



OPEN FOR SIRE NOMINATIONS: **NEW ENGLAND** 2018 JOINING

Do you wonder why some animals consistently perform year in and year out whilst others fade with time?

Are there any factors that might help us to better predict superior lifetime performance at young ages?

What's the impact of selecting for growth, reproduction and carcass traits on lifetime wool productivity?

An exciting opportunity exists for ram breeders to be part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project that aims to answer these and many more industry questions. A partnership between Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) plus five sire evaluation sites will see sires entered across Australia with ewe progeny retained for annual joining, classing and lifetime assessment. The result will be a unique dataset that will allow the comprehensive investigation of Merino productivity over a complete lifetime, across different locations and genotypes.

Nominate your top sires, young rams, good all-rounders, trait or index leaders, good doers or show winners for this important trial.

Last AI joining, New England, April 2018 joining – 15 sires

Location: New England Tablelands of NSW, high summer rainfall (800+mm)
AI date: April, 2018
Site hosts & partners: CSIRO and the New England Merino Sire Evaluation Association
Mulesing status: Not mulesing

The CSIRO Chiswick resource flock will be the primary ewe base for the project. This flock is a typical commercial superfine/fine wool type, based on local performance recorded studs (most recently Cressbrook and Alfoxton sires, previously T13 and Westvale). The Breech Strike Genetics flock, which will make up one-third of the base ewe flock, comprises historical genetics from many sources, but for the last 5 years has been essentially a superfine/fine wool flock (bulk 70's quality count, adult ewe mean fibre diameter approx. 17microns), and is physically similar to the Chiswick Resource flock. The Breech Strike Genetics flock, is deeply pedigreed, comprehensively phenotyped and well linked genetically to industry via MERINOSELECT.

How does the MLP work?

MLP sites operate like a standard sire evaluation site – following the rigorous and independently assessed measured and visual assessment protocols. At the conclusion of the standard sire evaluation (generally once progeny are between 18 to 24 months of age), AWI will support the ongoing measurement and visual classing of all ewe progeny through 4-5 joinings (capturing reproduction data) and annual shearings.

90 ewes will be artificially inseminated to each sire to ensure that there will be sufficient ewe progeny numbers throughout the life of the project.

Sires entered at sites will receive a full range of visual and objective results including professional classer assessed performance, within site breeding values and ASBVs.

In a move that is unique to the New England site, the wether progeny will be retained to collect lifetime fleece data and for inclusion in a resilience trial.

Annual field days will be held for ram owners and the broader industry to inspect progeny, receive updates on the progress of the project and network with fellow Merino producers. For more information about the project please visit the project website: www.wool.com/MLP.

Entry fee and Semen Requirement

Sire entry will incur the sire evaluation entry fee of \$3,000 (plus GST). A total of 98 doses of semen is required for the project of which 51 are purchased at \$10 per dose. The semen purchased will be reflected as a reduced site entry fee (in total \$510 will be taken off the entry \$3000 entry fee). Of the 98 doses of semen, 90 will be used in the AI program, two are retained for DNA testing and six will be used for extensive semen testing prior to the AI program.

We are looking for a range of sires to join

To achieve the aims of the project, sire entries will be selected for joining based on the following criteria:

- **Industry representative:** Involvement of horn/poll, different types, rams with and without Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs). A maximum of one ram from each breeder.
- **Fleece value:** Predicted to maintain, increase or decrease fleece value over time.
- **Performance range:** High and low performance for traits based on percentile band tables.
- **Age range:** A balance of young (progeny yet to be evaluated) and older rams.
- **Impact rams:** Significant show performance or have been highly used in industry (with or without ASBVs).

The final sire lists will be generated by the MLP Executive in consultation with the New England sire evaluation site committee plus the project Industry Steering Committee (ISC) and a dedicated ISC industry sire selection committee. Whilst the project would like to include all rams nominated, regrettably spaces are limited. As such, priority will be given to rams that best meet the project's objectives.

Don't miss out!

Fill in the attached **nomination form** and **return by 5:00pm January 31, 2018**. If selected, you will be required to:

- Provide 98 doses of semen (MLP project will purchase 51 doses of this semen at \$10 per dose which is reflected as a reduced site entry fee)
- Complete the Entrant Agreement and the AMSEA Sire Entry Form.
- Pay the site entry fee.

Need more information?

Anne Ramsay	0400 368 448 (Project Manager)
Duncan Lance	0447 297 135 (Site Chairman)
Ben Swain	0427 100 542 (AMESA Executive Officer)

New England nominations close 5:00pm, 31 January

The MLP Project is being undertaken in partnership between the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association Incorporated (AMSEA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). AMSEA and AWI would like to acknowledge those entities who also contribute funding, namely Woolgrowers through sire evaluation entry fees, site hosts, site committee in-kind contributions, and sponsors of AMSEA. A special acknowledgement is also made to the Australian Government who support research, development and marketing of Australian wool.

New England 2018 Drop Sire Nomination Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please list sires in order of priority for entry:

SIRE 1

Stud/Flock Name: _____

Sire Identification: _____

Sire 16 Digit ID: _____

Semen available? _____

YES

NO

Where is semen held? _____

SIRE 2

Stud/Flock Name: _____

Sire Identification: _____

Sire 16 Digit ID: _____

Semen available? _____

YES

NO

Where is semen held? _____

SIRE 3

Stud/Flock Name: _____

Sire Identification: _____

Sire 16 Digit ID: _____

Semen available? _____

YES

NO

Where is semen held? _____

I have read and am willing to complete and sign the **AMSEA Sire Entry form** as well as the **Sire Entrant Agreement** (*please tick*).

**Return to Anne Ramsay, fax (02) 6743 2307 or
email (scan or take a photo): stenhouseconsulting@bigpond.com**

Entrant Agreement

PLEASE NOTE:

You can either - complete this Entrant Agreement and the attached AMSEA Sire Entry form now, OR - wait until accepted into a site

The Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project is designed to collect data and examine lifetime productivity on progeny from five special Merino Sire Evaluation trials. These trials are coordinated by the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) and sites are located across Australia.

Fundamental to the MLP project is the analysis and publication of results. This will be carried out both within sites (within flock), as well as between sites and other sources of information (across flock). As a result, individual sires entered in the MLP project will have publicly reported results published for a wide range of traits.

In order to achieve maximum benefit for the sheep and wool industry, AWI will retain IP ownership of information/data generated by the MLP project. AWI has granted AMSEA a license to utilise the data for its standard sire evaluation analysis, reporting and publication purposes.

This agreement is intended for owners and breeders (where they are different) of sires entered in the MLP project.

By signing this agreement, the owner / breeder of the sire detailed below:

1. Approves the entry of the sire in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project, and
2. Agrees that AWI will retain full ownership, analysis and publication rights of all data collected as part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project, and
3. Agrees that the sire entered cannot be withdrawn from publication in either AMSEA Site Reports or Merino Superior Sires (both hardcopy and online) without prior approval of AMSEA, and
4. Agrees to receive communications from AWI and AMSEA. AWI will only use personal information in accordance with its privacy policy at www.wool.com/privacy.

Sire Name:

Sire 16 Digit ID:

Name of Owner

Name of Breeder (if different to owner)

Signature of Owner

Signature of Breeder

Date

Date

Return to Anne Ramsay, fax (02) 6743 2307

or email (scan or take a photo): stenhouseconsulting@bigpond.com

Sire Entry Form



1. Site details for the sire being entered

Site & year being entered Site: Year:

Other sites & years the sire has been entered:

Has the sire been genotyped: Yes No Unsure

2. Sire details

Sire's stud/flock name:

Sire's identification:

Sire's stud/flock code: Sire's year of drop:

Breed of stud/flock (Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details):

Sire's 16 digit code [see sample code below right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Is the sire currently alive: Yes No

Is semen available for sale: Yes No

Example 16 digit code:			
50	4697	2014	140012
Breed	Flock	Year of drop	On-farm ID

Sire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Grandsire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:] _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _ - _ _

3. Owner details - Owner and contact for enquiries about the sire, plus owner(s) permission

Owner:

Contact: First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: Yes No Initial:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: Yes No Initial:

Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* Yes No Initial:

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

4. Breeder details - only fill in section 4 if the breeders details are different to the owners details in section 3.

Breeder:

Contact: First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site: Yes No Initial:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in *Merino Superior Sires*: Yes No Initial:

Does the breeder of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:* Yes No Initial:

* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

Note: Sires entered will be included in the AMSEA database and managed by AMSEA.

5. Signature of entrant

I believe all the above details to be true: Date:

6. Stud/flock details - if you are a first time entrant of sire evaluation please provide a short summary of your stud/flock's history and breeding objective.

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