is a summary of what has been happening over recent times.

AAA CD is here!

A few weeks ago, the Industry Services Advisory Committee of the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) confirmed that in the 2010-12 AWEX Code of Practice, Corriedale wool could be defined under the breed code "CD", rather than "FX" as it was previously. This means that Corriedale fleece wool can be branded 'AAA CD' which will help differentiate it from crossbred wool in the market. Originally, we had requested that 'CDL' be used, but AWEX preferred a two letter code. With the various strains of Merinos, Corriedales and Polwarths will be the only breeds with a separate code.

More information will come out about this over the next 6 months, but it will help identify our wool as well as

giving us an opportunity to communicate the Corriedale message with other sectors of the wool industry.

Update on the dark and medullated fibre test

Last year, we took the initiative to test Corriedale wool for the level of dark and medullated fibre levels. In April of this year, AWEX decided to test every breed represented in Australia (about 62 altogether) for levels of these contaminant fibres. This enabled a few more breeders to supply samples. While the results have not been finalised, preliminary results indicate some positive news for Corriedale wool, and when the results are finalised, we will be assisting AWEX to educate our wool industry partners as to the true risk assessment of Corriedale wool.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Elders Corriedale feature wool sale

In May, the second Corriedale feature wool sale was held by Elders. A full report is included in this newsletter.

Thanks again to Elliot Lindley (mobile 0409 504 709) for coordinating this sale, the next sale will be held in October/November this year.

AWI on Corriedales

Over recent times we have been communicating with AWI in regards to seeing what they were doing to market 25 to 30 micron wool that is not of Merino origin. To that end, they have not only contributed an article for this newsletter, but the CEO, Ms Brenda McGahan, has accepted an invitation to address our Federal Council meeting at Bendigo. At this stage, she will be speaking from 12 noon at the old Secretary's office on the Bendigo Showgrounds on the 17th of July.

Always on the go

The issue of a structured promotion system for Corriedales is one that keeps me thinking. Not only on what the structure may look like, but whether people will

take it on board and be prepared to make it work. This will again come up at the meeting for discussion.

Way Beyond Left Field

Every now and then we field an enquiry from overseas about Australian Corriedales. The article in this newsletter, "Corriedales go to War" is the result of an ongoing response to one of these enquiries. It will be interesting to see how this plays out over the next few weeks, and as the story unfolds I will try and keep you informed.

There are no doubt other matters that will come up at our Federal Council meeting, and we will pass on any information from that in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, all the best for the year ahead.

Regards

Brenton Lush

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***HAVING YOUR
CAKE AND
EATING IT TOO***

In about August last year, Five Star Stockfeeds and Nick Cole of West Cloven Hills, Camperdown, Vic.,

conducted an experiment involving Corriedale lambs and pellets containing a novel feed additive that more or less proved it is possible to protect livestock from acidosis without resorting to antibiotics.

The magic ingredient was a combination of chilli powder, cloves and cinnamon that enhance their rumen function and at the same time limit the size of a single meal to below a certain threshold that may cause a risk of acidosis. Since the success of this experiment Nick Cole and Iain Macpherson of Five Star Stockfeeds have been looking at ways to commercialize this product.

Much attention has been placed on the ewe and lamb stage of the cycle rather than the lamb finishing stage. For a feed company to sell a lot of lamb finisher type pellets, three things need to happen.

First, you need to have a shocking spring and summer which means the lamb producer has no alternative other than to purchase prepared feed.

Second, you need a high meat price and low grain price to justify the extra cost of purchased feed. Third, the difference between store lambs and finished lambs needs be more than \$40/head to give the incentive to set up a lamb finishing system. Realistically for lamb producers that only happens every four or five years which is too infrequent for feed companies to build a

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

business model around that type of product.

However, the main driver of profit for a sheep operation is fertility, and at lambing time (May-September) it is unknown what the spring and summer will deliver. Another unknown is how much meat, grain or stores will be worth at lambing time. The only certainties are that the more live lambs and good conditioned ewes there are at marking time the greater chance of a profitable year.

However the fear of acidosis, the cost of supplementary feeding, the associated work and logistic difficulties of supplementary feeding and the risk of recovering the investment in supplementary feeding all conspire to act as disincentives.

Five Star Stockfeeds and Nick Cole have been looking at management practices that if they overcome the objections might produce win-win outcomes for livestock producers and stockfeed end users.

Two new technologies help overcome some practical concerns regarding supplementing ewes during the lambing period.

Firstly the “Cup and Saucer” style silos produced by Sherwell Silos in Nhill cut down the work and eliminate trail feeding, bulka bag transfers into 1-2 ton self-feeders etc. With a few of these silos the workload can be reduced to monitoring feed and calling the feed mill

when a top-up is required. To make this system work safely the stockfeed needs to be bulletproof in regards to acidosis and mineral balance.

This where Five Star Stockfeeds and their chilli extract comes in handy and in combination with a properly balanced ration it is practically impossible to give the ewes acidosis.

These two technologies make doability no problem, but what about affordability?

There is much pressure to convert from sheep production to grain production due to better gross margins. Already many sheep producers have succumbed to this temptation and ditched the sheep to grow grain. Using the previously mentioned technologies Five Star Stockfeeds and Nick Cole think there is a way of growing both sheep and grain.

Using Nick as an example he uses 750 ha to successfully lamb 3,500 ewes at a stocking rate of 4.6 ewes/ha. A cash flow budget suggests that after costs, he makes on average \$120,000 from his sheep enterprise from which drawings must be made. Assuming it costs \$80,000 a year to run his household, this leaves \$40,000 to reinvest into the farm. Ditching the sheep for grain would possibly bring in \$180,000 nett income less drawings, or \$100,000 to reinvest into the farm.

Our projections suggest that if he squashed the lambing

ewes into 150 ha and supplemented them with pellets then he could crop the remaining 600ha and after all additional costs nett \$220,000 farm income, leaving him with \$140,000 to reinvest into the farm after drawings.

Five Star in conjunction with Glenormiston College are monitoring two mini-flocks for ewe weights, lamb weights, lamb survival, wool quality and worm counts after a 100 day period of feed beginning at lambing (June 1st). So far the two mini-flocks are both going well and the higher stocked supplemented ewes are not experiencing acidosis or any other obvious problems.

At the conclusion of the trial a field day will be held to present the results sometime in late August.

In the mean time, Iain Macpherson of Five Star Stockfeeds is available on mobile 0417 - 540 343 to answer any questions you may have.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH NEWS

As I write this report we in Southern NSW are still waiting for some follow-up rain.

The Corriedale was the feature breed at the Sydney Royal this year and although numbers were down we thought it was a great success

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

with approximately 40 sheep judged by Tom Burrows from New Zealand and this was in itself a highlight.

The Show was a great success, we had some spinning ladies present spinning Corriedale wool for the three days, which created a lot of interest and the ribbons were shared fairly evenly across all the studs.

Another standout was the Prell family win of the Family Trophy for the best Sires Fleece as three generations of the family were there at the time.

We sent two boys, Jack Raynolds and Tom Gooden to New Zealand and the Christchurch Show (*Tom Burrows has sent a report to Charlie about this*). I have spoken to all the NZ breeders who hosted the boys and everyone was full of praise with the way the boys conducted themselves, a real credit to themselves, their families and their country. We will try to do this again in 2011/2012.

On May 15th and 16th we had the NSW Sheep Show at Dubbo. This is a big event these days and getting bigger. There were 880 sheep and the 62 Corriedales were judged by Alex Carroll and John Armstrong. Jim and Brenda Venters came from their Liberton stud in Victoria and we thank them for making the long trip.

They were the most successful exhibitor.



(From left) Charlie, and Jeff Prell (right), grandson, Angus MacDiarmid (Centre), Gundowringa, Crookwell, NSW, who won the Harold F. Prell Memorial Trophy for the ram with best sire's fleece at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Roseville won grand champion ram and ewe.

We held our NSW Branch meeting on the Saturday at the shown and discussed many subjects and all showed great interest and enthusiasm about our breed in the future.

Hope this report finds everybody healthy and happy

from
Tony Manchester
NSW Branch President

**CORRIEDALE
FEATURE WOOL –
MAY 2009**

Elders Limited conducted the 2nd Corriedale feature sale on Thursday May 21 where 300 bales of wool were offered to the wool trade and processors. **94% of the catalogue was sold.**

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The wool market was a trying one with most wool's retracing some of the gains of the last nine weeks. The Australian \$ did not do the market any favours rising 2.4 cents for the week to finish over 78 US cents.

24 micron 755+1
26 micron 619-9
28 micron 505-32
30 micron 435-29

There was good competition from all sectors of the trade with 11 different processors purchasing from the sale.

The major buyers from the Corriedale sale have said that the finer end of the Corriedale wool is to be processed in Turkey and would then go to China to be woven into uniforms for the Chinese public sector.

The broader edge 28 to 31 micron of the Corriedale wool is going to Thailand and China for knitwear.

Some of the 30 micron plus wool will be used for fine wool furnishings.

The lambs wool will be processed in China to be blended with 22.5 to 25 micron wool to be hand-knitted for retail.

The Corriedale Clip of the sale was awarded to JOHN P.A. MOLESWORTH (John and Liz Molesworth) from Morrison in Victoria who had a very successful sale.

Volume is certainly the key if we are to put together

commercial parcels of wool for the processors to be able to give feedback.

We will be looking to hold the next Corriedale feature sale in late October or early November at the national wool selling centre in Melbourne.

The sale was a success and we look forward to the support from Corriedale wool growers and the Corriedale Association.

Thanking all who participated in the 2nd Corriedale feature wool sale.

Elliot Lindley
Premier Wool
0409 – 504 709

CAMPBELL TOWN
SHOW 2009

Corriedale breeders enjoyed an absolute triumph at Campbell Town Show, Tas., in June.

The Quamby Plains champion ram went on to become supreme champion wool breed ram and a bold bulky ewe fleece exhibited by Glen Esk won the grand champion fleece of the show.

Corriedale rams have won the supreme champion award several times recently, but this was the first time for more than 20 years that a Corriedale fleece has succeeded in this way.

Also worthy of note was the splendid debut by Claire and

Peter Blackwood whose beautifully presented ram hogget won the reserve champion Corriedale ram award and was also a very close runner-up for supreme junior champion wool breed ram.

Brenton Lush gave a superb exhibition of judging and made the following major awards:

Ram under 2 ½ and over 1 ½ years
Quamby Plains, 1 and champion, 2 and 3.

Ram over 2 ½ years
Quamby Plains, 1.

March shorn ram under 1 ½ years
Blackwood Corriedales, 1 and reserve champion.

Ewe under 2 ½ and over 1 ½ years
Streanshalh, 1 and champion.

Ewe over 2 ½ years
Streanshalh, 1 and reserve champion.

Best head on a Corriedale ram
Streanshalh.

Corriedale ram with best sire's fleece
Quamby Plains

Queen's Silver Jubilee Trophy for most successful exhibitor
Streanshalh.

Champion Corriedale fleece
Glen Esk

From
Andrew Nicolson

**UNDERRATED
CORRIEDALES
WORK WELL IN
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

When the Lockyer family took over 'Moree' over 20 years ago, they also took on a long established Corriedale flock that has stood the test of time.

'Moree' is a 2100 hectare farm situated in the 420mm rainfall belt of the Great Southern Region of WA just south west of the township of Tambellup, some 325kms south east of Perth and 125kms north of Albany. The country is undulating with various soil types ranging from gravelly/sandy loams to heavy clay soils. Native vegetation is mainly Wandoo, Jam Wattle, Yate (*Euc. Occidentalis*), with some Brown Mallet. The main growing season is classed as May – October, but as with everywhere else, that has fallen a bit short in recent years.

The farm was established in 1929 by the Fairweather family who moved to WA from the Wimmera district of Victoria. Greg and Anne-Marie Lockyer took over the management of the farm in the mid 1980's and now have involved their son, Nicholas. After completing Agricultural College in Denmark WA, Nick returned to the farm in 2001. Subsequently he has competed in many junior judging events through the Royal Agricultural Society to

widen and enhance his skills and has won national events in wool judging and Merino judging. He applies those skills to the farm enterprise in the role of sheep classer.

'Moree' runs numerous enterprises involving a self-replacing Corriedale flock, a self-replacing fine wool Merino flock, a prime lamb and a cropping enterprise consisting of wheat, barley, oats, canola and lupins.

Approximately 1600 Corriedale ewes are mated each year, with 1200 mated to Corriedale rams and 400 maidens are mated to terminal Poll Dorset sires. Corriedale wether lambs are sold at 11-12 months of age either through the saleyard system or to private buyers (butchers). Lambs are weaned onto late spring pasture and some grain, then put on stubbles over summer and finished on green feed for late winter or early spring sale

'Moree' has run Corriedale sheep since 1935, the original stock being shipped to WA from Victoria. The Lockyers have used rams from Corralyn Stud at Wagin for the last 30 plus years but more recently they have started a stud and have run a small AI breeding programme using genetics sourced from Gambier View/Compton House which is looking promising.

In 1990, due to wool prices at the time, a base flock of Merino ewes was purchased to run alongside the Corriedales. This has provided a unique contrast of

the pros and cons of each breed relative to each other. 'Moree' runs approximately 1600 Merino ewes of which 1200 are mated to Keetlen Valley and Yarrum Valley fine wool rams and 400 cast-for-age ewes are mated to terminal Poll Dorset sires sourced from Brimfield stud. The wethers are kept for two shearings before being sold as shippers to Live Exporter firms.

When it comes to selling prime lambs, the Lockyers are fortunate to have a variety of selling options due to their proximity to the saleyards and the WA Meat Marketing Co-operative (WAMMCO) abattoir situated at Katanning (42 kms north). Lamb killed by WAMMCO is mainly exported to Europe and America. In conjunction with their local Landmark livestock agent, the Lockyers canvas all options including private buyers when the time comes.

The fine Merino wool produced on 'Moree' ranges from 16 – 19 micron with the average sheep cutting 5.5kg of wool. The Corriedale flock produces wool from 22.5 micron as weaners, up to 29 micron in older sheep, with adult ewes cutting approximately 4.5 kg per head.

The wool is dispatched to Fremantle and sold by auction. When opportunities arise, basis contracts have been used for risk management on both Corriedale and Merino wool.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Their Landmark wool manager helps with information regarding timing of sales and with market information. Setting healthy reserves and having the ability to store wool gives the Lockyers a bit more flexibility with regard to timing of the sale. When using the auction system and setting reserves, they consider it wise to always remember that your wool is only worth what someone else is prepared to pay for it. Research and market information is important to try and time the scheduling of the sale to achieve the best outcome.

Over the last 10 years or so, the cropping enterprise has enlarged from a small time interest to provide for the sheep enterprise to the main focus of the farm with the sheep enterprises complementing the cropping. This is unfortunate, but with the massive cost of machinery replacement and rising input costs, economies of scale need to be employed. This means their sheep numbers have been reduced from 8,000 head to a maximum of 5,500 head now.

Why do the Lockyer family like Corriedales?

Having the experience of running Corriedales alongside Merinos, it has been interesting to note the differences. While they class the Merinos as *prima donna's* mainly due to their flightiness and highly strung characteristics, the

Corriedales have to be classed as *no fuss earth mother* types. Both flocks have been run under the same conditions and with the same husbandry, except that they do not mules the Corriedales but have found it necessary to do so with the Merino flock. The lambing percentage from the Corriedales has been consistently higher (90-95%) than the Merinos (75 – 80%). On many occasions, lambing percentages have been over 100% with the Corriedales, but this may be partly due to the time of lambing; the Merinos lamb in late autumn/early winter as against the Corriedales in early spring.

The mothering ability of the Corriedale is outstanding and their lack of fussiness when foraging for food means the paddocks are cleaned up extremely well. We also find the handling of them through the yards and shed a lot easier – they basically seem calmer. Hence they are easier to handle and of course the shearers like them! Fleece rot is unknown, general resistance to fly-strike is better and their plainer bodies make for easier shearing.

Generally, the Lockyer family rate the Corriedale as a superb dual purpose sheep which is very underrated by many others in the industry.

CORRIEDALES GO TO WAR!

Recently we received an enquiry about Corriedale sheep that caught us completely by surprise. This enquiry, sent to us through the Australian War Memorial, originated from a German military Museum who wanted a Corriedale sheep for a new display they are setting up. They are preparing a permanent display featuring the roles animals have played in the history of war since the 13th century, and they need a stuffed Corriedale sheep to represent the role Corriedales have played in the history of war.

As a part of this display, a Corriedale sheep would be alongside 17 other animals of war, such as a horse wearing a gas mask, and a pigeon and dolphin both fitted with cameras.

While we are still trying to confirm the details of the Corriedales active duty in the fields of war, we are taking peoples guesses as to what this role might have been. I have said there are prizes (either a bottle or a box) involved for the first person to guess correctly, as well as for the most creative story.

The tale will be revealed at the upcoming Federal Council meeting, and in subsequent issues of this newsletter and CorriEnews,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

but a hint has been promised,
so here it is:

1982

Many thanks to those people who reminded me of the Corriedales long standing role in the military, that of providing wool for uniforms over decades of conflict. If all of this comes to pass, I will certainly be pointing that out to the Museum in Germany and will help them with information if I can.

One story came out that one of our founding fathers, Sen. J.F. Guthrie, lost his leg in battle, but this is not the case according to his nephew, Mr Oliver Guthrie. But that is another story.

If you would like to have a guess at the Corriedales role in war, send me an email at bjlush@activ8.net.au, or call (08) 8598 5281

CONGRATULATIONS

*Noel and Jenny McIntosh,
Horsham, Vic., former breeders
(F.91), celebrated 57 years of
marriage in June.*

Australian Sheep and Wool Show 2009

Bendigo Showgrounds, Victoria

Corriedale Timetable

Friday 17th July:

- *Annual General Meeting at 9.00 a.m. – Committee Room, Showgrounds.*
- *Federal Council Meeting at 9.30 a.m.*
- *Judging of Corriedale National Pairs at 2.00 p.m.*
- *Judging of Corriedale Schools Competition – Special Classes, at 2.00 p.m.*
- *Social night at Rising Sun Hotel from 7.00 p.m.*

Saturday, 18th July:

- *Main Corriedale judging in the Exhibition Centre from 9.00 a.m.*
- *All Breeds Get-Together in the Exhibition Centre from 5.00 p.m. featuring judging of:*
 - *Supreme Australian Longwool Exhibit.*
 - *Supreme Australian Prime Lamb Breeds Exhibit.*
 - *Supreme Australian Longwool Group.*
 - *Supreme Australian Prime Lamb Group.*

Sunday, 19th July:

- *Corriedale Junior Judging Competition from 10.15 a.m.*

NOTE: Tickets for the All Breeds Get-Together from 5.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Saturday, 18th July, are \$15 each and can be obtained from:

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

Phone: (03) 5439 5094

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